



Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter

November 2019

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.



President's Message

Greetings Friends! We have enjoyed a very pleasant, albeit unexpectedly warm October. I hope that you made it to the GSBF-Annual Convention.

I was told that the Bonsai Critique and John's discussion of tool care was well received at our October meeting. I'm grateful to John and the many others who made that meeting and Bonsai Basics a success.

I started this year with three goals. The first was to find a quiet, well lit, comfortable venue for our meetings. With the help of Shawn Miller, John Wright, and Dave Soho, we have succeeded. Our next meeting, on November 9th, will be at the Clovis Senior Activities Center. This place appears ideal for us. We have the luxury of a choice, between that room and the Clovis PD Community Room. We will make a decision right after November 9. Obviously, we prefer a consistent location for future meetings.

The other potential benefit of the Senior Centers is that we will encourage the senior living folks to visit our meetings and participate as they wish. We are providing possible activities to the seniors and possible members to our club. (Continued on page 2)

Officers of the FBS

President.....Mike Saul
 Vice President.....Vacant
 SecretaryMarilyn Shelton
 Treasurer.....Bob Wright
 Past President.....Dave Soho
 Newsletter.....John Wright

Upcoming Events

Nov. 9 FBS Monthly Meeting
 (Fall Pruning of Deciduous Bonsai)
 Clovis Senior Center 850 Fourth St. Clovis

Nov. 23 FBS Annual Yard Sale at the
 Clovis Botanical Garden
 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dec. 7 FBS Monthly Meeting (Bonsai Soils)
 Clovis Police Dept. Community Room

President's Message Continued

Our second goal was to provide access to quality bonsai soil to our members at wholesale prices. We are half way there by acquiring akadama at about half the retail price. Our next goal is to find a source for scoria and/or moca lava at a bulk price. We will plan a "Soil Party" to sift and mix in early January. More on this at the next meeting. One of the major benefits of belonging to a bonsai club is access to supplies and plant material at reasonable prices.

My other goal was to establish an effective teaching program to blend lecture content with hands-on activity for Bonsai Basics. Probably because I spend a third of my life in a classroom, I remain committed to a specific curriculum. That goal has been challenging because there is a broad spectrum of adult learning styles, attendance and teaching skills. I'm grateful that students keep coming back. I will continue to ask them, "Is this working for you?" I do think that our Bonsai Basics students have made great strides because of their own intelligence and enthusiasm. We've seen that in their trees and some of their projects.

This leads to my last thought: the Eleventh Annual Bonsai Yard Sale on November 23rd will offer everyone within the club a chance to obtain plant material, pots, books etc at lower prices. I hope you will find something that excites you to work with. I also hope you will volunteer to help us conduct the sale because it will require a lot of us! See you on the ninth!

Mike Saul

Membership Dues

Yearly membership dues for the Fresno Bonsai Society are due. The dues are \$40 per year for individuals or a family. Students are free.

Checks should be made out to the Fresno Bonsai Society and given to Bob Wright, our treasurer.

October FBS Meeting

Our meeting in October was held at the Clovis Police Community Room. The facility worked out very well both in accommodating the 30 people in attendance and in providing a comfortable room temperature and ease of hearing. A thank you again to Don and Jean Stephens for providing the coffee and pastries.

With both of the Club officers out of town that day, John Wright filled in and conducted the meeting. The availability of akadama soil for club members was discussed as well as the interest of members in mocha lava or other lava material. A list was passed around to determine interest. The akadama is now in town.



Continued on next page

October FBS Meeting continued



John Wright gave a short program on caring for tools and tool sharpening. A handout was available at the meeting. Several points made; sharp tools cut rather than crush material; well cared for bonsai tools, which can be expensive, can last a lifetime; with cleaning and buffing, it is easier to keep tools sharp than having to do major sharpening more often.

The bonsai critique was a lively discussion and provided those who brought trees with constructive ideas. Many of the Bonsai Basics group were able to take the information and implement it with their trees in the second half of the meeting. A special thanks to Al Keppler and Dave Soho for leading the critique.



The Bonsai Basics group spent better than an hour working on trees they brought. They were helped by more experienced club members. It was a productive one-on-one session for many of the Bonsai Basics group. Using plastic table coverings and trays, we were able to do the Bonsai Basics class in the Community room which provided a comfortable and convenient setting.

We will be looking to use this facility and the Clovis Senior Center for meetings during the winter months. Remember next month we will meet at the Clovis Senior Center.

Bonsai Almanac for November

November can be tricky in our Central Valley environment. Cold windy days may dry out soil but there is much less evaporation as the leaves disappear from deciduous species. Unexpected warm days may confuse budding and deciduous trees should be shifted briefly to shady areas. Trees may require watering due to wind losses. Water less but do not allow any species to dry out completely. Feel the soil, don't just look at it. Remove dead leaves, fruits and seed pods. Remove moss from potted trees. Clean benches. Apply a final winter dose of insecticide or dormant spray.

Remove two year old pine needles, burned or distorted pine needles.

Balancing of black pine may be done by needle pulling from vigorous bonsai. Be certain you understand this strategy before applying it.

Fertilizing with phosphate and potassium in half-strength may be continued through November with conifers, but should be stopped for deciduous species. This is an ideal time for pruning and wiring junipers. Transplanting is not advisable until Spring. This is the season to study forest plantings in particular as the trunk and branch structure is much easier to see when not obscured by foliage.

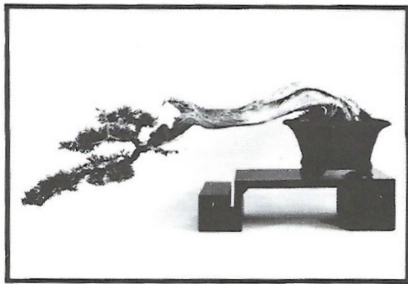
And this is the season to start evaluating your needs for the coming repotting season...soil components, supplies, or new pots. Most importantly, spend time studying your bonsai and enjoying them.

John Naka Design Renewal by Ryan Neil

In October, Ryan Neil again featured a tree from the Clark Bonsai Collection on Marai Live. The California Juniper was originally styled thirty years ago by John Naka and featured in his Vol. 2 Book (Fig 25, 26). More recently the tree was owned by FBS member Howard Latimer who donated it to the CBC.

The challenge for Ryan was to try and return the tree, as closely as he could, to the original concept envisioned in John Naka's drawing shown in his Vol. 2 book. The pictures show the tree when the book was published (1), the tree just prior to the renewal (2) and the renewed tree. Ryan is holding the drawing by John Naka(3). The tall vertical branch is a sacrificial branch that will be removed when the tree regains strength and new foliage. The tree will be returning to the Clark Bonsai collection later this month.

Figure 26.
This is the way the tree looks
today.



Join Us for

The Eleventh Annual FBS

Bonsai Yard Sale

November 23, 2019

**Clovis Botanical Garden
945 N. Clovis Avenue
Clovis, CA**

8 AM to 2 PM

All Things Bonsai to Buy or Sell

**Including Bonsai from the GSBF-Clark
Bonsai Collection**

No Charge to Vendors

For Info Contact Mike Saul at tinytreeme@sbcglobal.net



FBS Calendar 2019-2020

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| October 12 | General Meeting (Bonsai Critique & Repotting Review)
9 a.m. Clovis Police Department Community Room
Bonsai Basics follows the General Meeting |
| October 24-27 | GSBF Convention Riverside Ca. |
| November 9 | General Meeting (Deciduous Bonsai Fall Pruning)
9 a.m. Clovis Senior Center 850 Fourth St. Clovis |
| November 23 | FBS Annual Yard Sale, Clovis Botanical Garden
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. |
| December 7 | General Meeting, (Bonsai Soils)
9 a.m. Clovis Police Department Community Room
1233 Fifth Street, Clovis |
| January 11, 2020 | General Meeting
9 a.m. Clovis Police Department Community Room |
| February 1-2 | California Shohin Society Convention, Santa Nella |
| February 8 | General Meeting (Preparing Your Bonsai for Show)
9 a.m. Clovis Police Department Community Room |
| March 6-8 | Fresno Home & Garden Show (Exhibit and Sale) |
| March 14 | General Meeting (Visit to Round Valley Nursery and
Grafting with Ed Clark) |
| April 18 | General Meeting, Bonsai Hop
(Visits to Member Collections) |
| April 25 | Asia Fest at Fresno City College |
| May 16 | General Meeting (John Thompson on Oak Bonsai)
9 a.m. Clark Bonsai Garden |
| June 6 | Annual Picnic, Clovis Botanical Garden |