



Fresno Bonsai Society

Newsletter

September 2016

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

Welcome to the Fresno Bonsai Society's 2016-2017 season! Since 1958 the Fresno Bonsai Society has been cultivating the art and science of Bonsai in Fresno. Our mission is to expand awareness of Bonsai in Central California and to help our members achieve the next level of artistic excellence in their Bonsai. Whether you are new to Bonsai, or are an experienced practitioner, I hope that this year will provide you with new insights in cultivating and improving your trees, and opportunities to exhibit. I am excited to begin this season with new initiatives, and of course, new hats and shirts! I can't thank the executive committee and my vice president enough in getting our club ready for this season.

Our first meeting for the season will be held at the Clark Center's reserve area at the Shinzen Garden in Woodward Park. Meeting location will be subject to change throughout the year due to weather and other needs, so please check the agenda and the website for meeting locations.

The September meeting has quite a lot of "business" for the club to get through before we can get to the fun stuff – working on trees and plants. Bear with us, because the planning and scheduling is necessary for us to bring you the opportunities we hope will benefit the club and our collections.

Please note that one of our veteran teachers and mentors, Harold "Mitch" Mitchell, has passed the torch of Bonsai Basics. But fear not beginners, new veteran instructors are taking the reins to teach these

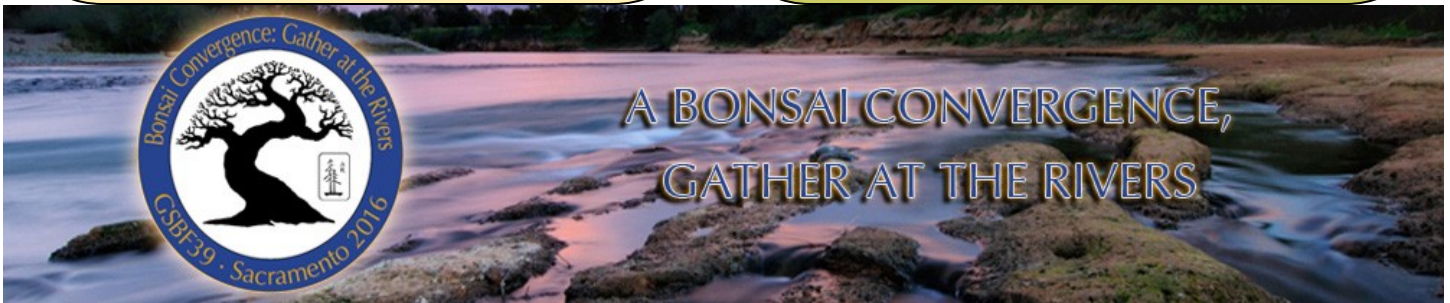
September General Meeting of the Fresno Bonsai Society

Our first meeting will be Saturday, September 10th, at 9AM in the Reserve Area of the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen Garden. Be sure to show your FBS badge and tell the gatekeeper you are there to work on the Shinzen Garden. If you are a new member without a badge, please contact Dave Soho. Park behind the garden next to the service area.

September Shohin Study Group

The Shohin Study Group will meet Wednesday, September 21st, 5:30 PM at Kareen Baker's home. The address is 3520 North Locan. The group will discuss plans for the Koen-Nai fundraiser and the Blossom Festival in April as well as activities for the coming months.

This is a potluck with adult beverages as desired. Contact Steve DaSilva at treekutter@hotmail.com for more information.



The two headliners for this years GSBF Convention are Ryan Neal and Bjorn Bjornholm. They are probably the two best known and most sought after American Bonsai Artists since John Naka. This may be unique in GSBF history that both headliners are Japanese trained but American born, making communication much easier!

In addition, the cast of workshop instructors is phenomenal.

For those new to bonsai, or those who have never attended a GSBF convention, this is an inspiring experience.



The 39th Annual Convention of the Golden State Bonsai Federation

October 26-30, 2016

The Hilton Double Tree Inn Sacramento California

Make Room Reservations As Soon as Possible for Discounted Rate



Bonsai Basics In June

The images here are from the June meeting of the Bonsai Basics Study Group. This class was developed and led by Harold Mitchell for the past several years. Mitch asked us to acknowledge Tim Robinson, Dave Soho and Gene Nelson for their help with the class. The smiling faces in these pictures reflect the appreciation of Mitch's students for his guidance!



Thank you to Judy Mitchell for photos

FBS and the BFF

The Fresno Bonsai Society is hoping to have everyone in the club display at least one tree in this year's Big Fresno Fair. Participation will provide practice a preparing bonsai for exhibit and it will introduce more of the community to our club and our art. The fair is inexpensive to enter (\$1 per tree) and offers a chance for cash prizes. There is a Novice Division which offers an opportunity to beginning bonsaists!

The venue is secure and we will be certain that the trees are watered daily.

The DEADLINE for ENTRY is September 10 for hard copy entries and September 12 for online entries. For rules and online entry, go to www.bigfresnofair and enter the Floriculture competition.

FBS member, Jennifer Waite, is the manager of the Floriculture Division and will supervise the display and security.

Continued from page 1,

Classes and make bonsai accessible to you. Bonsai Basics is a staple of our club and I want to give Mitch my personal thanks for making Bonsai Basics what it is today.

Agenda for our meeting:

Membership Dues

The club hasn't increased its annual dues since who knows when (more than 5 years at least), and as we will be increasing our efforts to expand our membership and sales, the Executive Committee is proposing to increase the dues from \$35

per year per family to \$40. We are a nonprofit club, and all of our dues go to promoting Bonsai. This includes providing materials and opportunities for the Bonsai Basic Class, creating accent plants and kusamono for sale and display and other expenses. Remember, you get one vote per dues payment, so additional dues are necessary for voting memberships.

Schedule of Events

We've got quite a lot going on this season, so we want to make sure that everyone has the dates and schedule of events.

Soil Orders.

This meeting we will be ordering soil as a club through our Clark Center contacts, so please bring your estimates as to your soil needs this season.

Propagation Materials sign up

Dave Soho and I will be taking the lead on receiving donations and commitments for members to grow materials for Bonsai Basics and plant sales. Please bring your donations, or give Dave and I a heads up so that we can make arrangements to find growing areas and materials for the club.

Accent Plant and Kusamono Throw Down

Recognizing the interest and enthusiasm of the club and the general public, the Executive Committee is proposing to invest in the purchase of plant material, soil and pots/containers to create accent plants and kusamono for both display and sale. These creations are essential to making a fantastic display when exhibiting, but are also a beautiful extension of bonsai.

Recognizing the interest and enthusiasm of the club and the general public, the Executive Committee is proposing to invest in the purchase of plant material, soil and pots/containers to create accent plants and kusamono for both display and sale. These creations are essential to making a fantastic display when exhibiting, but are also a beautiful extension of bonsai.

5. Clark Center Docents and Assisting the Clark Center Collection

Linda Jacobsen will be recruiting volunteers to become docents and assisting the Clark Center Collection. The Clark Center is a phenomenal expression of the dedication to the art of bonsai in Fresno and the Central Valley, and we want to give the Clark Center all that we can to ensure that it grows and showcases our chosen art.

Meeting Activities:

1. **We will have a bonsai book and magazine sale of many recently donate texts**
2. **Pairing up newer members with more experienced members, we will work on trees**

Peter Schaffert

PLEASE SUBMIT A BONSAI TO THE BIG FRESNO FAIR!

Editors Note: This issue of the newsletter seems to contain an unusual emphasis on items for sale and fees. (See last page). These items (magazines, hats, shirts, soil, dues...) simply all came up at the same time. The FBS is not a group that concerns itself with money aside from trying to stay solvent in order to bring bonsai training to its members and the community!



Suiseki at the Fair

Jennifer Waite has asked the FBS if we would provide a display of suiseki to complement the bonsai exhibit at the Big Fresno Fair. Ray Theime and Dave Soho have several stones which they would offer for display if members would help with transporting them to the fair grounds.

FBS members are asked to show some of their suiseki and if some would volunteer to help transport Ray's stones. Contact Dave Soho

David Nguy Juniper Workshop

We hope all the members of the FBS are aware of the Juniper Workshop with David Nguy that will be offered on December 10 & 11, at the Round Valley Nursery in Lindsey.

At this writing, the Saturday Workshop is full and there are only four seats remaining in the Sunday workshop.

The nursery still has some Kyushu junipers, grown for bonsai, and ranging in price from \$30 to \$300.

This is an outstanding opportunity to spend a day learning from a master with great material.

Contact Ed Clark at 559 310-1513 for details.

Calendar of Activities for the FBS in September

General Meeting Saturday September 10, at 9 AM in Shinzen Garden

Bonsai Basics, Saturday September 17, 9 AM at Dave Soho's Home

Shohin Study Group, Wednesday September 21 at 5:30 PM, 3520 North Logan.

Please LIKE the FBS and the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen on Facebook! And make a habit of visiting the FBS website of images from our activities and helpful bonsai advice.

The annual dues for the FBS will be payable to Treasurer Bob Wright at the September 10th meeting. The membership will vote on raising the dues from \$35 to \$40 per year per family.

Bonsai Almanac for September

Developing a bonsai requires a plan. Each intervention we perform on a bonsai, toward that plan, must have a specific purpose. And virtually every intervention we perform (wiring, pruning, defoliating or repotting etc) will transiently weaken the tree and slow its growth. It is important to understand that the speed of growth IS NOT equivalent to the

health or vigor of a bonsai. Healthy trees may grow slowly. Indeed, there are situations in which slow growth is very desirable, as in restricting the internode length in maples or needle length in black pines.

To obtain the desired results, it is very important to work on vigorous, healthy trees. Weak trees respond badly, and their survival may be put at risk. To boost the strength of a plant that you want to work on, you need to apply fertilizer in the previous year. Nearly all species absorb and store up nutrients in order to use them during the following growth season.

Within a given year, plants go through various phases:

- winter dormancy
- revival and flowering
- producing new growth and fruit
- a short period of summer dormancy
- consolidation of the new growth
- preparation for the winter dormancy.

In September our bonsai are in transition. The last of the summer foliage is hardening off and the tree is preparing for winter dormancy.

Once the hottest period is past, in September, temperatures return to normal, below 30°C (86°F), and plants then readopt their normal growth activity. This is also the moment when attention needs to be focused as much as possible on fertilization, which needs to supply the plant with the substances it needs to develop, consolidate new growth, reconstitute exhausted reserves and strengthen itself to best cope with the winter season.

In autumn, it is preferable to use fertilizers that are low in nitrogen. Nitrogen is better for encouraging foliage growth, which is unneeded in the winter and may even encourage premature budding according to some authors. The feed needs to be rich in phosphorus – to stimulate root growth and prepare a good flowering for the spring – and in potassium, to

This is also the moment when attention needs to be focused on fertilization, which needs to supply the plant with the substances it needs to develop, consolidate new growth, reconstitute exhausted reserves and strengthen itself to best cope with the winter season.

In autumn, it is preferable to use fertilizers that are low in nitrogen. Nitrogen is better for encouraging foliage growth, which is unneeded in the winter and may even encourage premature budding according to some authors. The feed needs to be rich in phosphorus – to stimulate root growth and prepare a good flowering for the spring – and in potassium, to strengthen the plant, increase the roots' assimilation capacity and consolidate the new growth that has been produced during the season.

Chemical fertilizers, which should be applied in very dilute solution, can be quickly taken up by plants.

Conversely, the nutrients of organic fertilizers need to break down by fermentation to be assimilated:

This is why they can only be used by the roots 20 to 30 days after they have been applied. Thus, in our warm climate with long growing season, organic fertilizers applied in September will be available to the trees into October. The key idea is to provide fertilizer to bonsai in September and October in order to prepare the plant for the Spring revival.

September is suggested as a good time to apply a dilute solution of humic acid to enhance water and nutrient uptake.

Deciduous trees should be moved to cooler and shaded places during warm spells, in order to avoid late leaf development.

The intense heat of our valley contributes to the summer dormancy. Most species go into a dormant phase when temperatures exceed 95 to 100 degrees. Bonsai actually transpire less water and may need less water in July and August, than in the cooler days of late September and October. They are likely to need more frequent watering on

breezy fall days as well. Feeling the soil, just below the surface for moisture is, therefore, crucial to making decisions about watering.

September is not generally a good time for transplanting. The trees will not develop new roots promptly as dormancy is starting. Vigorous species like olives will tolerate transplanting but unless the tree is threatened by very poor drainage, it is unwise to attempt transplanting, at least until October and preferably in late winter or Spring.

Officers of the Fresno

Bonsai Society

President	Peter Schaffert	peteschaffert@gmail.com
Vice President	Dave Soho	sohofive@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bob Wright	wright8692@comcast.net
Secretary	Art Zaragoza	artzara2@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Mike Saul	tinytreeme@sbcglobal.net
Bonsai Basics	Dave Soho	sohofive@yahoo.com
Shohin Group	Steve Da Silva	treekutter@hotmail.com



BONSAI EVENTS THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA

IN SEPTEMBER

September 17, 2016 Placerville, California

Gold Country Bonsai Club: 2nd Annual Show at Rainbow Orchards, 2569 Larsen Drive, Camino, the lovely Apple Hill destination at El Dorado County, known for its apple cider doughnuts. Show hours are 10 AM – 4 PM. Scott Chadd at (530) 622-9681 or scottchadd@lotusbonsai.com

September 24 – 25, 2016, Penryn, California

Sierra Bonsai Club: Annual Show at the Placer Buddhist Church, 3192 Boyington Road, in conjunction with the 52nd Annual Food Bazaar. Show hours are 11 AM – 5 PM Saturday and 11 AM – 4 PM Sunday. contact Lucy Sakaishi-Judd (916) 300-8103

September 24 – 25, 2016 San Diego, California

San Diego Bonsai Club: Fall Bonsai Exhibition at the Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Show hours are 10 AM – 5 PM both days with demonstrations at 11 AM and 1 PM. Free Admission. Bonsai pots and trees for sale, as well as other bonsai-related items. For more information visit. www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com or contact Janice Hale.

September 29 - October. 2, 2016 Santa Ana, California

Kofu Bonsai Kai: 2016 Bonsai Fest at the Bowers Museum “The Bonsai Tradition: Cultural Arts of Japan” - John M. Lee Court, 2002 N. Main St., Daily 10 AM - 4 PM, Featuring bonsai trees of the members of Kofu Bonsai Kai and demonstration by Takuo Nakamura on Saturday, October 1 from 1 to 3 PM. Free to Bowers Museum members or with paid museum admission



The event calendar for the Fresno Bonsai Society is still being planned. The calendar will be published in the newsletter and on the webpage when finalized.

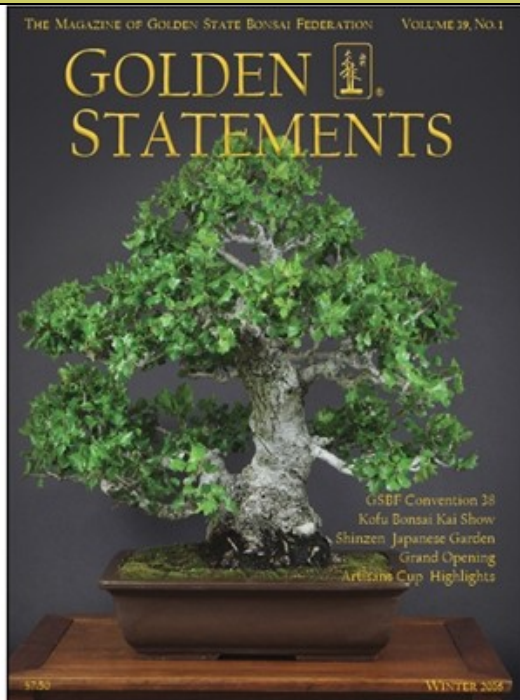


BULLSEYE BONSAI

Help Needed at the GSBF Convention

The Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen will have a display table at the Golden State Bonsai Federation Annual Convention October 28-30th. The purpose of the table will be to promote the bonsai exhibit and specifically to attract attendance to the Koen-Nai No Bonsai and Blossom Festival in April. The table will feature a video of the Shinzen Garden and the Bonsai Exhibit as well as printed materials. The Fresno Bonsai Society will have two sales tables at this combined event. Thus it will benefit the club to attract as many visitors as possible to this fundraiser. Volunteers are needed to man the table on Thursday through Sunday. If you plan to attend and can identify some spare time to help, please contact Linda Jacobsen at mljjacobsen@gmail.com.

Golden Statements is the quarterly magazine of the Golden State Bonsai Federation. It contains excellent articles on bonsai events, and exhibits across the state. It is a bargain for \$25 per year.



Plans for Bonsai Basics Class for 2016 -2017

The first meeting of the Bonsai Basics Study Group for this fall will be Saturday, June 17th at 9 AM, at David Soho's home in Clovis. This is a gated community, so the address and new gate code will be provided to participants at the September 10th General Meeting. Students must be members of the Fresno Bonsai Society. They should bring a notebook. New and returning students should sign up with Dave at the club meeting or via his email at:

sohofive@yahoo.com.

FBS Club Logo Items Available

Dave Soho has ordered both baseball caps and polo shirts with the FBS club logo in an assortment of sizes. The caps will be \$15 and the shirts \$25 each. The opinion of your newsletter editor (whose fashion judgement is admittedly doubtful) they are "pretty cool."

Pre-mixed Bonsai Soil for Sale

The club may have an opportunity to purchase pre-mixed bonsai soil from Japan at a discount by buying in bulk. Many of us have used this mix in our own trees and at the Clark Bonsai Collection. Dave Soho will need to know how much the club would commit to purchasing at the September 10th meeting. Please assess your needs for Spring and tell him at the meeting. Prices will be discussed at the meeting.