



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly newsletter

August 2008

Message from the President

By Sylvia Smith

We have managed to make it through this hot July only to continue to be mindful of our trees for another hot August. Our nursery has been through a few changes with some expansions on both sides of the nursery for all of our JBP babies as well as other aesthetic improvements. We've also had to make some changes in our watering stations that will hopefully improve how efficiently we water. We hope to have everything completed by fall. I was sad to have lost a few companions and a few starter trees that just got a little too dry. In this weather it only takes one missed cycle to make a tree weak and if you missed a whole day you can pretty much kiss your tree goodbye.

Over the years John, Dave S., Howard and I have shared with you several ways to keep your trees from drying out in the summer heat. It is very important to not let your trees get too dry during the day. Some of the hardier varieties will tolerate some drought, like our native Cedar Elm, but this does in fact make your tree weaker. The growing season has slowed to a crawl but things are still growing and your trees still need to produce energy. Adding a 30% shade cloth could be helpful to keep the temperatures around your trees down. Even the conifers which prefer full sunlight might benefit from some shading during the hottest month of the year.

We have some really nice programs set from now to the end of the year. Suthin Sukosolvisit will be in Dallas and Ft. Worth Friday and Saturday (please check "August Programs" on page 2 for time, date and place). Many of you will remember him from the Dallas Convention two years ago. September we will host our friend Michael Hagedorn who studied in Japan for three years with world renowned Shinji Suzuki. October we will have our annual auction (get those trees and money ready!) November we will host our fellow S.O.B. (student of Boon) Ron Martin who has also run off to Japan to study shohin bonsai, and last but not least "Meet the Panel" of adept BSD members who will walk you through the care and future of your trees, followed by a free lunch and white elephant holiday gift exchange.

Last but not least, we will be holding elections in November. Anyone who is interested is keeping our club up and running please contact any of the Board Members with your questions and enthusiasm. Since we do not officially have a program chair (a.k.a. Vice-President) we will be looking to fill the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Thank you all for your continued support.

Sylvia

BSD CALENDAR:

Friday, Aug. 1st

"Choosing Shohin Bonsai Material"

by Suthin Sukosolvisit
Ft. Worth Botanic Garden (in the
Conservatory)

(Dallas Club invited)

Saturday, Aug. 2nd

"Styling Shohin Bonsai"

by Suthin Sukosolvisit
North Haven Gardens

(Ft. Worth club invited)

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E-mail: amy.james@gte.net

August Programs

Choosing Shohin Bonsai Material & Styling Shohin Bonsai



This month brings another wonderful and well-known bonsai master to our area. Many of you will remember Suthin Sukosolvisit was one of the speakers at the 2007 state convention held right here in Dallas. He worked on a beautiful Japanese Apricot. Suthin returns to speak at our August program.

The great thing is, we get to see him TWICE. That's right, Suthin is giving TWO lectures! On Friday evening, August 1st, he will speak on "Choosing Shohin Bonsai" at the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden. On Saturday morning he will give a lecture on "Styling Shohin Bonsai" at North Haven Gardens. Make one or make both; it's up to you.

Suthin Sukosolvisit has been a bonsai artist for 38 years. In that time, he's won numerous awards, lectured all over the United States and abroad and owns and operates Royal Bonsai Garden, a bonsai and garden nursery in Stoughton, Massachusetts. Learn more at www.royalbonsaigarden.com.

Times and Locations:

Friday, August 1st, 7 P.M.

"Choosing Shohin Bonsai"

Fort Worth Botanic Gardens (in the Conservatory)

3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard

Ft. Worth, Texas 76107

<http://www.fwbg.com/maps.htm>

Saturday, August 2nd, 9 A.M.

"Styling Shohin Bonsai"

North Haven Gardens

7700 North Haven Rd.

Dallas, Texas 75230

<http://www.nhg.com/map1.htm>



2008 ABS/LSBF Convention - Courtesy of J. McCoy, Austin Bonsai Society

Events of Interest



- **Ft. Worth Bonsai Society - August Program in Ft. Worth**
Saturday, Aug. 1st
"Choosing Shohin Bonsai Material"
by Suthin Sukosolvisit
(Dallas Club invited)
- **BSD August Program**
Saturday, Aug. 2nd
"Styling Shohin Bonsai"
by Suthin Sukosolvisit
North Haven Gardens
(Ft. Worth club invited)
- **LSBF Visiting Artist:**
Michael Hagedorn
September
- **Organic in the City**
First Tuesdays (March – September) 6pm-8pm
Enjoy a summer evening in the Gardens with music, guided tours and presentations on organic and environmental topics.
www.texasdiscoverygardens.org
- **BSD Club Auction**
Saturday, October 4th
(Start examining your collections/materials now!)

WE WANT YOUR STORIES!

Been to an exhibit lately? Had an interesting experience worth sharing? Send in an article to the BSD and maybe YOU will appear in the next Society newsletter!

July Program Recap

by John Miller & James Bonney



At the July meeting 14 people came the day after the July 4th celebration. The wonderful thing was that 12 of them talked about what they brought. We also had a guest who was impressed enough to join after the meeting.

I believe there were six of the miniature crepe myrtles done at the Valvanis workshop in June. Most

were brought in for the meeting. It was interesting to hear how each person had a little different way to care for them.

Among the unusual, Dave Schleser brought an elephant tree from Mexico and a loblolly pine he collected in east Texas in 1972. He'd like to see more people use some of our native material. Ladd brought a chaste tree (Vitex) which is not native but was widely grown in Texas in earlier years. Diane brought in a root-over-rock maple that she had styling questions on and (on the advice of several members) ended up removing most of the crown—a tough decision to make, but ultimately one that everyone felt made the tree better.

Several other plants were brought and openly discussed by the group making for a very enjoyable meeting.



During the business session: Next month program will be Suthin Sokolsvisit doing a program in Ft. Worth on Friday night and at the Dallas meeting on Saturday. Everyone is welcome to attend both meetings.

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit has received a donation of several large cedar elms. LSBF members are asked to adopt-a-tree, doing the major styling, wiring, and repotting work on it in Austin. Local Austin people would do the daily maintenance keeping the tree there. If interested, contact John Miller, 903-776-2910 or boinsaimiller@aol.com. Take

note of the newest offer from the TTSBE for members who choose to adopt a tree. See the sidebar. ✍

From the The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit

Subject: Kathy Shaner Workshop

The Foster Care Parents that have signed up will have a free workshop with Kathy Shaner specifically with their tree, on Oct. 6, 2008 at Elaine White's Lakeview Bonsai garden.

You will be given advice and suggestions on your tree starting at 9:00am – 12:00pm.

We will break for a locally catered lunch from 12:00 – 1:00pm on the deck overlooking Lake Travis. Everyone will pay for their own lunch and can choose from several menus from the local area.

In the afternoon is a bring-your-own-tree session starting at 1:00 pm. You may attend without signing up for the Foster Care Tree Program. Cost of this Workshop is \$40.00 and will last until about 4:00pm.

We will be working outside, so wear your grubbies and layers, as the weather is unpredictable.

You may attend both or only one session—or if you want to work on your tree in the PM you can observe the first session at no cost. Maximum number of participants is 8. Contact Elaine White: (512) 266-2655 or ewbonsai@austin.rr.com

WELCOME!

The Bonsai Society of Dallas would like to welcome two new members, Tyler Slawson and Vincent Buss!



August Bonsai

By John Miller

Every once in a while you hear something that makes you really wonder. I won't go into the whole story but will remind you that keeping your trees in a greenhouse during the summer in Texas is not tender loving care. Even though they have vents there is not enough air circulation to keep the temperature anywhere near ambient. It's much better to just have them outside. A shade house constructed so that you can roll the top up allows you to give enough shade now and let the tree get full sun in the spring. A 30% shade cloth on the sides can be used as a wind break and to aid in controlling insects. Keeping the top shade cloth down during the winter serves to prevent the sun from breaking the dormancy of deciduous trees and will give a small amount of cold protection. Of course, you could cover with plastic to turn it into a greenhouse.

Quit pruning your azaleas because they have set buds for next year's bloom. Other spring flowering plants also set buds during the fall but most have so many blooms that you can still keep them in shape.

In the real world, plan your soil mix for your average conditions and then tilt the pots if you have a long wet spell and give an extra watering when hot and dry. Use some loose covering on the pot to shade it from the sun. A windbreak could help with tender leaved trees.

Remember to water twice. Wait a few minutes after the first watering for the dry soil particles to absorb some of the water on their surface. Then with the surface tension reduced the second watering gets the particle wet.

The stress caused by the temperature will give any insects a chance to wreak havoc. Watch for the spider mites especially this month. The morning spray will help knock some off. The organic foliar spray will keep them down also. Light weight horticultural oils are available as well as Neem oil sprays. Don't use oil sprays on buttonwoods. Check any sprays for heat limitations. Chemical sprays are available but most chemical reactions are accelerated by heat and may damage plants. Read the labels!



Any rainy spell can bring some fungal problems. Powdery mildew or black leaf spot are a couple of them. That is why I use the foliar spray in the morning, so that

the leaves will dry quickly. The organic websites say you can mix baking soda with the foliar spray for fungal control. However I have decided to do separate sprayings. The foliar spray has an acid (vinegar) which would react with the baking soda thereby reducing the effectiveness of both. Anyhow all your trees would benefit from the foliar spray but not all would have a fungal problem. Potassium Bicarbonate (available in nurseries) would be a better choice than baking soda which is sodium bicarbonate.

Be careful about applying fertilizer in hot weather. Even organic fertilizers create some chemical reactions and the above remarks apply here too. The solid organic balls are best to use as they release nutrients very slowly and do so during each watering. By the end of the month the nitrogen applied to the tree should be reduced. A little may be put on into September but the tree needs to be allowed to stop growth to get ready for dormancy. Evergreen trees benefit from a low nitrogen fertilizer through the winter.

Deciduous trees usually slow their growth during summer so you can do some pruning on them. However pruning can stimulate new growth that may not have time to harden before winter resulting in some dieback of the new growth. On these trees it's better to wait until later. After leaves have fallen you can see where corrections need to be made more easily.



It's never too early to think about having your tree ready for a show. Identify (in your mind) any tree or trees you think you would like to exhibit and give them a little extra care: twig pruning, a guy wire to move a branch a little, that kind of thing, a very small change can make a world of difference. At the Ft Worth 4th Thursday open workshop night a member brought a tree to discuss what improvements could be made so as to be shown at the convention the next year. Bonsai is the ultimate plan-ahead hobby.

As for planning ahead, help your club out by locating dig sites for next winter. If you have doubts about a site, ask someone to scope it out for/with you. New sites are always needed.



For more information, visit
www.worldbonsaiconvention2009.com



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817-534-3220 www.sc-bonsai.com

Generous Businesses Give Discounts to BSD Members

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

- The Bonsai Smiths
- Ray Hernandez's Bent Tree Bonsai
- Pegasus Pottery
- Sanderson Creek Bonsai

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 James Bonney at amy.james@gte.net.

Place Your Ad Here!

Business card size—\$5 per month

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For more information, contact James Bonney
at 972-527-2132 or amy.james@gte.net

BONSAI SOCIETY OF DALLAS

www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please mail to:
Bonsai Society of Dallas
P.O. Box 836922
Richardson, TX 75083-6922
Or turn in at any Club Meeting

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

Time: 9:00 AM
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

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