

Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter

November/December 2020



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.....Chris Saldana
 SecretaryMarilyn Shelton
 Treasurer.....Bob Wright
 Board Member Suzanne Follett
 John Wright
 Past President.....Dave Soho
 Newsletter.....John Wright

President's Message



I sincerely hope that you have all enjoyed a peaceful and comfortable Thanksgiving holiday. Know that you are a member of this bonsai family and therefore you have friends who care about you. You have that to be thankful for.

We had a remarkably successful twelfth bonsai yard sale, as I judge these events by the satisfied laughter from everyone I encountered (at least from 6 feet away and behind a mask!) The Silent Auction ran smoothly, thanks to Chris Saldana, Puneet Sra, Nick Trujillo and others. Tyler and Paige Thomas maintained security and Shawn Miller maintained public hygiene. Thanks to Ken Rank for extensive photography. And thank you for all those who did the heavy lifting for set up and take down. This was fun primarily because of the congeniality of the Fresno Bonsai Society people. Thank you to the Clark Bonsai Collection for offering the beautiful big bonsai in the Silent Auction, for participating in the yard sale, and thank you to the Clovis Botanical Garden for their continued support. (Enjoy some pictures from the event on pages 3 and 4)

We will have a special opportunity to improve our bonsai skills on Sunday, December 6th, when the Clark Bonsai Collection will host a BTOT (*Bring Your Own Tree*) workshop with Todd Schlafer. Todd is a popular bonsai instructor across the country. He specializes in collected native trees from the Rocky Mountains, but he has a broad background from his training with Ryan Neal. Seating in the class is limited and participants who bring a tree for Todd's help must reserve a seat in advance by contacting Bob Hilvers at 909-1051.

Upcoming Events

December 6th	CBC event with Todd Schlafer Clark Botanical Garden, 9 am to 4 pm
December 12	FBS December meeting Keith Tice Park in Fresno, 9 am to 1 pm

Presidents Message continued

The following weekend, on Saturday December 12th at 9 AM, we will hold our December meeting. This will again be outdoors at Keith Tice Park in Fresno. We will learn about Senescence and Fall Tasks with Satsuki Azaleas by Pat Galle. John Wright will discuss techniques for developing pre-bonsai in pond baskets. We will also have a raffle. Please bring a chair, face covering, and a raffle donation if you can. Bring any tree that you would like to seek help with.

As we look ahead to the new year, I am hopeful that we will be able to enjoy bonsai events around the region by this time next year. I am hopeful that we can bring more bonsai teachers to Fresno. That said, I am even more grateful that we have access to knowledgeable bonsai people in our own club who are willing to step up.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah to everyone. Most of all, I wish you all a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Mike

October FBS Meeting

The Keith Tice Park was again our meeting for the October general meeting. We had about 35 people in attendance. We had great participation by FBS members in contributing prizes to the meeting raffle. Over \$300 was generated for the club and some great material changed hands. Thanks to all who participated.



Fall FBS Yard Sale

Beautiful weather, great buys and great people. The 2020 FBS Yard Sale was a great event in spite of the problems that have beset this year. There were trees, pots and stands in every price range. It was particularly gratifying to see long-time FBS member Howard Latamer there.



FBS Yard Sale



A Special Thanks to the Soil Acquisition Team!

Club President Mike Saul and members Jack Green, Dave Soho and Bob Wright made the trip to Maruyama's Nursery to pick up bonsai soil components in October. As you can see a sizable quantity was purchased for members.



Bonsai Basics

Some pictures of a recent bonsai basics gathering at Chris Saldana's. Pat Galle can be seen giving a hand as well. A special thanks to Chris for stepping up to be the FBS VP this year.



Bonsai Almanac for December

We can work on most bonsai species this time of year, with some provisos. Deciduous trees have almost shed their leaves. If half the leaves on a tree have turned brown, you may strip all the branches clean or clip the petioles to remove leaves. Removing 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. The 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. 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. 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. 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 next meeting of the Fresno Bonsai Society will be Saturday, December 12th at 9AM at Tice Park. Keith Tice park is located at the corner of Millbrook and Cole. This is the same outdoor location as our two previous meetings.

We will have our usual Bonsai Show & Tell, Bring-Tree-For-Help, and a raffle. Pat Galle will discuss senescence and fall tasks in satsuki azaleas. John Wright will discuss development of pre-bonsai in pond baskets. Those who would like advice or help with their tree should bring the tree. As always, please bring a lawn chair and face covering. Please bring a raffle donation if you can.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FBS is still in need of those willing to volunteer for upcoming activities or leadership positions.

Membership Dues

Yearly membership dues for the Fresno Bonsai Society are due. The 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. Please complete a membership form with your name, phone number and email (printed in large clear letters) when you pay your dues.