



Fuji Notes

Newsletter of the Phoenix Bonsai Society

Vol. 21, No. 1 – Nov 2017

Letter from the President

Hello, new members of the Phoenix Bonsai Society! We look forward to being with you as we enjoy and learn the beautiful art form called Bonsai.

If you are an artist, we know you will enjoy this opportunity to express your creative talent with living plants. If you have a green thumb, we know you will enjoy the beauty of the trees which were styled before you met them and those which we will refine together. And if you happen to be artistic and you enjoy getting your hands in the dirt, you're going to have a fun experience! No matter what, we are happy to have you join us.

Our calendar is fully packed with events and activities scheduled for our year which begins in September and ends in May (and we'll probably even get together in the summer).

We have some truly amazing and knowledgeable people in our club who can answer your questions about the trees which are yours already and the trees you may acquire this year. There will be opportunities to spend time with these folks in our meetings, on adventures around town and on great trips out of town.

Welcome!

Richard Robinson
President

"Bonsai, There is Much to Learn"

A Quote from Ernie Hasan

“Prior to crafting a tree with a master, ask yourself if you know how he’ll direct you.

Then when you get to the event and hear everything he says, you get the affirmation for your thought and enlightenment to a new thing or point. You begin to learn from the Master and it will change your perspective.”

Report on the Los Angeles Trip

Phoenix Bonsai Society LA Trip 2017 3/25/17 – 3/28/17
by Donna Wong

As a new member and a novice to the art of bonsai, I decided to take advantage of the opportunity to go on this trip to LA. It was a full four days of bonsai and more bonsai from private collections to nurseries to the Huntington Gardens in the LA area. First stop was at Tom Vuong where we had a demo of a grafting technique onto branches of a tree. He said it was very simple and made it appear so easy that we were ready to try it when we got home. He specialized in large bonsai and I was awed by all the various size and styles of what I saw.



Our next stop was at the House of Bonsai. It was a smaller nursery with bonsai materials. After checking into the hotel, our next stop for the evening was at Huntington Gardens for bonsai show and reception. There were bonsai exhibits by

masters and were very nice.



The next day's first stop was at a Bonsai Swap Meet at Jesse Owens Park. There were bargains waiting to be bought of which I did buy a few items. After lunch it was back to the Huntington Gardens with Ted Matson for a quick tour of the Garden and behind the scene view of where bonsai were kept and maintained. This place was very impression and I am ready to go back to the Gardens to see more.

Last visit for the day was at Nathan Simmons to view his private collection.



We started the third day by visiting the San Gabriel Nursery. It has a very large and diverse selection of plants and bonsai materials. Many purchases were made.

The next visit was to Fuji Bonsai Nursery with many bonsai, pre-bonsai, and pots to be bought.



The last two visits of the day were at Kimura Bonsai Nursery and Yamaguchi Nursery. Both had bonsai trees and materials for sale. Yamaguchi is also a general nursery.

By the end of the day our bus was already loaded down with plants, trees, and pots from all the places we had visited. The best picture was the back of the bus that now looks like a jungle and we are not done yet!

On the last day of our trip, we visited three different places before we headed home.

The first stop was at John Wang with his private collection. He considers himself to be a contemporary artist. He sandblasts bonsai specimens which is unique. He had bonsai in different stages of development. Many of his bonsai pots were very nice.





The next stop was at Peter Macasieb with his private collection of Shohin style-smaller bonsai. He has a bonsai wall against one side of the yard with shelves of bonsai and many others throughout his entire backyard.



Our last stop was at Bonsai Jidai, home of David and June Nguy. They have pots, trees, tools and everything to produce bonsai. Just walking into the area was awesome when viewing all the bonsai creations.



This concludes our 2017 trip to LA. We arrived back in Phoenix at night and began the task of unloading the bus and making sure everyone had their purchases.

This was a very nicely organized trip and appreciated all the input from everyone on everything bonsai. I enjoyed the shopping opportunities at every stop since I am a shopaholic. This is a wonderful way to see a lot when normally I would not do it on my own.

Letter from the Librarian

We have added a book titled The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben.

A few websites I have found helpful:

The Phoenix Bonsai Society - <http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/>
Our website has a large database of articles written by masters as well as by fellow club members. Information about plant zones around the world. A list of Arizona and Non-Arizona clubs that can help you remain connected if you have to be relocated away from our club. The list of plants can help you decide what types of plant you want to work with as well as a gauge of ease of care. This helps keep beginners from getting a bonsai plant that will cause undue stress.

The next 3 websites are great in their own ways. **BUT** remember to review the location of the writer. Some tips are not suited for Arizona climates.
Before purchasing trees or plants, double check their Plant Zone and if they will thrive in Arizona.

* A Beginner's First Bonsai by Brent Walston -
<http://www.evergreengardenworks.com/bonsaibe.htm>
One learns the basics of bonsai best by creating them, even your first one.

* How to Grow and Care for Bonsai Trees - <http://www.bonsaigardener.org/>
One link in this website provides bonsai tree types and general care guides.

* 22 best trees for bonsai - <http://balconygardenweb.com/best-trees-for-bonsai-best-bonsai-plants/>. Here is the link that has pictures of each specimen and recommended styles for each bonsai tree, types, and general care guides.

Signed

Barbara Marshall
Librarian



Pearls of Wisdom

“Why should we be in such haste to succeed and in such desperate enterprises? If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.”

--Henry David Thoreau, from Walden



Fall tips

from Elsie Andrade

Here are a few winter tips and reminders for our members.

Now is a good time to fertilize and clean tools. I use Alcohol or some members use Lysol at 1/2 strength, to sterilize the tool. Mix and store soil and get pots ready for transplant.

Also, it is good to start planning for the winter freeze. Purchase frost cloth, build your frost structure, and or prepare the garage for hibernating plants. **Do not use plastic sheeting.**

The second growing season of the year has begun, running from mid-August through mid-November. Again, don't let your plants get out of control, particularly the faster growers like junipers, elms, and pomegranates. Keep new growth trimmed after it gets only so long.

We cannot stress this enough: Be aware of the water-retention of each pot of soil mix. Don't let the more delicate trees get unfiltered west/afternoon sun. Autumn still means "hot and sunny" here.

Give a high phosphate fertilizer, such as a 10-60-10 blend, to your post-bloom flowering trees to build up reserves and rudimentary buds for next spring. This is also recommended for pines and junipers now.

These latter two kinds of plants also can be best wired in the Autumn and the wire left on — with constant visual checking for too-quick growth that might scar — until the following Autumn.

Keep the weeds pulled and the top of the soil clean.

If you need any help feel free to contact me or any mentor, we would be glad to help.

Elsie Andrade
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Education Committee

Phoenix Bonsai Society Upcoming Calendar

November 1	Critique on Conifers by Val Engermann
November 8	Demo on Pines by Araxi
November 11-12	Workshop with Sensei David Nguy at DIG Nursery
November 15	Fall auction of trees, pots, and tools (Donations welcome)
December 6	Critique on Shohin bonsai by Ken Roberts; book review by Barbara Marshall
December 9	Holiday Party (location to be announced)
December 13	Club swap meet
December 20	Open Workshop

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

Current Officers

President:	Richard Robinson	Member Comm:	Kate Schumacher
Vice-President:	Ernie Hasan	Webmasters:	Eric Zimmet
Treasurer:	Liz Mantsch	Historian:	Robert Baran
Secretary:	Matt Aragon	Valley Garden Center Club Liaison:	
Event Chair:	Susie Kingston		Tom Mainwaring
Education Chair:	Elsie Andrade	Member at Large:	Jim Merrell
Librarian:	Barbara Miller		

Current Mentors

Elsie Andrade	Joan (Hozy) McCarter
Penny Schneck	Jim McEown
Ken Roberts	Ernie Hasan
Jenna Williams	Susie Kingston
Val Ingermann	Liz Mantsch

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

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