



# Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter

June 2017

## *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 Everyone,

It has been a great year for the FBS! We have enjoyed classes from John Wright, Al Keppler, and Bob Wright on important topics. We have had instruction from professionals like Ryan Neal, John Thompson, Sam Adina and Kenji Miyata. The Bonsai Basics Study Group has grown. We have all learned more by exposure to Bob Hilvers and the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen Garden. It's been an educational year

Our bonsai season is drawing to the traditional close as we take a breather for July and August. Our first meeting of the new season will be September 9th. We will kick off the next year with a talk on Bonsai pests and diseases by Dr. Beth Teviodale.

Our final meeting for this season will be Saturday, June 3rd, at the Clovis Botanical Garden. We will start at 11 AM. This is our Annual Picnic. Everyone, including spouses and children are invited. The club will provide Tri tip and Chicken, sodas, and table ware. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass. You may bring adult refreshments! If your last name begins with the letter A through J, please bring a salad or casserole item. If your last name begins with K through Z, please bring a dessert. This will be a purely social event. We won't do anything "bonsai." Please bring a table if you have one.

We will have a raffle with door prizes, a brief business meeting and a bonsai tree and plant sale!

We must have a head count of those who will attend. Please RSVP today to either Dave Soho at [sohofive@yahoo.com](mailto:sohofive@yahoo.com) or to Mike Saul at [tinytreeme@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tinytreeme@sbcglobal.net).

## JT Thompson on Oak Bonsai

Our May meeting was a discussion and workshop with John Thompson on Oak bonsai. John proved, once again, what a knowledgeable and well organized teacher he is. He provided an equally useful handout.

JT noted that native California oaks are plentiful, vigorous, and easy to collect.

He noted that our Valley Oaks (*quercus lobata*) are classic examples of the "oak style"; they grow broad spreading foliage canopies with low hanging bottom limbs.

He collects acorns each fall from various oak species to cultivate. (This is a strategy for young folks who also have more developed trees to work on during the years required for growth.) The acorns do not require stratification. He plants them in about 3 inches of bonsai soil, lying on their side, just covered. He waters them



**Remember to RSVP for the Annual FBS Picnic at the Clovis Botanical Garden on Saturday June 3rd, 11 AM, at 945 North Clovis Avenue (between Nees and Alluvial). Bring a dish to pass and bonsai plants or pots for sale.**





To keep the soil moist at all times and covers the tray with hardware cloth to protect them from mammals. By December he expects to see a radical root protrude from the acorn. He cuts the radical as soon as it turns downward.

John pointed out that the Valley Oak or Interior Live Oak (or "Water Oak) utilizes more water than the Blue Oak which prefers a dryer soil. Cork Oaks were introduced to the valley from the Mediterranean for wine corks. The later is a vigorous species but the branch shoots must be allowed to run in order for the bark to develop corking.

Late Spring is a desirable time to prune and style oak bonsai, after the delicate foliage has

Hardened off. He noted that the oxyns which suppress lateral root growth are formed just proximal to the tip of the radical or tap root. Removing the tap root encourages lateral root growth.

Oaks can be air-layered successful, particularly those varieties like Gold Cup Oaks which for bulbs on the trunk.

They may be wired with either copper or aluminum. Allowing shoots on a freshly wired branch to run will harden or set the branch position sooner.

Oaks will tolerate defoliation.

They are best collected during dormant periods or cool weather. Major cuts are best tolerated in late summer or spring.

JT acknowledges that he adds charcoal to his potting soils to absorb salts from water and fertilizer. He also adds gypsum to his trees to reduce sodium content. He did mention that oaks seem to have more problems with soil fungus due to their general preference for moist soil.

John summarized by noting that every maneuver in growing and developing bonsai should have a goal; a purpose. Not just because the time of year or species of tree.

Following his talk, John stepped out into the work area and offered help and advice for members trees. He provided many "pearls" about both horticulture and styling.

The consensus was that this was a great educational experience for FBS members at every level.



Volunteers are still need for both docents and other tasks at the Clark Bonsai Collection. Contact Linda Jacobsen please.

## Asian Fest at Fresno City College

Each Spring for the past several years, the Fresno City College has produced a colorful, musical, multi-cultural event on the campus. Asian Fest is a celebration of the many Asian cultures represented at FCC and Fresno. It has grown into a spectacular and exciting event with literally thousands of visitors.

The Fresno City College Bonsai Club is affiliated with our Fresno Bonsai Society. Our own Steve DaSilva is the faculty advisor to the FCC club. The Asian Fest is the major fundraiser for the FCC Bonsai Club. They put out an attractive display of bonsai each year and a big sales table.

In years past, our Fresno Bonsai Society has displayed trees with the FCC student and we have had members there to answer questions of the many interested visitors. Unfortunately, we were simply too tired from the Koen-Nai to participate this year. Tables must be reserved in advance to sell.

Fortunately, both Donald Hoisington and Steve DaSilva were there to talk to visitors this year.

This has grown into a very large and colorful event, drawing big crowds. Hopefully, in 2018, the FBS and the Shinzen Japanese Garden can participate in this community activity. Perhaps we can donate some plants to support the FCC Bonsai Club and increase public awareness of our society and the Clark Collection.

**Visit the FBS Website Bonsai Knowledge File for a Detailed Discussion of Decandling Black Pine Bonsai by Jonas Dupuich. June is here!**



**Bring bonsai or pots for the club sale at the Annual FBS Picnic on June 3rd at the Clovis Botanical Garden.**



## Final Bonsai Basics Study Group

The Bonsai Basics class met for the final time until September. Dave Soho led a discussion of juniper styling. The Bonsai Team Competition trees (procumbens junipers) were discussed as examples. Dave provided representative trees from his own collection for each of the five basic styles. We had an rare situation in which there were more senior members to help than students, so there was lots of guidance to go around! The Bonsai Basics Class will start again on September 16th.



BS Shirts and Caps are Still Available.



Please follow the FBS and the Clark Bonsai Collection on Face Book and follow the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen on Instagram.

**RSVP now for the June FBS Picnic at the Clovis Botanical Garden on Saturday June 3rd**

## Bonsai Events in California this Month

### June 3 - 4, 2017 San Mateo, California

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai: 34th Annual Show at the San Mateo Garden Center. 605 Parkside Way (next to Beresford Park). Show hours are 10 AM - 4 PM both days, with demonstration by Matt Reel from 1 – 3 PM on Saturday (tree will be raffled off at the conclusion of his demo). On Sunday Matt will lead an open view workshop from Noon – 3 PM (one of the workshop trees raffled at conclusion). Large club member plant sale, vendors, door prizes and our always popular raffles. Admission is free.

### June 4, 2017 Seaside, California

Monterey Bonsai Club: 54th Annual Exhibition at the Monterey Buddhist Temple, 1150 Noche Buena Street. Show hours are 11 AM - 4 PM. Demonstration at 1:30 PM by Katsumi Kinoshita. Silent auction area will include bonsai, pots and plants.

### June 24 – 25, 2017 Palo Alto, California

Kusamura Bonsai Club: 57th Annual Show will be held at the Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road. Hours are Saturday, Noon – 5 PM, and Sunday 11 AM - 5 PM with demonstrations at 1:30 PM each day. Saturday demonstration provided by Jonas Dupuich of Bonsai Tonight. Sunday demonstration provided by club members. Free admission. Bonsai trees, pots, and other bonsai-related items will be for sale.



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This is the final edition of the FBS Newsletter until September. Your editor may be taking on more responsibility in the FBS in two years. If there is a member out there who would like to learn the minimal skills required to publish this not-quite-Pulitzer-Prize-level journal, please contact Mike Saul.