



CBS Newsletter

April-May 2020

Plans for May Meeting

Sunday May 10, 2019 10:30 pm

Status of Library and Backup Zoom May Meeting

The Chico Bonsai Society hopes this newsletter finds you safe and in good health. The library is currently shut down due the COVID 19 virus. The board was in agreement that no face to face meeting should take place at another location while this in place.

If the library does open, we will meet in the usual location. All those who attend will be asked to be considerate of all society members and wear a mask. As the virus is now thought to be spread by air droplets, a mask will reduce potential transmission if someone is unaware they are carrying the virus. Gloves are recommended.

If the library remains closed through the 10th of May a substitute Zoom meeting will take place. For those who are unfamiliar with what Zoom is, it is the group equivalent of a online face-time or Skype. We will all be able to see each other online. You can attend the meeting on your mobile phone, but it works best on a desktop. An email was sent out last week on how to set up and connect to the meeting. This is the information.

Zoom Meeting:

Time: May 10, 2020 10:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75788901826>

Meeting ID: 757 8890 1826

Topic

- **Ruben Rodarte will conduct a plant clinic about making sure your plants are healthy and thriving He will also be open to questions about your plant material that is not doing well. Ruben has many years' experience working in landscaping and more recently bonsai.**
- **If we have time, show your plants over Zoom to the other society members.**

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Continued 'Plans for May Meeting'

The meeting will start on everyone being on mute. The director of meeting will make introductions and explain how the meeting will proceed. Please be patient with this new Zoom platform if we encounter some glitches.

If you need help signing up for a free Zoom account, try this link: <https://youtu.be/TRX7Bt0ekaw>

Videos for Lonesome Bonsai Folks

94 th Kokufu Bonsai Show Tokyo A	Feb/2020	https://youtu.be/lwsYabSbT3k	35 minutes
94 th Kokufu Bonsai Show Tokyo B	Feb/2020	https://youtu.be/lwsYabSbT3k	44 minutes
Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai Show	Jan/2020	https://youtu.be/ozVBpNN3MuU?t=9	07 minutes
Swindon Bonsai Show UK	Feb/2020	https://youtu.be/0tKrJs9HNa8	05 minutes
Root Over Rock [home spun]	Apr/2020	https://youtu.be/dv3nu9yuM8g	1.2 minutes

CBS Potpourri

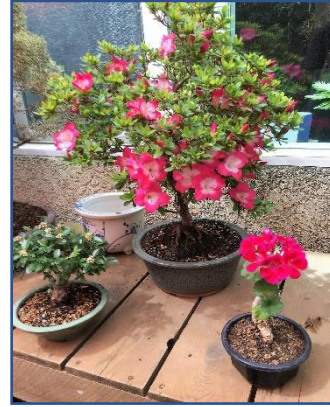
Root Over Rock Video

A Root Over Rock video is posted on the Chico Bonsai website. Check it out:
<https://www.chicobonsaisociety.org/videos>

Bonsai During Lockdown

Ruben Rodarte – Styling a newly acquired bonsai





Bonsai Tips

- With the periodic hot weather accompanied by high winds as Chico area was experiencing a week or so ago, plants can dry out quickly and the roots suffer damage. If soil is dry be sure to check your soil and ensure that plants are getting extra watering if needed. – **Leo Martinez**
- **Ruben Rodarte** has a spring routine he uses for his plant material. After watering plants, he follows with 1/8 teaspoon of Mallet® to 16 oz of water [drinking bottle]. He applies mixture around the pot but away from the trunk of the tree. He waters as indicated for about a week to allow absorption of the mixture by plant. After this time, he applies fertilizer to the plant to encourage spring growth. He especially like Happy Frog® fertilizer for maples, as it does not burn the roots.

Remembering Roberta Walters

In December of 2019 I was contacted by the Puget Sound Bonsai Association. They were digitizing VHS video of bonsai demonstrations that could be downloaded from the association web site. They were hoping to obtain Roberta Walters permission. I had never heard of Roberta and found out from CBS members that she had sadly passed away a few years before. Further inquiries with society members and an online search revealed a person of diversity and very much involved in bonsai locally and statewide.



Figure 1 Roberta 2010

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Figure 2 Susieki Stone

Kirk Demarest studied under Roberta and adopted some of Roberta's bonsai plants throughout their time of bonsai collaboration [see Figure 4]. He generously provided copies of Roberta's bonsai sketches [Figure 3], and is the owner and current caretaker of one of her susieki viewing stones [see Figure 2].



Figure 3 Example of Roberta's Sketches



Figure 4 Korean Hornbeam

This is what I have discovered about Roberta. (Dobis, 2010; GSBF, 2006; Unknown, 2013)

- Roberta had been growing bonsai since she was 13 years old
- Founding member of Chico Bonsai Society in 1976.
- Was president of the Golden State Bonsai Federation and received the Circle of Sensei Award in 2006.
- Was a Sensei of the CBS.
- At one time had a large collection of susieki viewing stones and was a member of the California Aiseki Kai

Her quotes about growing a great bonsai:

- '[It takes] time, ...like 300 years'
- '[Because a bonsai is] ...totally dependent on your care... It's like having a disadvantaged child that behaves itself.'

Her general thoughts about bonsai:

- Process can be learned in 3-4 years.
- Requires patience.
- Good stress relief.

These and other images provided by Kirk can be seen on our society web page. I am currently making an effort to find out more about Roberta. If you would like to provide any other information about her, please contact me at jemcdonald@protonmail.com. Many thanks to Kirk Demarist for his help and his reflections about Roberta. *[Continued on next page]*

These and other images provided by Kirk can be seen on our society web page. I am currently making an effort to find out more about Roberta. If you would like to provide any stories, images or other information about her, please contact me at jemcdonald@protonmail.com. Many thanks to Kirk Demarest for his help and his reflections about Roberta.

References

Dobis, N. (2010). One Tough Sensei. *Chico News and Review*. Retrieved from <http://www.newsreview.com/chico/content?oid=1450680>

GSBF. (2006). The Circle of Sensei Award. Retrieved from <https://www.gsbfbonsai.org/Articles.asp?ID=267>

Unknown. (2013). GSBF Honors Roberta Walters. *California Aiseki Kai*, 31(11).

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Chico Bonsai Society (CBS) is a non-profit organization 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

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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>.