



Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter December 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.

Greetings Friends!

By the time you read this, we will have closed the book on another Annual Bonsai Yard Sale! We hope you attended the sale and had good time. We won't have any other club activities in December.

The next regular meeting of the FBS will be Saturday, January 12th, at 9 AM. At the time of this writing, the meeting is scheduled at the GSBF-Clark Bonsai Collection within Shinzen Garden. Dress warm. We will have heaters. The format will be as usual: a brief business meeting followed by small group work and discussion.

The Bonsai Basics Group will not meet in December. We will meet in January. The topic will be Bonsai Soils and Repotting Part 1.

The Shohin Study Group will meet again in January.

The Intermediate Bonsai Group will meet on Wednesday mornings at the Clark Collection. That group will continue their focus on Literati Styles.

Merry Christmas everyone and a very Happy New Year.

November Meeting All Bonsai Basics

Unfortunately, the field trip to a bonsai nursery on November 10 had to be postponed. The day was not a total loss because we had a big group of enthusiastic Bonsai Basics students and gratifying number of senior members to conduct a class. The topic was Pruning and Pinching for foliage management. Following a discussion, the students went to work on their own trees and some club specimens, with guidance when they asked for it.

One group focused on a beautiful, bushy Pro-cumbin Juniper, donated to the class by Gene Nelson. The team discussed selecting the best front, selecting a style, branch selection, and preservation and distribution of foliage.

The handouts for this and earlier Bonsai Basics topics may be found on the FBS website in the *Bonsai Class* section, in the *Bonsai Basics Class Information* file.

Bonsai Basics will not meet in December.

We will meet again on Saturday, January 12th, following the club business meeting. Our topics will be Bonsai Soils and Repotting, Part 1.



Special Thanks to Dylan Johnson for photography!





Shohin Study Group in January

The Shohin Study Group will meet at the Dennys Restaurant at the corner of Herndon and Clovis Avenues at 5 PM on January 16th. The topics will include pot selection, soils, and repotting for Shohin trees. The group is open to everyone in the FBS. Participants are encouraged to bring Shohin bonsai for show and tell. Food may be ordered (off the menu only.)



Above and below left: Before and after styling a big Procumbens juniper with Dylan Johnson, Seng Tran, and Don Stephens.

A Winter Haiku

*When the winter chrysanthemums go
There is nothing to write about
Except radishes.*

Basho

Intermediate Bonsai Study Group in November

The Intermediate Study Group focused on pruning to improve foliage distribution this month. Bob Hilvers started the discussion with an old Pomegranate which need pruning to reduce coarse branching and wiring to distribute foliage more uniformly. That was followed by a discussion of juniper foliage management. Finally, Bob demonstrating cutting back Trident Maple foliage to improve ramification while preserving foliage for branch girth development in the lower portions of the tree. Again, the goal being to gradually improve both structure and refinement in an established bonsai. (There is more than 100 years of bonsai experience in these students who are listening intently!) →



Bonsai Almanac for December

We can work on almost all bonsai species this time of year, with some provisos.

Deciduous trees have almost shed all their leaves. If half the leaves on a tree have turned brown, you may strip the all branches clean or clip the petioles carefully to remove all the leaves. Removing all the leaves provides a chance to study the structure carefully and make decisions about pruning and wiring. It is important to clean all the old leaves and debris off the soil and bench to avoid insects.

It is important to note that during a two week period immediately following leaf drop is a desirable time to prune deciduous species. The trees are still able to heal small cuts during this

period. Maples are less inclined to “bleed” during this window.

This is also an ideal time to remove old needles from Black pines and pluck needles to balance strength in this species. This is an appropriate month to work on conifers in general, including wiring. Large chops, however will be slow to heal.

During December, we frequently get rain. In addition, deciduous species are no longer transpiring water. Bonsai generally require watering no more than every 3-4 days. If soil becomes constantly soaked, place a stone under one end of the pot to encourage drainage and allow one end have more air.

It is desirable to scrape the old fertilizer and weeds from the surface of the soil and replace the top 1/2 inch with fresh bonsai soil each winter. Moss should be removed from the surface and preserved on a moist board or tile.

Conifers generally continue to grow slowly in our mild winter climate. Fertilizer may be applied in one half the usual quantity in the corners of the pot for conifers and broadleaf evergreens. Microbial activity is much reduced in the cooler temperatures, however.

Dormant spray (as Neem oil) may be sprayed on conifers (and elms for scale insects) this time of year. Junipers, Cedars and Spruce are more sensitive to oil and it may discolor the foliage. It is recommended that these species be sprayed with 60% of the recommended concentration of the oil. The oil should be rinsed off with water after two hours and the process repeated in two weeks. This is not necessary for elms.

Winter is the season to contemplate and plan. Study your trees. Make decisions about design, potting angles, or the pot style. Will you need to repot? Do you have the appropriate supplies and soil components? Do you need a new pot?

Silly question. You always need a new pot...

December is the time to clean off soil and benches. It is also the time to sift soil components in preparation for repotting to come.



Above and Below: Two Bonsai created by Michael Hagedorn

Your editor has still not received a Pulitzer Prize nor the Edward R Murrow Award for Journalism. We suspect that is due to the lack of quality photo journalism. Please take a moment at any FBS event, or just working on your trees at home to email a few photos to tinytreeme@sbcglobal.net!



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Ryan Neil's final visit to the Clark Bonsai Collection for 2018

On Dec. 1 and 2 Ryan Neil will be at the Clark Bonsai Collection in Shinzen Garden. As Dec. 1 is also the day of the Bonsai Yard Sale, many FBS members may be occupied with that event. In order to permit interested parties to meet club obligations and still get in some "Ryan" time we will reverse the regular order of Ryan's work. On Sat. Ryan will spend the day following up on work already in-progress from past visits. On Sunday he will concentrate on new material and presenting to the group.

If you have been present for past visits from Ryan you are well aware of the amount of knowledge to be gained by watching and listening as Ryan works. He is a non-stop fountain of detailed, usable information on all aspects of the art of bonsai.

Those of you with 20 or more volunteer hours at the CBC in the past year may attend both

days at no charge. For those that have not accrued the require number of volunteer hours the fee is \$30 per day. We will start on both days at 10:00 a.m. an end at 4:00 p.m. Contact Bob Hilvers at 559 -909-1051 to reserve your spot.



Remember to visit
www.fresnobonsaisociety.com for club in-
formation and like us on Face Book.

2018-2019 SCHEDULE FOR FRESNO BONSAI SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 8 FBS MEETING 9 AM FOLLOWED BY BONSAI BASICS

OCTOBER 13 FBS MEETING & RAFFLE AND BONSAI BASICS

OCTOBER 25-28 GSBF CONVENTION SACRAMENTO

NOVEMBER 10 TRIP TO MARUYAMA BONSAI NURSERY

NOVEMBER 10 BONSAI BASICS

DECEMBER 1 BONSAI YARD SALE CLOVIS BOTANICAL GARDEN

JANUARY 12 FBS MEETING FOLLOWED BY BONSAI BASICS

FEBRUARY 9 FBS MEETING FOLLOWED BY BONSAI BASICS

MARCH 1-3 FRESNO HOME & GARDEN SHOW

MARCH 9 FBS MEETING (TOKONOMA DISPLAY) BONSAI BASICS

APRIL 13 BONSAI BASICS

MAY 11 BONSAI HOP (MEMBERS GARDEN VISITS)

JUNE 1 ANNUAL PICNIC