

Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter

September 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.

Officers of the FBS

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



President's Message

Mike Saul

As always, I hope this newsletter finds you and yours well and comfortable.

This fall season is just as uncertain and difficult to plan for as spring, and summer. The restrictions on gatherings have made our meetings difficult. Unfortunately, government agencies have focused on restrictions, and not upon offering solutions for safe gatherings.

We have all been practicing bonsai in small groups or more often alone. I believe that most of our members want to have some safe interaction with this club. Although the virtual meetings that some of the other bonsai clubs have conducted have been informative, I don't believe we have the technical skill to do that, and the virtual meetings lack the personal contact with the entire club. I have been distributing the You Tube videos produced by the American Bonsai Society of Sacramento. They are an excellent source of information.

I have decided to conduct an outdoor meeting with face coverings and spacing of everyone more than 8 feet apart. **We will meet at Keith Tice Park at the corner of Millbrook and Cole, in the far southwest corner of the park at 9 AM on Saturday, September 12th. Please bring a face covering and a lawn chair.**

It is important that we conduct a business meeting. Following the business meeting will try a "Bonsai Show & Tell".

The Fresno Bonsai Society has grown substantially in the past two years. We currently have 54 members. We cannot operate as we did when we had 20 members. We cannot plan and organize activities well with the skeleton crew of officers. The president needs help. Please think about how you might help. When our community opens, we will be putting on exhibits, traveling to exhibits, making road trips and bringing in outside speakers. Those will require planning and organization. You can help make FBS great.

An ad hoc bylaws committee made up of current and former officers has been formed to expand our leadership. The committee discussed any bylaws changes in preparation for voting on them in October 2020.

We have an opportunity to take advantage of the generosity of the friends and family of Gene Nelson by becoming a tax-exempt organization. That opportunity requires us to establish a separate committee, within the bylaws, to manage that donation.

We also need to discuss at the September 12th gathering the proposed schedule of activities for the coming year. While we try to focus our monthly meeting on learning about bonsai and working on trees, we occasionally need to conduct business. I want to express my thanks to Peter Schaffert Esq. and John Wright and several others for developing the bylaws recommendations and arranging the virtual meetings to deal with these business issues.

I urge everyone to attend this September 12th meeting. Your input is important.

Members working together this year



Bonsai Basics is Starting

The Bonsai Basics classes have been organized with two things in mind: finding class times convenient for teachers and students and holding the classes in small groups of five or six students. For safety reasons, students will be widely dispersed, outdoors, and with face coverings.

The first group met at Mike Saul's back yard. Shawn Miller and his niece, Robin, were assistants. The Bonsai Basics curriculum material for the class were distributed. That material was adopted from Harold Mitchell's classes and reviewed by several FBS senior members.

We are hoping that the Bonsai Basics classes can be condensed from a total of 6-8 hours into 3-4 hours so that we can complete the classes while our valley weather permits us to meet outdoors.

Tim Robinson and Peter Schaffert have agreed to teach additional classes. At this moment we have 10 remaining students who have signed up for Bonsai Basics. Students must obtain their own trees (from a list of appropriate species and local nurseries.) There is a \$10 charge for materials.



Mini Yard Sale

The FBS held a mini-yard sale on July 29th. The sale, made possible by a generous donation by member Tom Cooper, generated income for the FBS. The sale included tools, pots and trees. A sincere thank you goes out to Tom and to Mike Saul for hosting the sale and Bob Wright and Tim Robinson for helping. We are still hoping that we will be able to hold our “Annual Yard Sale” event. We are working on the location and hoping the State of California will cooperate. Stay tuned.



Clark Bonsai Collection at the Shinzen Garden Opened Labor Day Weekend

After restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily closed the Shinzen Garden and Clark Bonsai Collection, protocol is now in place for reopening.

Clark Collection Hours are 10 a.m. to 12 noon Weekends & Holidays

Admission*: under 4yrs Free; 4-14yrs \$1; Adults \$5; Senior 62+ \$1; Student \$1; Family \$7

*Woodward Park Entrance Fee Required: \$5; Seniors \$3; \$7 on holidays