



Fuji Notes

Newsletter of the Phoenix Bonsai Society

Vol. 20, No. 2 – Jan. 2016

Letter from the President

As we finish the Holiday Seasons I would like to wish all our members a world of happiness now, and throughout the seasons of the coming year.

With the support of this year's board and suggestions received from club members, this year's calendar is and has been a non-stop train ride of activities and new experiences. I also welcome our new members to the Phoenix Bonsai Society. We have a plethora of knowledge and resources, so don't be shy. We're all here to support each other and grow in the art of Bonsai.

Some of our recent activities have included: Critiquing Trees from Members under 5 yrs. in the club - The club has some up and coming talent! The Mystery Box made its first appearance, Library Day made its debut showing off the clubs extensive collection and a few Starbucks cards were found. Book Reports were presented by members from our Collection, and our first Bonsai Olympics was held. Five teams of 3 members each worked together to design a tree. All looked great and were auctioned off for the club.

Repeat engagements included: The Phoenix Art Museum Art and Flower Event - A fantastic showing of members trees, and Ernie presented a Demo on design. Members working the event were also tested in how fast a display can be broken down when storms rolled in -twice! No trees were damaged - Good job team! Golden State Bonsai Federation [GSBF] Convention in Riverside CA: Again this year our club had the largest attendance. Many classes were attended, Raffles won, Auction bidding wars engaged, lots of material returned to the valley and fun was had by all.

Looking just ahead on the tracks we have the following in sight: January - Workshops, Ted Matson Visit, Raffle, Breakfast & Nursery Crawl at 2 locations / February - Critiquing Trees from Members over 5 yrs. in the club, Bonsai Olympics 2, Return of the Mystery Box, Sam Adina Workshop and 2 days at MATSURI.

And of course a must do on any trip: don't forget to book a spot for the Sensei Visits / Workshops. These are always a learning experience and should be attended by all members when possible. This year's schedule includes David Nguy, Cindy Reed, Ted Matson, and Sam Adina.

Some don't forget still to come items related to Bonsai internal to PBS or Bonsai in general:

- February 2016 - California Bonsai-A-Thon XX <http://www.gsbfhuntington.com/bonsai-a-thon.html>
- March 2016 - California Buying trip and visit to the Huntington Botanical Gardens
- March 2016 - LA Community Bonsai Swap Meet

'All Aboard'

Regards

Eric Zimmet

Report from the Convention

"Bonsai, There is Much to Learn"

Essay by Barbara Miller

Greetings fellow Bonsai enthusiasts!

Hi, my name is Barbara and I am the club Librarian.

The Golden State Bonsai Federation 2015 Convention in Riverside, CA was my first Bonsai Convention. I felt honored to be selected for a privately-donated scholarship through the Phoenix Bonsai Society.

What a splendid experience! Everyone I met at the convention was nice and welcomed me to the new experience.

I attended one lecture titled "Picking up the Pieces" given by Kathy Shaner. I learned how true is the phrase "detail is everything". Kathy opened the lecture by stating that every creator of bonsai needs to clean up all the visible edges of the tree. The next step is to pay attention to the various bits and pieces of the display as a whole. She started the lecture by showing the class a few different bonsai displays. Kathy pointed out many different components that could be changed, and explained how each change affected the display. She demonstrated how a change in position of the tree and stand could make the tree look closer or farther away. Kathy switched out the accent plant that was one color with a multicolor plant in order to demonstrate a change in the season of year. She chose a small accent to make the tree appear large and mighty, but when the accent was changed to a large stone, the tree looked small and frail.

We tested several different combinations of stands and accents in the effort to learn how to pair up a mature bonsai specimen with the proper stand and accent piece. Every component of the exhibit matters when determining the tone, mood, and personality of bonsai on display.

On the topic of designing raw material, Kathy said that she is more interested in how nature would have influenced the tree. Let the tree tell you what style, form, and character should be emphasized. As an artist, balancing tone and perspective between dead wood, nebari (exposed rootage), foliage, and trunk appeal is difficult. Learn to listen to the tree. Spend the time to study the tree in order to see what could become of so much potential. Bonsai is a living art.

While in Riverside, CA I became friends with many bonsai masters. Too many to quote all of them, but here are some replies to the question "Why do you love the hobby of Bonsai?"

Bjorn Bjorholm replied that he had been to Japan and had completed his apprentice at the Fujikawa Kouka-en garden. His next goal is to bring the tradition of the art of Bonsai to America. While studying in Japan, Bjorn learned how to create very refined, simple, quiet, elegant, beautiful pieces of art. He expressed the passion to teach Bonsai and how to develop material to meet a high standard of quality while exercising the traditional practices of the hobby. When asked "What is your reason for practicing Bonsai?" he answered the question with "Mainly the Karate Kid movie."

Kathy Shaner told me she got started in Bonsai when she signed up for a class that she thought was on creating a Japanese garden. Even though the class was not what she expected, she was inspired to learn more. Within a few months Kathy found and joined a lot of clubs, studied books and articles, and learned that she could understand a tree in nature -- understand how it grew and thrived.

Pauleen Muth practices bonsai because she wants to see something like nature, but with man's gentle touch. She is interested in trees that achieve the look and tone of an aged specimen that could be found in nature. Pauleen takes pride in designing Shohin and forest trees displays as well as designing small, one-of-a-kind, weird little pots.

Dennis Makishima shared with me that he likes the simple and clean. "I believe in the taste of elegance; the natural tree and the depth of field." Our late *sensei* Leroy Fuji was a master Dennis looked up to, but he learned by studying old trees to figure out what each master did and why.

Scott Chadd is the Incoming President on the GSBF Club Board. He said that bonsai is one thing in life that allows him to still the voices in his head. He said that as the job and life grew with responsibility and pressure, the more chatter seemed to fill his mind. Scott learned while grasping a tool and focusing his eye on a tree that 80% of the mind is occupied, causing the world to disappear. Bonsai is a love of art, tranquility, and an appreciation of stillness.

When I asked Sam Adina why he enjoys bonsai, his answer was simple. "I do Bonsai because I am good at it."

Over the weekend, I learned that people can have very different opinions about the same tree. One person can say "Cut this branch". Another will suggest tipping the tree in the pot to change the flow of the branches. A third bonsaist may say to let it grow -- "It is not ready to be a bonsai yet."

During my workshop I discovered that no matter how many opinions I received on my Prostrata Juniper, each person had a passion for the art of Bonsai, a passion I aspire to develop.

The late Harry Hirao was commemorated during the weekend. Many of his items were in the raffle as well as part of the live and silent auctions. I was fortunate to bring home a beautiful Harry Hirao Bougainvillea and viewing stone.

I won a copy of *Bonsai Ideas* by Marty Mann from the raffle at the convention. This is a book I feel all beginners should read. I like how the author addresses the fears of a beginner as well as provides the basics to cultivate a desire for more knowledge.



A few websites I have found interesting:

BJORVALA – the website about Bjorn and his goals for the future.
<http://www.bjorvalabonsaistudio.com/>

Kofu Kai Garden – Founded by Harry Hirao, this website has a nice biography of Harry. There is also a page on the Kofu Kai Convention Grant for anyone wanting to attend the southern California Convention.
<http://www.kofukai.org/#!/harry-hirao/c4cu>

May the websites listed give you information and answers to questions. Remember, the PBS has many books in the library you can reference. And our website has many resources, also.

I had an exceptional time at the convention and found so many people I met to be helpful and informative. As a new participant, I felt welcomed and want to thank everyone I met for their kindness and support. In addition, I express many thanks to the Phoenix Bonsai Society and the Golden State Bonsai Federation for making my first convention a memorable one.

Sincerely,

Barbara Miller

babsinpink@gmail.com

盆栽
Bonsai

Japanese Friendship Garden, 11-2015



Sam Adina, 10-10-15



Phoenix Art Museum Events Special Arts & Flowers, 10-2015



David Nguy Workshop at Whitfill Nursery, 11-2015



BONSAI OLYMPICS #1, 11-2015



水石
Suiseki

BONSAI WORKSHOP, 12-2015



VALLEY GARDEN CENTER NEWS

Board Meeting October 7, 2015

The tree (Carob tree) that was damaged in the back of the arboretum will be worked on by José. He will try to trim it so that it will no longer be lopsided and a potential fall danger on the neighbor's house. IF the tree cannot be saved, it will be removed.

The Garden Center will replace the shower at Linda's living quarters.

The Garden Center will purchase a gas-powered leaf-blower for rapid clean-up for weddings and events at the garden.

Once the fascia on the back of the house and garage is fixed and painted, the Garden Center will be also putting rain gutters on the area to get the rain to funnel into a better area of the center.

The Garden Center has 8 new contracts for the winter months, signed in September.

You can donate a car to the Garden Center (information set to entire club) The Garden Center also has an Amazon link if you want to purchase items at Amazon, but so does the Phoenix Bonsai Society so I did not mention it to the general group.

The Rose Society will have a Tea in December, information has been sent to the entire Bonsai membership.

I mentioned that the Bonsai club was just in thinking mode of possibly moving its meeting nights to Wednesday. If so, the Valley Garden Center will look at changing its meeting night to the first something of the week.

Marge Bayless from the Washington Garden Club would like Mike to contact her as she liked his idea of a joint-club weekend. 602-277-1936

There was discussion on improving the Garden Center's webpage, <http://www.valleygardencenter.org/>. Linda reported that she hasn't been notified by any people saying they heard about her online. The page hasn't been updated in almost 8 years. I mentioned that we need to make it more generic and have links to the other clubs. To have an email link for information, I was told that most people in the clubs aren't Internet-savvy, so they wouldn't have webpages. More research will go into improving the Valley Garden Center's webpage.

Phoenix Bonsai Society Upcoming Calendar

Jan 5 Tuesday, Open workshop and Sensei Tables.

Jan 12 Tuesday, Demo with Ted Matson.

Jan 16 Saturday, 9:00 am Breakfast at IHOP and then double Nursery Crawl.

Jan 19 Tuesday, Open workshop and Five Item Raffle.

Feb 2 Tuesday, Critique of Trees belonging to Members in the club 5 years or more.

Feb 9 Tuesday, Bonsai Olympics 2 / Different trees by Mike Fritz.

Feb 16 Tuesday, Open workshop and Mystery Box.

Feb 20 – 21 Saturday – Sunday, Workshop with Sam Adina.

Feb 27 – 28 Saturday – Sunday, **MATSURI**, our largest annual show as part of the Japan Festival @ Heritage Square, 6th and Monroe Streets near downtown Phoenix.

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	Jamie Sims
Alex Gray	Jim McEown
Ken Roberts	Ernie Hasan
	Susie Kingston

Internet Musings, All Things North American, plus

If you have not already visited these sites, they are a must view:

<http://crataegus.com/>

<http://bonsaimirai.com>

<http://www.absbonsai.org>

<http://www.ibonsaiclub.forumotion.com/>

Michael Hagedorn

Ryan Neil

American Bonsai Society

Internet Bonsai Club

Other Arizona Clubs

- **Scottsdale Bonsai Society** (est. 2000, <http://scottsdalebonsai.weebly.com/>) activities are held on the FIRST Saturday of the month from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Via Linda Senior Center, Room 8, 10440 E. Via Linda, Scottsdale, AZ 85259. And on the THIRD Saturday of the month (except in June, July, & August) from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Granite Reef Senior Center, Room 10, 1700 N. Granite Reef Rd. (cross streets are McDowell and Granite Reef), Scottsdale, AZ 85285. For information contact Christine Kaesche, (480) 227-1588, cakimekomi3@cox.net or Jim Ireland, (480) 710-2250.
- **Tucson Bonsai Society** (est. 1972, <http://tucsonbonsaisociety.org/>) meets at 12 noon on the Third Sunday of every month at the NEW location of Catalina United Methodist Church, 2700 E. Speedway, in Building H, Room H230. Turn in on Treat Avenue, park in lot on your left, and just follow the signs a short ways. Contact David Meyer @ (520) 749-4155, d.meyer11@yahoo.com.
- **Southern Arizona Bonsai Enthusiasts** (est. 2001) is a study group which generally meets on the SECOND Saturday of each month, 10:00 am (until about 1:00 p.m.) at the Desert Gardens Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 10851 E. Old Spanish Trail (cross streets S. Avenida Los Reyes and E Old Spanish Trail), Tucson, AZ 85748. These meetings are usually hands-on workshops and/or viewing of bonsai-related videos. For information contact Doris Cavanaugh, (520) 290-0522, doris_c6@q.com / (520) 290-0522 or Loveda Petrie, (520) 886-2446, veda27@earthlink.net.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Phoenix-Bonsai-Society/140522462639157>

Follow us on <https://www.youtube.com/user/Phoenixbonsai>

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>.

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

-- Leroy Fujii

PHOENIX BONSAI SOCIETY

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