

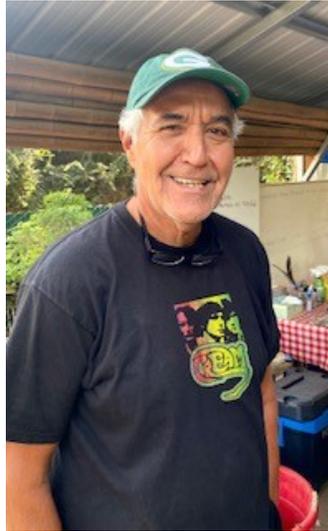


# Fresno Bonsai Society Newsletter

February/March 2022

## 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

A special thanks to VP Genaro Cuan on taking the lead with this year's Home and Garden Show. A lot of work is required to put this show together. Genaro did a great job helping us raise our game in show presentation. A thank-you to those who have signed up to work at the show. If you haven't signed up yet call Genaro or me and join in. We have a great time every year. Volunteer organizations like the FBS are only as good as its members. If you have ideas, please share them with us. Let us know what the club means to you and what we might do to make it better. But also ask yourself what can I do to help make the FBS better? We need your participation. We have some great visiting bonsai artists this year and are planning more for next year. See you all at the Home and Garden Show!

Chris

## Officers of the FBS

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

## Upcoming Events

March 3rd Set up for Home & Garden Show 3PM  
March 4-5 Fresno Home & Garden Show 10AM to 5PM  
March 6th Fresno Home & Garden Show 10 to 4PM  
(take down 4 to 8PM)  
April 9th Julian Tsai - Demonstration  
Clovis Senior Center  
May 14th JT Thompson - Demonstration  
Clovis Senior Center

## January 2022 FBS General Meeting

Our first meeting of the new year was held at the Clovis Senior Center. Vice President Genaro Cuan discussed the steps needed in preparing a tree for display at the Fresno Home and Garden show. We are working toward increasing the overall quality of the FBS presentation at the show. The show gives us a chance to take our trees to a show level. This can be a bit intimidating for newer club members, but it should be seen as a chance to showcase to the public what we do. The Clovis Senior Center again provided a great setting for the general meeting. A thank you to Shawn Miller for the arrangements and Don Stevens for the refreshments.



Vice President Genaro Cuan



## February 2022 FBS General Meeting

Our February General meeting was held at the Clovis Senior Center. Club President Chris Saldana conducted the meeting. Sign up sheets for the Fresno Home and Garden show were passed around. Members were asked to find some way they can participate and support the annual event. Those planning on showing trees were asked to bring them to the meeting. This was an opportunity to work on the trees and get input on their readiness. The morning provided newer members with an opportunity to see the process of preparing a tree for a show as well as get help with trees they brought. The FBS event for March will be the Home and Garden Show. No other general meeting will be held until April. We have a great program planned so mark your calendar. Again we thank Shawn Miller for arranging the space and Don Stevens for the refreshments. Be sure you thank them for their efforts. We appreciate all the members who contribute so much to the FBS. Remember when we meet at the Senior Center we need to leave it as clean or cleaner than when we arrive.



## Accent Plants for our Annual Bonsai Exhibit

Traditionally the Fresno Bonsai Society has always displayed our trees with a *companion plant*. Displaying each accent plant on a small mat or wood disc adds a degree of interest and polish to our exhibit. The *shitakusa* (“under grass”) is not meant to be the dominant focus of your presentation. Rather it is a plant material to complete the exhibit of the main focus which is the bonsai. It should round out the exhibit to form a complete impression to make you imagine that it is Winter or Spring or that you are in the woods, or that the bonsai is high up in the mountains.

A companion plant should:

- Be in proper proportion to the main focus (*e.g.*, bonsai, suiseki and or scroll)
- Not be more "showy" than the main focus
- Indicate the season of the year
- Indicate to some extent the type of location where the bonsai grows: i.e. in the woods can be indicated by ferns and mosses, deciduous trees more with grasses.
- Containers should be unobtrusive, dull in color and as flat as possible, to the extent the plant material will allow. The plants can also be taken out of the container and be displayed on a flat tray. The club is encouraging everyone to bring a companion plant appropriate for the tree they will display.



## January Bonsai Basics—Mike Saul

The presentation started by observing that many new bonsai hobbyists apply wire to their newly purchased “pre-bonsai” without any instruction. While I still believe that wiring is an “intermediate” skill for bonsai, the number of poor wiring jobs I see on FaceBook has led me to try to help our new members.

The first point that I made was that wiring stresses the involved branches and should not be applied to weak or newly transplanted trees.

The second major point was that novice hobbyists should stick to aluminum wire, at least until they have mastered it, before attempting to use copper wire.

What followed was a discussion of the fundamentals of wire sizing, length, and application method. That discussion was far too detailed for this report. I will produce a handout for the bonsai basics students from the cryptic discussion notes that I sent them.

Following my discussion, each student was handed about thirty inches of size 2.5 aluminum wire. A branch from a sequoia in my back yard was clamped to their tabletop. An experienced member then supervised the students while they learned to apply the wire correctly.

We repeated the Ryan Neal mantra: “same angle, same distance, no gaps” all morning.

I acknowledge that wiring cannot be learned with a handout (or a video.) It is best taught by direct application of wire with a knowledgeable person standing by the student, shoulder to shoulder. Some believe that unwrapping wire from a master is also an effective teaching method. I pointed out that volunteering on the Curatorial Staff at the Clark Collect is an excellent way to acquire the many hours of practice need.

My thanks to Bob Wright, Tyler Thomas, and Shawn Miller for helping the students.





## Up Coming FBS Meetings and Events

**March 12, 2022—No Meeting—**  
Replaced with Fresno Home & Garden Show  
**Home and Garden Show: Mar 4-6th**

This is a reminder for those of you who will help with setup and those who will display bonsai.

- Our exhibit area will be the Garden Pavilion (Building #9) again this year, as previously. That building is next to Gate #7 on Butler Street. Enter Gate #7 to unload on Thursday.
- We will set up at 3 PM in Building #9. Tables and chairs will have to be set up.
- We will have black tablecloths to place on the display tables and signs to hang.
- You may bring your trees to display until 7:00 PM Thursday evening.
- If you can't bring you tree Thursday evening, please inform Genaro so that he may reserve a table for it. If necessary, those trees may be delivered between 8 AM and 10 AM Friday morning.
- Contact Genaro if you have any questions:  
[genaro.cuan@gmail.com](mailto:genaro.cuan@gmail.com).

### March 19th Volunteer Day

FBS members have a chance to support the GSBF bonsai collection at the Clark Garden on the third Saturday of the month. If you are interested in joining, come to the garden at 9 AM to noon.

### April 9, 2022 Julian Tsai Demo

### May 14, 2022 JT Thompson Demo

### June 11, 2022 Bonsai work meeting

**AMERICAN BONSAI ASSOCIATION, SACRAMENTO**  
**62nd Annual Bonsai Show and Sale**  
April 9 and 10, 2022, 10am to 4pm

Beautiful Bonsai & Bonsai Related Items for Sale! Free admission & parking

Vendors Include  
Janette Bautista, Jerry Braswell,  
Geoff Campbell, Scott Chaid,  
David Chimpfy, Jonas Dupuich,  
Peter Tea and more



Shepard Garden & Arts Center,  
3330 McKinley Blvd.,  
Sacramento, CA

Featuring Demonstrations each day at 1:30 PM by  
**ANDREW ROBSON**  
Professional Bonsai Artist and Teacher specializing in deciduous trees

DAILY BENEFIT RAFFLE      BEGINNER WORKSHOP, SUNDAY 10AM-12PM

FOR INFORMATION, visit our website at <http://ababonsai.org> or contact Renee Seely at [brsacrust@comcast.net](mailto:brsacrust@comcast.net)  
Sacramento, CA 95825 • All Public Health Regulations will be followed.

**Pacific Bonsai Expo**  
**The Bridge Yard, Oakland**  
**November 12-13 2022**  
A juried exhibition featuring  
70 outstanding bonsai displays  
and a selection of the community's  
top vendors.  
For more information go to:  
[www.pacificbonsaiexpo.com](http://www.pacificbonsaiexpo.com)



February Bonsai Basics at Tice Park.  
Thanks to Chris Saldana, Shawn Miller and  
Bob Wright for helping.

### Membership Dues

Membership dues for the Fresno Bonsai Society 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). Thank you