



Fujii Notes

Newsletter of the Phoenix Bonsai Society Vol. 9, No. 3 – January 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR and welcome to Winter in Arizona. What a wonderful time to watch the bonsai trees (and ourselves) not feel the peril of the high heat and summer winds. We finished with the display at the State Fair and completed another successful display and Ben Oki Workshop at Baker's Nursery. Most bonsai enjoy the sunshine and short days; some need cold weather protection – but not near as severe as our neighbors in the far north. The elms, maples, liquidamber, crabapples and vitex are all turning fall colors and defoliating. 'Tis the season the pines keep growing – the time when we check the wire and pinch the growth often to keep up with their shape and style. With the holiday season upon us, February will soon be approaching and it will be time for our "busy season". The major displays at which the Phoenix Bonsai Society participates: the display and show at Chinese Week - the first weekend in February and the display and show at Matsuri - at the end of February. We will prepare for the California Trip in March and then "Art In The Garden" at Berridge Nursery and shortly thereafter, we will ready our collections for Spring pruning and re-potting. Then we will brace ourselves and our collections for the "But It's a Dry Heat" time of year. Then the cycle resumes. It is a cycle that repeats itself – yet never gets mundane because the Art of Bonsai, which we practice, is an ever transforming process that is a living art – there is always work on a bonsai to be done. There is always much to learn about a particular bonsai and when that one is "mastered" – there are other species, types and styles to learn. We, as the artist, can alter our work from one type/style to another. And if we think we have "mastered" all we can with our bonsai trees – there is always that which we can

teach to others and pass along the wisdom and knowledge we have gained. Our club, the Phoenix Bonsai Society, is all about that – we are a teaching club; we are an educational club; we are an "Art of Bonsai" club. We need to continue to reach out and share our experiences and knowledge at the shows and displays. We need to keep the new members interested and continue that spark of interest that got them started. We need to continue and expand our teaching, both among ourselves and to others. We can accomplish this by staying involved and active. Share your knowledge at the meetings. Share your knowledge at the shows and displays by bringing a tree and volunteering some time working the display; if you are new – volunteer your time to work the display. It is incredible how much knowledge of Bonsai can be obtained from working at a display and listening to those present talk about the Art they love with a passion; their many experiences – both successful and unsuccessful; the different types of bonsai styles and types. There is as much knowledge around a day or two at these displays/shows as can be gained by reading some books. This Art of Bonsai we share is an ever evolving process – for we always continue to learn from and about our bonsai and we always continue to learn about Bonsai, about the Art of Bonsai, about others, and about ourselves. We learn as we teach others and that sharing of knowledge is part of the cycle which we all need to be aware of and absorb. As we embrace 2004 – enjoy life and enjoy your Bonsai – Happy New Year.

-- Mike Apostolos

CURRENT CALENDAR - 2004

JAN 06	SHOW OF TREES; Club Business / Upcoming Events
JAN 13	Demonstration – Bonsai Styling learned from GSBF Convention – Elsie Andrade
JAN 20	Demonstration – Preparing Trees/Pots/Stands for Shows & Displays – Max Miller General Workshop After Demo (as time allows)
FEB 03	SHOW OF TREES; Club Business; Prepare for Chinese Week Show/Display
FEB 07-08-09	CHINESE WEEK SHOW & DISPLAY – Chinese Cultural Center – 44 th St/South of 202
FEB 10	Demonstration – Multi-Panel: Soil Mixtures/Fertilizing & Timing/Watering Guides
FEB 17	Demonstration – Air Layering / Grafting; Prepare for Matsuri Show/Display; General Workshop After Demo (as time allows)
FEB 28-29	MATSURI SHOW & DISPLAY – Heritage Park – 7 th St/South of Van Buren
MAR 02	SHOW OF TREES; Club Business / Show & Display Wrap-Ups
MAR 09	Demonstration – “BONSAI 101” – Bonsai Basics for Beginners Demonstration – Jin & Shari Techniques – The Why-Where-How
MAR 16	Demonstration – Bonsai: Artistic Values with Basic Principles; General Workshop After Demo (as time allows)
MAR 25-28	Phoenix Bonsai Society California Trip (Note New Date!!)
APR 06	SHOW OF TREES; Club Business
APR 13	Demonstration – Mame and Shohin Bonsai – Fred Carpenter Demonstration – Wiring Techniques (bring your wire to follow along with)
APR 20	Annual “Junk Sale”; General Workshop After Sale (as time allows)
APR 24	Berridge Nursery’s ART IN THE GARDEN SHOW & DISPLAY
MAY 04	SHOW OF TREES; Club Business
MAY 11	Demonstration – To Be Announced
MAY 18	Details for End of Year Party; Year End Discussion; What To Do This Summer; General Workshop After (as time allows)
JUN ??	End Of Year Party

ARTICLES

The Phoenix Bonsai Society and all of its Members would like to send a THANK YOU to **Bud Jacobson** for his very thoughtful donation of Bonsai Pots to the Club. Bud has and continues to be an avid supporter of the Phoenix Bonsai Society. Thank you again, Bud, for your generosity.

The Club has a sub-committee comprised of Doug Acker, Bill Mooney, Elsie Andrade, Marcia Colliat and Teri Moodie to come up with ideas for the use of the funds from the **Mark Sharples Memorial**. They will be meeting and reporting later to the Club on what they came up with.

At the Club meeting on 11-04-03, the voting membership unanimously voted (24 – 0) to adopt the presented **By-Laws and Articles of Organization**. Robert Jones is diligently at work filing these documents and working on getting the Club the needed information and required numbers, etc. We would like to thank all those involved in this effort and especially to Robert Jones for his many hours of donated time and

effort. We look forward to seeing if we are approved for Non-Profit Status and to obtaining our Tax ID Number, etc.

The Ben Oki Workshop and Baker Nursery Bonsai Show/Display was another success. The workshop classes were well attended and all enjoyed the experience. Ben styled a couple of trees, which the Club will raffle or sell at the upcoming Chinese Week and Matsuri Events. With these trees will also be included the sketch done by Ben Oki of the bonsai, along with a color photo of Ben and the tree. The Show & Display were very nice – although the weather was a challenge on Saturday and the Large Sumac provided several headaches (literally) for members. The event Saturday ended with an open dinner for those interested with Ben Oki at Shogun restaurant. Well, at least the company was good and the fire provided warmth to all. Next year we’ll know better.

The Tamale Making Class in December, hosted by Teri and Don Moodie and instructed by Teri Moodie, was a big hit, not to mention a delicious time. About a dozen Club members were in attendance to learn the time-honored tradition of tamales at Christmas. Making tamales is much like doing bonsai – it is time consuming and meticulous – but well worth the effort in the results. Teri went through a huge effort to prepare the class and everyone had a great time. I think I can speak for all present when I say the best part of the class was when we got sample the fruits of our labor. Thanks again to Teri for her hard work and to Teri, Don and Teri's Dad, for their warm hospitality. Look for future events of "Learnin' to Cook with Bonsai Buddies".

If you have a bonsai that is no longer wanted or have one that is worthy of **donating for a raffle** at the Chinese Week and Matsuri Events coming up – please contact Teri Moodie or bring it to one of the meetings in January, so it can be prepared. We have had some excellent results from these raffles and would like to continue them. We want to earmark a couple of these for fundraising to help defray some of the costs for the bus for the upcoming California Trip in March. Anything you have would be greatly appreciated.

We will be ordering **shirts and aprons**, etc. soon. Please see the order form on the web site and contact Penny Schneck or Mike Apostolos for information. We are also able to have the Club Logo put onto clothing items of our own – as long as you can thread a needle in it. Please let us know if you are interested in this, as well.

We also have **Phoenix Bonsai Society Pins** for sale - \$4 for paid members and \$6 for non-paid members. Please see Joan McCarter for the purchase of these. The pins will also be for sale at the Chinese Week and Matsuri Events.

The two largest shows and displays for the Phoenix Bonsai Society are fast approaching. They are **Chinese Week** on February 7, 8 and 9 and **Matsuri** on February 28 and 29. We have an extremely large inquiry on Bonsai and the Phoenix Bonsai Society at these events. As previously noted, these two events are also a good avenue of fund raising for the Club. We need to have everyone's participation in these events to continue to make them successful. Not only is help needed at set-up and take-down, but also throughout the course of the day. We need help at the shows/displays with the following: talking to people about Bonsai - what we do and how; providing bonsai demonstrations – on material for the Club to raffle – or your own material you want to work on and to demonstrate different styles, techniques, etc. for the public to see; assist with selling raffle tickets; and "hanging around" to learn more about bonsai from our seasoned members. It is with their vast years of experience and knowledge that much is learned about bonsai – especially what works here in Arizona. We could channel this knowledge and information into a book and then print it and read it; but why not just show up at these events and absorb it directly. It is much more fun to gain this knowledge in the atmosphere and camaraderie of the events and it won't take as long (there we go again with the "instant gratification" thing – but in this instance it is a good thing. And don't be afraid to display your bonsai – it is through this experience that we learn and grow – just as we wish our Bonsai to do. Don't stay in the house and not come out to the events – this is not how we treat our trees – and we should not treat ourselves any differently. When the Sign-Up Sheet comes around, be sure and put your name down to work and/or display. You'll be rewarded many times over and -- if for nothing else – do it for the friendship of your fellow Bonsai enthusiasts.

BONSAI TIPS AND INFORMATION

- During the winter months, be sure to keep the bonsai areas and surfaces of pots and trees clear of debris from the following trees: All colorful, deciduous trees; Maples (Trident and Japanese); Hornbeams; Ginkos; and Liquidambar.
- Check any wire you have on your bonsai. Even though this is a slow growing/dormant time, some warm weather can cause some growth on delicate bark trees. The junipers and conifers are still growing this time of year and they in particular need to be watched to prevent wire scarring.
- If you must do re-potting this time of year, wait until at least February. A good reference is the chart established by Leroy Fujii for our conditions in the desert southwest. There is also a very thorough section on "Bonsai Care In Phoenix," Leroy's Care Schedule and other very useful information can be found in the Phoenix Bonsai Society Membership Book and on our web site, www.phoenixbonsai.com.

♻️ **Bonsai of Scottsdale** (2000) activities are held primarily at the Via Linda Senior Center, Rm. 2, 10440 East Via Linda in Scottsdale, half a mile south of Shea Blvd. Unless otherwise stated, all events will be at 1:30 p.m. on the First and Third Saturdays of the Month. Contact Scottsdale President Tom Ballen, TBallen@aol.com / (480) 502-8639 , or Lyn Searfoss, lynsearfoss@cox.net / (480) 905-9238 , for details.

♻️ **Tucson Bonsai Society** (1972) meets at 1 p.m. on the Third Sunday of every month at the Tucson Botanical Gardens' Porter Gardens facility, 2150 North Alvernon Way. Contact David Meyer @ (520) 749-4155 or (520) 722-2000.

♻️ **Southern Arizona Bonsai Enthusiasts** (2001) meet the FIRST SUNDAY of each month, 12:30-4:00 p.m. at The Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 North Alvernon Way. For information contact: Doris Cavanaugh, doris.c@worldnet.alt.net / (520) 290-0522 , Pat & Thelma Patterson, dezertrats@aol.com / (520) 825-9685 , or Kurt and Chris, simonsk@pop.mindspring.com / (520) 321-4173.

This newsletter is named in recognition of Hideo "Leroy" Fujii (1925-1998), student of bonsai for nearly fifty years, a founding member of our club, and our *sensei* / teacher for more than twenty-five years. Our club logo, courtesy of grandmaster John Y. Naka, is based on one of Leroy's trees. Two pages of some of Leroy's other fine creations can be found on our web site.

"Learn from your trees: they are a reflection of you."

-- Leroy Fujii

PHOENIX BONSAI SOCIETY

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION AND
FORWARDING REQUESTED**

