

Phoenix Bonsai First Start up Resources

We have a multitude of books, magazines and periodicals available in our library at most meetings. The majority are available for checkout. This is a wonderful opportunity to further your knowledge base.

Anytime or chance you get to read about bonsai, it will further your studies, so there is no bad bonsai book. Be aware that some techniques are outdated, or no longer used. It's always interesting to compare pictures and content from years past. Newbies today have much more available learning choices to depend on with online access. Online resources are great but be aware of the fact Phoenix climate is not like other places, and just because someone is making a video, does not make them an expert. The following is a list of books that stand out for beginners, as the explanations and pictures are invaluable.

"The Bonsai Workshop." by Herb L. Gustafson

This book is one of many written by the author, with clear understanding and pictures that are worth a thousand words. Very helpful in opening the door to what is available.

"Basic Bonsai Design." by David Degroot

Considered a must in Bonsai Basics.

This book is endorsed and sold by our club because of its in-depth content on the why and how. Its logical approach is a real eye opener.

"Principles of Bonsai Design." by David Degroot.

This is his second book for even more in-depth study, although the first book is indispensable.

"Tropical Green Sheets I."

"Tropical Green Sheets II." by Martha Goff.

Comes as a set, supplied by Bonsaijack.com (better deal) or Amazon.com

This is a book with care sheet guides for tropical and desert trees.

Although based out of Florida, this double set of books is very helpful when learning what grows in the desert climate, as it may surprise some; we are able to do a majority of tropicals. This is a large amount of helpful bonsai info compiled into quick reference guides, tips, tricks, and pictures that you won't find anywhere else.

A spiral bound softcover, with tons of information.

"The Little Book of Bonsai." by Jonas Dupuich

An easy guide to beginning tree care. The author is the administrator of "Bonsai Tonight" website.

Most of these can be found through <http://stonelantern.com/>

As Education coordinator I can sometimes supply you with Basic tool sets, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and other basic material depending on availability. Our Club soil is available in limited quantities, as we have to have it shipped in. Soil is available through self-procurement in Tucson and Flagstaff. (In other words, you're sifting and digging it yourself, but it is much cheaper this way.) We recommend mixing it with Akadama and pumice 3:1 part. Pumice is available at Treeland nursery and should be sifted. (Please come to the Beginners Bonsai Class for the repotting workshop in the spring!)

In the back of our Yearbook (of which you should have if you are a paid member) is a list of helpful websites and other info. The Yearbook is a great resource for you.

Helpful online supply options are:

AmericanBonsai.com (Our club has a 10% discount with the code (PBS10)

Stonelantern.com

Bonsaitonight.com

Bonsaiunlimited.com

Additionally, we have Mentors that are grouped into specialties and by area. We hope to provide the right Mentor for your tree and area when available, as Phoenix is a large city. Texting a picture to me is much easier for everyone, and a great starting point if you're having immediate problems. Email me your name and phone number so you are in my contact list or your number will not be recognized.

I hope this helps clarify some of the confusion when first beginning bonsai. I would like to say it is about a three-year process, to feeling somewhat comfortable in your knowledge base. A lot of information can make it quite overwhelming, and as most of us have figured out, the learning curve never ends. Remember Bonsai is a living art, so it is never finished.

I wish you much success and satisfaction,

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