



# Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter April 2018

## *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.*

## **Hi Everybody!**

This has been an eventful month for the FBS with the highs of a couple successful events and the grief of losing a dear friend.

April will be better.

We will not conduct a regular meeting in April, but the entire day of April 7th will be consumed with the Koen-Nai Fundraiser and our own small bonsai display and plant sales. Gene Nelson has put together a pretty amazing Silent Auction to benefit the Clark Collection. There will be some excellent tree material and pots for sale. The Toko-Kazari is always a unique artistic display. The event will call for a lot of people power (a politically correct and gender neutral phrase!) I put out our pleas for help later in this newsletter. See page 6.

I will put in my plug for the April Bonsai Basics class on the front page (because I can.) That group will meet April 14th at my house and we will cover some important fundamentals and have fun! We will review tool care, fertilization and go into wiring in a little more depth (with a little more practice.) See page 9.

Join us on the 7th and again on the 14th!

## Pete Schaffert Demonstrated His Technique for Air Layering

Our March meeting started with a chilly morning in the Clark Collection. Despite that, we got a pretty good crowd to watch Peter Schaffert demonstrate how he air layered a shohin off the top of a Chinese elm. The tree was an “urban yamadori” from his mother’s yard with reverse taper. Pete provided several practical points to improve the chances of success.

Following Pete’s discussion, Mike Saul explained Thread Grafting of a Trident Maple.

During the business meeting, David Soho thanked everyone who helped with the Home & Garden Show. He emphasized that it had been a great success in terms of attracting interested visitors, new members, and record plant sales.

Dave also explained his plan to purchase a quantity of small pots for future sales and a supply of wire and soil via volume discounts for resale to the members. The membership approved a budget of \$500 for this purpose.

Dave also explained that we would not have



table space for an outdoor bonsai display during the Koen-Nai that we had originally planned. We will likely only be able to display 10 bonsai belonging to FBS members plus a Shohin display. Therefore, it was suggested that if any of our members have an bonsai that they would like to show for the club (that is an exceptional tree), they should email or text pictures of the tree to Mike Saul (559 696-8048 or [tinytreeme@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tinytreeme@sbcglobal.net).) He will share those photos with Bob Wright and Al Keppler. That committee will select the 10 best and most varied trees to represent the club at the Koen-Nai.

At the time of this writing, we think we will need 10 great bonsai.

Dave Soho and two other members will be representing the FBS at the Clovis Botanical Garden Plant Sale on March 24th. Dave asked that anyone who would like to help to contact him during the coming week.

Following the general meeting, the Bonsai Basics Group and some long term members worked on repotting of some junipers for sale by the club at the Koen-Nai.



**Ray Thieme**

## Ray Thieme

**In the early morning hours of March 20th, the Fresno Bonsai Society lost a loyal friend and a man with an undying passion for Bonsai. Ray got his first glimpse of bonsai in the early 1960s. He began his famed collection after viewing a bonsai show in Golden Gate Park in 1967. He and Evelyn came to Fresno in 1970. In the following years, he and son Mark, collected native yamadori with close friends like John Naka and Harry Hirao. Ray, Prof. Howard Latimer and John Roehl were among the founding fathers of the FBS in the early 1970s. His skills and artistry built a gorgeous collection of large bonsai that attracted visitors from all over the state. His warm and generous South Texas personality built life long friendships with bonsai icons throughout California. Those ties were a great asset to the FBS.**

**In recent years, as his arthritis robbed him of his hands, he taught new people. He made very generous donations of precious bonsai to all three of the GSBF collections; but most notably to the Clark Collection at Shinzen.**

**Sadly, as much as we appreciated Ray, we were just a bit late to acknowledge him to the degree he deserved. We will miss him. His trees will remind us.**

## 2018 Home & Garden Show

The FBS had another good run at the Fresno Home & Garden Show, despite rain and the frustrations of parking at the Fair Grounds. We attracted enthusiastic crowds. We were lucky enough to attract some new members. We set an all time record for plant sales. Most importantly, everyone helped out and everyone seemed to have fun doing it!. The consensus was



That the exhibit was one of our best. The visitors seemed impressed. The Shohin Study group provided an excellent display this year. We drew lots of interest and lots of questions with our mini-demonstrations. Special thanks go to several people for the success of the home & garden exhibit and plant sale. Michael and Lorene Reynolds from Modesto donated several quality bonsai that contributed a lot to the FBS treasury. A special thank you to them, and to Pete Schaffert, who donate a dozen trees to the club sale. Likewise, thanks to Bob Wright and Jack Green for both donation trees and working the sales table. Finally a huge thank you to all the people that did demonstrations, worked on set up and take down, and talked to visitors.



## Shohin Study Group in March

The Shohin folks met at the Mitchell home last month. They did talk bonsai. Mitch offered advice on several trees in development. The group noted that, between them, they have a great many young plants of multiple species that will eventually provide sales and training material. The most important part of the meeting was an impromptu birthday celebration from Pat Galle and Steve DaSilva, both of who claimed to be 49.

The Shohin Group meeting in April will be held at the Koen-Nai on April 7th. The group will provide a Shohin display in the FBS exhibit also.

*Below: Pat Galle on his 49th birthday...*



## Anonymous Visitor to Clark Collection

A very friendly feline has adopted the Curatorial Staff at the Clark Bonsai Collection. Although several members denied liking the animal, three bags of cat food recently appeared in the storage shed. The FBS Newsletter Editorial Staff is sponsoring a contest to select a name for the new mascot. First prize is a peacock dinner for two. Names will be judged on relevance of bonsai and correct spelling. Email your entry or entries to the editor.



**Koen-Nai is Saturday April 7th. Lots of bonsai for sale!**



## Bonsai Almanac April

In general, the guidelines for April are similar to March in our climate.

All healthy bonsai will have new growth and should be out in the 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 and breezy days may require more watering than previously. Pines, however, should be kept drier. 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. 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 should not be fertilized until May 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. 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 2-4 weeks (in the cool early morning hours) of summer will protect juniper species from spider mites. .

## What You Need to Know About the Koen-Nai Fund Raiser

On Saturday, April 7th, there will be three fund raising events simultaneously in the Shinzen Japanese Friendship Garden: the Koen-Nai No Bonsai (Bonsai in the Park), the Fresno Bonsai Society Plant Sale and Mini Exhibit, and the Spring Multi-Cultural Faire (fundraiser for the Shinzen Garden. ) The Fresno Bonsai Society will be helping with the Koen-Nai for the Clark Collection as well as our own fundraiser. Our activities will be located in the Sago Garden in the Shinzen. We will have six tables for a "mini-exhibit" to demonstrate the skills of the club to the public. One of these tables will be for shohin display. We will display 10 larger bonsai and offer brochures etc to promote the club. We will have six sales tables to sell bonsai for the club and the CBC together. There will be 5 tables designated for the CBC Silent Auction. There will be tours and demos occurring inside the Clark exhibit area and the Toko Karzari Tokonoma Display Competition.

We will set up our tables on Friday afternoon, April 6. We could use some help. However, the big HELP IS NEEDED on Saturday, April 7th. We will need at least eight members to operate the sales tables from 10 AM to 4 PM. We will need at least six members to help with the Silent Auction. We do not know where or when the demonstrations are to occur in the Clark Exhibit area, but some members will be needed for this. We need the whole club to help that day.

The other big reason to attend is that there will be some VERY good quality bonsai material for sale at reasonable prices. Join us!

## Want to Display a Bonsai at Koen-Nai?

We will put on a “mini-exhibit” at the Koen-Nai fundraising event on April 7th. The purpose of this exhibit is to demonstrate the skills and quality of the FBS club members to the public. This is a promotion to attract new members.

We only have space for ten trees. At the last meeting, the club voted to have a committee select the ten highest quality bonsai offered for exhibition. The committee will consist of Bob Wright, Al Keppler, and Mike Saul. The committee will try to select a spectrum of species and sizes as well as technically superior bonsai.

We need 10 trees.

If you would like to have one or more of your personal trees considered, please email or text several images of the tree to Mike Saul at [tiny-treeme@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tiny-treeme@sbcglobal.net) or 559 696-8048.

If your tree is selected it must be delivered to the Clark Collection on Friday April 6th in the afternoon or Saturday April 7th before 9 AM.

Bonsai should be prepped for the photograph, and the years in a pot and species identified.

Please consider offering your beautiful tree this one day event!

## Asian Fest is Really Fun

The student body at Fresno City College is amazingly diverse and represents every flavor of Asian culture and nationality. On one Saturday, each Spring, the campus comes alive with beautiful costumes, wonderful music and dance, and delicious Asian foods from across the Far East. The FCC Student Bonsai Club is a small part of this

FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

**ASIAN  
FEST**  
#FCCYearoftheDog  
**2018**



**SATURDAY, APRIL 28**  
**9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**  
**FREE Admission and Parking**



MARTIAL ARTS • KID'S ACTIVITIES • ANIME GAMING CENTER  
CULTURAL VILLAGE • VENDOR FAIR • LIVE PERFORMANCES

**FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT & FUN!**

very colorful event. The FBS has long tried to support the FCC Bonsai Club. They are always welcomed to our meetings and events. This is your opportunity to stop by their sales table and pick up a custom accent pot or plant (unique species and lots of tropicals from the FCC greenhouse).

Admission is free. The music, food, vendors and costumes are gorgeous. It is crowded, so come early. You won't regret it.

## FBS Calendar for April

Koen-Nai Fundraiser	April 7th 10 AM
Shohin Study Group	At Koen-Nai
Bonsai Basics Class	April 14th 9AM

# 59th Annual Bonsai Show

## April 14th & 15th, 2018



**AMERICAN BONSAI ASSOCIATION, SACRAMENTO**

Shepard Garden and Arts Center,  
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA  
Saturday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Demonstrations each day at 1:30 PM by

*Peter Tea*

Bonsai Artist and Teacher

Visit our website <http://abasbonsai.org>  
For more information contact Renee Seely [breadcrumb@comcast.net](mailto:breadcrumb@comcast.net)

FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING

Daily benefit raffle | Large vendor and member sales area | Beginner workshop Sunday 10:00 AM



# April Grigsby

*Hand Made Bonsai Pots*

Visit my shop at **Clay Hand Studios**, 660 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno, CA  
By appointment (561)445-1533



## Current Officers of the Fresno Bonsai Society

President David Soho

sohofive@yahoo.com

President Elect Mike Saul

tinytreeme@sbcglobal.net

Secretary Peter Schaffert

peteschaffert@gmail.com

Treasurer Bob Wright

wright8692@comcast.net

Web Master Michael Reynolds

michaelreynolds465@att.net

Docents for CBCS Linda Jacobsen

mljjacobsen@gmail.com

## Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai 2018 Bonsai Show 30<sup>TH</sup> Annual Exhibit



Saturday & Sunday, April 14 & 15, 2018

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Museum of Art & History

705 Front Street, Santa Cruz

### Bonsai Basics Class for April

The Bonsai Basics Class in April will meet on Saturday, April 14th, at 9 AM, at Mike Saul's home. The address is 1660 East Richmond Avenue in Fresno. We will start promptly at 9 AM.

The topics will be 1) tool care and sharpening, including "What Tools Do I Absolutely Need?" 2) How and When to Fertilize Your Bonsai and 3) Wiring Technique Part 2.

We will be outdoors. We will be doing some simple wiring but you will not need tools.

If you have a question or problem about one of your bonsai, bring it and Cris Saldana will answer it! You should not need tools.

There will be handouts. If you have a notebook, bring it.

Call 696-8048 for directions.

**We have FBS Club events on two weekends this month. If you would like information about other Bonsai Events around California in April, go to the Golden Statements Events Calendar (Google it) for other clubs shows and sales.**

## FBS Calendar for 2017-2018 Season

September 9	FBS Meeting and Presentation on Bonsai Diseases and Pests with Pro. Beth Teviotdale	Clark Collection Reserve Area
September 23	Bonsai Basics: Introduction to Bonsai with Dave Soho	Carson Avenue, Clovis
October 14	FBS Meeting: Bonsai Raffle and "Evolution of Bonsai Art in the USA	Clark Collection Reserve Area
October 28	Bonsai Basics: Styling and Wiring with Dave Soho	Carson Avenue, Clovis
October 25-29	GSBF Convention Forty	Riverside Convention Center, Riverside CA
November 11	FBS Meeting: Bring a Tree Critique with Al Keppler	Clark Collection Reserve Area
November 18	Bonsai Basics: Soils and Pot Selection with Bob Wright and Dave Soho	Carson Avenue, Clovis
December 2	Annual Bonsai Yard Sale	Clovis Botanical Garden
January 20	Combined Meeting with Bonsai Basics, Shohin Study Group and Potluck	DaSilva Ranch in Fowler
February 2-4	Shohin Convention	Santa Nella
February 10	FBS Meeting: Bonsai Critique and Preparation for Exhibition	Woodward Library
February 17	Bonsai Basics: More on Soils & Repotting with Dave Soho	Carson Avenue, Clovis
March 2-5	Fresno Home & Garden Show, FBS Display	Fresno Fair Grounds
March 17	FBS Meeting: Air Layering with Pete Schaffert and Thread Grafting with Mike Saul followed by Bonsai Basics	Clark Collection Reserve Area
April 7	Koen-Nai and FBS Outdoor Show	Shinzen Garden
May 12	FBS Meeting: Spring Work with Tridents with Al Keppler & Shohin Bonsai with Steve Da Silva	Clark Collection Reserve Area
May 19	Bonsai Basics: Watering and Summer Care— Soho	Carson Avenue
June 2	Annual FBS Potluck Picnic	Clovis Botanical Garden