



Fujii Notes

Newsletter of the Phoenix Bonsai Society

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WINTER CARE

Now that the Valley has had its first winter freeze, it is time to think of winter care for our bonsai trees. We are fortunate that we live in a mild winter zone with lots of sunshine, but some of the trees will need protection from the occasional frosts. This could simply be a shelter overhead, such as foliage from trees or a sheet – but NOT plastic -- which shelters them from the frost but which doesn't rest on the trees themselves. Do not, however, put the trees in a greenhouse as this may force growth during a period when they need dormancy. Good air circulation is more important than warmth.

Naturally the trees need less water now. Every other day is about right, but you should check the soil before watering. This is not a good time for most trees to be repotted or pruned unless they are a truly hardy, deciduous variety. Cut back on the fertilizing during December and January unless it is something mild such as Fish Emulsion. Inspect the trees often for pests such as aphids or spider mites.

CLUB NEWS

The first meeting in December, on the 5th, will have a show of trees. Max Miller will speak to this. Please bring in your trees, no matter how developed or not you may think they are. We enjoy seeing them and learning from and about them. You can also get great tips at this time from the mentors.

On December 12th there will be a talk on growing material from seeds, cuttings and fair layerings. This should be of interest to many of the members – another great learning opportunity for all of us.

December 19th will be the annual Holiday Party with an optional gift exchange. We will meet at a restaurant for this occasion. Put this date on your calendar and plan to attend for socialization and fun! Location to be decided upon.

The Ben Oki weekend at Baker's Nursery on November 18-19 was again a big success. Thanks to all the club members who participated in helping and in attending the

workshop. We look forward to, perhaps, having another *sensei* visit and teach us in the spring. This depends on the interest of the membership, of course.

The year 2007 will bring us the two big festivals in February, the Chinese and the Japanese, and the trip to California for the Golden Anniversary show for the California Bonsai Society at the end of May. There will also be the Bonsai in the Garden program locally, our opportunity to see one another's collections. And maybe a dig and a nursery crawl. This all depends on you. Come to the meetings and share and learn and participate. Keep the art of bonsai alive and growing!

-- Marcia Colliat, club president

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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, www.phoenixbonsai.com.

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

-- Leroy Fujii

PHOENIX BONSAI SOCIETY

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