



# The Fresno Bonsai Society

## Newsletter

### June 2015

#### *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.*

The Summer heat and the drought of the past four years are back again, but be not afraid bonsai lovers, the season offers many promises. Not the least of which is the Annual FBS June Potluck and Saturday, June 13th in the Bonsai Reserve Area at Shinzen Garden. We will work on our own bonsai from 9AM until noon. Lunch will be at noon. Members should park in the service yard behind the Shinzen, as we did for the Spring Blossom Festival. Tables and chairs will be provided. The club will provide drinks, and pulled pork BBQ sandwiches. Member families with even numbered addresses should bring a salad or side dish to pass and families with odd numbered addresses should bring a dessert to pass. The club will provide table ware. Families may wish to arrive at noon. Both members and families should tell the entry gate personnel that they are here to work on the Shinzen Garden and should not be charged the entry fee. Remember to bring your membership badge. Following the potluck, we will conduct our business meeting, including the election of officers. This is a fun event and an opportunity to meet families, to see the progress made on the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen and enjoy the Shinzen Garden.

The Fresno Bonsai Society elects officers for a two year term, biannually at our June meeting. As the club has grown and our activities have expanded, the burdens of leadership and organization have grown. We have a superb slate of new officers who will join President Peter Schaffert for the next two years. We owe them our thanks for taking on these responsibilities.

The talents that these men bring are described below.

### David Soho for President-Elect

Dave Soho is a retired professional forester who moved to Clovis with his wife, Carolyn, just two years ago from Northern California. Dave immediately joined the Fresno Bonsai Society and has been a very active and devoted member from that moment. He has been involved with bonsai for 18 years. He was previously the president of the Redding Bonsai Club and served as GSBF Trustee from Area A. He has led field trips to collect native trees, conducted workshops and study groups in the Mount Shasta area. Dave comes with a wealth of both bonsai and leadership experience. We are very grateful for his commitment to the FBS.

### Bob Wright for Treasurer

Bob Wright has been the Chief Financial Officer of the Fresno Bonsai Society as long as anyone can remember. His integrity, care, and frugality are why. Bob is retired from law enforcement.

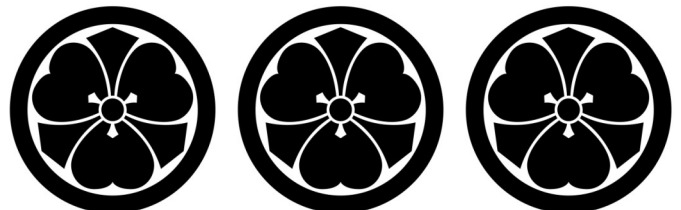
He has been a tireless worker for the club and a generous friend to every member. His bonsai skills and artistic eye often go unmentioned because of his modesty. Bob has again agreed to be treasurer with our thanks.

### Art Zaragoza for Secretary

Art joined the Fresno Bonsai Society about three years ago. He has been very active in the Bonsai Basics group. He has also volunteered as both recording secretary and photographer for FBS events. He has helped a lot with the production of this newsletter.

Art is a very modest person. When we asked him to write a brief piece about his qualifications for this position, he provided this understated note:

In my role as Secretary of the Fresno Bonsai Society I have had the privilege of utilizing my extensive administrative experience, particularly as it pertains to taking minutes and observing Robert's Rules of Order. I obtained and honed these skills during my employment in property management for two homeowners' associations in Fresno and Clovis, attending all meetings and managing their Boards of Directors. My goal is to continue to serve the Fresno Bonsai Society in whatever capacity its leaders and members see fit and to continually increase my bonsai skills through continued mentorship and study.





*Images from the Ted Matson Workshop*

### May Workshop with Ted Matson

Ted Matson provided another outstanding lesson in bonsai styling and horticulture at our May meeting. In the morning,, experienced members presented an assortment of trees from raw yamadori material to semi finished bonsai. Ted went from tree to tree, suggesting both fundamental care for each species as well as long term styling and development. The class was small , so members were treated to a lot of time and attention. In the afternoon Bonsai Basics members received guidance. During the business meeting, plans were confirmed for the June Potluck . The club also confirmed that the Annual Bonsai Yard Sale will be held at the home of Ray and Evelyn Thieme on Saturday, December 5th , 2015. There was a brief discussion of this years Bonsai Show and how it might be improved next year. It was noted that the club is in fine financial condition for the coming year, but our annual expenses average about \$1900 and our revenue from the Show had been only \$450. Ideas were offered were making some additional revenue at the Yard Sale and Home & Garden Show.





*Below Left and Right: Bob Wright and Dave Soho are assembling the bonsai benches in the Reserve Area at the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen Garden. The new work shelter has been constructed as well. Ray Thieme, Gene Nelson, Dave, and Bob have worked daily at the garden.*

*Above: Ted Matson discussing the ultimate vision of this interesting juniper brought by Dave Soho, as Al Keppler, Dave (behind the tree) Bob Wright and Steve DaSilva look on.*



**From Michael Hagedorn's Blog:** Probably the worst thing we might encounter when we have a hose in our hand is a tree that, when we think about it, has not dried out in three days of sunny summer weather. That ought to send off all kinds of alarm bells in your head. If none go off, install some.

"First of all, don't water the tree if you want it to live. Secondly, place it in semi-shade and mist it frequently. The roots are not working, they are not drawing up moisture. Usually what has happened is root rot: the small roots got crispy dry, then they got waterlogged, and now the soil is staying waterlogged and everything that was living is slowly decomposing. This is like a heart that just stopped pumping and the medics are scrambling for the jump-start. If those small rootlets don't start growing out again soon, the tree will die.

"Tip the pot up on a block to let the excess water run out the bottom of it. The pot must be kept a bit on the dry side, and water introduced by misting onto the leaves to get the tree going again.

"This is one of those cases where prevention is worth it's weight in platinum. Don't let your trees get COMPLETELY dry, and be ever alert to those that are not drying out as you would expect.



### Remember the June 13th Potluck

- Bring your FBS name badge and remind family to tell the gatekeeper they are here to work in Shinzen
- Even numbered addresses bring a dish to pass
- Odd numbered addresses bring a dessert to pass
- Bring trees and tools at 9AM and family any-time
- Remember to come!

### The Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen Collection Committee

**will meet at 10 AM**

**at the June Potluck in**

**Shinzen Garden**



Ron Bereman has now opened **Bonsai Creations** in Atascadero. Ron is a long time bonsai enthusiast and member of the Santa Maria Bonsai Club. He is a student of Peter Tea. **Bonsai Creations** is a full service bonsai nursery. Ron sells both pre-bonsai and semi-finished trees as well as wire, tools and quality bonsai pots. He will offer beginning bonsai lessons, group workshops, repotting services, consultation and vacation care. The **Bonsai Creations** is by appointment only. The phone number is **805 440-3160**.



### Ken To and His Other Bonsai Artistry

Ken To is a member of the Fresno Bonsai Society and an avid Shohin bonsai enthusiast. Ken displays his shohin in our annual show and at the Big Fresno Fair each year where he has won several prizes. He is an active member of the Shohin Study Group and his photos appear frequently on the FBS Facebook page. Most of us did not appreciate how remarkably famous Ken is around the country and even internationally for his other bonsai passion; wire sculptured bonsai art. Late last year Ken was commissioned by the former Weyerhaeuser Pacific Bonsai Collection to create a display of his wire sculptured bonsai as part of that famous exhibit. Ken produced 40 trees. While he often



momai size sculptures, three of these were over a foot tall. The display took five months to complete and three hours to assemble. The trees will be on display until October of this year. When asked about his feelings about the display Ken said, "I felt honored to be invited to display my sculptures there...I've never seen that many of my



*Above and right: two more of Ken To's momai size wire sculptured bonsai. Ken frequently utilizes Jim Barrett's pots.*

*Ken's sculptures are featured on several web sites including his own at Ken To . Com.*

own sculptures in one place and I was completely overwhelmed...I think this display helped validate me as an artist... I did my best to represent the Fresno Bonsai Society." We agree!

### **Progress on the Clark Bonsai**

#### **Collection at Shinzen**

At the time of this writing, the irrigation system is approximately fifty percent accomplished and the electrical system is near completion. The exterior walls are up , the contours of the display area are complete and the display stands are being positioned. The benches for the reserve bonsai are completed. Lighting and security remain. This has all been accomplished by the daily labors of Ray Thieme, Gene Nelson, Dave Soho, Bob Wright, and Bob Hilvers, together with Sid Mukai and company. And thanks also to Genaro Cuan and Jason Scott. The goal is to move the bonsai to Fresno next month! Please Like CBCS on Facebook!



### **Bonsai Basics for June**

The Bonsai Basics Group will meet at Harold Mitchell's home at 9AM, Saturday, June 20th. The topic will be decandling of Black Pines. If members don't have a Black Pine, Mitch has plenty to work on. Participants are encouraged to bring other trees with questions as needed. The group will not meet in July and August. Members are urged to attend the June Potluck the Saturday before.

### **The 38th Annual GSBF Convention**

**Bonsai Fusion: Where Tradition Meets Innovation**

**Oct 29-Nov 1, 2015**

**Riverside Convention Center**

## California Bonsai Events in June

### June 6 & 7

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai: 32nd Annual Show

At the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, next to Beresford Park. Admission is free. Hours are 10am to 4pm; with Bonsai Master, David Nguy, will be conducting a demonstration Saturday.

### June 13 & 14,

California Suiseki Society: 20th Annual Show at the Lakeside Garden Center on Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Ave. June 14, 2015 Seaside, California

### June 14

Monterey Bonsai Club: 52nd Annual Exhibition at the Monterey-Peninsula Buddhist Temple, 1150 Noche Buena Street. Show hours are from 11am – 4pm with a demonstration at 1:30pm by Katsumi Kinoshita.

### June 20 & 21,

Livermore, California. Valley Bonsai Society: 7th annual show at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane. Show hours are 10 AM to 4 PM.

### Bay Area Azalea Show

Most of us in the FBS avoid azaleas because our dry climate is a challenge to maintaining these beautiful plants (except Pat Galle, who has mastered this!)

That issue aside, we urge you to look at Al Kepler's blog, *California Bonsai Art*, from May 16th, describing the 20th Annual Satsuki Bonsai Exhibition, of the Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai. The trees are spectacular and the accent plants, which Al photographed beautifully, provide a lesson in display for all of us.

Please Like the Fresno Bonsai Society and the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen on Facebook, and encourage your friends and family to like us!

And visit the Fresno Bonsai Society Webpage for more detailed information about bonsai skills and club events.



**Ed and Linda Clark, at Round Valley Nursery in Lindsey, have a huge selection of trees, grown specifically for bonsai at Round Valley Nursery. Call Ed for information 310-1513.**

