

LOOKING BACK: Silhouettes from Winters Past



Irene Tamura's Forest Japanese Maple  
CBCS # 090



Dave DeGroot's Wind Influenced Hackberry  
CBCS # 019



John Naka's Broom Catlin Elm in a rare full winter silhouette  
CBCS # 010



Ray Thieme's Slanting Chinese Elm  
CBCS # 091



# BONSAI VOLUNTEER NEWS

## BONSAI DECEMBER CURATORIAL WORK SCHEDULE:

Intermediate Bonsai Group every Wednesday

Wednesday, Dec. 5 - Pines

Friday, Dec. 7 - Pines

Wednesday., Dec. 12 - Pines

Friday., Dec. 14 - NO WORK DAY

Wednesday, Dec. 19 - Pines

Friday, Dec. 21 - Yard Sale Prep. Last curatorial workday of 2018

## DECEMBER EVENTS:

**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FRESNO BONSAI SOCIETY YARD SALE**  
**SATURDAY DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 8AM-2PM**  
**CLOVIS BOTANICAL GARDEN**  
**ALLUVIAL & N CLOVIS AVE**

As usual, there will be a large selection of pre-bonsai, bonsai, pots, books, and supplies for sale at reasonable prices. Everyone is welcome to buy, sell, or trade.

**RYAN NEIL, VISITING BONSAI MASTER**  
**Dec. 1, 10am-4pm**

Because of the Fresno Bonsai Society Yard Sale, Saturday will primarily be a work day for Ryan and Bob to follow up on some the bonsai he has previously worked. We hope to find time for an interview for the Bonsai History Project.

**Dec 2, 10am-4pm**

Sunday will be devoted to teaching and working new material. Participation is free for volunteers with at least 20 hours in the past year. \$30 for everyone else. Subway Sandwich lunch about \$7-10/person depending on your order.





## Curator's Message

Hello all,

Gosh, it's hard to believe we will be putting the finishing touches on our third full year of operations at the Clark Bonsai Collection in Shinzen Gardens. A lot of water has passed under the bridge in

that time. The Collection itself has grown and increased in quality. We've established something of an operational culture, and developed a core group of dedicated folks who are invested in the future of the Shinzen/CBCS.

Old friends have left us and we've made some new ones. When Libby Clark passed away this year we lost our finest connection to the founding dynasty of the Clark Bonsai Collection. Yet the spirit of "family" that was so magical for those that were part of the old Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture has been transplanted and lives on in the Clark Bonsai Collection and in the Shinzen Gardens. I know Bill and Libby are smiling and very pleased.

It seems that not too long ago we were struggling with a 20 day stretch of triple digit heat and wondering how we were going to make it through to nicer weather. Now, we've had a great fall season and wondering when we'll see the first frost of winter. We know that once we are into January the annual "transplanting" marathon will soon follow. We are anxious to test our growing skills and abilities and to resume our relentless march toward an ever finer bonsai Collection.

Right now though, the Holiday Season is upon us and we are thinking of family and friends and all things necessary to prepare for the coming bacchanalia of gift shopping, holiday travel, Christmas lights, trimming the tree, opening presents, attending parties, and

New Year's resolutions. Even so, as we have all come to understand, bonsai are harsh task masters and care not for calendar dates that matter to us. We have positioned the Collection well to be ready for the coming winter but there are a few remaining tasks to be completed.

Two very important events are nearly upon us and we will take the week between the Thanksgiving Holiday and the first week of December to prepare for the Fresno Bonsai Yard Sale on Saturday December 1. This will be the last opportunity of the year for the Clark Bonsai Collection to do a little fundraising by liquidating surplus bonsai, pre-bonsai and plants. That very same weekend, Dec. 1 and 2 Ryan Neil will be at the CBCS to work his magic and help us improve our bonsai skills and the Collection. In those last days of November we will be checking out our space heaters and propane tanks so that we can stay as comfortable as possible during Ryan's visit (Sunday, Dec. 2 the forecast is for a low of 32). We'll also need to be rounding up and placing price tags on all the items we'll be sending to the Yard Sale.

In December we'll be cutting back on the number of Curatorial volunteer workdays due to the Christmas/New Year's holiday with our last official work day being Dec. 21 and our next workday being the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Jan. So for the five Curatorial workdays we have left in Dec. we'll be looking after our pines – plucking needles, removing wire and minor trimming. We have not used the pines in any significant way since the Collection has been at the Shinzen. We plan to change that in 2019. So our pines need to be ready. Ryan may be able to help us with that.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

**BONSAI OF THE MONTH**

[CBCS # 040]

This month's featured bonsai is the "Princess Persimmon" (*Diospyros rhombifolia*) acquired from Ray Thieme by Bill Clark for the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture in 2012. This species originated in China and secondarily Japan and is somewhat difficult to obtain in the US. This small-leafed persimmon is very popular for bonsai because of its small flowers and brightly colored fruit. It is both deciduous and dioecious (requiring male and female plants for fertilization). The dainty fruit begins a yellow-orange color and gradually darkens to a deep reddish orange and eventually turns black, but remains on the bare branches throughout the winter (except for loss due to hungry birds or curious visitors) creating a very ornamental effect.

**BONSAI ADOPTION**

If you have been inspired by the GSBF-Clark Bonsai Collection and its programs, you can support its mission through annual bonsai adoption. Not only will your sponsorship help to maintain a national treasure, but it can also help to grow and improve the Collection and its educational programs.

Peruse the bonsai in the current Exhibition Book and this newsletter (and soon, on the website) and select one or more that you would like to sponsor.

Complete the Bonsai Adoption information below, including the bonsai's CBCS number listed with its picture and description in the current Exhibition Book, this newsletter or the website.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Bonsai CBCS Number \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \$100 annually per tree, or \$180 for two years, or \$400 for five years

Pay by check made out to "GSBF-Clark Bonsai Collection" and mail to GSBF-Clark Bonsai Collection, P.O. Box 5382, Fresno, CA 93755 or via Paypal on the CBCS Website: [www.gsbflarkbonsaicollection.org](http://www.gsbflarkbonsaicollection.org)

You will receive a thank you letter that you may use for a tax deduction in keeping with the CBCS's 501c3 non-profit status and a 4 x 6" refrigerator magnet picture of your bonsai and a silver Clark Bonsai Collection pin.



Tessa Cavalletto with her adopted bonsai she has dubbed "Diana Ross."

**Acknowledgments:** You will be credited as the sponsor

- on the image of the tree on the website
- on the display plaque in the bonsai garden
- in the exhibition book when the tree is exhibited
- and receive notification and a photo whenever the tree is on display.

## SHŌGATSU

We will be celebrating Shōgatsu, Japanese New Year, in the bonsai garden again this year. Our gate will be decorated with the two most familiar traditional decorations: the Kadomatsu and the Shimekazari, which traditionally welcome ancestral spirits of the harvest and ward off evil spirits. The Kadomatsu are displayed in a pair at either side of the entry. They are composed of a variety of materials, including bamboo, pine and other flowering or fruiting tree sprigs, each of which symbolizes longevity, loyalty and prosperity. Typically, the center of the Kadomatsu is created out of three large bamboo shoots, arranged in different heights. The Shimekazari is a braided rice straw rope placed above the entrance and may include auspicious objects such as a crane (symbol of longevity), zigzag paper strips called shide and other good luck words and charms.



Kadomatsu created for the bonsai garden entrance last year by Roger and Karen Tsuruda.



A simple Shimekazari created for the bonsai gate by Linda Jacobsen.

Roger, Karen and Linda will be creating new decorations for this New Year's on the next Shinzen Volunteer Day, Saturday, December, 15 at 1pm inside the main Shinzen entrance if you would like to get some ideas for your own New Year's decor.

Jan. 1, 5 and 6, the bonsai garden will also feature a variety of traditional Japanese New Year's children's games for our visitors to enjoy. Consult the Shōgatsu book in the bonsai garden for instructions.



Miko on guard duty. Squirrels, beware!



### BEFORE

This CBCS CA Juniper pictured with ground layering, was one of the demonstration trees styled by Suthin Sukosolvist with assistance from Mel Ikeda at the 2013 GSBF

### AS PROMISED, THE "AFTER" PICTURE



### RESTYLING AT THE 2018 CONVENTION

Suthin used the opposite side of the tree as the new "front," changed the trunk angle to achieve a more dynamic presentation and removed a little more than half of the foliage.

## NOVEMBER GARDEN EVENTS

On **Museum Day**, November 3, members of the Greater Fresno Alliance of Museums and Educational Sites offered free admission to 18 venues in Fresno County. Shinzen and the Clark Bonsai Collection hosted over 500 visitors who enjoyed the gardens and the many additional cultural and arts and crafts activities offered that day, assisted by 20 student volunteers from the Central High School Interact Club and Fresno State's Jump Start program.



In the bonsai garden, children enjoyed bonsai coloring while Bob Hilvers, Gene Nelson, Mike Saul, and Ron Woodson worked bonsai in the display area, answering questions and explaining the art of bonsai.



In addition to docents Tessa Cavalletto, Linda Jacobsen, and Chris Tange greeting visitors in the bonsai display area, John Wright and Pat Galle spoke with the many visitors excited to have the opportunity to view the complete Collection in the reserve area which is not usually open to the public.



November 11 was the **Shinzen Champagne Stroll** fundraiser partnered with the Cultural Arts Rotary Club. They sold over 400 tickets, served food from 20 local restaurants, presented many cultural performances and conducted a very profitable Silent Auction. Bob Hilvers and Dave Soho worked bonsai for the interest and edification of the visitors which flooded the garden. Docents Katy Brantley and Lucia Hammar also greeted visitors and answered questions. The juniper Bob Hilvers worked during Museum Day, was one of the CBCS' donations to the silent auction and sold for \$305. The garden statue resting in the corner in the reserve area for the past year garnered \$200. Both earned over their estimated value.

On November 13, docents Charlene Wylie and Linda Jacobsen hosted a **Tea Party** for 12 in the bonsai garden in fulfillment of a Silent Auction offering at the Kōen Nai won by



Dwayne Berrett and Judy Shehadey, earning \$240 for the CBCS. A British-style High Tea was served including the traditional assortment of tea sandwiches and scones with clotted cream and lemon curd. It was a memorable afternoon of laughter with friends old and new. **If you would like to host an event in the bonsai garden, please contact Linda Jacobsen ([mljjacobsen@gmail.com](mailto:mljjacobsen@gmail.com)).**