

Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter

May 2020



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.....Vacant
SecretaryMarilyn Shelton
Treasurer.....Bob Wright
Past President.....Dave Soho
Newsletter.....John Wright
Carol Wright

President's Message



Sometimes I feel a bit like the captain of a sunken ship. I am not quite sure when we will get afloat again. That said, I have been really delighted to see the creativity and enthusiasm toward bonsai demonstrated by some of our members.

One idea that has been catching on is utilizing Skype on a smart phone to share images of bonsai to discuss trees. Shawn Miller suggested this to me. Shawn has organized a private Skype chat room. The app is free and easy to use. I urge anyone who wants to discuss one of their bonsai to contact Cris Saldana or any other member to try this. I encourage everyone in the FBS to download this free app and try it. (I have not mastered it myself; I confess.)

The other exciting innovation is the Gene Nelson Scholarship Program. I am deeply sorry that our newest members never had an opportunity to know Gene nor to appreciate his devotion to both Bonsai and to teaching. He was an extraordinarily talented, thoughtful, and generous man. Gene had suggested, before his death, that a scholarship be established to give all new members of the club access to the training from Ryan Neil. Gene believed, as we do, that scientifically based bonsai skills from a consistent teacher would advance members knowledge more quickly. He donated a large portion of his beautiful collection in order to fund that plan.

I have met with some members who have been involved in teaching bonsai to design this program. The plan is simple. To qualify for the three months of Bonsai Mirai, anyone who has been a paid member of the FBS for at least one year may apply. Applicants should have attended meetings and the Bonsai Basics program. Applicants must have a credit card and internet access. The Gene Nelson Scholarship Committee is made up of three members. They will select the first ten recipients. After we have evaluated this process, we will offer additional scholarships. We will not offer this to members who are already subscribers to Bonsai Mirai. The Scholarship Committee will discuss the perceptions of this program with the first recipients to confirm that has been beneficial.

(President's Message Continued)

I would encourage everyone in the FBS who is not familiar

with the Bonsai Mirai stream to log on and sign up for the free one-week trial. Search the Beginner Streams in the Mirai Library. That will help you decide whether this is an effective learning tool for you. We hope to have the scholarships distributed by June. The standard subscription costs \$18 per month. Therefore, we will reimburse each of the scholarship winners \$54 when they sign up for Bonsai Mirai.

We will have an application form in this newsletter and in a separate email to our members.

I had been anticipating that restrictions on public gatherings and social distancing would be relaxed by next September. Today, however, there is more speculation of a devastating second wave of Covid-19 in the Fall which might throw all our plans in the fire. At this point, we will optimistically plan our schedule in early August for the coming year.

Mirai in Japanese means 'future.' It refers not to the immediate future, but to a distant dream, a romantic thought, the future yet to come, ever out of reach, unobtainable, and continually evolving.

Led by bonsai professional Ryan Neil, what started as an idea has expanded to a movement. We are on a mission to create a new era in bonsai, where compositions reflect the vast array of native landscapes and cultures that are formed in their midst.

Bonsai Mirai is a company, a place, a practice, an ecosystem of creators. We create trees that connect you - to your culture, natural surroundings, and to the spirit of the individual. (from bonsaimirai.com website)

Let me repeat: 1) If you have a smart phone, download the Skype app and join other FBS members in a private chat room to see and discuss your bonsai with others, 2) log in to Bonsai Mirai for your free week of bonsai training with Ryan Neil, 3) Post photos of your trees on Face Book at the Fresno Bonsai Society page! Ask questions, teach others, share ideas...stay engaged with us!

Stay well,
Mike Saul

Learning Bonsai



GENE NELSON BONSAI SCHOLARSHIP

2020 APPLICATION

The purpose of this scholarship program is to provide members of the Fresno Bonsai Society with access to three months of training videos from Bonsai Mirai focused on the fundamentals of bonsai.

Applicants must be a participating member in good standing of the Fresno Bonsai Society for at least one year and

Recipients are expected to view beginner videos as selected by the Scholarship Committee.

The Scholarship Committee will interview recipients at the end of three months to determine their response to the videos and how the scholarship program might be improved.

To apply, visit the FBS webpage to download the link.



Gene Nelson

FBS Treasures Report Bob Wright

As of March 31, 2020 the balance in the checking account was \$21,455. A substantial portion of the current funds came from the auction of Gene Nelson's trees at the FBS annual yard sale.

Bob also reported that about \$4,000 worth of trees were sold at the Fresno Home and Garden Center Show in March.

Meet with FBS Members on Skype

by: Shawn Miller

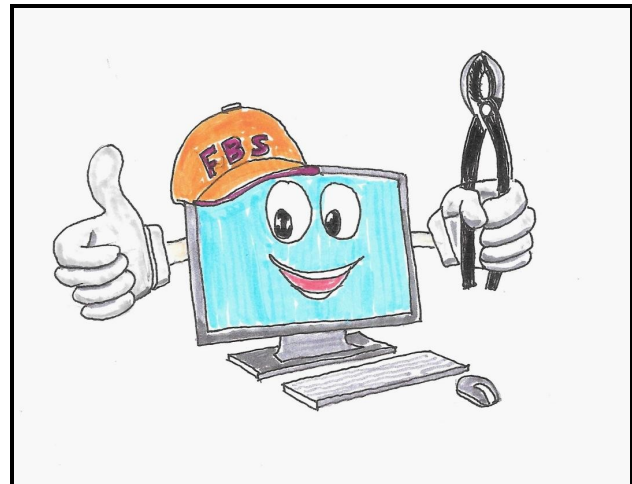
Funny, it was just a few months ago when my wife and I were enjoying a meal at a restaurant and we commented to one another about all of the younger people at the other tables. We laughed when we noticed that every single person was hunched over, looking at their smart phones. They weren't talking to one another at all, just reading, posting, tweeting, and whatever else it is that seems to be more important than connecting with the people around them.

Now, roughly 45 days into the Shelter in Place lifestyle, I'm glad that technology to socialize with others is available. Through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and who-knows-what, we can exchange stories, share recipes, show pictures, and keep in touch with people all over the world. The one medium that I have really come to love is Skype. It's an easy-to-use application that lets people talk to other people, one-on-one or in groups, live on video.

Some of you have experience with Skype, others might think it's too complicated, and others might not understand how cool it really is. Once I got the hang of it, I found it to be brilliantly simple. I have done a work-related interview with a local TV station, attended a couple of board meetings, participated in a couple happy hours, played a game of cards, and visited with people who I rarely get to spend time with in the real world.

This is the perfect medium for Fresno Bonsai Society members to share tips, tricks, and techniques with one another. Because of this, I created a private Skype chat room for members and potential members. It's free and you can participate with any phone that has a camera. Here is the link to join in on the conversation: <https://join.skype.com/RYA0ykJZWUmJ>

If anyone has any questions they can feel free to contact me directly. Hope to see you all soon, if not in person, on Skype.



Share ways you keep track of your trees and their progress over time.

By: John Wright

A question was asked last month about Apps for keeping track of bonsai and their progress; when you last repotted, progress pictures, where you got the tree, the pot it is in. Some of you responded with Apps you use or with forms you have made. Based upon a recommendation I received from FBS Member Harold Mitchell when I went through the Bonsai Basics program, I have been using the Bonsai Album App. This is an Apple program and is a great way to keep track of the progress of a tree. I have included in this month's newsletter, pictures of three trees showing their progress over time. Record keeping may not be for everyone, but it can be an important tool for serious bonsai practitioners.



This is a picture taken of an elm imported from Korea by Kim's Nursery in Southern California. The tree was originally purchased by FBS member Robert Iseman. The tree then passed to Ray Theime. I acquired the tree from Ray in April 2016. The picture below is the tree as it looks today. The tree is approx. 60-70 years

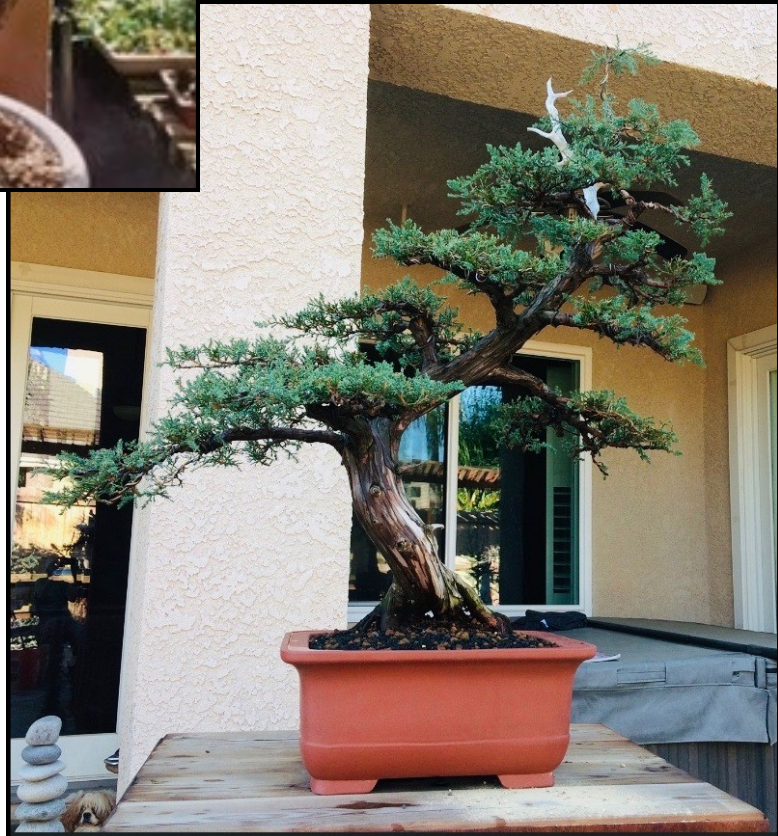
Keeping records on a tree allows me to see my progress as well as knowing when I last repotted, did major styling work or had health problems with the tree. The more trees you acquire, the more important it seems to have a record keeping system.





This Shimpaku Juniper, belonging to Pat Gallie, was shown in last month's newsletter. The picture to the left shows an earlier shot of the tree, which was purchased from Richard Ramirez in 2011. The tree has been shortened significantly and now gives a greater appearance of age.

Pat keeps track of his trees with a simple hard copy system he developed himself. It tracks when the tree was purchased, from whom and for how much. He includes pictures over time as well.



Check out the FBS Facebook page. You can also post and interact with our web page/site at www.fresnobonsaisociety.com



This needle juniper was purchased by Pat Gallie and Chris Saldana from the collection of Gene Nelson. Pat and Chris have recently taken the tree through a dramatic re-styling. Records can include design objectives and repotting schedules.

Record keeping can be as simple or as involved as you want. What ever you settle on just make sure it fits your willingness and capacity to invest the time it take to keep it up. Share your thoughts on systems you have used on the FBS Facebook page.



Bonsai Activity for May

The summer sun is coming soon to remind us that we live in a bone-dry Mediterranean climate.

Remember to rotate your bonsai 180 degrees every month. More importantly, watch species with delicate thin leaves very carefully, like Japanese maple, Hornbeams and Ume. On hot days move them out of the direct light to filtered sun or shade. During summer, those species should always be kept in full or partial shade.

Watering must be more consistent to keep the soil moist as the Spring breezes and warm days will dry out bonsai much faster.

New shoots on deciduous trees may be cut back to 2 or 3 leaves, if hardened off, in order to maintain shape. The one proviso regarding “hardening off” may be very vigorous species like Trident maples and hornbeams.

Juniper shoots may be cut back now for pad development. They can be cut back but only to two buds on each shoot, rather than simply “hedge pruned”. Removing all the Spring buds will severely weaken the tree and retard growth.

Young black pines black pines may be decandled at the very end of May or early June. Be aware that if decandling occurs early, the second growth candles will have more growing time and will be longer next spring.

Check on wires from last fall. Remove them if they are cutting into the rapidly growing branches of deciduous species. Smaller branches in vigorous species like maples will add girth in Spring very fast and the thin bark will cut easily.

Pomegranate, cotoneaster, olive 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 scale juniper species, like Shimpaku, spray thoroughly with Neem oil in the cool 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.

FBS Calendar 2020

January 31– Feb 2		California Shohin Society Convention. This event occurs every other year. Hotel de Oro Conference Center, Santa Nella
February 8		General Meeting Al Keppler will provide information on “Preparing Your Bonsai for Show” 9 a.m. Clovis Senior Center 850 Fourth St. Clovis
March 6-8		Fresno Home & Garden Show (FBS Exhibit and Sale) Fresno Fair Grounds, All hands needed.
March 14	Cancelled	General Meeting (Visit to Round Valley Nursery including a grafting demonstration with Ed Clark) 24022 Ave 230, Lindsey, CA 93247
March 23	Cancelled	Open Bonsai Workshop 8 a.m. to noon, Clovis Police Community Room 1033 Fifth St. , Clovis
April 11`	Cancelled	General Meeting, with guest speaker Jonas Dupuich
April 18	Cancelled	Shinzen Spring Faire & Koen Nai No
April 25	Cancelled	Asian Fest at Fresno City College.
May 23	Cancelled	General Meeting, Peter Tea - Yearly Schedule of Bonsai Tasks Followed by a bring-your-own bonsai tree work shop
May 30	Cancelled	Annual FBS Picnic, Clovis Botanical Garden, 11AM
Sept 26-27	On Hold	Central Valley Koi Show at Woodward Park