



# Fujii Notes

Newsletter of the Phoenix Bonsai Society

Vol. 21, No. 1 – April 2016

## Letter from the President

Welcome new members of the Phoenix Bonsai Society! We look forward to working side by side with you on this amazing journey into the art of Bonsai. The Phoenix Bonsai Society was one of the first twenty-five such clubs formed outside of Asia.

Our objectives have always been:

- \* to study, foster and encourage the enjoyment of the art of Bonsai
- \* to assemble and make available information on the culture of Bonsai
- \* to promote the collection and exhibition of Bonsai
- \* to acquaint Bonsai fanciers with each other

A big thank you goes out to the Phoenix Bonsai Society Board and Members for all your support throughout the last year. In the previous edition of the Fujii Notes, I mentioned that the last part of the year was going to be a nonstop train ride of activities and new experiences. I think it's safe to say we hit the mark and raised the bar with all the new ideas and activities implemented, including professional signage for display when out in the community. Currently the board is working hard on putting together a calendar of events for the next year which will be published upon completion to the website and membership book. Have a good summer and don't forget to keep an eye on your trees.

And lastly, don't forget that starting in September our meeting day will change to Wednesday's. We will be meeting the first three Wednesday's of the month starting at 7:30 PM. We meet from September through May at the Valley Garden Center, 1809 North 15th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Eric Zimmet  
President

"Bonsai, There is Much to Learn"

## Letter from the Vice-President – A Group's Effort

This is hard to write! I don't want to be sitting in front of a computer; I want to be outside taking every opportunity to work on my trees in this gorgeous weather!

As the PBS bonsai calendar winds down for the year, I would like to take time as Vice President to thank everyone for all the hard work it takes to make this club function smoothly and successfully. I would like to thank the members for allowing a "mostly" new Board to come in and shake things up a bit. Although it was not always easy, I can say for myself, I have learned a lot about all the time and effort involved in running this club. Without the help of everyone working together, I can't imagine that we would have such a fantastic club, with so much to offer.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know all the new members that have decided to "take the plunge" into the wonderful world of bonsai. As I have stated before, many of us can say we "do" bonsai, but it isn't until after you associate yourself with a club, you will find that somehow the access to the knowledge, equipment, trees, and productive opinions, somehow takes the bonsai experience to the next level. What was once a frustrating question or technique becomes an easy fix when solved with a group's effort.

I hope next year brings as much satisfaction in striving for even better quality trees, reasons to be proud of the trees each one of us has put time and effort into, and the humbleness and guts it takes to bring that tree into the meeting for a "harsh" critique! Along with everyone working as a team, it is these qualities that will take our club into another fantastic year!

Forever in Bonsai,  
Jenna Williams  
V.P.

## Report on the Los Angeles Trip

I was chosen to attend this year's California trip through a scholarship offered by the Phoenix Bonsai Society. The scholarship was offered to a new member that had not attended the trip in the past. I thought it would be a long shot but I figured if I was able to obtain the scholarship that I would go. I have heard fellow members talk about it and how valuable the experience was to them in the practice of bonsai. I had in mind what I thought to be a valuable experience. However actually being there, experiencing people's private collections, hearing them talk about their practices and how they maintain their gardens surpassed anything I had in mind.

One collection that blew my mind was Peter Macasieb's. If you have not seen it, imagine a back yard filled with bonsai, all organized with the utmost attention. Now times that by 5.... No, 10! His backyard collection is more astounding than a lot of the nursery collections we visited. Right down to his watering system. You can tell he really dedicates his life to bonsai and he gave me a new appreciation for keeping trees. It is also inspiring to see his work as well as his students. He has immaculate trees in all sizes and species. Also displayed were some of his student's trees. From those you can see some of the practices he teaches from wiring and twisting to grafting. I even tried a graft after seeing that. Not that I will be successful because I probably did everything wrong but inspiring none the less. From that I have done research and looked up new techniques that I was unaware of before.



A few of the shohin trees in Peter Macasieb's collection

Another nursery/collection we visited was that of David Nguy's. When the bus pulled up it looked like a quaint house with plants in the yard... Then they opened the gates. Remember when I said to times a back yard full of bonsai by 10? Now times that by 20! I think if I tried to see every tree he had in his yard and give it the attention it deserved, I would be there for a few days. His whole collection is amazing, from newly collected trees to trees in training, so many pristine trees. And I don't think the word small would be associated with his collection. David works on a very large scale. Most of his trees are probably bigger than me... I'm 5'2" so that may not be saying much but they are large indeed... as well as his pot collection. I was enamored with David and June's (his wife) hospitality. They were willing to talk to anyone one on one and answer any questions or to just catch up. You can tell they are really loved throughout the club and I can see why. They help anyone at the drop of a dime and were so selfless throughout our visit. I am definitely looking forward to seeing them again.



My fellow riders in front of our bus along with Peter Macasieb



Here I am at San Gabriel Nursery

The Swap Meet was a treat as well. It provided the club an opportunity to obtain trees and other materials at unbeatable prices. One thing I learned is not to hesitate to buy something. I missed out on a good opportunity because I decided to “come back” for it. I thought I’d find another deal but ended up regretting my decision. I did pick up some other good finds though. The people selling were very friendly and open to talking to everyone. I learned so much information from just listening to conversations on this trip and will definitely go again. I would also urge others to go that haven’t been. Of course this was only part of the experience that I am writing about. I only mentioned a few places that really stood out to me. There is so much more that we experienced that I did not mention. If I had it would be page after page of information. I am looking forward to next year and to pick up some more good items.

Matt Aragon



Another photo of Peter Macasieb’s back yard

## Reviewing the Past Year, Setting Sights to Next Year

This marks the halfway point in my term as Event Chairman for the Phoenix Bonsai Society. Upon being made a part of the board I wanted to give every member a club they could be proud of, energized and moving into the future, offering tried and true programs as well as introducing new concepts and ideas, brushing up and polishing the club so we could be seen as an innovative and viable organization in Phoenix and in the bonsai world.

One of the new projects that was implemented was the first in what will hopefully be an Annual PBS Club Bonsai Pot. We sold 26 pots to club members as well as used them as gifts for visiting sensei, as gifts on our California Trip, and as an auction item for the Golden State Bonsai Federation convention. By reaching out to the Arizona Clay Club, we have opened doors to this organization and helped them participate in club events like our Annual Tree Show and Swap Meet.

Speaking of swap meet, this new idea seems to be a hit as well, helping our club fundraising abilities and making over \$1200 at the fall and spring swap meets.

Library Day, where we opened up our vast research and lending library was a first this year, showcasing the club's awesome cache of books, magazines, and documents. I was very pleased to work with Barb Miller, the club Librarian, in implementing this concept.

Bonsai Olympics, making five teams of a Novice, Intermediate and Expert Bonsai hobbyist to have a friendly design competition twice this year was definitely a rounding success.

One of my happiest moments was making sure we captivated and captured the hearts of new bonsai enthusiasts at the Bonsai Boot Camp and Swap Meet led by Jenna Williams and Gary Davis that occurred just after our Tree Show. By inviting new and interested people to our meetings, giving them a welcome and a chance to learn about PBS and see our club in action, we were able to sign up 15 new members for our club that night, making several historic firsts: the largest number of new members ever to join the club on the same day, and having a paid membership of over 100 people for the first time in PBS history, making a conscious effort to invite new people to our club and give them support before the summer break.

Other things we are very proud of is making sure our teaching events with Sam Adina, David Nguy, Ted Matson, and Cindy Read were helpful and well done for our members and the sensei. Next year there are plans to have Ted Matson for an entire weekend of classes, as well as bringing Peter Macasieb for a weekend of shohin classes. Also, a December Stone Gathering Weekend is in the works with Cindy Read being our guide.

We were able to work with the membership to have successes at events all year. Our Art Museum display last fall was elegant and artful, thanks in large part to Jim and Tina McEown. Ernie Hasan taught a well-attended demo that helped make PBS one of the stand-out organizations of this public event.

We were able to polish up our game at Matsuri this spring, adding new signage and great enthusiasm. The Matsuri board has stated we are a major draw for Matsuri and they truly appreciate our participation each year.

This brings us to our crowning jewel for the year, the PBS Tree Show. Sending out over 180 press

packets, reaching out to the local TV stations and getting on internet calendars for Arizona Highways, GSBF, and many more, brought us a wide array of visitors from clubs as far away as Albuquerque and Montreal. Over 450 visitors came this year and were dazzled by the 50 club trees on display. Some new offerings like the Kids' Kai with free mini bonsai give-away, coloring pages, a Café with a Japanese Noodle Truck, a Bonsai Pot Competition and sales area with the Arizona Clay Club, our new signage, lanterns, carp flags and overall upgrading of the show gave the club, what Ken Roberts said was, "The best looking, best organized, and successful show since I introduced them five years ago." By inviting a sensei from the Buddhist temple to bless our show and have Laura Pastor, our City Councilwoman, cut the ribbon to open our show, our club had a tree show to be very proud of. Many thanks to the team that did such a great job setting up the show.

Many other things we were able to implement, like last summer's dinner and movie nights, introducing the club to the Bonsai Swap Meet during the California Trip, and other nuances and upgrades that we believe have set the PBS on a new course of education, professionalism, and strong footing for the future.

Mike Fritz  
Event Chairman

## Letter from the Librarian

We have added 3 new books to the library:

Tropical Green Sheets 1 & 2. These books are helpful references on all different types of species that can be used as bonsai material. A few of the plants are special to Florida but most of the data can be used for Phoenix bonsai too.

The Artisan's Cup Retrospective Book. This is a comprehensive insider look at the premier American Bonsai event of 2015 that was held in Portland, OR and set up by Ryan Neil.

10 copies of the Basic Bonsai Design written by David De Groot have been purchased for the club. They will be available for \$20 each. This is an outstanding book for beginners.

*A question to our members, what book or website would you recommend for a new bonsai enthusiast?* One book recommendation I received is Bonsai Workshop by Herb Gustafson. A member told me this book is one of the best when learning the basics of bonsai design.

We are planning a year end silent and live auction. If you have items you would like to donate, please bring them to the club Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Reminder: as our bonsai year comes to a close please return the books you have checked out from the library. Let's all work together to protect our library.

Barbara Miller  
Librarian

## Time to Get Ready for Summer

Make sure that you have some soil ready so you can transplant your bougainvillea and any desert plants that need to be transplanted during the monsoon. Remember to turn your plants regularly. Have some shade over them. If you have a drip system now is a good time to check it and be sure it's working okay so it is ready in case you leave for a few days. Be sure you have someone come and check on it as many things can go wrong. Keep the grass and weeds pulled from your pots. Be sure to water before and after fertilizing your plants. If you need any help with something this summer, feel free to call any of the mentors. A couple of tips I read in the new book Tropical Green Sheets 2 from the library are: Put an Alka-Seltzer in enough water to cover the rust spots on your tool and let it sit for 24 hr, then it recommends oiling with Extreme X. Another tip is to put a dryer sheet in your pocket and it will repel mosquitoes.

Elsie Andrade  
Education Committee

## Valley Garden Center Notes April 2016

A new board was nominated and will start in June. The new board members are:

President: Helen Baird  
Vice President: Clyde Granderson  
Recording Secretary: Kate Schumacher  
Corresponding Secretary: John Burriss  
Treasurer: Nancy Medved  
Trustees: Sr. Trustee: Joanna Chamberlain  
Jr. Trustee: Wayne Wight  
2 year Trustee: Ann Stoetzer

The Valley Garden Center will be resurfacing the parking lot later in the Month of April, to improve the "Curb Appeal".

A discussion was held on the proposed new web site as the new web master was not available the issue was tabled till next month.

The VGC voted to move the meeting times to the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at the same time starting in September to allow for the day change of the Phoenix Bonsai Society.

The Koi pond bill arrived and given to the Phoenix Bonsai Society for payment, the pump was replaced yet the leak continued. The fish were removed the pond drained and a hole and root discovered. The root was removed the hole patched with koi pond safe patching material, water returned and fish returned.

Three Red Push Pastiche trees were purchased and planted out in the Arboretum. These trees were paid for with a grant obtained by the Valley Garden Center for garden improvement.

Kate Schumacher  
VGC Club Liaison

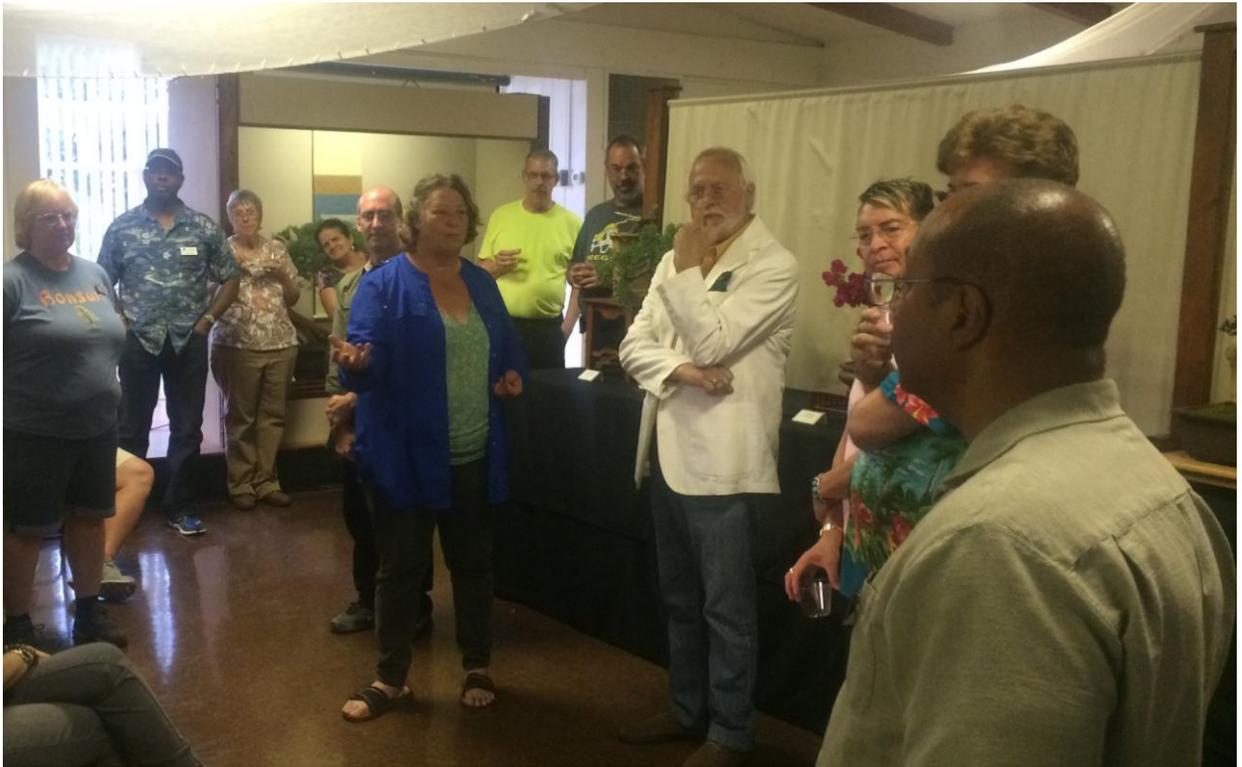
## PBS Tree Show, April 9-10, 2016



Ken Roberts speaking with show attendees after his TV interview



A few of the trees on display



Cindy Read gives club members a critique of the trees in the show

## Phoenix Bonsai Society Upcoming Calendar

May 3 Tuesday, Open workshop

May 10 Tuesday, our end of the year pot luck with a silent and live auction

May 17 Critique and Summer Care Tips by Ernie Hasan and Jim McEown

Our full and updated calendar is available at <http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/PCalendar.html>.

### Current Officers

President:	Eric Zimmet	Event Chair:	Mike Fritz
Vice-President:	Jenna Williams	Education Chair:	Elsie Andrade
Treasurer:	Liz Mantsch	Raffle Chair:	Barbara Gray
Librarian:	Barbara Miller	Webmasters:	Robert Baran, Eric Zimmet
Valley Garden Center Club Liaison:			Kate Schumacher

### Current Mentors

Elsie Andrade	Joan (Hozy) McCarter
Penny Schneck	Robert Gustafson
Frank Harris	Jim McEown
Alex Gray	Ernie Hasan
Ken Roberts	Jeff Skelpsa
Jenna Williams	Susie Kingston

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 (1914-2004), 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 at <http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/LeroysTrees.html>.

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