

Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter

December 2019



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.

Officers of the FBS

President.....Mike Saul
Vice President.....Vacant
SecretaryMarilyn Shelton
Treasurer.....Bob Wright
Past President.....Dave Soho
Newsletter.....John Wright
Carol Wright



President's Message

It is a couple days before the Thanksgiving Holiday as I write this. It's tried but true that most of us have been incredibly blessed to live where we live and have what we have. I want to express how thankful I am for the people around me.

I am thinking about Gene Nelson in particular. I am very grateful to enjoy his friendship and his guidance.

His grace and generosity have been character building for me. He has lived a life devoted to teaching and improving the people around himself by example. I realized how rare it has been for any of us to be exposed to that level of kindness, humility and compassion.

And as I thought about it, his wife Dania has all those same qualities and one more. She is incredibly brave. Her good humor in the face of tragedy is hard for me to comprehend, but very sincerely appreciated.

I need to, once again, express my gratitude to people in this club. You all are cordial and kind to one another. You have been generous of your time. This is a remarkable group of people and I hope you all appreciate your own contribution to making this society work. You have helped us grow and maintain membership.

Merry Christmas.
Mike Saul

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 7 9 a.m. FBS General Meeting
Clovis Senior Center 850 Fourth St. Clovis
- Jan 11 9 a.m. FBS General Meeting
Ed Clark's Round Valley Nursery, Lindsay
- Jan 18 "Sift and Mix and Dig" at Steve DaSilva's
6470 E. Manning Ave., Fowler
- Jan 31– Feb 2 California Shohin Society Convention,
Hotel de Oro Conference Center
Santa Nella

November FBS Meeting Recap

There was a wide consensus that the Clovis Senior Activities Center was the ideal location for our future meetings. We will meet there December 7th.

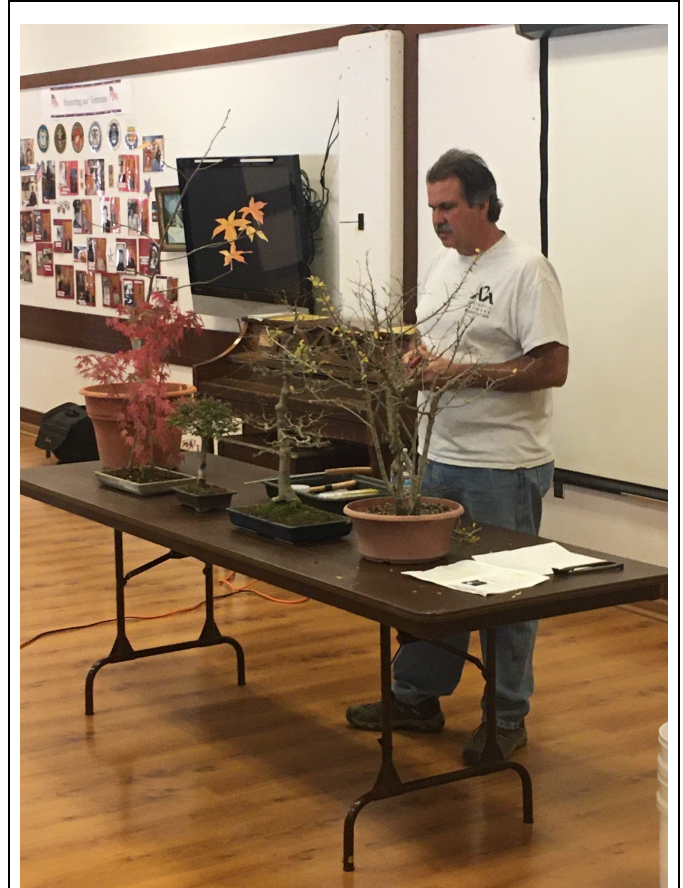


We have purchased 50 bags of akadama for re-potting. If you have signed up for one or more bags, we will arrange a day to pick up your allotment next week. Bring cash or check to pay for it at that time.

There was a favorable response to having a brief discussion of some aspect of bonsai design at each meeting. We will continue that.

Steve DaSilva will host a “Sift and Mix and Dig” event at his home on January 18th. In the mean time, we will work on obtaining something to sift and mix besides akadama.

Bob Hilvers will discuss Bonsai Soil Concepts at the December meeting.



Steve DaSilva provided an organized and thoughtful discussion of Fall Deciduous Pruning.



November FBS Meeting



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 to 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 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.

The 11th Annual FBS Yard Sale

Appreciation

The Eleventh Annual Bonsai Yard Sale was very successful this year, due to the diligence and ideas of a whole lot of people. I want to acknowledge the people who devoted special effort and time.

Thank you to Don and Jean Stephens for managing all the food and coffee with aplomb! Thanks to Sue Stevens for collecting people for our new mailing list...all day! Thank you to Suzie Follett and Julie Williams for managing the Silent Auction so efficiently. Thank you to Cris Saldana, Seng Tran, and Nick Trujillo for transporting those huge bonsai to their new owner. Thank you to Tyler and Paige Thomas, Shawn Miller, Marc Stamper, Darren Thomas, Dave Soho, John Wright, Ceser Ordonez, Ed Armbruster and Dustin Blaylock with set-up, take-down and everything in between. Thank you to Selisa Mendoza, our diligent photographer. And thanks to Bob Wright for keeping an eye on multiple details. Thank you to Cathy Shieh and everyone else who helped!

I sent a note to several of the volunteers on this list, asking for suggestions about how we might do this better next year. I got several excellent ideas. Please email or call me if any of you have suggestions about how to make this a better event. Mike



Bonsai Yard Sale venue at the Clovis Botanical Garden



Great participation from club members and vendors



The Annual Yard Sale continued



A special aspect of the yard sale this year was a silent auction of trees donated to the FBS by club member Gene Nelson. These beautiful trees will provide a financial resource supporting the FBS for years to come. All but two of the trees sold at or above the “buy it now price”. The other two sold very close to their set price.





The facilities and the setting at the Clovis Botanical Garden were wonderful for the Yard Sale...



...and who could complain about the ideal weather! A great day with great trees and great people!!

Membership Dues

Yearly membership dues for the Fresno Bonsai Society dues are \$40 per year for individuals or a family. Students are free. Checks should be made out to the Fresno Bonsai Society and given to Bob Wright, our treasurer.



