



Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter

April 2016

Our Mission

The purpose of the Fresno Bonsai Society is to expand the knowledge and skills of Bonsai within its members while offering opportunities for appreciation of this art form to the broader community. We do this through the inspiration of the beauty of the natural world and the rich cultural heritage of Bonsai.

Dear Friends,

April will be another busy month for the Fresno Bonsai Society.

On Sunday, April 10th at 9AM, we will enjoy our workshop with Ted Matson at the Shinzen Garden in Woodward Park. For those few new members who have not experienced one of Ted's classes, this will be a great opportunity to learn from one of the finest bonsai teachers in the United States. Ted is currently the curator of the Huntington Gardens Bonsai Collection in San Marino. He travels throughout the United States and Europe teaching bonsai. Ted not only has an encyclopedic knowledge of bonsai, but his teaching style is clear and well organized.

Participants should bring one or more trees to work on, together with their tools and supplies. There is a \$20 fee for those with bonsai and observers are free.

The following weekend, April 16 and 17, is the Koen-Nai No Bonsai: Bonsai in the Park. This is the first annual fundraiser for the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen. This event will bring bonsai enthusiasts from all over California to our town. There will be demonstrations by bonsai masters Kenji Miyata and David Nguy. There will be a huge bonsai auction of Ray Thieme's collection. There will be numerous vendors selling all types of bonsai material, pots, tools, books, and supplies. Saturday will include the Toko Kazari Tokonoma display competition with a wine and cheese reception that evening for the prize winners. The new spring exhibit will open at the Clark collection. This will be an exciting event for bonsai lovers of all levels.

The Fresno Bonsai Society participated in the 2016 Fresno Home and Garden Show (FHGS). Dave Soho, VP reports that FBS sought and received a larger display area in the Garden Club Building.

With the added space we delivered a larger Show with over 30 trees in the Main Show, some with backdrops and 15 additional trees in the Shohin section. This year we had a "Trees in Training" section to show the public how bonsai is created using wiring techniques on trees. Showing and talking to visitors about the intermediate steps of bonsai creation helped many understand the steps and patience needed to show a tree's journey.

We had a sales table for the first time at the Fresno Home and Garden Show which was very successful. Sales of pre-bonsai, books and magazines generated significant revenue for the club. Sales were better than expected. Sales were helped by voluntary donations from FBS members.

FBS members conducted mini-demonstrations during the 3 days of the FHGS run. Visitors stopped and watched how club member shaped, styled, and repotted trees. This activity was more popular than originally estimated.

FBS members and friends are gratefully thanked for their participation in this event. Next year will be even better!

Bonsai Basics for April

The Bonsai Basics Study Group will meet at the Latimer garden on April 30th at 9AM. The address is 4534 East Rialto. The topic will be Spring Pruning. Please remember to bring a chair, together with your tools and trees. The May and June meetings will resume on the third Saturday of those months.

Please contact Harold Mitchell (mitchsgreenthumb@yahoo.com) for more information.

Shohin Study Group for April

Please contact Steve DaSilva for the date and time of the Shohin Study Group in April. Steve's email is treekutter@hotmail.com.



Don't miss the Ted Matson workshop, Sunday, April 10th at 9AM at the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen. Ted is a great teacher at all levels with patience and clarity.





Above: Al Kepler admires Ray's lorapedulum.

Directly above: Ken To, Cris Christapulo and Dave Soho set up the back drops at the Home & Garden Show.

Below right: Bob Wright butts the final shine on his maple bonsai pot.



The Bonsai Almanac for April

In general, the guidelines for April are the same as March in our climate. All healthy bonsai will have new growth and should be out in sun with good air circulation. It is wise to rotate bonsai 180 degrees every month so the foliage gets equal sun exposure throughout the year.

Warm sunny and breezy days may require more water than previously. Pines, however, should be kept dry until the candles start to wilt down. This will keep the new needles short and strong.

Long shoots on deciduous trees should be allowed to harden off before they are cut back to two or three buds.

Because growth is rapid in April and the tree's healing process is most efficient, it is a good time to create jins by stripping bark from larger branches.

Pines and conifers may still be transplanted in early April. Remember to preserve some mycorrhiza from the old soil and add it to the new soil mix.

April is the first month to fertilize deciduous trees per John Naka, but Marty Mann advises to start organic fertilization in March at bud burst. Japanese maples may be started later in April to reduce internode length. The key point is to establish a schedule to fertilize at fixed intervals. Use a slow release organic fertilizer. It is preferable to use frequent feedings with light applications (less than manufacturer's recommended dose) and utilize relatively low nitrogen, and higher phosphate and potassium, such as cottonseed and bone meal.

Do not feed newly transplanted trees for at least 4-6 weeks after repotting.

This is also the month to begin spraying with Neem oil for aphids, scale and spider mites. Again, establishing a regular schedule to spray conifers for mites every two weeks in the cool early morning hours of summer will protect these species from spider mites. This is crucial for shimpaku and other junipers in our dry dusty environment.

Plagiarized shamelessly from John Naka's Bonsai Techniques I and Marty Mann's Bonsai Ideas.

Volunteers Needed for the Fundraiser

There is a great need for volunteers to help with several aspects of the Toen-Nai No Bonsai, Fundraiser for the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen. An additional four strong backs will be needed to help move bonsai from Ray Thieme's garden to the Shinzen on Thursday, April 15th and six more to move the trees at the auction. Three spotters will be needed to identify bidders at the auction, and four additional volunteers to track the sale of each tree. Finally six volunteers will be needed for clean up.

Beyond the bonsai auction there will be a need for hosts, and many other tasks at this event.

Please contact Gene Nelson if you can help on either April 15th or during the bonsai auction.

Gene's phone number is 439-0835.



Above left; Gene Nelson and Ed Rendon admire Pat Galle's elm
 Below: Genaro Cuan patiently listens to Dave Soho...
 Images from the Home & Garden Show





Genaro Cuan and Ray Thieme entertained a big crowd at the Fresno Home and Garden Show . They created a raft style juniper. Genaro volunteered to build a box for the early development of this bonsai. It will be auctioned at a future event.

Elsewhere, visitors enjoyed learning about bonsai styles through the placards that Dave Soho had created to educate the public about bonsai.



Remember to LIKE the Fresno Bonsai Society and the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen and the Shinzen Gardens on Face Book.



Blossom Festival at Shinzen

Just two weeks after the Home & Garden Show, the FBS participated in the Annual Spring Blossom Festival at Shinzen Gardens, as we have for many years.

Visitors were treated to two bonsai displays; the FBS exhibit shown below and the Clark Bonsai Collection. The Clark Collection trees had started as a winter silhouette display several weeks ago, but now demonstrate the blush of Spring buds, in synchrony with the theme of the day.

The FBS provided continuous demonstrations of bonsai, as Chuck Nelson provided here.

There were plant sales and casual conversations with visitors about bonsai.

Below is an image of Bob Hilvers providing a demonstration inside the Clark Exhibit.

Photos from Steve Da Silva.



Plan now to attend and participate in the Toen-Nai No Bonsai: *Bonsai in the Park.*

This will be a very large event with vendors from all over California, demonstrations by Respected International Bonsai Masters, and huge opportunities to see and learn.

Koen-nai No Bonsai Schedule

Saturday April 16 and Sunday April 17, 2016

Saturday

9:30 am - 5:30 pm Gates open - Free admission, Vendors, plant sales, auction registration and auction trees preview

10:00 am - 4:00 pm Clark Bonsai Collection and Toko-Kazari open

10:30 am – 1:00 pm Demonstration by Bonsai Master Kenji Miyata

1:30 pm -4:00 pm Live Auction of demo tree and other selected bonsai

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm Wine and Cheese Reception and Toko-Kazari awards (reserved event, admission \$10)

Sunday

9:30 am – 4:00 pm Gates open –Free admission, Vendors, plant sales auction registration and auction trees preview

10:00 am – 4:00 pm Clark Bonsai Collection and took-Kazari open

10:30 am – 1:00 pm Demonstration by David Nguy

11:00am – 12:00 Guided tour of the Clark Bonsai exhibit and reserve areas led by Bob Hilvers, Curator of the Clark Bonsai Collection (reserved event)

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm Live auction of demo tree and other selected bonsai

The Fresno Bonsai Society website is now more beautiful than ever. New content and images are been added and updated. Go to fresno-bonsaisociety.com. Then like the FBS, the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen and the Shinzen Gardens on Face Book!

Fresno Bonsai Society

Schedule for 2015-2016 Season

September 12	First Meeting of the Year	Shinzen Garden 11AM
September 19	Bonsai Basics Group	1416 Roberts, Clovis 9AM
October 10	Monthly FBS Meeting	Shinzen Garden Azumaya 9AM
October 7-18	Big Fresno Fair Bonsai Exhibit	Entry Deadline Sept 12
October 17-18	Grand Opening Clark Exhibit	Shinzen Garden
October 24	Bonsai Basics Group	1416 Roberts, Clovis 9AM
Oct 28-Nov 1 st	GSBF Convention	Riverside Convention Center
November 14	Monthly Meeting	Shinzen Garden (Pruning Day)
November 21	Bonsai Basics	4534 East Rialto, Fresno 9AM
December 5	Annual Bonsai Yard Sale	736 W. Browning, Fresno
December 5	FBS Christmas Dinner	Wasabi Off the Hook Restaurant
December 12	Bonsai Basics	Ted Matson Shohin at Round Valley Nursery
January 9	Monthly Meeting	Woodward Park Public Library 9 AM
January 16	Bonsai Basics and Shohin Group	6470 East Manning Ave, Fowler
February 5-7	Shohin Convention	Santa Nella, California
February 13	Monthly Meeting	Shinzen Garden 9 AM
March 4-6	Home & Garden Show	Fresno Fair Grounds
March 19	Blossom Festival	Shinzen Garden
April 10	Ted Matson Workshop	Shinzen Garden
April 16-17	Shinzen Fundraiser: Tōen-nai no Bonsai	Shinzen Garden
May 14	Monthly Meeting	Shinzen Garden
May 21	Bonsai Basics Group	4534 East Rialto, Fresno 9AM
June 11	FBS Year End Potluck	To Be Decided