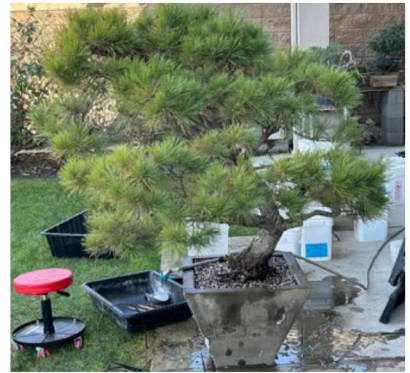




Fresno Bonsai Society

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
WHAT'S INSIDE...



WORKSHOP, KUSAMONO, EXHIBITION, HARU MATSURI, MORE WORKSHOPS

The **Fresno Bonsai Society (FBS)** is a 501c3 nonprofit organization formed with the mission to expand the knowledge and skills of bonsai while offering opportunities for appreciation of this art form to the broader community. We do this through the inspiration of the natural world and the rich cultural heritage of bonsai.

BY GREGORIO MATIAZ



A word from the FBS President:

With great pleasure, I present to you the official January-March Newsletter of the FBS. I hope that these past months you have learned from the different presenters we have had; and that you enjoyed the yearly exhibition at the 2024 Fresno Home & Garden Show. My wishes are that your knowledge and skills improved with the classes and presentations.
-Genaro Cuan

WORKSHOP WITH JULIAN TSAI

BRANCH PRUNING & SELECTION
JANUARY 13, 2024

Julian Tsai, who calls Southern California home, is a master in the world of bonsai. After finding his passion into the world of bonsai, he traveled to Japan in 2018 to study under the esteemed mentorship of Keiichi Fujikawa at Fujikawa Kouka-en in Osaka. Julian delved deep into the ancient art of bonsai, honing his skills and embracing the essence of bonsai craftsmanship.

FBS Workshop: Julian recently visited the Fresno Bonsai Society where he conducted a workshop that focused on the transformation of a California Juniper bonsai. Attendees witnessed his mastery during the presentation. Moreover, Julian gave members invaluable feedback on their own bonsai trees, fostering a community of growth and learning.

Julian states that bonsai is a multi-generational practice which transcends the limitations of the human lifespan. In the ever-changing journey of life, trees, like us, evolve and grow. Julian believes in embracing this essence, continuously learning and striving for improvement, both in bonsai and in life itself.



OPEN WORKSHOP AT JAY'S

BLACK PINE REPOTTING | FEBRUARY 24, 2024



The open bonsai workshop at Jay's place was a successful and enriching experience for "new" and "old" participants alike.

The highlight of the open workshop was the repotting of a majestic large Japanese black pine bonsai tree.

The photo on the left shows Seng posing next to the black pine before it was root pruned and repotted with new soil. Seng's innovative idea of using a hydraulic floor crane to lift the substantial tree added an element of excitement and efficiency to the process.

In addition to the main event, members had the opportunity to work on their own bonsai trees under the guidance of experienced members. This hands-on aspect allowed participants to learn and refine their bonsai techniques while fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among members.

Overall, the workshop was a resounding success, combining practical skill-building with teamwork and creativity in the art of bonsai cultivation.



KUSAMONO BY LUCY JUDD

FEBRUARY 10TH, 2024

Kusamono, also widely known as companion plants, are elements of bonsai displays that enhance visual presentation and storytelling aspect of the overall composition. Kusamono originated from Japan; its literal meaning is small- potted plants. They are often placed next to bonsai trees to complement and accentuate the beauty of the primary subject: the bonsai tree.

Some of the companion plants can be made out of various materials such as: grasses, ferns, mosses, flowers, and herbs. They are carefully selected and planted to achieve a harmonious presentation with the bonsai tree's color, texture, and seasonal interest. Kusamono plants add depth and contrast to the principal subject, thus creating a sense of balance and natural harmony.

Kusamono are typically displayed in shallow containers called "suiban" or "yakimono," which are chosen to match the style and aesthetic of the bonsai pot. They are meticulously groomed and arranged to create visually appealing compositions that evoke scenes from nature, such as woodland floors or meadows.



Presenter Lucy Judd was a teacher in her former profession. She used to teach high school students and was also a track & field coach. Today, she continues to have students; however, Lucy shares her knowledge of bonsai and kusamono with pupils of all ages. She is often demonstrating and teaching during conventions and workshops alike. Most notably, Lucy provided kusamono workshops at the 2023 Shohin Seminar. She has guided countless bonsai and plant enthusiasts in creating their first kusamono plants.



KUSAMONO WORKSHOP

BY LUCY JUDD



In the above photo, after a power point presentation of the history of Kusamono, instructor Lucy demonstrated the careful removal and transfer of a nursery plant into a new pot.

First, she carefully selects a pot for the plant, followed by placing a screen mesh in the pot to keep soil from draining out.

Second, she places a layer of soil in the pot. Next, she carefully arranges the plant with trimmed roots into the pot. The roots are arranged in a radial order. Any long roots are pruned in the beginning. Additional soil is added until the pot is filled.

For all her companion plants, Lucy recommends adding a pinch of "fish meal" to the soil surface to provide nutrients for the tiny plant. Finally, moss is added to the base of the plant to help with water retention.



The pictures above show members of the FBS working on their kusamono during the workshop. Each member had the opportunity to create two small plants that were provided by instructor Lucy from her own garden. Moreover, Lucy makes her own kusamono pots which were available for sale during that day.

Dave, in the blue shirt above, double checks his design on paper before potting his companion plant into a masterpiece.

EXHIBITION

AT THE FRESNO HOME & GARDEN SHOW
MARCH 1ST, 2ND & 3RD, 2024

The yearly Fresno Bonsai Society's exhibition at the Fresno Home & Garden Show showcased an array of meticulously cultivated bonsai trees, delighting visitors with their artistry and craftsmanship.

Attendees had the opportunity to admire a diverse selection of miniature trees, each carefully styled, pruned, and shaped to embody the beauty and tranquility of nature.

The exhibition offered insights into the techniques and cultural significance of bonsai cultivation and care, providing educational opportunities and hopefully interest for enthusiasts of all levels and ages.

Also, visitors had the chance to engage with members and bonsai docents of the Fresno Bonsai Society; they posed questions and learned more about the society's activities, workshops, and resources for bonsai enthusiasts. Overall, the exhibition this year celebrated the timeless appeal of bonsai art and its enduring place in the world of gardening and horticulture.

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Spring Haiku 2024

Bonsai Buds Growing

Green color on branches sprout

Spring has returned

- Homer Gee Greene Jr. -

The photo below shows one of the maple bonsai trees exhibited during the 2024 show. It was one of the centers of attention; the tree received visitors' admiration and praise for its thick trunk, branches, and most importantly the colored leaves.

The maple tree below is a miniature version of an adult tree (genus *Acer*). This tree has been carefully cultivated using bonsai techniques. It has been styled into bonsai due to its graceful foliage, vibrant colors, and distinctive branching patterns. The maple came from the Clark Bonsai Collection.



When a maple is cared for properly, it can display stunning autumn colors. During fall and winter, its intricate silhouette branch structures can be appreciated. Overall maples portray natural beauty in any style and form, making them prized additions to any bonsai collection or garden display.

EXHIBIT AT A GLANCE

AT THE FRESNO HOME & GARDEN SHOW
MARCH 1ST, 2ND & 3RD, 2024



In the first top picture above, the display shows a majestic boxwood bonsai, its intricate branches carefully pruned and selected to show the canopy, exuding an aura of timeless elegance. The pictures above also show the coming of Spring evident in the flowering trees bursting into beautiful white petals. They are vibrantly blooming in their bonsai composition and style; this shows a testament to the harmony between nature and human intervention.

As visitors walk through the exhibit, they are enthralled by the beauty of the various bonsai pieces on display such as the boxwood, crabapple, California juniper, and other trees.

In the bottom middle picture, two Fresno Bonsai members (Seng & Jack) engage in conversation about the health, style, and composition of the California juniper. Their passion for the art form is evident as they dissect the intricacies of the display in front of them.

With every twist of a branch, every delicate leaf and style of tree, our bonsai exhibit was a success. Visitors and members alike marveled at the timeless beauty of these masterpieces.

DEMONSTRATIONS BY FBS MEMBERS

AT THE FRESNO HOME & GARDEN SHOW



FBS members delighted visitors with different bonsai demonstrations.

Members showcased the art of styling a tree by shaping branches to evoke the essence of trees in nature. Other members showcased the importance of pruning by carefully removing away excess growth to reveal the tree's trunk and shape.

Meanwhile Peter, another member, root pruned and styled a group of boxwoods to create a mesmerizing forest bonsai. He skillfully arranged multiple trees into a miniature grove.



Throughout the exhibit, the passion and expertise of Fresno Bonsai Society members shined through; it inspired visitors to ask questions and appreciate the artistry and dedication necessary to cultivate these living works of art. Whether styling, pruning, creating forest bonsai, or tending to the roots, the demonstrations at the Fresno Home & Garden Show offered a glimpse into the world of bonsai.

HARU MATSURI

AT YOKOMI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASIAN FESTIVAL
MARCH 14, 2024



"Haru Matsuri" is a Japanese word which translates to "spring waiting" or "awaiting spring." It is in reference to the anticipation and excitement around the arrival of springtime, with its promise of new life, bright colored flowers, and warm weather after the snowy season. In Japanese culture, the arrival of spring is honored with different rituals, festivals, and other traditional customs which show the appreciation for nature's awakening and the beginning of a new cycle of life. FBS members exhibited trees for students to appreciate during Haru Matsuri at Yokomi Elementary School in Fresno. Nature came into their halls to brighten their smiles.

DAVID NGUY STYLING

MARCH 23, 2024



The Fresno Bonsai Society sponsored David Nguy for a special master demonstration for the club members. Master David is well known in the bonsai world as an expert when it comes to working on California Junipers and black pines.

David and his apprentice Ryan worked on a California Juniper provided by the FBS club which was later raffled away when the styling was completed. The first photo on the top left shows David and Ryan posing behind the final styling of the California juniper. In the left photo, you can see the modification of a branch into what's referred to as Jin, deadwood technique. Master David states that a bonsai artist must keep in mind that the jin is not the center of attention. This can be achieved by making it smaller and less visible compared to the main trunkline. Initially, the tree started with long branches that had no direction or design. Additionally, the trunk could not be appreciated.

The FBS thanks David's frequent presence as an instructor for new and experienced bonsai artists in the Central Valley.

DAVID NGUY

RAFFLE WINNER & GIVING MEMBERS FEEDBACK
MARCH 23, 2024



The lucky winners of the California Juniper were announced when master David finished working on the tree. Excitement filled the air as members gathered to see who would take the prize home. Among the attendees were William, Sandra, and their daughter Geraldine, who were attending their first bonsai club meet. Master David Nguy worked meticulously on the juniper, imbuing it with his expertise. As anticipation grew among participants, the raffle began, and to the delight of everyone, William, Sandra, and Geraldine were announced as the lucky winners. This sparked hopes that the newfound treasure would inspire the family to embark on their own bonsai journey; perhaps one day they will become esteemed bonsai artists themselves. The photo above shows the winners with Master David and Ryan with the masterpiece displayed in front.

Also, during the March meeting, FSB members eagerly received invaluable feedback and critique on the trees they brought from no other than master David. As master David shared his in-depth expertise and insights, members listened intently. Everyone absorbed the information and guidance he provided. Each member left the meeting with a renewed sense of purpose and inspiration, eager to apply master David's wisdom to their own bonsai practices.

The third photo on the left shows David giving feedback on a donated juniper to the club in memory of Gene Nelson, a beloved bonsai enthusiast. David concluded that the tree was not doing well due to its brittle and weak leaves, most likely by spider mites.



Far right bottom photo: members of the club picked up the donated California juniper which you can see being looked at by master David above.

UPCOMING EVENTS & CLUB LEADERSHIP

UPCOMING EVENTS

OPEN WORKSHOP | AT MIKE'S PLACE | 10AM-1PM:

4/6/2024: This is hands-on workshop. Participants should bring a tree to work on if they have one. Experienced members will provide feedback during the workshop. Please RSVP Mike at: tinytreeme@sbcglobal.net to confirm your attendance.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING | AT THE CLOVIS SENIOR ACTIVITIES CENTER | 9AM-1PM:

4/13/2024: The president of the **Sei Boku Bonsai Kai** based in San Mateo, California, **Steve Iwaki** will make his appearance at our club. This meeting is open to all Club Members and visitors. Bring a tree to work on and be prepared to be inspired. This class is intended for all experience and skill levels and it is 100% free.

5/18/2024: This month, we are pleased to present **Adam Toth**. This meeting is open to all Club Members and visitors. Bring a tree to work on and be prepared to be inspired. This class is intended for all experience and skill levels and it is 100% free.

6/15/2024: This month, we are pleased to present **Julian Tsai**, one of the youngest and most energetic bonsai masters operating in the U.S. This meeting is open to all Club Members and visitors. Bring a tree to work on and be prepared to be inspired. This class is intended for all experience and skill levels and 100% free.

11/2/2024: This month, we are pleased to present **Sam Adina**, sensei (teacher) of the Modesto Bonsai Club. This meeting is open to all Club Members and visitors. Bring a tree to work on and be prepared to be inspired. This class is intended for all experience and skill levels and it is 100% free.

[VISIT US AT: WWW.FRESNOBONSAI.COM](http://WWW.FRESNOBONSAI.COM)

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