



# Fresno Bonsai Society

## Newsletter

September 2021

### 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.....Chris Saldana
- Vice President.....Genaro Cuan
- Secretary .....Marilyn Shelton
- Treasurer.....Bob Wright
- Board Member .....Tim Robinson  
John Wright
- Past President.....Mike Saul
- Newsletter ....Carol & John Wright

### President's Message



This will be my first President's message for the Fresno Bonsai Society. I hope you are looking forward to another year of bonsai with others who share an interest in this art form. It has been just six years since I became involved with the FBS through the Bonsai Basics course taught by Harold Mitchell. Jack Green and John Wright were part of that year's class as well. Running the FBS needs to be the work of many hands. I hope you will each think about how you would like to contribute to the FBS this year.

Our monthly meetings will continue to be on the second Saturday of the month. Because of the spike in COVID cases locally we will hold our September meeting at Keith Tice Park again. We will have a raffle, so bring an item to contribute, if you can. We will also work on trees, so bring something to work on or a tree you would like some feedback on from other members. We will have some tables there, but bring your own if you like. We are encouraging masks and distancing. We will be keeping a close eye on meeting regulations, but we are looking to use the Clovis Senior Center for meet-

### Upcoming Events

- Sept. 11th      FBS meeting @ 9AM, Tice Park 8695 N Millbrook Raffle, Bring a tree to work on
- Oct. 2-3rd      GSBF Rendezvous Hotel Mission de Oro, Santa Nella, California

ings starting in October. As it now seems to be the way of things, we will be playing it by ear with the changing health standards. As always, our goal is to keep our members safe. We are planning on some great presenters for this year. We are also working on a Saturday work day at the Clark Bonsai Collection for those interested in working on high quality trees. Stay tuned for more information next month. Let me know about ideas or any feedback on what we are doing. I hope to see you all at the CSBF Rendezvous in Santa Nella in October.

Chris

### Request for Pictures Please

As the publishers of the FBS Newsletter, we would like to ask that members take pictures of meetings or other events and e-mail them to us at:

[jrc11949w@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrc11949w@sbcglobal.net)

Pictures are almost always better than words in capturing the activities of the club.

### Membership Dues

Membership dues for the Fresno Bonsai Society are due at the September meeting. Dues are \$40 per year for individuals or a family. Students are free. Make checks to the Fresno Bonsai Society and given to Bob Wright, our treasurer, along with a form filled out with your name, phone number and email (printed in large clear letters). Even if you have been a FBS member please complete a membership form. This will help ensure we have your current information. Bob will not be able to take money without the form. It gets hard to keep it all straight if you don't. Thank you

### Ralph Schroeder

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of former FBS President and long time member Ralph Schroeder. Ralph and his wife Diedre had moved from the area about 5 years ago. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to his family. Ralph is standing on the right in the picture below, which was taken at the opening of the Clark Bonsai Garden.



### FBS June Meeting Garden Tour

FBS members finished the last meeting of the 2020-21 year with a tour of three club member's collections. The tours were hosted by Pat Galle, Chris Saldana and John Wright. Thanks to sunny weather and moderate temperatures, it was a great day. The tours give members a chance to see what the members are doing and how they maintain and display their trees. Pictures are on the next page.



# FBS June Garden Tour





## Kokedama to Accompany Bonsai Display

By Mike Saul

I enjoy the beauty of shitakusa or accent plants in bonsai display as much as the bonsai themselves. The containers are often unique and interesting. The plants may be colorful with mixed textures and contours. Creating and maintaining a fine accent is often as challenging as bonsai development.

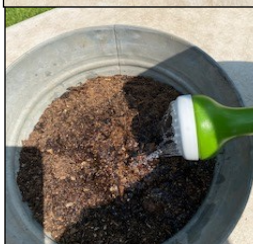
I have been intrigued by kokedama (koke...moss, dama...ball) in bonsai magazines. They are occasionally used for accents in tokonoma or bonsai display. I have tried my hand at making these moss balls. It is not difficult with a little practice.



Any small plant can be planted inside a kokedama. Both flowering species and tropicals will work. In this case, I wanted a simple green plant that would be appropriate for a bonsai display. I had a big supply of Rabbit's Foot fern from Dwayne Berrett. The kokedama can be sat on a plank, stone, or dish for display. I had made a simple ceramic dish for this purpose several months ago.

The basic idea is that a plant is inserted inside a mud ball which is then wrapped with moss and secured with string.

To make a moss ball you will need a mixing bowl, peat moss, potting soil, a watering can, sheet moss (from Amazon), scissors, string, and perhaps a soil scoop. You can use akadama in place of potting soil to make the ball, but soil seems to work as well and is cheaper. This is a messy project so work outdoors and cover your work surface.



Start by mixing equal parts of peat moss and soil. Squeeze out some water. To test if the ball is adherent, gently toss it up a couple feet and catch it. While you are playing in the mud, soak a sheet of moss in a pan of water. Select a sheet big enough to cover the mud ball entirely.

Select the plant you will use and gently knock off the loose soil from the roots. In my case, I simply cut a segment of the Rabbit's Foot with fronds attached.

I find that it works better to gently break the mud ball in equal halves rather than try to cut it with a knife.

Place the plant roots in the center of the ball and squeeze the halves back into a ball. Reshape the ball into a sphere as well as you can.

Now the challenging part: place the mud ball with the plant protruding out into the center of the moss sheet and gently wrap it around the entire ball. Try to maintain a sphere shape. Recruiting a spare pair of hands is helpful at this step. While holding the moss ball in one hand, wrap string around the ball several times, so that the string is snug. Then tie off the tails of the string.



You're done.

You can water your kokedama every 3-4 days by partially submersing it in a bowl of water for five minutes.

I keep my ferns under my bench in full shade. The moss will require full shade also. How these kokedama will look for display in March of next year, at the Home & Garden Show, remains to be seen.



## My Experience Working with Clay and Bonsai

By Tom Wilson

I am probably interested in too many hobbies, and I have a tendency to escape in the learning process of some new craft or art. But working with clay, something I return to over and over again, continues to give a deeply satisfying experience. Children especially know how the feeling of the cool wet texture of earth gives a relaxation and pleasure that is one of life's great joys. Every year there are a few of my students who get so absorbed in the tactile feeling they just hold and squeeze the clay. I have to remind them to start up their higher order thinking telling them that we have a problem to solve, something we are trying to make. Similar to my enjoyment of clay, I also love the sensory experience of trees, memories of climbing them, walking in their shade and seeing them move and change. So, the combined hobbies of bonsai and ceramics give me great pleasure.

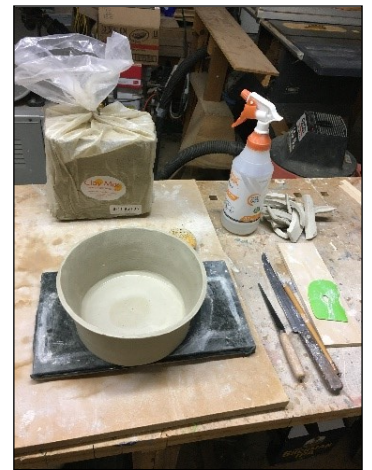
Sometime in 2019 I became a little more involved with the Fresno Bonsai Society. This led to attending Basics classes and building a foundation of understanding. As an art student and high school art teacher, I had learned about traditional Chinese and Japanese landscape painting, Japanese gardens and classic bonsai styles. But I needed the interaction of others to learn bonsai horticulture. I began to appreciate the many facets of the practice, watering, sunlight, the water/oxygen cycle and the function of the pot.

### Making my own Bonsai pots.

In the spring of 2020, the schools closed, and I came home for a year to teach online. I am so thankful for the ability to do so. I had been teaching ceramics as part of my art classes for years. While I am not a professional potter, I teach my students the basics. I have some skills and tools under my belt, but during this time of isolation, it dawned on me that I could make my own bonsai pots. Admittedly, working on those pots was both meditation and therapy, helping me stay healthy and happy.

Through my teaching and practice, I have come to understand a few things about patience, timing and air. Wet clay is always trying to dry out and my students have learned to place their unfinished work in plastic bags otherwise, they will dry out. Clay is worked in stages requiring a certain action in each stage. Wet clay can be stretched and rolled. During the middle or leather hard stages clay will hold shape, we then add feet and a rim and cut the drainage holes. When it is nearly bone dry (0% water content) we can carve or sand it. So, working clay, like growing bonsai, requires good timing, knowing what actions to take at the correct time.

Looking ahead I want to learn more about how to make pots with respect to the history and tradition of bonsai. Thank you, Mike Saul for your PowerPoint, on the topic getting me pointed in the right direction and I want to state my sincere appreciation to the teachers, friends and members of the club for sharing their knowledge.



Some of Tom's bonsai pots.



# Come enjoy the GSBF two-day *Bonsai Rendezvous* event at Hotel Mission De Oro, Santa Nella, CA



**October 2 and 3, 2021**

## Featuring

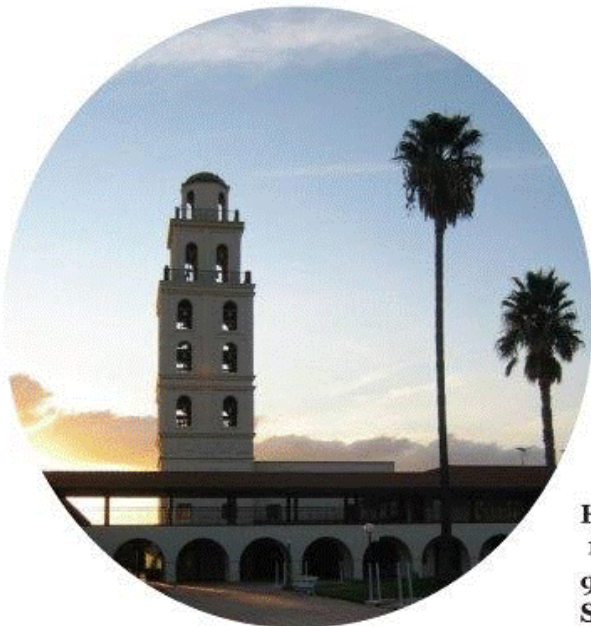
*"Bonsai Rendezvous"* will feature four exciting "Silent Auctions" held Saturday and Sunday.

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Interested in donating or consignments? Contact Mario Rendina at [jmariorendina@gmail.com](mailto:jmariorendina@gmail.com) or call 619-743-6664 prior to the event.

## Silent Auctions

- Major fundraising silent auctions with the donation of quality bonsai trees and related material.
- \$5 to obtain bid number.
- Consignment opportunities - Donors who would like to receive compensation for their donation, GSBF will split any proceeds 70/30 with the donor retaining 70% and GSBF retaining 30%.
- Sales tax paid by buyer.
- Forms and rules available upon request.
- We anticipate high quality material to be placed in the silent auctions.
- Proceeds from the silent auctions are used to support GSBF.
- Your generous donations to and participation in the event will make our *"Bonsai Rendezvous"* a success.



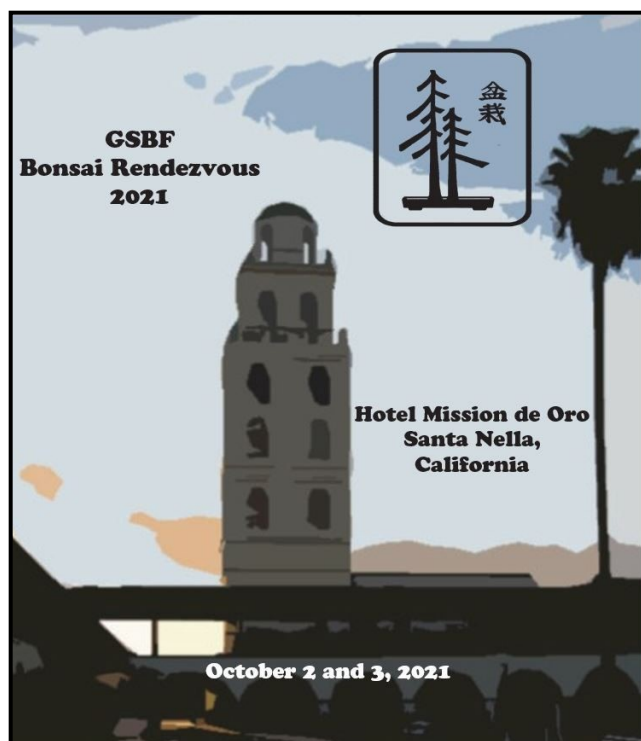
### **Hotel Reservations**

**HOTEL MISSION DE ORO**  
13070 S HWY 33, SANTA NELLA, CA  
95322 Phone 209-826-4444  
Special GSBF Room Rate \$ 121 plus taxes.

## This event is "free".

There is no registration or entry fee although donations are accepted and welcome. There will be no organized meal events/banquets. However, we trust our bonsai friends to find creative solutions for themselves.

## Schedule of Activities:



### SUNDAY, October 3

8:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. Vendor Market Open  
Coronado & Ponce de Leon Rooms  
8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. Silent Auction #3 Open  
Isabella Room  
9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Demo #5 Paul Holtzen  
Pacheco Main Room (Upstairs)  
9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Demo #6 Pauline Muth  
Pacheco South Room (Upstairs)  
9:00 a.m. 3:30 p.m. Demo #7 David Nguy Plaza  
9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Mel Ikeda's Tomodachi  
Plaza  
12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. BYOT Critique by Ted  
Matson Plaza  
12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. DIY Bonsai Workshop  
Plaza  
1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. Silent Auction #4 Open  
Isabella Room  
4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. Close down

### SATURDAY, October 2

8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. Vendor Set Up  
9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. Vendor Market Open  
Coronado & Ponce de Leon Rooms  
9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. Silent Auction #1 Open  
Isabella Room  
9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Demo #1 Scott Chadd  
Pacheco Main Room (Upstairs)  
9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Demo #2 Eric Schrader  
Pacheco South Room (Upstairs)  
9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Mel Ikeda's Tomodachi  
Plaza  
12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. Demo #3 Matthew Walker  
Pacheco Main Room (Upstairs)  
12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. Demo #4 Sam Adina  
Pacheco South Room (Upstairs)  
12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. BYOT Critique by  
Ted Matson Plaza  
12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. DIY Bonsai Workshop Plaza  
1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. Silent Auction #2 Open  
Isabella Room  
5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. No Host Bar Social Lobby to  
Vendor Market

### Other Important Information - Silent Auctions

"*Bonsai Rendezvous*" will feature four exciting "Silent Auctions" held two Saturday and two Sunday. Participants wanting to donate items for the silent auctions (and we hope there are many of them) are encouraged to contact Mario Rendina at [jmariorendina@gmail.com](mailto:jmariorendina@gmail.com) or call 619-743-6664 prior to the event to make arrangements for their material to be accepted and 'logged' in.

### Consignment Sales Opportunities

Donors who would like to receive compensation for their donation, GSBF will split any proceeds 70/30 with the donor retaining 70% and GSBF retaining 30%.

## SATURDAY, October 2

9:00 a.m. 11:00a.m. Silent Auction #1 Open Isabella Room  
1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. Silent Auction #2 Open Isabella Room

## SUNDAY, October 3

8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. Silent Auction #3 Open Isabella Room  
1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. Silent Auction #4 Open Isabella Room  
\$5 to obtain a bid number. Sales tax paid by buyer. Forms and rules available upon request.  
We anticipate high quality material to be placed in the silent auctions.  
The proceeds from the silent auctions are used to support GSBF.  
Your generous donations to and participation in the event will make our **“Bonsai Rendezvous”** a success.

### Live Demonstrations

There will be a total of seven free demonstrations; four on Saturday and three on Sunday. The demonstrations will be offered at no cost to GSBF and the finished materials will be donated to the silent auctions.

*A special demonstration will be performed on Sunday by David Nguy featuring a prized California Juniper.*

### Guest Demonstrators include:

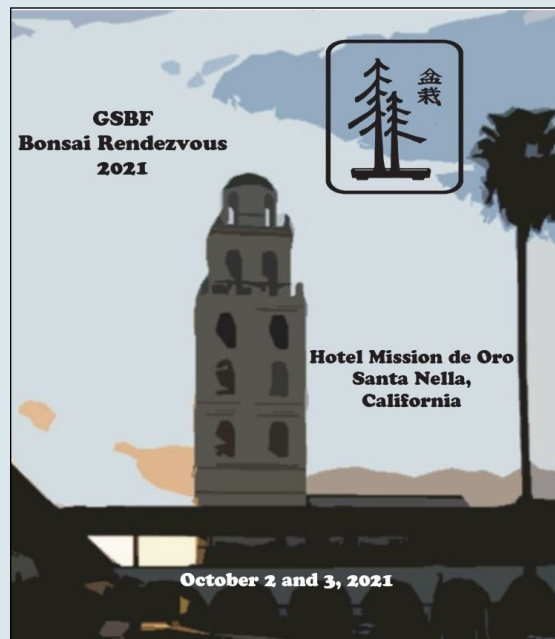
#### SATURDAY, October 2

9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Demo #1 Scott Chadd Maple  
9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Demo #2 Eric Schrader Kishu Juniper  
12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. Demo #3 Matthew Walker Live Oak  
12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. Demo #4 Sam Adina Olive

#### SUNDAY, October 3

9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Demo #5 Paul Holtzen Boxwood  
9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Demo #6 Pauline Muth  
9:00 a.m. 3:30 p.m. Demo #7 David Nguy California Juniper

**Hope to see  
you there!**





## Fall Bonsai Care

(This general seasonal advice for bonsai care was paraphrased from a piece written by Chris Ross for Golden Statements)

In Fall, take all remaining fruit from fruiting/ flowering trees, and feed lightly to encourage good fat buds for next Spring. Some growers feed lightly all year in the Mediterranean-type climates (like Fresno). Because of the consistency, they are able to control and anticipate the growth better. October and November are good times to do heavier pruning, some creative wiring, and repotting for these trees, as well as the Beeches, evergreen oaks and olives. While all that is happening, it's time to remove wire from maples and elms, and do some light pruning to retain the shape of the trees going into dormancy. Black pines decandled in June need to be down to two buds per decandling site heading into Winter. This is a general rule. There are always exceptions, and if you don't know what those are, take your tree to a club meeting and get some advice from someone who has good healthy trees of that type. By the time the leaves of deciduous trees lose their green color, they can be defoliated and sent to bed, because no more food is being made there. No point in wiring a tree that's not going to be growing. But the trees do fatten up a bit and the wire could end up scarring the bark. The flush of warm weather in Fall common to Mediterranean climates is a rallying call for every bug, worm, fungus and ant, so be vigilant. There are numerous products both natural and chemical that will do a good job of protection and elimination, but obey the rules: Never when the day's sun is already getting too warm. Never when it's going to rain. A dormant spray now and in early spring to kill eggs and hibernating insects is advisable. Autumn can be treacherous for watering bonsai. If the days are hot transpiration slows down, and on cooler nights there's very little evaporation. You can end up with a soggy pot, especially those that have grown a lot and are now draining poorly. Poke eight or ten holes through the soil deeply to conduct water through and oxygen into the soil. If fertilizer and akadama have broken down, such that the surface soil is soil is compacted and not draining, scratch off the top inch with a chop stick and replace it with fresh bonsai soil. When deciding on when to water, scratch the soil with a chopstick to make each tree prove it needs water. Breezy afternoons or evenings can dry the trees out quickly. Most authors advise against watering foliage because it encourages fungus, particularly with warm nights. Clean up all the detritus, clean off the benches and stands, close up all the soils and containers, get ready for the pleasures of dormancy. In our Mediterranean climate, evergreen species, both conifers and broadleaf, will continue to grow slowly. Most authors recommend continued light fertilizer for this trees through the winter. Deciduous trees are dormant and do not benefit from fertilization after leaf drop (This general seasonal advice for bonsai care was paraphrased from a piece written by Chris Ross for Golden Statements)

