



Fresno Bonsai Society

Newsletter

February 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! We had a great time at the annual winter potluck at Steve and Laura DaSilva' home. Our sincere thanks to Steve and Laura for hosting that event. We hope that everyone gained some knowledge about forest planting bonsai, shohin design, and repotting.

Our next general meeting will be Saturday, February 10th, at 9 AM, in the Woodward Park Library. We will bring back a club favorite: the Bonsai Critique, in which members will bring one tree, finished or not, for discussion by both experienced members and beginners. Advice or commentary on horticulture, styling, pot selection will be offered. Everyone should bring a tree and participate. It is fun and often useful. Following the Bonsai Critique, there will be a brief discussion of how to prepare your bonsai for display. During the business meeting we will make plans for our bonsai exhibition and plant sale at the Fresno Home & Garden Show, just one month later. Bonsai exhibited at both the Home Show and the Koen-Nai must be prepared appropriately for display. We will review those skills.

Everyone is strongly encouraged to bring a tree for critique and suggestions. This should be a very entertaining and informative meeting for everyone!

Annual Winter Potluck DaSilva Ranch

Our January meeting was a combination of a potluck luncheon, a tour of Steve DaSilva' collection and his growing field, a meeting of the Bonsai Basics Group and the Shohin Study Group. It was a bit cooler than years past but no one seemed to mind.

During the business meeting we discussed the plans for the Koen-Nai and our club exhibit within the Shinzen. Members were reminded that space will be very limited and they must inform Dave Soho in advance if they plan to show a bonsai. Everyone was encouraged to show one tree. Members were reminded of the opportunity to hear Ryan Neil at the Clark Collection on January 26 and 27th. And they were reminded of the Shohin Seminar in Santa Nella February 2-4.

Following the business meeting, we had an excellent discussion of Forest Planting bonsai creation with Harold Mitchell, Gene Nelson, Bob Wright and Mike Saul.

After a great lunch, the Shohin group met to evaluate bonsai brought by Al Keppler and the Bonsai Basics folks reviewed Repotting and



Soil selection. (Handouts for that class are still available.) Anyone who wishes to look at the bonsai material in Steve's field can still contact him for a visit. Our sincere thanks to Laura and Steve DaSilva for generously hosting this event !

The Shohin Study Group in February

The Shohin Study Group will meet February 21st at Denny's at Herndon and Clovis Avenue at 5 PM. Participants should bring a tree to discuss. The group will order off the menu.



Ryan Neil Visit

Bonsai master Ryan Neil was at the Clark Collection on January 27 and 28. Many of the FBS members took advantage of his remarkable knowledge and skills as he restyled three forest plantings and several individual bonsai. As before, he also offered advice for several personal bonsai belonging to members of the (volunteer) curatorial staff. The results were eight hours of teaching and remarkable improvements in the GSBF Clark Collection.



Remember to bring your bonsai for discussion and suggestions to the February 10th FBS meeting in the Woodward Park Library.

Above left and right: images from Ryan Neil's visit.

The Biennial Shohin Seminar of the California Shohin Society

The Shohin Seminar will be held in February 2-4, in the Mission De Oro Hotel, in Santa Nella.

This is the only event of its kind in the U.S. Every two years the California Shohin Society organizes a Shohin Seminar in Santa Nella, California, where bonsai masters, teachers, students and general enthusiasts from all over the country gather to learn and share their love of Shohin bonsai.

The goal of the Seminar is two-fold: To provide a low-cost, learning-rich environment for those who want to learn more about Shohin bonsai, and to raise money for the Golden State Bonsai Federation's Bonsai Collection. The Shohin Seminar is a major source of funding for the care and evolution of these collections. To make the Shohin Seminar work, everyone pays their own way. Headliners, instructors, presenters, vendors, and all of the chair-persons that make the seminar such a wonderful event – EVERYONE volunteers their services and pays their own travel expenses. The Shohin Seminar is considered to be one of the best, if not the best, opportunity in the U.S. to learn about Shohin. Thanks to the generosity of all who participate, it is an exceptional value for the cost.

Go to the website for detailed information. The fee is \$30 for a one day registration which gives you entry to the exhibition and the vendor area, or as a "silent observer" in the workshops. Check the website to find workshops which are still available (they sell out quickly) and the workshop costs. This is an easy 90 minute drive for a day trip from Fresno. It is fun and inspiring. Website: <http://www.calshohin.org/>

The Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen is a huge beneficiary of this event.

Ray Thieme

Emeritus member of the Fresno Bonsai Society, Ray Thieme remains hospitalized following a recent surgery. Cards and well wishes may be addressed to him in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit at Saint Agnes Medical Center.

April Fundraiser and Bonsai Exhibit

The FBS will join with the Shinzen Friendship Garden and the GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection on Saturday April 7th for a one day fundraising event. The FBS will renew our tradition of an outdoor Spring Bonsai Exhibit. The Shinzen Garden will hold their Spring Culture Faire. The Clark Collection will conduct the Toko-Kazari Tokonoma Display Competition. And the Clark Collection will conduct a silent auction of bonsai and related items. The FBS and the Clark Collection will hold a joint plant sale. All on the same day! Space for our club bonsai exhibit will be limited this year and we will have to rent tables. It is very important, therefore, that everyone who plans to display a tree inform Dave Soho by March 1st if they wish to show a tree!

Bonsai Basics for February

Bonsai Basics will be February 17th, from 9AM to 1PM at 2152 Carson in Clovis. We will review repotting skills. Everyone is asked to bring one or more trees for repotting. If you are caring for one of the club trees donated by Sue Stevens, please bring those trees as well as your own. Supplies will be provided.

Bonsai Activities for February

February is beginning of repotting season in earnest in our climate zone.

Deciduous trees should be repotted first and conifers later, although junipers may be repotted now as well. Ume and Japanese maples are done first. There is a danger to deciduous species if repotted after the buds have opened. Too early is better than too late. (Trident maples may be safely repotted as long as the new leaves are red.)

Once trees are repotted, be careful to protect them from a sudden hard freeze. Trident maples will tolerate very aggressive root pruning. Do NOT bare root conifers. Old garden soil should gradually be removed over 2-3 repottings. After repotting, trees should be left out in the sun (contrary to old advice) as heat from the sun will stimulate root growth and may produce shorter internodes.

Again, the exception to this statement is that all newly repotted trees should be carefully protected from the frost.

All species should be sprayed with dormant spray, except spruce, azalea, and those just repotted.

If a deciduous bonsai, in shade, begins to bud, it should be placed out in direct sun. If left in shade, it will produce longer internodes. This is undesirable as the tree will lose its compactness.

It is too early to fertilize, but iron, and other soil additives may be added. Gypsum is suggested for Black Pines if the local water is alkaline. Fruit bearing species may be pruned after blossoms have dropped. Cuttings for propagation may be started in late February and grafting on deciduous species should start this month. This is the



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

Liaison to Clark Collection Linda Jacobsen

mljjacobsen@gmail.com



BULLSEYE BONSAI

February Dates

Feb 2-4 Shohin Convention in Santa Nella

Feb 10 FBS Meeting Woodward Park Library

Feb 17 Bonsai Basics - 2152 Carson Ave, Clovis



Winter Haiku

I wake, reluctant;

Too cold to get out of bed

But I need to pee



Round Valley Nursery

JAPANESE MAPLES & PRE-BONSAI

Phone/Fax: 559-562-1019

Ed Clark cell: 559-310-1513

24022 Avenue 230

Lindsay, CA 93247

Open Most Days by Appointment

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 24	FBS Meeting: Air Layering with Pete Schaffert and Thread Grafting with Mike Saul	Clark Collection Reserve Area
April 6-7	Koen-Nai and FBS Outdoor Show	Shinzen Garden
May 12	FBS Meeting: Spring Work with Tridents with Al Keppler & Shohin	Clark Collection Reserve Area
May 19	Bonsai Basics: Watering and Summer Care— Soho	Carson Avenue
June 2	Annual FBS Potluck Picnic	Clovis Botanical Garden

Visit the FBS website for news and the latest bonsai educational articles.

LIKE THE FBS ON FACEBOOK!