

Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter

October 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.



President's Message

Any platitude that I start this off with about the pandemic, our air quality, or our forests will be trite and repetitious. This is a time for us to find some joy in our hobby. Now is a time to take a mental health break and focus on a tree in the here and now, for at least an hour or so.

There are some events to look forward to:

We will have our **October 10th meeting outdoors at Keith Tice Park** again this month. We will still be masked and widely spaced. Our main business item for this meeting will be final action to adopt the by-laws for the FBS. We are fortunate to find some homegrown talent in Steve DaSilva to discuss **Tropical Bonsai**. We will also bring back **Bonsai Show & Tell**.

The good news is that we will hold our **Annual Bonsai Yard Sale on November 14th at the Clovis Botanical Garden**. We are still working on the details, but we think this will happen.

I have been concerned about bringing high value content to our meetings this year. I have been gratified thus far that greeting friends and talking bonsai has been satisfying for our members. We continue to look at ideas for this year's meetings and welcome any suggestions you may have.

Stay well. Mike Saul

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. 10 General Meeting at 9 a.m.
 Keith Tice Park
 (corner of Millbrook and Cole)

Nov. 14 FBS Yard Sale at the
 Clovis Botanical Garden
 9 am till 1 pm

September FBS Meeting

The Keith Tice Park was a good venue for our first Covid-19 restricted general meeting. We had about 35 people in attendance. Our main item of business at the meeting was the introduction of FBS by-laws. One modification suggested by John Wright, was in clarifying the use of the Gene Nelson Memorial Funds to be used for bonsai education. The initial introduction of the by-laws was approved at this meeting. The final action to adopt the by-laws will take place at the October general meeting.



We had great participation by FBS members in contributing prizes to the meeting raffle. Over \$300 was generated for the club and some great material changed hands. Thanks to all who participated.



Following the meeting some members worked on their own trees. Pictured above, Jack Green brought a California juniper that he has been wiring with Bob Hilvers.



September FBS Meeting continued

A Show and Tell presentation by three club members, Marc Stamper, Don Stevens, and Tim Robinson brought a new element to the club meeting. This provided an opportunity for club members to see what others were working on and gain some insight from what they are doing

Mark Stamper showed a tree he has in training. Don Stevens brought a juniper. A lively discussion ensued on best fronts and design for the tree. Tim Robinson provided an interesting discussion of black pine propagation. Tim showed trees, raised from seedlings, all the way from 4" plastic pots to 12" diameter terra cotta pots. Tim talked about rapid development of black pines and growing this material for eventual styling as bonsai.



Bonsai Soil Ordering

We are again looking at obtaining bonsai soil components for the spring repotting season. To help us identify the quantities we need before talking with suppliers, please come to the October 10 meeting with a list of the quantities you would be interested in. We are looking at akadama, moca lava and lava rock. As in the past we have been able to get a much better price ordering them as a group. When we finalize the order, prepayment will be required.

Join Us for

The Annual FBS

Bonsai Yard Sale

November 14, 2020

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

9 AM to 1 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

Bonsai Basics

The photo on the right of Brad Fry and Janna Davis was taken at the September 22 Bonsai Basics class at Mike Saul's home. Sue Stevenson donated several Japanese maples and junipers with pots for the students that evening. Special thanks to Sue. If you have surplus material, consider donating it to one of the three bonsai basics groups.



A Tale of Two Trees

About a year ago Sandi Markle and her husband Ron contacted Mike Saul about two bonsai trees that had belonged to Sandi's father, Doug Hansen. Doug had passed away several years previously but had been an avid bonsai collector in the 1970's who ran his own landscaping business. Due to our California drought years and the effects of time, many of his trees succumbed. But two junipers survived. Sandi and Ron brought these two trees to Mike Saul and offered them to the Fresno Bonsai Society where they knew they would be well cared for.

The larger tree, a root-over-rock style had outgrown its shallow pot. Last spring Mike brought it to the Bonsai Basics class. The tree was very weak and some branches were dead. The students in the class worked with Mike and removed the remaining feeble roots from the garden soil and placed the rock and tree in a wooden box filled with medium bonsai soil. The tree remained on Mike's bench for several months where it received watering and eventually fertilizer. It began to thrive.

At a later date it was suggested that the tree would benefit



Mr. and Mrs Doug Hansen

from decreasing the planting angle. It was not the time for repotting but at the correct time Don Stephens helped with the replanting. This tree is now under Don's care. He plans to build a more suitable box and repot the tree next spring when he will decide on the planting angle.

The second, smaller juniper was re-shaped, wired, and repotted last spring and was sold to one of the new FBS members. It is healthy and growing well in its new home.

Sandi and Ron Markle were grateful to see these bonsai not only survive, but flourish in the hands of those who love and appreciate these special 40 year-old junipers.



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, is bushy, and if the foliage is hardened off.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FBS is still in need of those willing to volunteer for upcoming activities or leadership positions. We are especially looking for help setting up and arrangements for our November 14 Yard Sale. Please contact Mike Saul



Let's grow FBS together!

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 Photo Album

As a new activity for this year of 2020 we are looking at showcasing photos of member trees. If you have a tree that you would like to share in the photo album please take a high quality black and white or color photo of your tree preferably staged with a solid background. Send your photo to Mike Saul or John Wright. In addition to producing an electronic photo album for our website we will also highlight the photos in our upcoming newsletters. This will be a great way to share the talent of our FBS members in social media platforms.

