



Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter

September 2017

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.

Hello, my name is David Soho. I am the new president of the Fresno Bonsai Society (for the next two years.) This note is specially intended for our new members.

This will be my 3rd time serving bonsai artists at the club level. I hope I can meet your expectations and that all the members of the club will have fun while improving their bonsai collections and skills.

I also encourage you to take advantage of the information in our newsletter and our website: fresnobonsaisociety.com. FBS will continue to bring you information on bonsai culture in the Central Valley as we develop monthly articles on club activities. You can find links to other bonsai resources; our seasonal calendar of events; tips on selecting and growing bonsai; how to water, feed, and use shade for your trees; plus information on styling, pot selection, and transplanting. There is a lot to learn about bonsai.

Most bonsai books usually have a description of the origins of bonsai culture and the evolution of this art form through the ages. The Fresno Bonsai Society hopes to help each person start their own bonsai journey. Join with us and see how much there is to learn from your local club.

Our latest officers and how to reach them are located in each newsletter and on the Fresno Bonsai Society website.

I want you to have fun learning about bonsai, meeting new people,

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and starting your own bonsai collection.

Welcome to the new bonsai season and the Fresno Bonsai Society.

David Soho

June FBS Picnic

The FBS annual calendar traditionally starts in September each year and ends with our June potluck picnic. (We do not meet during July and August when trees are stressed and members are on vacation.)

This year our picnic was really fun and very well attended (about 40 members and families) at the Clovis Botanical Garden, thanks to Dave and Carolyn Soho.

Dave arranged for our own BBQ chef and the entrees. He and Carolyn arranged for tableware and drinks. He also obtained a huge number of raffle items.

We had a few member trees for sale and April Grigsby displayed some of her beautiful pottery.

The raffle was almost as popular as the adult beverages on that hot afternoon. Fortunately, we had a fine shade structure. It was very gratifying to see families and our many new members at the picnic.

We elected new officers in a brief business meeting and expressed our thanks to outgoing president, Peter Schaffert.

The heat of the day convinced us to move the picnic up at least a week next year.



April Grigsby Ceramics
660 Van Ness in Fresno
Call 561 445-1533



Directly above: a portion of the group, sharing a laugh.

Below: Outgoing president (and new secretary) Peter Schaffert and son.



The Next Meeting of the Fresno Bonsai Society
Will be

Saturday, September 9th, at 9 AM in
The Reserve Area of the Clark Bonsai Collection
at Shinzen Gardens

This will be the first meeting of this Season.

The Topic will be Identification and Treatment of
Common Diseases and Pests Afflicting Bonsai
By Prof BethTeviotdale

Dues for the Coming Year are Payable at this
Meeting

The Dues are \$40 for Individuals or Families
When Entering the Gate Remember to Show
your Club Badge

Learning By Doing

The volunteers who care for the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen Garden are called the **Curatorial Team**. They are us. That is, with few exceptions, the Curatorial Team is made up entirely of volunteers from the Fresno Bonsai Society.

They prune, wire, repot, water and perform a multitude of tasks to keep the bonsai healthy and beautiful, all under the supervision of the curator, Bob Hilvers. They learn both the design and horticultural skills needed to develop fine bonsai.

They have access to the masters who guide the bonsai, like Ryan Neal and David Nguy.

Thus, the curatorial volunteers who work 1-2 mornings per week in the garden are rewarded with “hands –on” instruction that is “in the moment” each season. This is hard to get training.

Mr. Hilvers acknowledges that many FBS members are employed and he has planned to schedule more Saturday morning work days, corresponding to FBS meetings, in order to include more new volunteers. Contact Dave Soho or Bob Hilvers for more information.



Left: Second Hand Lions work with Bob Hilvers on the Harry Hirao juniper.

Top right: Gene Nelson prepares to apply lime sulfur to an old juniper bonsai

Directly above: Lori Lewallen and Ray Thieme take a break from repairing the irrigation system.



**The Annual Golden State Bonsai Federation
Convention**

Is the Largest Bonsai Event on the West Coast

October 25-29

**Two Large Bonsai Exhibits Including One with Cash
Prizes**

International Guest Speakers Offer Instruction

Many Workshops, Seminars, & Critiques

Huge Vendor Area Offering Trees, Pots, Tools, and Supplies

Large Raffles with Spectacular Prizes

The Big Fresno Fair and Bonsai

The Fresno Fair is an opportunity for the FBS to display our bonsai and to demonstrate a higher level of art to the public. The judged competition (although not always expert) permits us to show the benefits of belonging to the FBS to a broad audience. We have also provided demonstrations some evenings. One of our missions is to introduce the art form to our community.

Unfortunately the deadline for entering one or more bonsai is very near the date of our first meeting in September. The cost of entry is \$1 per tree.

The bonsai are displayed in the Floriculture Exhibit. This is a secure area and the bonsai are observed by a staff member during open hours.

There is an issue with watering and sun light however. In order to insure the health of our trees, we must arrange a schedule of volunteers to go to the fairgrounds every day and water each of the trees. The fair staff was conscientious but not trained to water previously. We had one tree lost and some stands damaged last year. We must do this ourselves. We will discuss this at the September meeting.

If, at any time, a bonsai appears unhealthy or stressed, it may be removed from the fair. Bonsai displayed in the fair will be without direct sunlight for 13 days.

The Fair runs from October 5-15 this year. The deadline for mailed entries is September 9th but electronic deadline is September 11th.

If enough members are interested in displaying trees in the fair, we will try to establish a volunteer list to water daily.

The SHOHIN STUDY GROUP will meet Wednesday, September 20th, at Steve DaSilva's home, at 5 PM. The address is 6470 East Manning Avenue in Fowler. This will be a potluck dinner. Everyone is welcome.

Visit the FBS Website for Brief and Relevant Articles on Bonsai

And

Like us on Face Book

From April Grigsby

I'd like to welcome everyone from the Fresno Bonsai Society to visit me at my new studio location. I've joined Clay Hand Studios, in downtown Fresno, at 660 Van Ness Avenue. For the last few months I've been able to get back to creating bonsai pots. I was a ceramics major in art school and several years ago, while living in SE Florida, I ventured into making bonsai pots. In 2002, I entered two pots in the 2nd National Juried Bonsai Pot Exhibition at the National Arboretum and won a second place in the traditional category.

I'd love to show you my work! Call me any time to make an appointment to stop by the studio. And... I welcome commissions!

April Grigsby

www.aprilgrigsbyceramics.com

561-445-1533

Current Officers of the Fresno Bonsai Society

President David Soho

sohofive@yahoo.com

President Elect Mike Saul

tinytreeme@sbcglobal.net

Secretary Peter Schaffert

peteschaffert@gmail.com

Treasurer Bob Wright

wright8692@comcast.net

Web Master Michael Reynolds

michaelreynolds465@att.net

Liaison to Clark Collection Linda Jacobsen

mljjacobsen@gmail.com



FBS Logo caps and polo shirts remain available.
See Dave Soho



BULLSEYE BONSAI



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 than with some other feeding methods. October and November are pretty good times to do some heavier pruning, some creative wiring, and repotting for these trees, as well as the Beeches and evergreen oaks. Heavy pruning and wiring is good for the olives in Autumn as well.

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 that were decandled in June need to be down to two buds per decandling site heading into Winter. This is a general rule, just like the general rule that azaleas need to be cut to two stems per division site. 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. Nothing can substitute for good advice from someone who knows.

By the time the leaves of deciduous trees lose their green color, they can be defoliated and sent to bed for a good sleep, because no more food is being made there, and because you've been pushing them and they need the rest. 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 to picnic for every bug, worm, fungus and ant on God's green earth, 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 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.

Haiku for Autumn

Harvest moon and I
Feel the coming Wintertime
We both dream of Spring

FBS Calendar for 2016-2017 Season

September 9	FBS Meeting and Presentation on Bonsai Diseases and Pests with Pro. Beth Teviotdale	Clark Collection Reserve Area
September 23	Bonsai Basics: Introduction to Bonsai with Dave Soho	Carson Avenue, Clovis
October 14	FBS Meeting: Bonsai Raffle and "Evolution of Bonsai Art in the USA	Clark Collection Reserve Area
October 21	Bonsai Basics: Styling and Wiring with Dave Soho	Carson Avenue, Clovis
October 25-29	GSBF Convention Forty	Riverside Convention Center, Riverside CA
November 11	FBS Meeting: Bring a Tree Critique with Al Keppler	Clark Collection Reserve Area
November 18	Bonsai Basics: Soils and Pot Selection with Bob Wright and Dave Soho	Carson Avenue, Clovis
December 2	Annual Bonsai Yard Sale	Clovis Botanical Garden
January 20	FBS Meeting: Carving a Redwood with Bob Wright	Clark Collection Reserve Area
January 27	Bonsai Basics: Repotting with Dave Soho	Clark Collection Reserve Area
February 2-4	Shohin Convention	Double Tree Inn, Sacramento
February 10	FBS Meeting: Mini Bonsai Show and Discussion of Preparation and Accents	Woodward Library
February 17	Bonsai Basics: More on Soils & Repotting with Dave Soho	Carson Avenue, Clovis
March 2-5	Fresno Home & Garden Show, FBS Display	Fresno Fair Grounds
March 24	FBS Meeting: Air Layering with Pete Schaffert and Thread Grafting with Saul	Clark Collection Reserve Area
April 13-14	Koen-Nai and FBS Outdoor Show	Shinzen Garden
May 12	FBS Meeting: Spring Work with Elms and Tridents with Al Keppler	Clark Collection Reserve Area
May 19	Bonsai Basics: Judging of Team Bonsai & Watering and Summer Care—Soho	Carson Avenue
June 2	Annual FBS Potluck Picnic	Clovis Botanical Garden