



Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter March 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.

Hello Bonsai Friends!

I hope your repotting went well so far. You still have time to repot in March, especially the coniferous trees. Take your time on each tree so that you will have good results as your tree buds out.

Those of you lucky enough to catch one of Ryan Neil's workshops at the Clark Bonsai Collection learned many new techniques and reminders about how to approach repotting and styling trees.

Remember to:

- Select good stock with good nebari (trunk base and rootage)
- Determine whether your tree has masculine or feminine features
- Take your time selecting the front of the tree
- Look for the best tree by tilting your specimen
- Think about pot selection
- Add shredded sphagnum moss to the new soil areas after repotting to protect surface roots and prevent hydraulic removal of soil particles when watering.

There were many other great points mentioned in Ryan's presentation. Try to take in part of his next visit when announced by Bob Hilvers, curator of the Clark Bonsai Collection.

FBS has two opportunities to show and display bonsai techniques to the general public.

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Bonsai Basics for February:

Repot em' if You Got em'

The BB Class met at David Soho's home on a sunny warm Saturday morning. The group included 10 students and six helpers. Dave provided several handouts on repotting and soil preparation, along with a brief talk on repotting.

The class then broke up into small groups and began the hands-on learning to repot bonsai. Those students without their own tree were provided club trees and pots to repot. Students worked with trees from both nursery cans and bonsai pots. Of necessity, they heard about soil components, pot selection, and identifying the best front for their tree. They learned about potting angle and securing the tree in the pot. The emphasis was on hands-on learning, not demonstration. There were lots of laughs and good natured joking. A number of bonsai were repotted for the FBS tree sale at the Koen-Nai plant sale. Some trees will be cared for by the students for their bonsai education. The class actually lasted almost two hours beyond schedule as everyone was interested and busy!



EVERYONE IN THE FBS SHOULD DISPLAY A BONSAI IN THE HOME & GARDEN SHOW.

BRING YOUR BONSAI TO THE FRESNO FAIR GROUNDS HORTICULTURE BLDG FROM 3 TO 6 PM



standards of traditional shohin display. Following the discussion, the group evaluated numerous trees that had been brought for advice. Al Keppler answered several questions about approach grafting Trident Maples. He also discussed his approach to maintaining and pruning 70 some shohin bonsai.

Shohin Study Group in February

The Shohin Study Group met on a Wednesday evening at Dennys in Clovis. The group discussed their plans for participation in the Home & Garden Show and the Koen-Nai as well as the new shohin exhibit in the Clark Bonsai Collection. Steve DaSilva noted the future need for more diverse species and more shohin trees to meet





Images on this page are from the Kokofu-Ten. This is the most prestigious bonsai show in Japan and brings together approximately 400 trees from bonsai professionals all over Japan. A very few trees are accepted from the USA. Google it!



The Shohin Study Group will meet Wednesday March 14th at Harold Mitchell's home in Clovis at 5:30 PM. Bring a bonsai and a dish to pass for the potluck.



Check out the FBS Web Page for New Articles!

Continued from front page:

The first is the Fresno Home and Garden Show March 2-4 at the Fresno Fairgrounds where there will be a FBS Bonsai Exhibit of our member's best trees, a novice area plus Trees in Training (all about how bonsai trees evolve into a show trees). Make sure to check out our sales area for bargains on all things bonsai. All FBS members are needed to make this happen. Look for a special announcement on how you can help.

The second FBS opportunity is the Koen-nai (loosely meaning bonsai in the park). This April 7th event is scheduled as a joint venture with the Clark Bonsai Collection, and Shinzen Friendship Garden Spring Multicultural Faire. All FBS members are needed to set up and work the show.

Join in the fun at one of these great events. See you soon.

David M. Soho, President

Activities of the FBS in March

Exhibit and Plant Sale at the Fresno Home & Garden Show, March 2-4. Set up at 3 PM March 1st in the Horticulture BLDG, Fresno Fair Grounds

Shohin Study Group, 1416 Roberts Ave in Clovis at 5:30 PM, Wednesday March 14. Pot-luck dinner.

General Meeting and Bonsai Basics Class, Saturday, March 17, 9AM at Clark Bonsai Collection Reserve area. Topic will be grafting. Bonsai Basics group will meet after lunch for repotting Foemina junipers.

You Are Needed!

The Clark Bonsai Collection needs YOU! Join us in the bonsai garden on the second Saturday of the month for a Volunteer Day devoted to learning about bonsai and working together on landscape and bonsai tending. Visit www.gsbfc-clarkbonsaicollection.org for details.

A volunteer is also needed to operate a recording device to document the work done in each session. This person need not be knowledgeable in bonsai.

What You Need to Know about the Home & Garden Show

The Home & Garden Show affords the FBS an opportunity for an indoor bonsai exhibition and a chance to introduce bonsai to another part of our community and conduct a plant sale. Our exhibit is in the Horticulture Bldg . You can enter this building off of the Butler Street entrance to the Fair Grounds.

We will set up our exhibit from 3 until 6 PM on Thursday, March 1st. It would be ideal if you brought your display trees, stands, and accent plants at that time, but you could deliver them between 8 and 10 AM the next morning. We will need as many people as possible to set the exhibit tables on Thursday afternoon. We will also need people to operate the plant sales tables all three days. And act as docents. Finally, we need everyone to help clean up at 5PM Sunday afternoon.

If you wish to sell plants from at the sales table, you may do so but be certain the tree is labeled with your name, the price and any care information for the buyer. Please bring extra bonsai stands and accents if you have them.

Bonsai Almanac for March

Bonsai Activity for March March brings us to the end of the primary repotting season. Generally, pines, junipers and other conifers are repotted during this month, as many of the deciduous trees have already begun to leaf out. As the weather warms, trees which are subject to infestations should be sprayed with dormant spray in order to kill eggs which may have wintered in the crevices of bark and roots. Elms should be sprayed for scale insects and scale junipers need a spring bath to ward off spider mites in particular. As temperatures and breezes are unpredictable, trees should be checked for moisture daily and water as needed. Deciduous species that are starting to leaf out should be moved into the bright sun, if they were shaded during the winter, in order to prevent weak leaf development. Tender new

leaves should be protected from frost and kept above freezing at all times. Moss may interfere with watering and should be removed if percolation appears slow. Conifers, which have not been transplanted within the last month, may now be fertilized. Trace elements, like iron supplements can be given in dilute solutions. Deciduous trees which have not yet leafed out may be grafted now.



April Grigsby
Hand Made Bonsai Pots

Visit my shop at **Clay Hand Studios**, 660 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno, CA
 By appointment (561)445-1533

Current Officers of the Fresno Bonsai Society

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The new exhibit at the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen will be: ***Tribute to Legendary Local Artist Ray Thieme.*** The Exhibit will open March 3rd and will include several trees originally styled by Ray and now on loan from FBS members.

All the members of the Fresno Bonsai Society are urged to display a bonsai in the Home & Garden Show. This includes all the Bonsai Basics Group. Senior members are urged to bring extra stands, mats and accent plants so that each bonsai can be displayed to its best advantage. Remember to clean and oil pots, remove dead foliage and weeds. Deliver your bonsai from 3 to 6 PM on Thursday, March 1st or before 10 AM on Friday March 2nd. And join us that weekend!

Next FBS Meeting at Clark Collection

The general meeting of the FBS and this month's Bonsai Basics class will be combined on March 17 at 9 AM in the Reserve Area of the Clark Bonsai Collection. We will discuss the upcoming Koen-Nai fundraiser for both the FBS and the Clark Collection, including our own 39th Annual Spring Bonsai Display, and plant sales. Following a brief business meeting, Pete Schaffert will demonstrate the technique of Approach Grafting (with commentary from Al Keppler) and Mike Saul will discuss Late Spring Thread Grafting.

The Bonsai Basics group will be repotting conifers with Foemina junipers and their own trees following the general meeting.

We will try something new: the club will provide sandwiches for lunch and we will have a raffle for door prizes.

FBS Calendar for 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 6-7	Koen-Nai and FBS Outdoor Show	Shinzen Garden
May 12	FBS Meeting: Spring Work with Tridents with Al Keppler & Sho-	Clark Collection Reserve Area
May 19	Bonsai Basics: Watering and Summer Care— Soho	Carson Avenue
June 2	Annual FBS Potluck Picnic	Clovis Botanical Garden

Visit the FBS website for news and the latest bonsai educational articles.

LIKE THE FBS ON FACEBOOK!