



Bonsai Society of Dallas

April 2006



Message from the President:

By George Straw

What a great show at the Dallas Arboretum, if you did not come by just to see the trees on exhibit, you really missed a great display. We had 26 trees on exhibit and like last year, we had the general public vote on their favorite tree. This is always interesting to see what appeals to the public. It is not always what a bonsai artist/collector would have chosen. We wanted to get an idea of what the public liked. It also lets us know about how many people had gone through the exhibit. We only did the voting on Saturday and we had over 1,000 people come through. Sunday was a little slower but not much. So over the two day period we probably had close to 2,000 people attend.

The winning tree was the Spruce Forest owned by Dave Schleser. Please see page 3 for a picture of the tree and again, if you did not get to the show, you missed seeing the real thing.

It was rather sad though that with all of the people attending, there were very few from the club that attended if they were not showing trees or

helping with the show. This is an opportunity to see some wonderful trees and to start learning about exhibiting your trees and how an exhibit is set up.

I want to thank everyone who brought trees and especially the people who did not bring a tree but came out to help with the exhibit. If you have never helped, you will find it very rewarding as people walk through and are amazed at the trees and that they are not really a miniature form of a tree but if planted in the ground would grow to be just like their family growing outside in the ground.

Special thanks to SYLVIA SMITH for all of her hard work and dedication to arranging and setting up the exhibit at the Arboretum. If you have never helped with the show, there is a lot of work that goes into getting it together. Sylvia was very pleased with the extra stands and accent plants that we had this year. This is the first time that we had stands and accent plants to choose from and ones we did not use.

We are working very hard on the 2007 Convention. The name will be "Texas Bonsai 2007 – Art, Education, and Excellence." We will be letting everyone know who the committee chairpersons are and ask that you sign up to help one of these committees. We cannot have an excellent Convention without the help of the members. We are asking that every member do their part by helping however you can.

George



April Program by Mike Smoller

Date: April 6, 2006
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: North Haven Gardens
7700 Northaven
Dallas, TX

The April Program will be presented by . . . me. I am going to show how to turn an Ugly Duckling into a Swan, or make a silk purse out of a sow's ear (both figuratively speaking) by showing examples of a chop and grow technique on a Cedar

elm. During that demonstration I will discuss the ten (10) most common mistakes in bonsai.

Having been interested in bonsai since he was 12, Mike joined the Club in 1979. After seeing a collected Cedar Elm by the late Ted Guyger, Mike started collecting trees. Quite a few of these trees have made their way into his wonderful forest plantings. Please come join us for a great night of information and fun! -- SM

Plan to bring your tools for the May meeting!

The club will be purchasing 20-30 junipers for the club members to style at the meeting, with help available from other club members. More details to come in the May newsletter!



BSD Calendar

- Apr. 6 - Mike Smoller - Ugly Duckling to Swan + 10 Most Common Bonsai Mistakes
- May 4 - All Club Pros - Juniper Styling
- June 1 - Andy Rutledge - Bonsai Artistry, Evaluation & Critique
- July 6 - Ray Hernandez - Collected Tree Care
- Aug. 3 - David Quisenberry - Bonsai on a Budget
- Sept. 7 - Club Auction
- Oct. 5 - David Schleser - Lesser Known Natives for Collecting
- Nov. 2 - Shane Cary - TBA
- Dec. 7 - Progress critique on the trees from the May program

Other Dates of Interest

- Mar. 10-Apr. 17 - Dallas Blooms 2006 at the Dallas Arboretum
- Apr. 1-2 - Spring Festival in the Japanese Garden at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden
- Apr. 8 - Spring Plant Sale at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden
- Apr. 22, SSOT - Austin raft style
- June 17, SSOT - Austin tropical shohin refinement and air layering.
- July 14- 16 - State Bonsai Convention, Corpus Christi
- Sept. 16, SSOT - Austin Panel critique. Workshop, Japanese style scroll.

April Bonsai

By John Miller



I hope your bonsai are not as mixed up as mine. After the prolonged hot weather last fall, most of my trees made a late surge of growth which then did not have time to properly mature before the hard freeze in early December. Other than that the winter has been very mild and the different species are not opening in their proper order, some of my oaks, maples, elms all opening in the same week. I normally count on Chinese elms the first week of March with no oaks until April, with the others nicely spaced in between. So as I write this, should be in the middle of my repotting instead of mostly done without time to do a proper trimming of new growth.

So in April, repotting for the hardy bonsai has ended and it's still too early for the tropicals. So what is left to do? Just trimming, feeding, trimming, check for insects, trimming, shows, trimming. You get the idea. Trimming, that is the pinching, plucking or whatever of new growth, is the process that not only develops refinement on your tree but is vital to keep it from growing out of that desired state. This is not pruning, which is cutting of branches and which should not be done when there is a strong sap flow. That starts when the tree breaks dormancy and continues until after the leaves harden or sometimes later. (Note: this trimming does not apply to those areas where you need to grow a new or longer branch to fill a bad design spot).

At the risk of repeating the trimming process too much, I repeat it for the beginners. On elms and other trees with leaves appearing alternately down the shoot, do not let more than 5 new leaves appear. Cut back to 2 or 3 leaves, leaving the last leaf on the side that you want the new growth to appear. On maples and others with leaves coming in pairs on opposite sides of the twig, cut the center shoot as soon as you can determine it. Tweezers work best for this operation. Since the shoots do not all open at the same time this could be a daily chore for the best results.

A good organic program takes care of both the feeding and the insect problems. The trick is to be sure to thoroughly cover the plant including all the leaf axils. Use a hand or pump up sprayer to get a fine spray to cover all, a hose end sprayer doesn't cover well enough. This is also true if you want to use commercial chemical sprays.

I recommend the 'original' Howard Garret mixture of 1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water. (A commercial product called Garret Juice which is to be used the same way uses compost tea, dried seaweed, water, molasses and vinegar. As a fertilizer this should act the same but it does not seem to work as well as an insecticide.) I use the mixture both as a foliar feed spray and as a soil drench fertilizer. As a weekly foliar spray it keeps aphids, mites, loopers, bagworms and other insects under control. I try to drench twice a month partly because I don't think the plant can absorb all the minor elements it needs through the foliage. It is a good practice to also use fertilizer cakes on the surface of the soil which feeds a bit every time you water. Commercial water soluble fertilizers wash out with the next watering and result in poorly fed, pale bonsai.

Fungal diseases can show up with damp weather. Leaf spot can be serious on Catlin and Chinese elms and on hollies. Mildew can be a problem when the weather turns warm. There are organic fungicides available, baking soda is one. Check an organic nursery or publications. A 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide (dilute the standard 3% store bought stuff, 2 parts water to each part peroxide) is also recommended but it can injure tender new foliage.

Be sure to check your soils each day for proper water content. It is easy to assume that the soil has plenty of water when the days are cool or there has been some rain. A tree with full leaves may shed rain water outside of the pot or a good sun and low humidity after a front to dry the soil. I suggest that you remove some of the moss so that you can see and feel the soil in order to determine how dry it is. (Moss growing on the trunk or roots will cause the bark to rot, also.) An automatic watering system will be an aid, but you should not rely on it to replace hand watering. Most automatic systems just water a spot or two in the pot. Hand watering covers the entire pot and allows you to adjust the watering for each tree individually and lets you see that the pot is draining properly. A clogged drainage hole can drown some trees in less than a week.

Most trees will do well in the full sun at this time of year. However, if you have had them in partial shade, be careful about moving them to full sun. They probably should be acclimated gradually. Too much wind will cause the leaves to burn. Some damage may not show up until hot weather.

THANK YOU, SYLVIA SMITH! By George Straw

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sylvia for all of the hard work that she has put into making the Bonsai Society of Dallas a successful Bonsai club. Sylvia has held almost every position in the club and is always willing to step in to help when she is asked. She is always the first to step up to volunteer when functions are going on at the club. Sylvia has taken charge of the Dallas Arboretum Bonsai Exhibit each year that we have been doing the show. If you have attended the shows over the years, you have seen it go from a display of trees to an outstanding Bonsai Exhibit. Each year the show gets better and we have Sylvia to thank for her efforts. She gets the members to work on their trees, get stands, and have accent plants so that they can walk in and have their display ready to set up, but at the same time have extra stands and accent plants for those who do not have them.

THANK YOU, SYLVIA!

People's Choice Award at the Dallas Arboretum Show

The winner of the People's Choice Award was a spruce forest by Dave Schleser.



The runner up for the People's Choice Award at the Dallas Arboretum was a Hinoki Cypress that was styled by Sylvia Smith for one of her customers.



Thank you so much to all of you who showed your trees and helped to make this exhibit at the Dallas Arboretum so successful!

LONE STAR BONSAI FEDERATION CONVENTION

The 2006 LSBF convention will be held in Corpus Christi on July 14-16. Guest artists include Johnny Uchida of California, Bruce Baker of Michigan, and Ed Trout of Florida. It will be at the Holiday Inn, 5549 Leopard St, Corpus Christi. Reserve that date on your calendar, details and reservation sheets are now available on the Corpus Christi Bonsai Club website at www.corpuschristibonsaiclub.com. Some of the material for workshops will be Brazilian Raintree, Natal Plum, Water Jasmine (Wrighti Religiosa), Dwarf Yaupon Holly Fiddlewood, Surinam Cherry, Kidneywood, Texas Ebony, and a mixed group of other Texas Natives.

We Need Items for the Raffle! By Sandi McFarland

As the chairperson for the raffle at the 2007 Convention, I would like to ask you to donate one or more quality items for the raffle! I'd really like items to be bonsai, plant, or oriental art related. If you have something that you would like to donate, or if you have a question about the raffle, please contact me at 972-438-9782 or at potter@pegasuspottery.com. This raffle is one of the ways that BSD gains much needed funds for operations, so please help us out! Thank you in advance for all your help!

I am also looking for a couple of folks who would be willing to help me run the raffle. If you are interested, please let me know! Thanks!

Generous Businesses Give Discount to BSG Members

Present your BSD membership card at the following participating businesses for a 10% discount on merchandise:

- The Bonsai Smiths
- Dream Gardens
- Ray Hernandez's Bent Tree Bonsai
- Pegasus Pottery

We are so grateful to these businesses for their generosity to BSD members! If you have a business and would like to offer a discount to club members, please contact George Straw at GSTRA@aol.com or Sandi McFarland potter@pegasuspottery.com.



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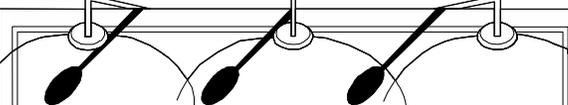
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Membership Renewal

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership in BSD today! Your membership dues allow BSD to continue to bring quality bonsai artists to our meetings for lectures and demonstrations. Please fill out the membership form below and mail with payment to:

Bonsai Society of Dallas
P.O. Box 836922
Richardson, TX 75083-6922

Or you may turn it in to Jennifer Triptow at the next Club meeting. Thank you!

BONSAI SOCIETY OF DALLAS

www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Bonsai Society of Dallas meets on the first (1st) Thursday of each month.

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: North Haven Garden Center

7700 Northaven, Dallas, TX

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Date: _____

Individual Membership: \$25.00

Joint Membership: \$30.00

Renewal

New Membership

Do Not Cut: For Treasurer Use Only

Member Receipt:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Amount Paid: _____ Membership Year: _____

Thank you so much!