

Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter

February 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.....Vacant
SecretaryMarilyn Shelton
Treasurer.....Bob Wright
Past President.....Dave Soho
Newsletter.....John Wright
Carol Wright



President's Message

Are we having fun yet? If you are a comfort creature, you may not be having a lot of outdoor bonsai fun just yet. It has been a chilly wet winter thus far. Unfortunately, this is the season for digging yamadori in fields, landscapes, or the hill country. This is also the time for us to prepare our soil. All outdoor activity.

We received an intense and entertaining education in collecting and caring for native Oak bonsai from JT Thompson last month. Steve DaSilva offered us an opportunity to dig some wonderful field grown trees in January as well.

This is also the time of year that we start to select our best bonsai for display in a few weeks. With that in mind, we asked Al Keppler to teach us about how to prepare and display our trees for display at our February 8th meeting. We asked him to address this topic in preparation for the Fresno Home & Garden Show March 6th through 8th. Al is a talented speaker. He is very a serious student of the Art of Bonsai Display. With his help, we can make our spring public exhibit even better each year. One of the most effective methods to improve our individual bonsai is to display our bonsai. An exhibit forces us to look at our individual tree critically.

Our goal is to have every member of the FBS to display at least one bonsai, at some level of development, in the Home & Garden Show. We will make every effort to have an appropriate stand and accent plant for every bonsai. You may find that perfect accent pot or plant at the Annual Shohin Seminar, January 31 -February 2nd.

Our February 8 meeting will be held at the Clovis Senior Center. We hope to have the bylaws changes available to hand out at that meeting but there will be no discussion until the March meeting.

We plan a change to the agenda. We will assign a time limit to the discussion of each agenda item in order to limit the duration of the business meeting. Following Mr. Keppler's presentation we will have a "open work time" until 1 PM. Everyone should bring a tree, as always.

Mike Saul

January Meeting Recap

The Clovis Senior Center provided our gathering place for the January FBS meeting. President Mike Saul began the meeting with a short discussion of the efforts to incorporate the FBS as a 501c3 nonprofit. This item is requiring more time than expected and will be continued to the February meeting. We had a great turnout for the meeting. There were 51 in attendance for John Thompson's (JT) presentation of collecting oaks and the following workshop with individual members.

JT provided an overview of the 20 to 25 species of oaks. They fall into deciduous and evergreen varieties. The identification sometimes get difficult as oaks hybridize readily. A great reference book is "Oaks of California".

JT brought his field pack and reviewed the things he includes for collecting. Included were an assortment of large and small hand tools, power tools, food, misters, moist rags, misting bottle, plastic wrap, rope, food, drinking water. He stressed digging around the base first to be sure you know where the roots start. He puts newly collected trees in agricultural pumice (down to 1/8" size).



The best time to collect oaks is after Thanksgiving. January is an excellent time to collect. Do your major cutting back when you first take the tree out of the ground. That is when it is the strongest.

He showed several collected trees and where he had cut the main limbs when they were collected. JT said that it was his observation that branches may sprout from large cuts. Don't seal cuts below the ground. Hopefully you will get root growth from these locations.

(Continued from page 2.)

Following the presentation, JT spent time reviewing a number of oak trees brought by FBS members. This provided specific help to those members and great instruction for those watching. A number of oak branches left in the trash can, but better trees going forward also went home with FBS members.



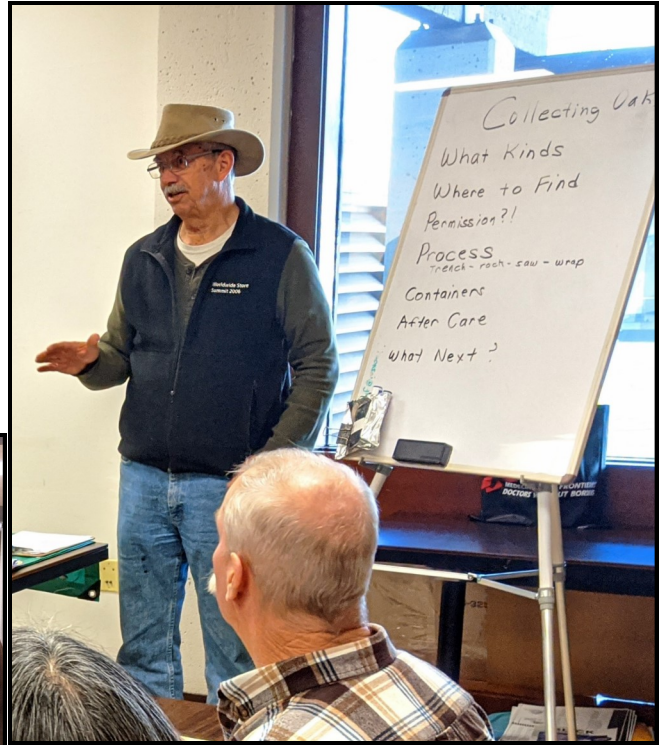
New Open Bonsai Workshop

We have added a new opportunity for our members to work on their bonsai or to seek advice about their trees. We have arranged an Open Bonsai Workshop for anyone who wishes to attend. The first session will be Saturday, February 22nd, from 9 AM until noon. We will encourage participants to bring one or more trees and their tools, or simply observe others working. This open workshop is open to all levels of bonsai experience. Participants are encouraged to seek advice from any members. The open workshops will be scheduled at the Clovis Police Department Community Room in February and March 28th, then we will move the sessions to the Clark Bonsai Collection Reserve Area in April, May and June. We will evaluate this concept based upon attendance before making this a permanent activity. This is an excellent venue with excellent lighting and facilities. We are very grateful to the Clovis PD and to Shawn Miller for helping us obtain access to the Community Room.



John Thompsons
"Collecting Oaks Presentation"

- What kind of oaks
- Where to find
- Get Permission
- The Process
- Containers
- After Care
- What Next



Right: John working with Tim Robinson on his oak. There was a lot more foliage on the floor after this session, but better trees.



Left: some of John's oak trees that he brought to show examples of collected trees. Above JT working with Mike Saul.



7TH U.S. NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2020

Fresno Bonsai Society Activities for February

Our General Meeting *Preparing Your Bonsai for Show and Display*

With Al Keppler, Saturday February 8th
9 AM at the Clovis Senior Center

Open Bonsai Workshop

Saturday February 22nd at 8 AM til Noon at the
Clovis Police Department Community Room

California Shohin Society Convention



Jan. 31– Feb 2

Hotel de Oro
Conference Center
Santa Nella

[https://
www.calshohin.org/](https://www.calshohin.org/)

Bonsai Almanac for February

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 repotting. 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.

The soil sifting and tree digging at Steve DaSilva's on January 18th was a great day. Mike Saul started to activities with a demonstration on repotting. Steve's soil sifting machine made fast work of the material brought by FBS members. Those present also had the opportunity to look at the significant number of field grown trees Steve has on his property. Some great trees were purchased and dug by those present Saturday. In fact we were so involved that no one thought to take pictures. The weather cooperated with a sunny morning.



Follow up on the Boxwood Collecting

One year ago FBS members participated in a field dig at the Riverside Golf Course. The boxwoods were very old and had been well maintained. FBS member Shawn Miller has shared a few pictures from the event and the progress of the tree he dug over this past year.



Boxwoods are an easy material to collect and can be found in a number of locations locally. Yes, you need to have permission to dig them! They take root-pruning well and can be cut back significantly. They are a great material for those new to bonsai. Don't be afraid to cut the roots back when you collect the tree. They back bud readily. Great job Shawn.

If you have a tree to share, send me a picture and the history.

FBS Calendar 2020

- January 31– Feb 2 California Shohin Society Convention.
This event occurs every other year. Don't miss it!
<http://www.calshohin.org/register/>
Hotel de Oro Conference Center, Santa Nella
- February 8 General Meeting Al Keppler will provide information on
"Preparing Your Bonsai for Show"
9 a.m. Clovis Senior Center 850 Fourth St. Clovis
- March 6-8 Fresno Home & Garden Show (FBS Exhibit and Sale)
Fresno Fair Grounds
- March 14 General Meeting (Visit to Round Valley Nursery
including a grafting demonstration with Ed Clark)
24022 Ave 230, Lindsey, CA 93247
- April 11 Shinzen Spring Faire & Koen Nai No
Fresno Shinzen Garden, Woodward Park
- April 11` General Meeting, with guest speaker Jonas Dupuich
9 a.m. Clovis Senior Center 850 Fourth St. Clovis
- April 25 Asian Fest at Fresno City College.
Display and demonstrations by FBS members
- May 9 General Meeting (details to be announced)
9 a.m. Clovis Senior Center 850 Fourth St. Clovis
- May 30 Annual FBS Picnic, Clovis Botanical Garden, 11AM
- June 13-Sept 26 Classical vs Contemporary Design
Clark Bonsai Center, Shinzen Garden
- Sept 26-27 Central Valley Koi Show at Woodward Park