



# Fresno Bonsai Society

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S INSIDE...



## DAVID NGUY, OPEN WORKSHOP, STEVE DASILVA, HOWARD LATIMER

The **Fresno Bonsai Society (FBS)** is a 501c3 nonprofit organization formed with the mission to expand the knowledge and skills of bonsai while offering opportunities for appreciation of this art form to the broader community. We do this through the inspiration of the natural world and the rich cultural heritage of bonsai.

BY GREGORIO MATIAZ



**The FBS President's Message:** As summer's heat waves gave way to cooler autumn winds, the landscape transformed with leaves of varied hues. We are pleased to present the July-September 2024 Newsletter of the Fresno Bonsai Society (FBS). During this quarter, we had the pleasure of hosting distinguished instructors who shared their knowledge with both novice enthusiasts and experienced bonsai artists alike. **Genaro Cuan**



# MASTER DAVID NGUY

## JAPANESE BLACK PINE

SEPTEMBER 14, 2024



Master David Nguy demonstrated his bonsai expertise during a special workshop focused on Japanese Black Pine styling and development. Throughout the session, he worked meticulously on transforming a specimen tree while sharing his techniques and insights.

The demonstration showcased Master Nguy's refined skills, particularly when he and his assistant collaborated on a challenging branch manipulation. Together with the FBS president, they carefully wired and positioned a branch to create an elegant cascading effect, securing it firmly to the main trunk for proper training.

FBS members took full advantage of this learning opportunity by bringing their own trees for evaluation. Master Nguy provided detailed critiques and personalized guidance for each specimen, including an in-depth consultation on another Japanese Black Pine. His recommendations helped members understand how to make more informed decisions in developing their trees into distinguished bonsai specimens.

The session proved invaluable, combining practical demonstration with individual consultation to help members advance their bonsai cultivation skills. Participants gained deeper insights into the artistry and technical aspects of bonsai development.





# OPEN WORKSHOP

AUGUST 10, 2024

On August 10, 2024, members of the Fresno Bonsai Society (FBS) gathered for their monthly open workshop, filling the morning with camaraderie and shared passion for the art of bonsai. The session provided valuable opportunities for members to receive constructive feedback on their prized bonsai specimens.

Throughout the workshop, members engaged in various aspects of bonsai care. Some focused intently on refined work, carefully removing unnecessary branches and applying wire to guide their trees into elegant, artistic forms. The methodical process of wiring demonstrated the patience and precision required in the art of bonsai.

A highlight of the session was the expert guidance by seasoned bonsai artists, including Seng; whose expertise was captured in the lower right photo. With careful consideration, he analyzed a fellow member's tree, drawing from decades of experience in shaping and styling countless species. His thoughtful observations and suggestions exemplified the wealth of knowledge shared within the FBS community, where many members have dedicated years of their lives to master skills in this living art form.

The tree under Seng's evaluation showed particular promise, with characteristics that, under proper development and styling, will transform it into an exceptional bonsai specimen in the years to come. This interaction perfectly illustrated the collaborative spirit that makes the FBS workshops such valuable learning experiences for all skill levels.



John sat before his magnificent juniper bonsai, studying its dense, frondose foliage. The tree's exceptional vigor had led to overgrown branch pads that now obscured its prized trunk line. Each cloud-like formation of foliage needed careful reduction and reshaping to restore the artistic design. Drawing on years of experience, John approached the styling with superb confidence. His skilled hands moved methodically through the branches, selectively pruning to maintain the traditional cloud-like pads while gradually revealing the tree's structure. Like a sculptor unveiling the form within a marble, he worked to find the perfect balance between the juniper's robust health and its artistic presentation.





# STEVE DASILVA

FICUS & TROPICAL TREES  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2024



Steve DaSilva, a Director and member of the FBS (Fresno Bonsai Society), led an educational session on the art of growing tropical bonsai trees. He shared his expertise on their unique care requirements, particularly the challenges of maintaining these delicate specimens during both summer and winter months in the Central Valley.

During his presentation, DaSilva showcased his diverse collection of tropical species, explaining how each variety adapts to the local climate. The exhibition featured trees with varying shapes and foliage sizes, including a remarkable ficus specimen. This particular tree displayed an intriguing characteristic: a bulbous trunk formation caused by an unidentified condition. Despite this unusual growth pattern, the tree remains healthy and continues to thrive.

The session concluded with a hands-on workshop where members received personalized guidance from DaSilva. As they worked on their own bonsai specimens, he offered expert advice and techniques specific to each tree. The interactive format proved highly effective, allowing members to learn from both the instructor and each other.





# HOWARD LATIMER

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Howard Latimer by Dr. Mike Saul

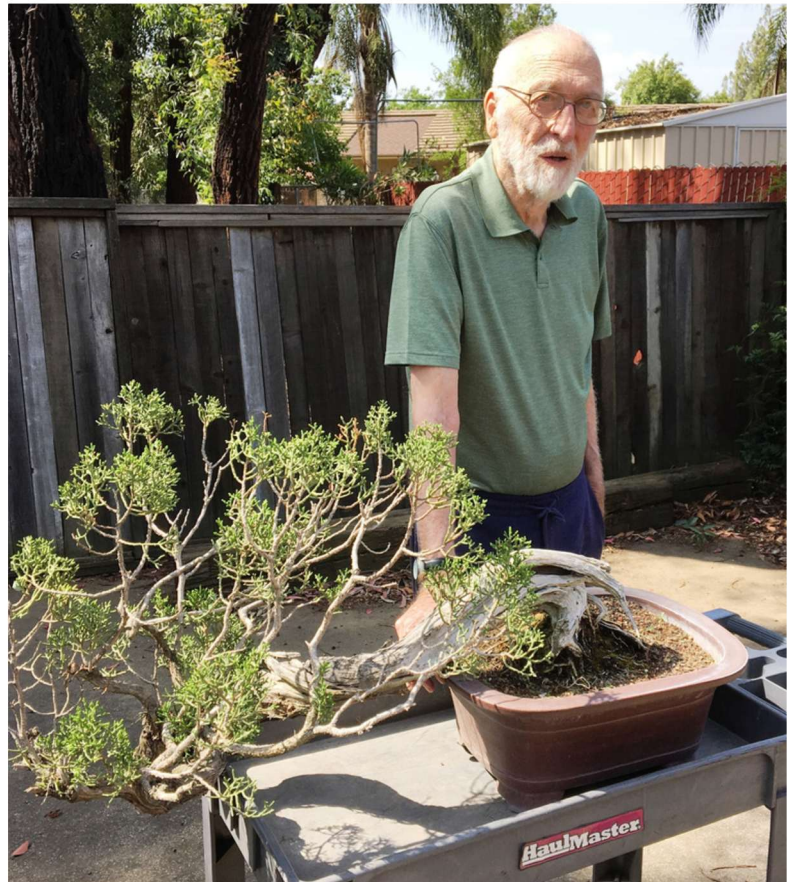
Howard Latimer was one of the small group of founding fathers of the Fresno Bonsai Society. He was truly an icon in the bonsai community of California. He taught the art of bonsai to three generations of bonsai hobbyists for 60 years. Many of his beautiful trees are now cherished by several members of our club. Two are part of the Legacy Collection in the Clark Bonsai Collection. One of those, a California Juniper, appears on the pages of John Naka's text, *Bonsai Techniques II*. Howard was a professor of Botany, Plant Genetics and Ecology at Fresno State for more than 35 years. He was instrumental in arranging the Ornamental Horticulture Greenhouse at FSU as the early meeting place for the FBS.

The FBS began in the late 1960s as a casual meeting of a half dozen friends whose passion for gardening grew into collecting and developing container grown trees. Ray Thieme was part of that small circle. During the 1970s the FBS began to consider themselves a "club". Their meetings became regularly scheduled "workshops and a potluck." Those gatherings were often hosted at the Latimer home.

Howard added a special dimension to the club through his intimate knowledge of local tree species. He helped guide many collecting trips. His personal collection grew to more than 200 bonsai. He made friends with John Naka, Harry Hirao, and Ted Matson on those early collecting trips.

He and his wife, Mary Ann, travelled to Japan and China to visit the bonsai gardens in both countries. In 2005, he traveled with other FBS members to Belgium, Germany and Austria with Walter Pall for a bonsai tour and the Ginkgo Exhibit. It was on these trips, he said, that he learned to appreciate the skills of those artists. Dr. Latimer gradually lost his vision about five years ago. He withdrew from much of the bonsai social life but continued to care for his trees as well as possible. Tragically, many of the current members of the Bonsai Society never had an opportunity to enjoy his wry wit, intelligence and gentle spirit. Fortunately, he had the wisdom to gradually distribute his collection to individuals who had the skills and passion to maintain it.

Howard died earlier this year.





# JAPANESE POETRY

BY HOMER GEE GREENE JR.



Autumn/Fall Haiku 2024

Autumn has arrived

Color change of Bonsai trees

Seasons change our lives

- Homer Gee Greene Jr. -



TOSHI YOSHIDA: AUTUMN IN HAKONE (1954)



# CLUB LEADERSHIP

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Steve Da Silva, Director



David Remmer, Director



John Wright, Director

## CLUB LEADERSHIP

