

# CBS Newsletter

February 2020

## Quick Fire Talks

Sunday February 12, 10:30 am

### Sushi and Suiseki: Understanding the One You Don't Eat

Pat Gilmore has been a collector of Suiseki for many years. He will speak and answer questions about the art of Suiseki and bring examples from his collection to show to society members.

#### Introduction for Pat's Talk

**Definition:** 水石 - Suiseki is the Japanese art of stone appreciation, which values aspects like stability, longevity and immortality. Formed through time by wind and water, stones can take several sizes and shapes, reminding us of natural objects.



**Background:** Chinese scholar's rocks called [\*gongshi\*](#) influenced the development of *suiseki* in Japan. The history of *suiseki* in Japan begins during the reign of [Empress Suiko](#). The small objects were brought to Japan as gifts from the Chinese Imperial court.

*Suiseki* are usually presented in two different ways:

- The stone is provided with a wooden base (*daiza*).
- The stone is placed in a waterproof tray or bowl of ceramic (*suiban*) or bronze (*doban*).

[cont. on pg.2]

[cont. from pg. 1]

These stones are not just any stones which can be found in nature; they must be expressive stones and have a special shape, color and texture to be categorized as *suiseki*. There is a distinction between landscape and object stones. The former reflect landscapes such as mountains, lakes or rivers, while other stones have object shapes that resemble animals or sculptures.

The stones are of natural origin and are found in rivers, oceans and karst areas. They are not allowed to be reshaped. An exception is the cutting of stones to have a flat base, so they can be placed stably on a Daiza, suiban or Doban, to be displayed properly. This diminishes their value, in the eyes of purists.

**Classification:** The classification and evaluation of Suiseki revolves around their shape, possible markings and subtlety of color.

- Landscape Suiseki (Sansui keijo-seki): in the form of a mountain, island, waterfall, shore- or coastline, cave, canyon or a plateau.
- Object stones (Keisho-seki): representing a person, animal, boat, house or bridge. Classification by surface
- Celestial (Gensho-seki): with patterns resembling the moon, sun or stars.
- Plant (Kigata-ishi): with patterns picturing flowers, fruits, grasses, forests or even Bonsai.
- Weather (Tenko-seki): resembling rain, intense sunlight, lightning or snow.
- Abstract (Chusho-seki): with surfaces similar to animal prints, tangled nets, etc.

References

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suiseki>

<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/origin/related-arts/suiseki>

Pictures

<https://www.google.com/search?q=pinterest+suiseki&oq=pinterest+suiseki&aqs=chrome..69i57j69i64j69i60l2.10149j1j9&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

## Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Securing you Bonsai Collection

Leo Martinez recently mentioned a bonsai collection taken in Grass Valley. Our bonsai plant material has sentimental as well as street value, the latter being important to thieves. Ruben Rodarte will discuss his security system that he uses to monitor his bonsai plant collection.

For other security tips that may warrant your consideration see Appendix.



# Annual Bonsai Show & Nomination of CBS Officers

## Annual Chico Bonsai Annual Show

On the eve of our annual bonsai show, Pat Gilmore will outline what he will need to set up and promote this event. It is the number one way in which our society adds new members, allows current members a venue to sell their plant material and our society to remain financially sustainable.



*Images from CBS 2016 Show*

## Nomination of New Officers

Now is the time for all good members to come to the aid of their bonsai society. For Chico Bonsai Society to thrive, we need individuals to step up for coming year. The elected positions are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. There are also volunteer positions that need to be filled. Tasks are easier when they are shared. Please bring in the nomination / volunteer form located in Appendix 2 at the end of this newsletter. There is also space to volunteer your talents if you have experience in an area you think could help our society. And lastly a space for comment on what you would like to have as topics and guest speakers at our meetings.

### The Rest of Meeting:

- Any plant material, you have questions about or would like advise for the season and March Bonsai Show.
- Anything bonsai you would like donate for the **raffle table** [all proceeds donated to the bonsai society].
- Bring a tarp to catch cuttings and soil

# Bonsai in the News

## The Beauty of Bonsai

This 2016 BBC video clip is less than 1 minute but well worth watching for anyone who enjoys bonsai. Click on image link or link below or check the CBSociety website.



<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/entertainment-arts-37260268/the-beauty-of-bonsai>

## CBS Potpourri

**Membership:** Current Membership is 48

**CBS Website Upgraded:** The current Chico Bonsai website has been upgraded. Current and archived newsletters are now available for viewing or download for 2019 and the current year [click on the newsletter tab located on the banner]. In the future, this current upgrade will allow society members to renew their membership online and purchase items from our society store.

**Were in the World is Emmett?** Emmett Lazanro reports enjoying his new profession as grandfather and babysitter. In this role he is currently out of Chico a majority of the time but looks forward to attending a meeting in the near future.



*Barbara in 2013*

**Roberta Walters:** It is the newsletters intent to write of a story concerning Roberta Walters, a founding member of our society. Anyone who has any pictures or stories they would like to share concerning Barbara, please contact John McDonald @ 530-321-1139. Your help would be very much appreciated.

# Bonsai Maintenance

February [SF Bay Area – Please compensate for differences in Chico weather]

## February

### General

- Rotate all trees at least once a month

### Fertilizing

- Deciduous trees: do not feed (to avoid lengthy internodes)
- Satsuki azaleas: 1 tsp. Miracid/gal every two weeks
- Evergreens and conifers: continue feeding lightly. Junipers especially do not go completely dormant in our climate.
- Old black pines: do not feed (to avoid long candles in spring)
- Repotted trees: do not fertilize within two to three weeks of transplanting

### Watering

- Continue reduced watering
- Water trees that start to grow
- Water during prolonged dry spells between storms
- Prop up one end of pots to help drainage during storms

### Insect, disease, & weed control (see Appendix 9)

- Watch for insects and fungi. Aphids can become active during warm periods.
- Apply third lime-sulfur spray (if you failed to do it during January)
  - Cover roots and pot to protect from damage
  - Be careful not to spray new sprouts and buds
  - Do not use lime-sulfur on
    - azaleas, camellias, ume, or any plants showing growth of buds
    - trees to be displayed in an exhibit within the next few weeks
  - Shake plants vigorously after spraying to remove excess spray and avoid burning of foliage
- Do not use any solution containing Volck oil on cedars or ezo spruce

### Styling/Pruning

- Do heavier pruning and shaping especially in combination with repotting and root pruning
- Check old wiring. Green portions start to swell, so wire may be biting in.
- Maples: do not prune, they bleed heavily
- Satsuki azaleas: OK to wire and bend; remove excess buds, if not yet done; OK to make large pruning cuts; seal all wounds

- Sasanqua camellias: after blooming cut back to two leaves, wire and shape
- Pines: cut large limbs just before (or as) candles start to elongate; if top and exterior branches are pruned hard, balance with light pruning of lower and inner branches

### Repotting

- Ume: complete transplanting of ume (after flowering and before leaves start to emerge) and other deciduous trees; If flowering has started, hold off until October, see Sept. & Oct.; for most young deciduous trees, severely prune roots and completely replace potting mix
- Satsuki azaleas: those looking unhealthy, repot immediately and keep in a sheltered place, protect from frost
- Camellias, both Japanese and sasanqua: immediately after blooming and cutting back to one or two leaves
- Old junipers
- Conifers when finished with deciduous trees
- Pines, as soon as candles start to elongate and until fascicles of needles show like pimples along candle
- Delay repotting
  - cryptomeria (a couple of weeks after trimming)
  - needle juniper (a couple of weeks after trimming)
  - crepe myrtle
  - pomegranate (until June or July)
  - citrus (until June or July)
  - bougainvillea (until June or July)

### Propagating/Collecting

- Graft all species (see Appendix 8)
- Accent plants: divide clumps of bamboos, grasses, sedges, herbaceous perennials, bulbs, etc.
- Evergreens: root cuttings
- Conifers: start grafting
- Japanese maples: graft toward end of month
- Hardwood deciduous: take cuttings before buds swell
- Maples, wisteria, and other deciduous trees: air- or ground-layer before buds swell; plan to sever by June or next repotting season.
- Deciduous trees and satsuki azaleas: make thread grafts before buds break

### Personal reminders:

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# From the President's Desk

## Meeting Agenda

November 10, 2019

- Call to Order: ..... Pres.
- Business:
  - Meeting Plan: ..... Vice Pres.
  - Secretary's Report: ..... Sec.
  - Treasurer's Report: ..... Tres.
  - Announcements: ..... Sec.
  - Committee Reports:
    - Store
    - Refreshments
    - Social Media
- Discussion: Instagram, Facebook, Pinterest..... All
- Show and Tell
- Upcoming Events
- Adjourn

## Behind the Scenes

### CBS Board and Club Meeting Minutes

Attendee's;

NA

Minutes

Current Paid Membership [including partners, as of March 2019]: 47  
Current Club Account Balance [as of November 2019]: TBD

## Future Calendar of Events

Unless noted, board meetings are at 9:30 am and regular meeting starts at 10:30 am

- |                            |               |  |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------|--|---------------------------|
| ● December 8 <sup>th</sup> | Meeting/Board | ● March 8 <sup>th</sup>                        | Meeting/Board             |
| ● January 12 <sup>th</sup> | Meeting/Board | ● April 12 <sup>th</sup>                       | Meeting/Board             |
| ● February 9 <sup>th</sup> | Meeting/Board | ● <b>May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup></b> | <b><u>Annual Show</u></b> |

**Chico Bonsai Society (CBS)** is a non-profit organization whose intent it is to promote the appreciation, knowledge, and cultivation of Bonsai through education, publicity, display and any other means which would advance the Art of Bonsai.

**Membership:** Chico Bonsai Society is a social hub based on the common interest of the Art of Bonsai. Membership is open to the general public, come join us. Guests and visitors are always welcome.

Annual Individual Memberships dues are \$30.00 per year plus \$5.00 for each additional member of the household. To join the CBS, mail your name(s), address, telephone and e-mail address plus a check made payable to the CBS for the correct amount to: **Leo Martinez, 1236 Whitewood Way., Chico, CA 95973.**

#### **CBS Board of Directors**

President	Adam Jacobsen	adamjacobsen33@gmail.com
Vice President	John McDonald	jemcdonald@protonmail.com
Secretary	Luke Smith	smit5821@gmail.com
Treasurer	Leo Martinez	LeoRMartin@gmail.com
Annual Show	Patrick Gilmore	gilappl@gmail.com
Society Store	Steven Liner	stephenliner7@gmail.com
Director	Ruben Rodarte	rubenrodarte123@gmail.com
Newsletter	John McDonald	jmcdonald@protonmail.com
Refreshments	Carol Crljenica	tambura33@sbcglobal.net

The **Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF)** is an educational organization which provides services and activities promoting the wonderful art of bonsai. GSBF is made up of member clubs in California and affiliate clubs in the adjoining states.

- **Publication:** [Golden Statements Magazine](#) [free digital version], the official publication of GSBF, is printed four times each year with current bonsai articles and calendars of local club shows and events.
- **Education:** The Federation awards grants to assist the clubs with programs and provides several categories of bonsai scholarships which are available to worthy individuals. There is also an internship program in which qualified students are given assistance to study with a bonsai master in Japan or elsewhere.
- **The Chico Bonsai Society is a current member.**

The **American Bonsai Society (ABS)** is an international non-profit corporation founded in 1967 to promote knowledge of, and interest in, bonsai – and to serve as a national focal point for bonsai fanciers. The ABS publish the *ABS Bonsai Journal*, hold member conventions, and provide educational and support services to the bonsai community.

Individual Membership dues are \$45.00. Join the ABS online at: <https://www.joinit.org/o/american-bonsai-society/4n47EfHaY6Fs6oMoy>.



# Appendix

## Excerpt from Article on Bonsai Security by Kev Bailey on July 17, 2006

Depending upon the amount that you worry, your location and finances, one or more of the following could be employed:

- Don't "advertise" the fact that there are bonsai about. Simple things like "I Love Bonsai" stickers on car windows, Bonsai club posters with addresses on them, or bonsai accoutrements plainly visible from a main road, can act like thief magnets.
- If you are ever "lucky" enough to attract the interest of the press make absolutely certain (get it in writing if possible) that they are not going to print your address along with the photo of you with your prize-winning tree/garden etc. This has happened to two colleagues in recent months without their permission.
- Site your collection carefully. A part of the garden that is not overlooked from a main road is sensible. Keeping the collection in plain view from the house, helps deter thieves and increases your daily enjoyment.
- Give some thought to the boundaries of your property. Who can see in and how easy would it be for a potential thief to enter and exit? Replace any broken fences, giving due thought to whether they will be climbable or easily broken. Make certain that hedges are sturdy enough to prevent a determined assault (flimsy hedges like privet could have posts and wires placed through the center to stop it being parted and walked through).
- Many of the thorny shrubs used for security can also be used as sources of bonsai material.
- Dense thorny hedges or shrub barriers are very effective once established. Berberis, Hawthorn, Sloe, Pyracanth or Gooseberry could be used and also double as a potential source for bonsai air layers and cuttings in future. Rambling roses or any other thorny plant massed against a wall or fence make it much less inviting to the potential burglar. Low walls or fences could have a trellis fixed over them to make them suitable for growing a higher barrier of climbing/thorny plants. This gives more privacy from neighboring gardens and helps prevent anyone simply vaulting the wall.
- Make certain that any paths around the house to the area where your trees are sited are closed off by a high, secure, lockable gate. It is a nuisance, but try to keep it locked at all times when it is not in use.
- Be aware of who is about when you transport your trees onto or off your premises. If there are strangers around, be cautious about carrying your specimen trees openly. It would be more sensible to place them in a large, strong cardboard box or similar. This procedure will also serve to protect fine twigs and branches from damage in transit. Alternatively, just move your trees when you are less likely to be watched.
- Maintain a photographic record of each of your trees in all seasons. This should be done anyway as it increases the pleasure and value of a collection if good records are kept. Keep the photographs updated if you alter the styling of a tree, or every five years or so as it matures. In the event of a theft, the photos would be useful to show the police what is missing, assist in any insurance claim, and prove ownership of the trees if they are recovered.
- Mark the inside or underneath of all containers with your zip or post code and house number in indelible pen or similar. Alternatively use a grinder in a power tool to carefully engrave it. If you ever commission a pot, ask for your post code and house number to be molded or stamped on the base. See also BonTag below.
- Install a system whereby the trees are inconspicuously fixed to the display bench. This can be achieved by arranging a strong wire loop through the drainage holes fixed, for example, by small padlocks, to a chain that passes beneath the slatted top. **Cont. on next page**

- If correctly arranged this should be taught enough to prevent the wire being cut and should be unobtrusive. An added advantage is that it helps prevent strong winds from toppling containers and trees. If you don't want to have to unlock your tree to rotate it (for its health – equal exposure to sunlight), include a swivel on the wire. To keep the trees in the containers they must also be secured by wires over the roots and through the drainage holes as newly potted specimens frequently are. This is a fussy arrangement but infinitely preferable to an unsightly steel cage!
- Install a security light that is activated by a motion sensor or PIR. If using the former, it is difficult to ensure that its sensitivity only picks up human movements and that its range covers the whole area that your trees are sited in. A light that is triggered by cats and trees moving in the wind is likely to cause annoyance to you and your neighbors. A passive infra-red detector is preferable as it should not suffer from these problems. Incidentally, exterior lights are also of great use to the owner for working later into the evening than daylight allows.
- Install an alarm system. There are now numerous modular alarm systems suitable for garden use. They are stocked by large DIY stores and some Garden Centers. As an example – the Beta-Thief2000 kit has a waterproof motion sensor, 2m cable, 114 decibel weatherproof siren, blue strobe light and a combination locked on/off switch.
- A more complex system employs infra-red beams which, when broken by an intruder, sound the alarm. This could activate a buzzer in your house, switch on a security camera and VCR, sound an alarm or floodlight your benches. A direct link to the police station may sound appealing but the time taken to attend the many call-outs means that often the thief is away before the scene is visited by a police patrol.
- Have a CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) system installed. The technology has fallen dramatically in price and many options are available. Monochrome (black and white) cameras are more light sensitive than color cameras. They can even operate successfully in moonlight.
- Cheap systems are generally intended for monitoring visitors to your front door but there's nothing to stop you pointing the camera toward your trees instead. This would allow you to occasionally monitor the security of trees from your armchair live on the TV in the evening. Alternatively, the video feed could be run to the AV/Aux or Camera input at the back of an old video recorder and the tapes recycled after trees have been visually checked.
- More professional systems can employ passive infra-red sensors to trigger a bright light and a dedicated security VCR. These record 24 hours on one tape and every frame of video is time and date stamped. They cost a little more than a domestic VCR ('300-'400) but may suit the requirements of someone with a large or valuable collection. Additional dummy cameras can add to the deterrent effect. They are indistinguishable from the real one, make the system more obvious and give apparently greater coverage.
- Anyone attempting a theft is likely to give up when their efforts result in a floodlight illuminating them, revealing security cameras and perhaps a loud siren announcing their unwanted presence to the household and neighbors.
- Install a transponder tag such as a BonTag inside each of your valued trees. These marvels of miniaturization contain a microprocessor circuit pre-programmed with a ten-digit alpha-numeric code. It is contained in an inert 12mm long, 2mm wide, bioglass cylinder and may be interrogated by a remote reader to determine the identity of the tree's owner. They have an infinite lifespan and their unique encoding cannot be erased. Drilling holes in trees, for security measures, may appear a bit drastic but is more easily accomplished than it sounds. The hole should slope upwards slightly and can be filled afterward with an unobtrusive waterproof filler or the cambium allowed to grow over sealing the hole. Alternatively, the transponder could be attached to the inside of the pot with araldite. Some pot manufacturers are now considering leaving spaces in the body of the pot which could receive a transponder and be covered over with car body filler. For this system to be of any use as a deterrent, it has to be advertised plainly, close to the trees. If the trees are recovered after a theft, the BonTag system proves ownership without question. **Cont. on next page**

- Keeping a dog with a loud bark may be a good deterrent to intruders but you must also consider the safety of your collection. Dogs can be a nuisance, at times, in the garden. A friend's dog knocked trees off display benches while chasing a cat. Bitches kill patches of lawn when they urinate on it. My German Shepherd is currently in training to stick to the paths and not trample all around the recently finished Japanese Garden. This is not an easy task! Even more difficult is persuading her that plants in pots are not toys. When left to her own devices she finds no greater joy than to demolish a recently potted cutting or tree, shaking all of the soil off and leaving it out in the sun to die.
- Adequate insurance should be considered and all the options investigated. Not many household insurers will consider plants over a certain total value (approx. £500) to be within their policies. A specialist policy is almost always required when the plants are easily moved – planters, hanging baskets, bonsai etc. Most insurers are keen to hold onto your business though, so if you have taken what you consider to be adequate precautions, explain this to them and ask that they consider extending the policy to cover your plants. My broker has told me that is not unknown for them to do this up to a value of £1,000. For collections of greater value, it would be sensible to seek out a specialist garden insurance company. Incidentally, most insurers don't cover damage caused by pets. Damn!

BonTag Website: <https://www.bon-tag.com/>.

# Appendix 2

## Chico Bonsai Society 2020 Officer Nominations

February 9, 2020

<b><u>Elected Positions<sup>1</sup></u></b>	
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President	
Vice President	
Secretary Membership	
Treasurer <sup>2</sup>	

<b><u>Volunteer Positions</u></b>	<b><u>Self-Nomination</u></b>
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Annual Show	
Meeting Raffles	
Refreshments	
Newsletter	
Web Page	
Facebook	
Instagram	
Pinterest	
Photography	
Society Store	
Room Reservation/Key	

<sup>1</sup>By Laws require the officers shall be elected annually by the membership and shall consist of: President, Vice President, Recording-Corresponding secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Officer. Term of office shall not exceed two consecutive years in the same office for all elected officers except treasurer.

<sup>2</sup>The Treasurer may serve as long as the membership of the society desires.

<b>I would like help:</b>	
<b>In 2020 I think our society should:</b>	