



# Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter

June 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 everyone!

We are coming to the heat of our valley summer and end of the bonsai work year...sort of.

Our next meeting will be Saturday June 2nd. That will be our annual BBQ picnic. We will take a two month hiatus before reconvening in September for our fall meeting. Note that the BBQ will be one week earlier than our usual second Saturday schedule.

Our annual BBQ will be held in the big tent in the CLOVIS BOTANICAL GARDEN at 11 AM on June 2nd. We will eat about 12:30.

The club will provide the BBQ and salads, soft drinks, and tableware. FBS members AND THEIR FAMILIES are all invited.

We are asking members to BRING A DESSERT to pass. If you would like adult beverages, feel free to bring beer or wine.

We will be giving away a number of trees as door prizes.

Everyone is asked to please park in the Dry Creek Park parking lot, NOT in the north end of the garden where another event will be occurring.

Save the date and plan to enjoy a pleasant picnic with your bonsai friends at the Clovis Botanical Garden at 945 North Clovis Avenue.

See you there!



### **Peter Schaffert Air Layer Project**

Recall that Pete Schaffert demonstrated his technique for air layering off the top of a uniquely ugly Chinese elm in mid-March of this year. Pete shared this image of the new tree he was able to salvage from that method in just six weeks! He had enough roots to start this future shohin! Most air layers require 6 to 12 months or more, but Chinese elms are very robust trees. We hope Pete will show us the next phase in the development of this bonsai!



### **FBS Meeting in May with Al Keppler**

Trident Maples are probably the definitive optimal species for deciduous bonsai. They are the prototype species for maples in general. Thus a thorough understanding of the growth habits and styling techniques for Tridents is the corner stone of deciduous bonsai knowledge. Al Keppler has devoted years to studying these concepts. At our May meeting, he utilized his humor and chatty teaching style to explain many of the nuances of developing Trident bonsai. Our sincere thanks to Al for sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience with us.

*Photos on Opposite Page.*

### **April is Leaving Us**

Our resident artist and bonsai potter, April Grigsby, will be moving to the Midwest in a few weeks. April is a very talented and creative bonsai ceramicist and many of us have acquired some of her beautiful pieces.

April will have a brand new collection of bonsai containers coming out with her last firing in just a few days. Many are larger pieces. She will be offering them for sale at the FBS Picnic, June 2nd. She will continue to produce commissioned pots in the future at her new home.

If you anticipate buying a container, please bring cash or check.

**Visit the NEW GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection Website for information about the latest exhibit and events. Visit the FBS website for club news and education.**



"A tree that is left growing in its natural state is a crude thing. It is only when it is kept close to human beings who fashion it with loving care that its shape and style acquire the ability to move one."

-From Japanese Text about 1100 AD



**"Going Native"**

**A New bonsai exhibition at the Clark Bonsai Collection in Shinzen Friendship Gardens, June 2-Sept. 30**





### Bonsai Basics Group to Round Valley Nursery

The Bonsai Basics Class made a field trip to the Round Valley Bonsai Nursery in Lindsey in May.

The group had a discussion about selecting the best raw material for bonsai, before browsing through the huge selection of pre-bonsai trees offered by Ed and Linda Clark. After their shopping spree, they enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Linda. There were 10 students on this trip and several others were disappointed that they could not participate. We are anticipating another trip down to the nursery, perhaps in the Fall this year. Be sure to call ahead if you plan to visit on your own. *Thank you to Nick Trujillo for these photos.*



### Bonsai Almanac for June

The scorching summer sun is coming soon. Remember to rotate our bonsai 180 ° monthly. More importantly, watch species with tender leaves like Japanese maple, Hornbeams and Ume. On extremely hot days move them out of the direct light to filtered sun. Watering must be more consistent to keep the soil moist. New shoots on deciduous trees may be cut back to 2 or 3 leaves if hardened off, in order to maintain shape. Juniper shoots may be cut back now for pad development and styling. Young black pines black pines might be decandled in early June. Be aware that if decandling occurs early, the second growth candles will have more growing time and will be longer next spring. When pruning, in general start on the bottom branches first so you can gauge the appropriate length of the branches above. Check on wires from last fall. Remove them if they are cutting into the rapidly growing branches of deciduous species. Pomegranate, cotoneaster and pyracantha may still be transplanted. Most species are growing rapidly and may be fertilized on a regular schedule. Consider organic fertilizers every 4 to 6 weeks depending on whether your bonsai is in development versus refinement. Spider mites will be attacking juniper foliage very soon. Consider Neem oil spray in the cool mornings every 2-4 weeks. If you have evidence of active mite infestation on Shimpaku, in particular, spray thoroughly with Neem oil (or Bayer 3 in 1 tree and Shrub Insecticide). Do this in the cool early morning hours, then rinse off the trees after 2-3 hours. Repeat in two weeks to cover the life cycle of the eggs. This will work for elm scale as well.

# Current Officers of the Fresno Bonsai Society

President David Soho

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*"There are no borders in bonsai. The dove of peace flies to palace as to humble house, to young as to old, to rich and poor. So does the spirit of bonsai."*

*- John Yoshio Naka*



**BULLSEYE BONSAI**

**FBS Annual Picnic**

**June 2nd at Clovis Botanical Garden**

**11 to 2 PM**

**Bring a Dessert to Pass**



# FBS Calendar 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 17      | FBS Meeting: Air Layering with Pete Schaffert and Thread Grafting with Mike Saul followed by Bonsai Basics | Clark Collection Reserve Area             |
| April 7       | Koen-Nai and FBS Outdoor Show  | Shinzen Garden                            |
| May 12        | FBS Meeting: Spring Work with Tridents with Al Keppler & Shohin Bonsai with Steve Da Silva                 | Clark Collection Reserve Area             |
| May 19        | Bonsai Basics: Selecting Good Material Round Valley Nursery  | Lindsey, CA                               |
| June 2        | Annual FBS Potluck Picnic  | Clovis Botanical Garden                   |