



Fresno Bonsai Society

Newsletter

February 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.

Greetings!

We are well into the mid-winter and the bonsai repotting season. We are also rapidly approaching the many Spring bonsai activities, like our exhibit in the Fresno Home & Garden Show and the Koen-Nai Fundraiser for the Clark Collection (and our club.) Now is the time that we should be selecting the bonsai we will show in the Home & Garden Show. Everyone in the club should plan to show at least one tree. We should be cleaning and oiling those pots, removing weeds, dead leaves and twigs. We need to collect moss for that soil surface. All this at the same time we are sifting soil and repotting. Tempus fugit. Why did we ever think that bonsai is a slow and casual hobby?

Our next meeting is Saturday, February 9th, 9 AM at the Clark Collection. The weather has been so mild that we abandoned the idea of a different venue.

We have a lot of important issues to discuss and plan, around the Home & Garden Show. We will have soil components to sell at discount prices for our members.

The Bonsai Basics group will focus on repotting (hands on). EVERYONE needs to bring a tree to work on and discuss.



As always, it was impossible to leave Ed's place without at least one new potential master class bonsai...or more. Thank you to Ed and Steve for a great day!



Bonsai Basics Road Trip

On the first Saturday of January, the Bonsai Basics group made a road trip to the DaSilva bonsai collection and growing fields. Steve explained after-care for the trees before members dug maples and olives. Following that experience, we travelled on to Round Valley Nursery where Ed Clark showed us around.



First Club Meeting of 2019

We were blessed with an warm winter day and big enthusiastic group for our first meeting this year. We welcomed six new members, including folks from Shaver Lake and the Oakhurst area. In the business meeting, Dave Soho discussed the March Fresno Home & Garden Show. He collected a list of soil components needed by the members for an upcoming buying trip. He discussed two opportunities to dig yamadori in the coming month. Treasurer Bob Wright reminded us that our dues are payable. Finally, Dave expressed our thanks to Don & Jean Stephens who provided donuts coffee.



Special Thanks to Kim Black for her Photography!



Thank You to Don and Jean Stephens for agreeing to obtain donuts and prepare the coffee for all our meetings this year!

And Thank You to Kim Black who has consented to becoming our Official FBS Photographer.



To Esteban Aguirre and his parents, Shawn Miller, Gail Overstreet, Geoff Stone, and Tyler Thomas and anyone I may have missed...WELCOME to the Fresno Bonsai Society.

If you have ordered bonsai soil components or anticipate buying some, bring your check book or cash to the February 9th club meeting.



Bonsai Almanac for February

We are in the midst of repotting season 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, however, 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 from conifers 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.

All species which are subject to mites or scale insects should be sprayed with dormant spray.

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 and larger leaves.

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 final month to graft pines and other conifers.

Watering remains problematic. It depends on our rainfall and temperatures. It must be individualized.

Care should be taken to assess wired branches over the next few weeks, because a warm spell may suddenly push bud push and branch diameter causing wire cuts.



January Shohin Study Group

The Shohin group was sparsely attended due to a cold rainy night in January. Steve DaSilva and Karen Baker are the group leaders. Steve led the meeting. He pointed out that the group had not established a consistent meeting format. The participants pointed out that they were there to learn how typical seasonal bonsai tasks and techniques were altered for shohin size trees. Steve suggested that, hence forth, the topics to be discussed would focus on the appropriate seasonal techniques for shohin, in addition to discussing the individual trees which were brought by members. Following that

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decision the group looked at three trees that Steve provided and two from John Wright. Both discussed their plans and decision making for these shohin bonsai.

The next meeting of the Shohin Study Group will be Wednesday, February 20th, at 5 PM. They will meet at the Denny's Resurant on East Herndon in Clovis. Everyone is welcome.

If you would like more information or a reminder, please contact Kareen Baker at Bkcompliant@sbcglobal.net.

Buying Trip for Soil Components

In late January, a contingent of FBS members, pick up trucks, traveled to Sacramento to purchase bonsai soil components in bulk. They obtained lava rock and mocha lava for resale to the club members. We hope to be able to offer these and akadama to members at a larger discount next fall. Images from the trip are below. Our thanks to those who made this long drive!



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