



Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter

October 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

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to the several people who make the Fresno Bonsai Society work. Thanks to Shawn Miller and Dave Soho for identifying a good alternative site for our winter meetings. Thank you also to Don and Jean

Stephens for providing the sustenance for those meetings. I appreciate Marilyn Shelton for organizing our membership information and Bob Wright for keeping our money organized. And my sincere thanks to John and Carol Wright for the outstanding job they have done in creating a better newsletter!

I believe everyone will enjoy the October 12th meeting. It is a simple concept. Everyone is asked to bring a tree. Every tree will be set out for evaluation and public criticism until the owner begins to weep. Not really. The goal is to offer advice guided by experience and to offer suggestions or alternatives. The hope is that the owner will preface his tree with his own ideas, drawings, or questions. Bonsai is art. Art is in the eye of the beholder. Everyone has an opinion. The only opinion that really matters is that of the owner. We hope to provide some horticultural information that is more factual than opinion. This event is always good for some good natured laughs. Bring your tree! (continued on page 4)

Officers of the FBS

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

Upcoming Events

Oct. 12 General Meeting at the Clovis Police Dept.
 Community Room
 9 a.m. Bonsai critique

Oct. 24-27 Golden State Bonsai Federation
 Annual Convention
 Marriott Riverside at the Convention Center

Nov. 23 FBS Annual Yard Sale at the
 Clovis Botanical Garden

Review of September FBS Meeting

We had a big turnout for our first meeting of the season! We had four new members!

All who wished were encouraged to join Bonsai Basics after the general meeting and that produced a big group too. We arranged for a club badge (and access to Shinzen Garden) for the new members.

Special thanks to Don and Jean Stephens for generously providing coffee and donuts, and Linda Jacobsen for bringing cold water.

We still have some active members who have not provided us with their contact information needed for organization of events and activities. Marilyn Shelton has created an accurate and functional membership list, with our appreciation. We will ask again next month.

Members were reminded of the volunteer opportunities as either docents or curatorial staff in the Clark Collection. We still need to provide more work dates on weekends.

A sign-up list was distributed for members who wished to establish a "Shared Watering Group". Participants will water other's bonsai in return for the same help when out of town. The group has eight partners thus far. Contact Bob Wright if you want to join.

Everyone was reminded that "Bonsai is a Contact Sport" and all members should bring a tree to work on or discuss at every meeting. We made some real progress in that regard, as Genaro Cuan and others donated several Japanese maples to our raffle that day. Likewise, Gene Nelson donated more than fifteen bonsai and pre-bonsai to the Bonsai Basics group sale.

We discussed meeting plans for the coming year. We have decided to conduct a brief focused presentation on some



aspect of bonsai design each month, in addition to any other activity or topic.

A schedule for all the bonsai events in California was distributed. The benefits of the Annual GSBF Convention in Riverside were discussed.

After the business meeting Al Keppler provided us with a knowledgeable discussion of Branch Selection and Styling. Al brought several of his own trees to demonstrate. We cannot reproduce all the pearls from Al, but we will reproduce a portion of his handout (see page 5).

The final activity of the meeting was a Bonsai Raffle. We had an extraordinary number of quality donations this year. We raffled numerous pre-bonsai, new and used pots, tools, books and supplies. Aside from the huge number of items and the time involved, most members seemed to enjoy it. The grand prize was a beautiful shohin bonsai stand, donated by Al Keppler.

Hopefully, we can abbreviate the business meeting after this organizational session. That said, we had a crowd that was at our limits for space and wonderful enthusiasm.



A great turnout for the September meeting.



Trees for the FBS club raffle

President's Message continued

The GSBF Annual Convention will occur at the end of October. This is worth attending, if only for a day. If you have the fortitude, you can drive to and from Riverside in a single day. In that round trip you can view a couple exhibitions of the finest bonsai in California and the largest sales area of trees, pots, tools, books, stands, etc in California. Find the convention website and look at the schedule. It isn't cheap but it's fascinating. If you are going for a pot, take some measurements and a picture or two.



We had hoped to acquire a large quantity of pre-mixed bonsai soil for our membership, but that was not possible. At this point I anticipate that we will try to obtain large quantities of three different soil components at a discount for our members. I plan to have a "Soil Mixing" party, in early January. The new members who wish could purchase the quantities they want and mix their soil while they learn the recipes at that party. I should have more information by October 12.

Marilyn and I attended the Central California Koi Show last weekend. It was fascinating. Our friend, Seng Tran, gave us an informative lesson about koi and we saw some beautiful big fish. In the back of my mind, I am thinking that there is space, weather and perhaps opportunity for the Fresno Bonsai Society to conduct a Fall Outdoor Bonsai Exhibit simultaneously with the Koi Show. There would be some real synergy with that organization and they are very well organized. I plan to discuss this with our leadership and theirs.





Al Keppler FBS Meeting Presentation

Visual Speed. If the eye moves too rapidly over an object, the viewer may get a disquieting feeling. It is more pleasant to allow the eyes to rove around, to explore, to make comfortable stops at interesting places. Several factors affect visual speed.

1. Texture of the container, bark and foliage affects the speed at which the eye scans the composition. Eyes tend to move more quickly over smooth surfaced containers, bark and foliage which may be used to increase or reduce visual speed. The more interesting the texture, the more the eye will dwell on it.

2. The rhythm, straight or curved, affects the speed at which the eye scans the composition. Your eye tends to move up or down a straight trunk much more quickly than when viewing a gently curving one.

a. The trunk establishes the theme for the entire tree; branches and foliage take their cues from the rhythm set by the trunk.

b. If the trunk is curved, the branches should be curved.

c. If the trunk is straight, the branches should also be straight.

d. If the trunk leans to one side, the branches counterbalance by leaning toward the other side.

e. Curves generate a calm and gentle feeling while the feeling created by angles and sharp curves is less gentle.

The rule of thirds is an artistic concept which bonsai artists the world over use as a starting point when designing a tree.

a. The lower third of the tree should be devoted to surface roots and to a proportionately tapered trunk.

b. The middle third of the tree emphasizes branching.

c. The top third consists of small branches and the apex.

Balance:

Balance is an integral part of the aesthetics in a bonsai composition. a. Much of Western art relies on symmetrical balance. Of the various geometric shapes, the triangle best represents strength and stability. The equilateral triangle is static, inactive, passive and motionless; elements to be avoided in most Oriental art. The isosceles triangle, having three unequal sides, is not static, supplies variety and a feeling of motion, and in its own way provides an asymmetrical balance. The unequal, or asymmetrical triangle, lacking equality or symmetry, is the concept upon which a unique type of balance can be achieved.

Branches

a. The angle of the branches is a major visual cue in determining the age of a tree. Branches on juvenile trees have a strong upward growth while those on an older and more mature tree droop with weight and age.

b. The lower branches, because they are older, are thicker. Since they have to reach out for sunlight, they are longer.

c. The older the tree is the more branch ramification (multiple smaller branches) it will have. But, it will also have openings for the birds to fly through.

d. The apex provides an indicator of age. The apex of an immature tree is relatively pointed, still moving upward. The apex of a mature tree is more rounded, having reached its maximum height and beginning to spread.

Special Effects to Enhance the Appearance of Ageing

Scarring and damage caused by time can be created on a bonsai by creating areas of dead wood.

(1) The top of the trunk or the end of a branch may be stripped of bark, carved and bleached.

(2) A portion of the live bark on the trunk may be stripped to simulate a lightning strike or where a branch broke, fell and ripped tissue from the trunk.

Hogarth Curve: Line of beauty is a term and a theory in art or aesthetics used to describe an S-shaped curved line (a serpentine line) appearing within an object, as the boundary line of an object, or as a virtual boundary line formed by the composition of several objects. This theory originated with William Hogarth (18th-century English painter, satirist, and writer), and is an essential part of Hogarth's theory of aesthetics as described in his *Analysis of Beauty* (1753). According to this theory, S-shaped curved lines signify liveliness and activity and excite the attention of the viewer as contrasted with straight lines, parallel lines, or right-angled intersecting lines, which signify stasis, death, or inanimate objects.

**Special Thanks to
Steve DaSilva, George Lopez, Marilyn Shelton,
and Keille Stark for providing photos of our
September meeting.**

FBS Juniper Yamadori Collection



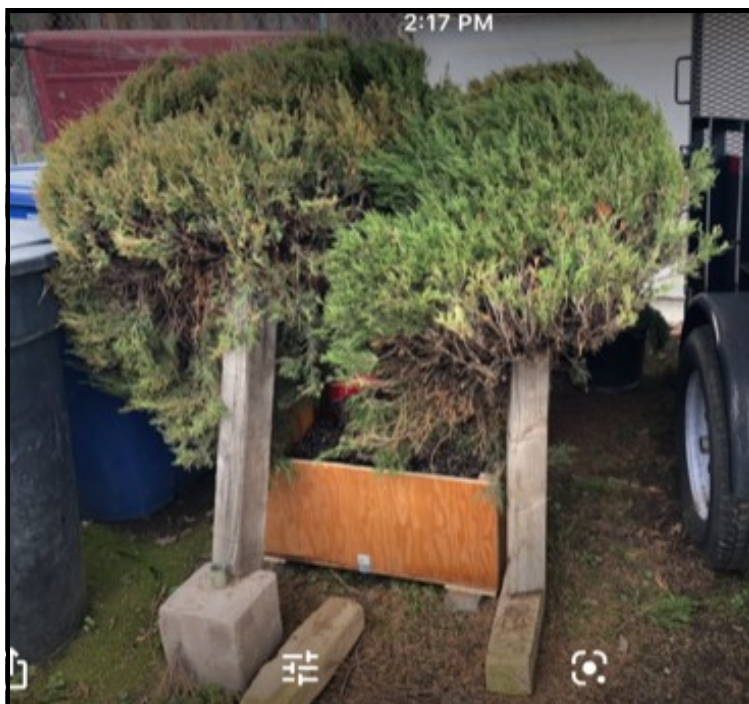
JUNIPER YAMADORI COLLECTION

By Seng Tran

It was my first time to participate with a group from the Fresno Bonsai Society. We were led by Peter Schaffert. We were collecting some old Junipers at the Fresno Juvenile Hall this past February.

There was plenty of time to prepare prior to the trip and I did my best through research from various sources. On the day that we collected the Juniper, most were fairly easy to dig up. Many had large tap roots that ran deep into the dirt and along the surface. The roots needed to be cut off, which left very few fine hair roots.

I don't have a green house. After potting the trees in a training box, the best that I could do was to provide a shade canopy and hope for the best. After three months very few Juniper needles were still somewhat green but most had turn brown due to June heat. There were only a very few green needles left on the tree. By this point, 99.9% of the entire tree had died off. Out of desperation for the survival of the tree, I installed a mist system directly above the tree and ran it 24/7, then after 2 months of continuous mist (and to my surprise,) there were lots of new shoots that began pushing out from the dead branches. Hopefully the tree will make a comeback by next year.



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



Taiga Urushibata



Enrique Castaño



Ryan Bell

GSBF CONVENTION 42

BONSAI FOREVER

Hotel:

Marriott Riverside
at the Convention Center

3400 Market Street
Riverside, CA 92501

Convention Chair:

Steve Valentine
(760) 445-2548
caryme2@yahoo.com

Co-Chair:

David Nguy
(323) 842-6188
waimexport@aol.com

www.gsbfconvention.org



Registration Opens July 1st
October 24-27 2019

Featuring: Taiga Urushibata, Enrique Castaño, Ryan Bell,
Kathy Shaner, David Nguy, Peter Macasieb, Lucy Judd,
and Tak Shimazu to name a few...

Bonsai Almanac for October

October can bring wide swings in temperature in the Central Valley. Sudden hot breezy days may desiccate young leaves that have not hardened off. Watering requires careful attention as weather shifts may call for more or none. The Autumn Equinox will leave many trees in the shade and these must be shifted to sunnier spots until leaf drop.. Watch the shade patterns in your yard carefully. Nitrogen fertilizer should be stopped and 0-10-10 is advised (to discourage sudden green shoots during warm spells.) John Naka advised applying only one half the recommended dose and only to bonsai still growing. Moss should be removed from surfaces, particularly on roots and trunks. Fine moss may be dried and kept cool or grown on boards or in cans in shady areas. It can be reapplied in early Spring. Watch wired branches closely for cuts and girdling damage. Tight wire will quickly become imbedding during the Spring growth spurt. Remove brown leaves and dried fruit from deciduous trees. Long shoots on young bonsai should not be cut back aggressively, but only trimmed back slightly, and only after it has hardened off. Transplanting may be done in cooler weather, but only from one pot to another and not if root pruning is required (“slip potting”) because the roots will not grow during cold weather or dormancy. Almost any species except pines may be worked on this month, if the tree has long shoots and is bushy, if the foliage is hardened off.

October 12 Meeting

Our meeting in October will include a no-cost critique of member trees by some of our experienced club members. This is a great opportunity to have a tree reviewed and gain ideas for its development, styling, or refinement. Whether you want to have a tree critiqued or not, please bring a tree to work on.

Bonsai Basics group will meet following the general meeting.

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. Please complete a membership form with your name, phone number and email (printed in large clear letters) when you pay your dues.



FBS Calendar 2019-2020

October 12	General Meeting (Bonsai Critique & Repotting Review) 9 a.m. Clovis Police Department Community Room 1233 Fifth Street, Clovis Bonsai Basics follows the General Meeting
October 24-27	GSBF Convention Riverside Ca.
November 9	General Meeting (Deciduous Bonsai Fall Pruning) 9 a.m. Clark Bonsai Garden
November 23	FBS Annual Yard Sale, Clovis Botanical Garden, 8am
December 7	General Meeting, (Juniper Bonsai Creation) 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