



Fujii Notes

Newsletter of the Phoenix Bonsai Society

Vol. 12, No. 1 – August 2006

THE GOLDEN SECTION

The Golden Section, also called the golden ratio, is one of the most important and basic of principles. The law states that two unequal parts of a whole must be in relationship to each other to create a satisfactory and appealing image to the eye. It is a law of proportionality. It occurs frequently in nature, in art and throughout our lives. For example, the proportion between the forearm and the upper arm is 38% to 62% and the same ratio applies between the hand and the forearm. Our faces comprise this ratio within the relationships between our eyes, ears, mouth and nose. Conscious or unconscious recognition of the Golden Section in inanimate or artistic endeavors seems “right” to the eye and creates a feeling of satisfaction and harmony for the viewer.

The Golden Section ratio also shows up in the Fibonacci Series, which John Naka recommends using as a guide when designing bonsai. This is a sequence of numbers where each number is the sum of the two preceding numbers. 0 1 1 2 3 5 8 13. These numbers show up in nature all the time. For example, the rose has spirals of 3 petals in one direction and 5 petals in the other. A pine cone has 3+5=8 spirals in one direction and 5+8=13 in the other.

The Golden Section gives rise to the “Two-Thirds Rule” within art, which most bonsai artists use when styling a bonsai tree. Since a tree is living and constantly changing, the Golden Section is simplified to a ratio of 1:2/3 or 1 1/2: 1. The asymmetry of this rule is used in the positioning of the tree in the pot, in asymmetrical triangular patterns in the branches to the use of odd rather than even numbers. This creates a restful, pleasing image to the viewer.

Through this simple law the way we can create and perceive our trees can be altered. However it would never be possible for every facet of a tree to comply with this law. Branches and trunks don't grow in accordance with an artistic law and by overusing it the tree could become repetitive.

CLUB NEWS

The end of the year party at Teri and Don Moodie's home was well-attended and enjoyable. Although it was too hot to eat outside, we were all able to stroll through their very interesting and always-changing garden and see all of the trees and the new pond and all sorts of interesting things.

On June 27th the first summer bonsai class began at the Central library in Phoenix. Max Miller who organized it is also teaching it. The class numbers reached close to 25 so there was broad interest on the part of the club members. Each member paid \$25 for five classes and with that received a handy basics textbook! The first four classes have been extremely enjoyable and well-taught. Bravo to Max! The last class will be held August 8th.

There was one restaurant outing in July with a small group attending and there will be another on August 12th. Mark your calendars - details will follow.

Club meetings will resume on Tuesday September 5. Watch your e-mail for the Fall issue of Fujii Notes and the club's on-line calendar at www.phoenixbonsai.com/PCalendar.html.

And, finally, if you are able to, please check out this series of downloadable videos: Go to www.bonsaifarm.tv and then go down the list on the left to the bottom and choose the WorldofBonsaiSeries. Six episodes to-date are available. When downloaded, each video runs about 10 minutes, is in English or with English subtitles, and definitely shows some of the wider world of bonsai in Japan and China. New ones come out every two weeks. Highly recommended!

TENTATIVE PHOENIX BONSAI SOCIETY CALENDAR 2006-2007 CLUB YEAR

SEPTEMBER 2006

- 5 SHOW OF TREES, club business, general workshop.
- 12 Talk on bougainvilleas by Teri Moodie.
- 19 General workshop.

OCTOBER 2006

- 3 SHOW OF TREES, club business, general workshop.
- 10 Setting up tree records by Larry Seymour.
- 13-Nov 5 Arizona State Fair with club display & demo.
- 17 Junk Sale, general workshop.

NOVEMBER 2006

- 7 SHOW OF TREES, club business, general workshop.
 - 14 Maintenance: Trimming, Pinching & Ramifications by Joan McCarter and Elsie Andrade.
 - 21 General Workshop.
- NOTE: Ben Oki's annual workshop @ Baker's Nursery – dates to be determined.

DECEMBER 2006

- 5 SHOW OF TREES, club business, general workshop.
- 12 Propagation: Seeds, cuttings & air layering by Alex Gray.
- 19 Holiday Party with gift exchange – venue to be announced.

JANUARY 2007

- 2 SHOW OF TREES, club business, general workshop.
- 5 First Friday: Japanese Friendship Garden. PBS has a display there 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- 9 Presentation: Surface dressing, moss, accent plants, stones, & stands.
- 16 General workshop.
- 26 -28 Chinese Week display.

FEBRUARY 2007

- 6 SHOW OF TREES, club business, general workshop.
- 13 Transplanting: pruning roots, wiring into the pot & preparing soil.
- 20 Matsuri preparation & general workshop.
- 25 – 26 Matsuri, Japanese Week display.

MARCH 2007

- 5 SHOW OF TREES, club business, general workshop.
- 13 Styling guidelines & wiring
- 20 General workshop.

APRIL 2007

- 3 SHOW OF TREES, club business, general workshop.
- 10 Pests, diseases & parasites.
- 17 Junk Sale, general workshop.

MAY 2007

- 1 SHOW OF TREES, club business, general workshop.
- 8 Topic To Be Announced
- 15 General workshop.
- 31 – June 3 50th Anniversary of California Bonsai Society at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Anaheim.

JUNE 2007

- ? End of year party.

- **Bonsai of Scottsdale** (2000) meets at 1:30 p.m. on the First and Third Saturdays of the month at the Via Linda Senior Center, Rm. 2, 10440 East Via Linda in Scottsdale, half a mile south of Shea Blvd. Contact Scottsdale President Tom Ballen, TBallen@aol.com / (480) 502-8639 , or Lyn Searfoss, lynsearfoss@cox.net / (480) 905-9238 , for details.
- **Tucson Bonsai Society** (1972) meets at 12:45 p.m. on the Third Sunday of every month at the Tucson Botanical Gardens' Porter Gardens facility, 2150 North Alvernon Way (near Grant). Contact David Meyer @ (520) 749-4155 or (520) 722-2000.
- **Southern Arizona Bonsai Enthusiasts** (2001) meet the FIRST SUNDAY of each month at 12:30 p.m. For information contact: Doris Cavanaugh, doris.c@qwest.net / (520) 290-0522 or Pat & Thelma Patterson, dezertrats@aol.com / (520) 825-9685.

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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, 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.

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

-- Leroy Fujii

PHOENIX BONSAI SOCIETY

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