

February-2017 Program: Old Trees From Around the World

For our February meeting we will look at some of the oldest trees in the world. Old trees are the inspiration for our bonsai. These old trees have survived hurricanes, forest fires, lightning strikes, insect and viral diseases, earthquakes, landslides, floods, typhoons, etc. Many of these venerable trees pre-date the birth of Christ; some of them pre-date the building of the Egyptian pyramids. In comparison to a human life span of three score and ten, trees can live a very, very long time. In designing our bonsai we want to mimic these elderly giants, with their thick aged bark, wind damaged tops and branches, and strong root flares.

I found this quote on the 'iliketowastemytime' web site. I think it resonates with everyone who loves trees – real-life large or bonsai-sized small.

“To this day, a tree is one of the most underrated living organisms on this planet. In the eye of an uneducated (or ignorant) human being, a tree is just a roll of toilet paper – an every-day object – not a luxury that can be taken away at any time. People who protect and care for them are sarcastically dubbed "tree huggers" and are constantly being put down by the masses. These magnificent living organisms are being destroyed on daily basis. The reality is quite sad and alarming. But together, we can change this!”

Calendars:

If you weren't at the January dinner you have a calendar waiting for you to pick up. The calendar features trees from our 2016 show, which were all photographed by Gary L. The trees are magnificent. The photographs are magnificent.

Post Script:

“The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.”

— John Muir