



Fresno Bonsai Society

Newsletter

December 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.

Greetings!

The Ninth Annual Bonsai Yard Sale will substitute for our December meeting. This is a fun event and a great opportunity for members and the general public to buy, sell, and trade pre-bonsai tree material, pots new and used, bonsai supplies, accent plants, viewing stones, books and bonsai magazines. It is also an opportunity to meet and greet bonsai enthusiasts from the Central Valley and all over California. The Yard Sale will be at Ray & Evelyn Thieme's home at 736 West Browning, near Bullard High School starting at 8 AM on Saturday, December 3rd.

As always, the set up will begin in the afternoon of Friday, December 2nd, at 3:30 PM. If you plan to sell items, bring a table. If you do not have a table, contact Dave Soho. We usually have extra tables. We will need some help with Friday set up and take down on Saturday afternoon.

Bring your sale items on Saturday morning. Coffee and donuts always seem to appear and we will have chicken and beef teriyaki bowls for \$5 at lunch.

There will be vendors of trees, pots, and stones as well as plant material from member benches and their previous mistakes. Don't miss it!

And Happy Holidays to everyone!

November General Meeting of the FBS

Our meeting last month was very well attended and we continue to see a few more members every month. President David Soho reported that we have 31 paid members. He reminded us that this years due are payable. Bob Wright reported that our treasury is in good shape. Dave also reminded the membership that FBS logo hats, shirts, and pre-mixed bonsai soil are still available.

Dave discussed our participation in the Fresno Home & Garden show in March. The club will have a large bonsai display and an educational display as well as sales tables.

Linda Jacobsen invited the members to become docents in the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen. She noted that a training class is provided for those new to bonsai and volunteering requires only 2-3 hours per month.

Dave reminded the members that the Annual Bonsai Yard Sale will replace our monthly meeting in December. He asked for volunteers to help with set up on Friday at 3:30 PM.



Following the business meeting, John Wright provided the attendees with a thoughtful and well organized presentation on the care and sharpening of bonsai tools. John's other hobby is wood carving and this has made him very knowledgeable in sharpening.

John pointed out that tools like concave cutters must be razor sharp to avoid crushing branches and encouraging prompt healing. He showed us how to simply hold these cutters up to the light to spot nicks in the edges and gaps in the closure. He also reminded us of the need to use alcohol wipes, cleaning pads, or other disinfectants to sterilize tools and prevent the spread to diseases between trees.

He noted that rust is very destructive to tools because it leaves permanent pitting in the blades. He advised saving old, previously rusting tools for root work only.

John noted that the typical bench grinder is both too coarse and rotates too fast for bonsai tools...they create heat from friction which will cause the steel to lose its hardness.

He noted that one need not buy expensive diamond sharpening stone to produce the desired edge, but these are available at Harbor Freight if desired. Wet-or-dry sandpaper will work as well.

John also noted that we should never assume that new tools are either sharp nor straight. He noted that the ideal cutting edge is a "mirror".

He recommends obtaining a hard flat surface, such as a scrap piece of polished granite or glass plate. He suggests buying different grits of emery cloth and gluing each to a hard flat surface, then sharpening the edge of your tool with



slow, light pressure strokes while pulling the edge toward you. Take your time. He suggests gradually honing with a finer grit (start with #150 and proceed to #1000) before finishing with stropping compound on a leather surface glued to a paddle or granite. Remove any burs that form during honing or stropping. He advises going slow and honing tools every week after use rather than once per season. Remove as little metal as possible. He noted that Flexcut Gold Sharpening Compound is a good product for stropping. Leather remnants can be obtained at Hobby Lobby.

Continued on page 5

November Bonsai Basics

The November Bonsai Basic class appeared to be entirely too entertaining to be educational!

The class started with a continued demonstration of wiring technique.

After that, instructor David Soho introduced a new approach to learning bonsai styling; The First Annual Bonsai Basics Team Challenge! The class was divided into four teams of three students each. Each team was given a five gallon juniper (*Procumbens nana*) and advised to evaluate the tree and devise a bonsai from that material. The team will work on the tree over the next six months and the winning bonsai will be selected by an independent judge in May or June. Each team will have an instructor to assist them. Members will draw sketches of their design plans. Team members will take turns caring for the tree. The trees will be potted in February.



Please Like the FBS and the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen on Face Book. And visit the FBS webpage for bonsai articles and information about club activities.

Continued from Page 3

He showed us some wooden dowels , wrapped with leather for stropping tools with curved blades such as concave cutters.

John passed around a grafting knife he had just sharpened. This tool had a true mirror edge and was remarkably sharp!

Our sincere thanks to John for a very clear and useful presentation.

Officers of the FBS

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Shohin Study Group in November

The Shohin Study Group met at Denny's Restaurant at Clovis & Herndon in November. The format was as usual: several members brought shohin size trees in training and the future of those bonsai was discussed. Members also discussed the characteristic styles of some bonsai artists and their students. The Shohin Study Group will meet next on January 21st at Steve DaSilva's home in Fowler.



Below and top right: Harold Mitchell makes a point about a shohin.

Right : John Wright and Steve DaSilva discuss a black pine shohin



At this time, two seats remain in the David Nguy Juniper Class at the Round Valley Bonsai Nursery in Lindsey. Pre-bonsai juniper are available in a broad range of prices. The workshop will cost about \$60 per person and will last 6-8 hours with much hands-on assistance from David.

Coming Bonsai Events in California

January 28 - 29, 2017 Oakland, CA

Bay Island Bonsai: Annual Bonsai Exhibit at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave. Show hours are 10 AM - 4 PM, both days. Saturday: Auction preview starts at Noon with auction at 1 PM. Sunday: Workshop open to the bonsai community. Guided tours of the exhibit Saturday and Sunday. Vendor sales, club sales, educational bonsai material for sale and a special pot sale this year. Entry to the exhibit is free, donations accepted. Learn more and register for the workshop by calling (510) 919-5042 or visit <http://bayislandbonsai.com/bib-annual-exhibit/>.

February 19 - 20, 2017 Oakland, CA

GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: The annual Mammoth Auction and Sale Fund Raiser will be held at 666 Bellevue Ave. (Garden Center Building). Saturday: Auction preview at noon with Auction starting at 1 PM. Sunday: vendor Sales start at 9 AM, Plant Sales start at 10 AM, and demonstrations at 1 PM. You are encouraged to submit your bonsai for consideration to be included in the Mammoth Auction as soon as possible. Items will be considered on a first-come-first-considered basis. The Bonsai Garden will be open 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and Noon to 4 PM on Sunday, so you can check out the many changes that have been made this year. For more information or to sell trees, email bonsailakemerritt@gmail.com and visit www.gsbflakemerritt.org.



Special thanks to Cris Saldana and Steve DaSilva for photo of Bonsai Basics and the Shohin Study Group.

Fresno Bonsai Society Calendar for 2016-2017

DATE	EVENT	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
September 10	First General Meeting	Book Sale and Bonsai Work	Shinzen Garden
September 17	Bonsai Basics	Introduction to Bonsai	Shinzen Garden
October 5-16	Big Fresno Fair	Bonsai and Suiseki Display	Fair Grounds
October 8	FBS General Meeting	Pot Selection- Bob Wright	TBA
October 15	Bonsai Basics		
October 26-30	GSBF Convention	Exhibits, Workshops, etc	Sacramento
November 12	FBS General Meeting	Tool Care and Sharpening	Shinzen
November 19	Bonsai Basics	Team Styling Competition	
December 3	Bonsai Yard Sale	Bonsai, etc for sale & raffle	736 W. Browning
January 14	FBS General Meeting	Club Raffle	Woodward Park Library
January 21	Bonsai Basics	Soil Mixes and Transplanting	
February 11	FBS General Meeting	Sam Adena Workshop Olive Bonsai	Woodward Park Library
February 18	Bonsai Basics	Team Styling Competition	
March 2-5	Fresno Home & Garden Show	Bonsai Exhibit, Demos, Bonsai Sales	Fair Grounds
March 18	Bonsai Basics	Team Styling Competition	
April 8	FBS General Meeting		
April 15	Bonsai Basics		
April 22-23	Koen-Nai & Blossom Festival	Bonsai Show, plant sales, Bonsai Auction, Demos	Shinzen Garden
May 06	FBS General Meeting	Workshop with JT Thompson Oak Bonsai	
May 20	Bonsai Basics		
June 10	FBS General Meeting		