

Fresno Bonsai Society

Newsletter

June 2021



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.....Cris Saldana
 SecretaryMarilyn Shelton
 Treasurer.....Bob Wright
 Board Member Suzanne Follett
 John Wright
 Past President.....Dave Soho
 Newsletter ...Carol & John Wright



President's Message

Dear friends, this is my parting comment. I won't mention the weather, the absence of rain or any of those cliches about what an honor is has been to be president of this club...but it was. This is a wonderful group of pleasant, generous, enthusiastic people.

Our exhibit at the Fresno Home & Garden Show exemplifies that better than anything I could say. We had more volunteers than we needed. We had enthusiastic docents who engaged with our visitors all day long. We had more beautiful bonsai than we had room for. We had marvelous demonstrations and narrators. We had hardworking volunteers from Thursday afternoon to Sunday evening. I will not list all those names in this column but elsewhere. You volunteers deserve that recognition. I will add that the plant sale was extraordinarily successful. I am hopeful that we will add some new members in hopes of preserving those plants.

I feel really good about the future of the Fresno Bonsai Society. I think Cris Saldana will be an outstanding leader because he is enthusiastic and thoughtful. He has excellent leadership skills. Our new Board members (Tim Robinson and John Wright) are knowledgeable and experienced leaders. Marilyn Sheldon is an equally organized and experienced leader.

I need to say special thanks to Bob Wright. Whenever I needed someone to bounce ideas off, Bob was always a reliable source of rational thought. He has devoted more than two decades to the Pre-Fresno Bonsai Society. I am grateful for his honesty and his hard work. If we pile a little more work on him, he might retire, and then we can throw him a party.

Upcoming Events

June 5th, FBS meeting, at 9AM, Garden tours. E-mail Mike Saul for details and locations

Oct. 2-3rd GSBF Rendezvous Hotel Mission de Oro, Santa Nella, California

The other unsung hero of the FBS is Mike Reynolds. Michael has been the webmaster for the Fresno Bonsai Society for several years. He has been working for us remotely from Turlock, long before Covid 19. He has maintained and upgraded our website frequently without even being asked and he does this all gratis. We are grateful.

Finally, I want to thank John and Carol Wright for laboring over our newsletter every month. They have composed an outstanding document without any spelling or grammatical errors (thanks to Carol?) We can be proud of our newsletter.

I must come back to my slogan: Bonsai is a hobby, not a religion. It has to be fun or we wouldn't do it. We have a broad spectrum of personalities, cultures and goals in this club, but we all seem to have fun!

Mike

Recap FBS May 8th meeting at Tice Park

It was another great Spring day for the FBS gathering at Tice Park in Fresno. Mike Saul announced the results of the election of officers for the coming year the vote by members approved the following:

- President.....Chris Saldana
- Vice President.....Genaro Cuan
- SecretaryMarilyn Shelton
- Treasurer.....Bob Wright
- 2 Year Board Member..... John Wright
- 1 Year Board Member.....Tim Robinson

The officers will begin their new term of service in October

The program portion of the meeting started with a presentation by long time member and past President Steve DaSilva on Black Pines. *(See page 4 for the outline of his presentation).*

Following Steve's presentation Bob Hilvers, FBS Member and Curator for the Clark Bonsai Garden talked about "What makes this a Bonsai?". Bob shared two of his trees to illustrate principles of bonsai creation.





There were a little over 30 members who attended the May meeting. Mike Saul reviewed the schedule and volunteer needs for the Fresno Home and Garden Show scheduled for May 21st—23rd. The members were then invited to Pat Galle's garden to see his Satsuki Azaleas.



Steve DaSilva's Presentation on Pines

Health of Tree

Needles should be sharp and sturdy, dark green and cool to the touch.
The more spring and summer growth the better for health.
New bud should be white and pointed.
Stressed trees will produce lots of cones and pollen.
Red, cork bark, and white pine tend to be weaker.

Growth Habit

Top dominate.
Multi-headed will shade out lower limbs.
Tip and sun side are the stronger areas.
Rotate your trees to help balance growth.
**Winter--February to early March, make large cuts at this time before the new candles start to move.
**Spring--decandling May - July (some thinning and cut back).
Coast--May 15 to June
Inland--June 15
Valley--June 15 to July 4
Shorter growing season, decandling early.
**Bottom--middle--top 7-10 days apart giving bottom head start.
**Take out all weak candles
7-10 days later med ones come out
7-10 days later take out strong candles
**Bark--starts to form in 15 years in black pines
30 years out on branches.
**Fall --Thin-cut back, thin needles, clean-up, take out knobs. Thin to 3-4 buds on bottom branches, two buds on top branches.
**White Pine--Cut needles, don't pull them.
Cut candles taller, leave stubs on 1/3 of candles.
In Fall take off larger candles as they grow.
**Mugo Pines--Do cut back on strong branches, open up. Don't bother taking off candles.
**Soil mix for pines--red lava, sand, shale, perlite, some fir bark, or pumice and akadama.
**Fertilize--In spring when candles start to grow. Fertilize regularly until decandling starts. Stop in summer. Start again when summer growth has stopped. November to March don't fertilize. July to August don't fertilize.
In Spring use high nitrogen fertilizer. In fall use low nitrogen fertilizer.
Weak trees and young stock you can fertilize all the way through the year.
Use high nitrogen fertilizer spring and summer. Feed with Miracle Grow, use Super-Thrive.

A Note of Thanks for the Home & Garden Show

A thank you to the people who donated their time and effort to make our annual bonsai show so successful. My sincere thanks to Cris Saldana, Genaro Cuan and Bob Wright who were there (with others) from start til finish. Thank you to Steve DaSilva, Sue Follett, Dave Soho, Pete Schaffert, Cesar Ordonez, Pat Galle, Dwayne Berrett and Tim Robinson for their outstanding demonstrations. Special thanks to Sandy Topper and Rebekah Carlson for water and snacks (and their continuous help.) Thanks to Rick Shaw for photography. My thanks to Mike and Kenia Haroldsen and Hector and Jossette Caballaro for their teamwork. Thank you to Seng Tran, Jim Edmunds, Jay Louie, Shawn Miller, Tyler Thomas, Dustin Blaylock, Marilyn Aguilar and Ronell Moore for all their help during and after the exhibit. Thank you to Bob Hilvers and everyone else who provide a tree for the show. Finally, thank you to the people I am sure that I failed to acknowledge. I hope this was fun and educational enough to repay your efforts!

Mike Saul

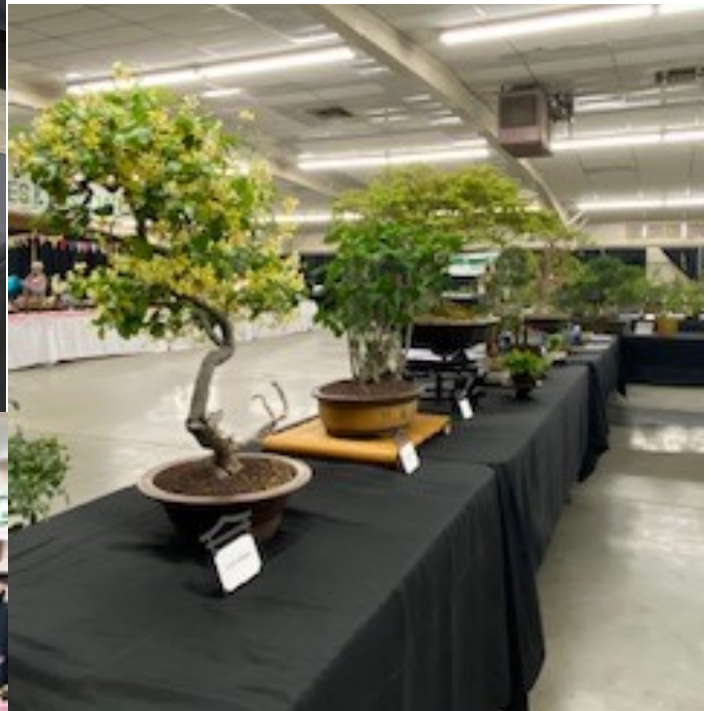




Demonstrations by: Cesar Ordonez, Dwayne Barrett, Mike Saul, Peter Schaffert, Genaro Cuan, Sue Follett, Pat Galle, Dave Soho, Steve DaSilva and Tim Robinson. And some entertaining narration by Tim and Mike.









Request for Volunteers

**2021 GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous
Hotel Mission de Oro, Santa Nella, California
Saturday, October 2—Sunday, October 3, 2021**

It reminds one of the City of Reno, NV - *The Biggest Little Event for the Bonsai Community*. And, in order to pull it off properly we need volunteers starting on Friday, October 1st thru Sunday, October 3rd. There will be plenty of positions to fill. Past President Rich Guillen set up a special phone number below for you to call him.

For further information if you want to take an active role as a volunteer contact Rich Guillen by calling 831-233-1612 or email richquillen@att.net.