



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly Member Newsletter

January 2015

Message from the President

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Happy 2016! I'm looking forward to the many activities planned for the year, as well as the upcoming LSBF Convention in Corpus Christi slated for October. I'll jump at any great learning opportunity and an excuse to take a mini vacation. 😊

In January we will have a very informative talk by our dual Dallas / Fort Worth club member Mark Bynum, on digging trees from nature. Although this year we do not have a dig site to coordinate a club dig, that doesn't mean we have stopped looking. That also doesn't mean that you can't be looking in your surrounding neighborhood for possible trees to dig individually. Also this month remember to get your membership up-to-date so that you can participate in the discounted BSD only online sales event at Dallas Bonsai Garden. They will have a list of all of the current membership so please make sure that you're on that list.

On a more personal note, I've been thinking about my New Year's resolutions as president of the Dallas Bonsai Society. First, a huge salute to our incredible board. This awesome group of people has come up with many ideas, provided food, entertainment, warmth, welcoming smiles and hugs to everyone who has come through our doors. I couldn't begin to fill their shoes! We are truly blessed to have such a great group of club and board members alike. I've heard from many that this is the friendliest club that they've ever joined and I hope that we continue to strive to keep it that way. But my goal is to continue to make our club a well-educated one as well, to improve the quality of bonsai in member's collections and to continue to inspire and impress others through our bonsai exhibits. You can do your part by helping out with upcoming volunteer opportunities, contributing to the newsletter, finding a dig site, designing a logo for our upcoming convention (see details on page 4), or even just by perpetuating that same warm smile that you got when you joined.

Happy New Year Everyone!

Sylvia



Cartoon from The New Yorker magazine and shared by Carol M. Thanks Carol!

NEYANT

January Program

Successful Techniques for Collecting Trees

9:00 AM to Noon, January 2nd

North Haven Gardens

Although we don't have a club dig scheduled for this year, there are many opportunities to dig trees. You may have a neighbor planning to redo his/her landscape soon or a friend with some open land. Just tap into your Facebook 'friends' and you'd be surprised what you might find. The point is to be ready, as January and February are the prime months to collect trees for future bonsai.



Collecting trees can give you a tremendous head start on developing future bonsai. Nature has done the hard part of developing an interesting trunk. But how do you know what to look for? And once you find the one you want, how do you dig it successfully? Join us for the first program of the year and learn the key points in selecting the best tree and getting it out of the ground the most successful way. Success doesn't mean you got it out of the ground; success is if it lives after you get it home.

Mark Bynum will lead the program/discussion. He has years of experience and has spent a good deal of his career in the wholesale nursery industry. We can still organize a dig so let any board member know if you find a site. ✍

Online Shopping Weekend

Jan 8th - 10th - Dallas Bonsai

It is almost time to stock up on your bonsai tools/pots/supplies while taking advantage of the generous 30% discount that Dallas Bonsai is offering. Their website is www.dallasbonsai.com and is being updated constantly. The long weekend gives you plenty of time to place your order(s).

The code to enter to receive your discount is **FIELDTRIP15**. As a reminder, shipping is **free** on orders over \$75.00. Picking up of an order can be arranged, but it will be ready for pick-up only at the door. The discount is only available to current club members so please be sure your 2016 dues are paid.



DALLAS BONSAI GARDEN

Upcoming Events



January 2nd - **Successful Techniques for Collecting Trees**

January 8th - 10th - **Dallas Bonsai Discount Weekend**

February 6th - **Study Group with Bonsai Smiths**

March 5th - **Show Preparation / Companions**

March 11th - 13th - **Spring BSD Exhibit/Show**

April 2nd - **Finding the Bonsai Within**

Events Elsewhere



January 24th - 25th
Noelanders's Trophy
Genk, Belgium

January 31st - February 11th
Kokufu Bonsai-ten's 90th Anniversary Show
Tokyo, Japan

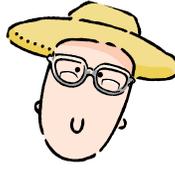
February 27th - 28th
GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: Auction
Oakland, CA

March 17th - 20th
BCI Regional Bonsai Convention
Nakita City, Philippines

April 15th - 17th
Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival
Cromwell, CT.

April 27th - 30th
8th World Bonsai Convention
Omiya, Japan

May 26th - 29th
Brussels Rendezvous Weekend
Olive Branch, MS



January Bonsai

Tips and Advice

By John Miller

Why Winter this year has been pretty nonexistent. That kind of weather is bad for bonsai. The trees can't really get prepared for winter. And we most likely will find a cold front trying to do havoc. Try to select locations to temporize the lows and highs by utilizing ground heat and artificial shade.

Be sure your trees are well watered before going thru a deep freeze. They will be losing water to evaporation but will not be able to replenish it if the soil in the pot is frozen. Protection from high winds is necessary so they will not dry the tops out. Sunlight is not necessary on deciduous trees when they have lost their leaves. In fact, it can be bad for the tree because it will heat up the trunk and could make the tree come out of dormancy too early.

I advocate placing the trees on a well-drained ground bed in a protected shady area. Then cover the pots with a shallow layer of mulch. This will give the roots several degrees of protection. You should know which trees have a greater need for water. If you put these trees together it will be easier to check your need for watering while they are in the bed.

I would treat the evergreens in a similar manner but put them where they can get some sun.

Personally, I keep my outside hardy trees on the benches until the temperature goes below 25 degrees. Then I set the deciduous and more tender evergreens on the ground below and between the benches until a temp in the teens is expected. At that point I will use old carpet and quilts to cover the benches. For the rest of the winter I leave them there and lift the sides for air circulation of the deciduous trees and uncover fully the evergreens when the temp rises. Sounds like a lot of work but I developed a routine that fits me and it isn't a bad as watering in the summer.

Of course the tender and semi-tender trees need protection. The semi-tender get left out for some frost but no freezing. When freezing is expected

they get put in a cool area. If they show growth again they go to the greenhouse. It's not a big greenhouse and doesn't give optimum growing conditions but keeps things from freezing.

Indoor trees will be using more water to offset the lower humidity. Soil will also be losing water faster through its surface. Be sure to watch the indoor trees for insect problems. Most plant insects love a controlled atmosphere like the indoors. Spider mites seem to get the most attention here because they do great in a low humidity and the lack of foliage spraying. Scale can be an easily overlooked source of trouble. There are usually more severe problems with plants that have been kept outdoors in summer than brought in without any treatment. Indoor trees need to be fertilized regularly and will require periodic trimming as they continue to grow through the winter.

Greenhouses are much the same as indoors. However, most greenhouses are kept more humid. The higher humidity is to the liking of aphids and fungal diseases. It may also result in your keeping the soil too moist with associated root problems. Use your standard insect controls that you used last summer. I use my Garrett Juice mixture.

Styling can be done at this time but no repotting unless you are going to keep the tree from freezing after that. Repotting initiates new root development which is usually not very hardy.

A better approach would be to study one or two thoroughly each day making notes on what needs to be done. January is an excellent time to start any remodeling projects that may be necessary. While the trees are dormant you have better view of the branch structure. Do any need to be moved or removed? Do any coarse branches need to be cut back to a smaller side branch for refinement? Do any long straight branches need wiring to give them motion? Does the tree really need a drastic redesign? You can also trim the twigs back while

Continued on next page



January Bonsai

you have them there. You can also decide if that tree will need to be repotted this spring, is the present pot good or should you find a more appropriate pot for it.

Any long warm spells during the month could activate some of the insect problems but as a rule there are no special needs to look for in January. Spraying with a dormant oil spray will kill adults, nymphs, and eggs of any trying to over-winter on your trees. Some dormant sprays can be used on new growth but better results overall will be obtained if you do it before Valentine's Day. A weak lime sulphur dormant spray will also get fungal spores and should be done before Feb 1.

If you have your summer display and growing benches cleared, you could use a stronger lime sulphur solution to disinfect that area too. The underside of the benches should be sprayed also. This might even eliminate spider mites next year.

If you have several trees and find that you run short of time during the repotting season you may gain a little advantage by mixing your soil this month.

I am looking forward to the week after Christmas. That is when I will start bringing my *shohin* elms and maples into the greenhouse to break dormancy and I get to play a couple of months earlier than I would without the greenhouse. That repotting, restyling, and the first flush of growth will be over before the big stuff thinks about growing. ✍

LSBF 2017 Convention

Logo / Naming Contest - \$50/\$50 PRIZE FOR WINNERS!

The Bonsai Society of Dallas and the Fort Worth Bonsai Society will be co-hosting the Lone Star Bonsai Federation Convention in April, 2017. Your joint Convention Committee has begun organizing all of the factors that make up this large event. We need a name and a logo and would like to get the membership of both clubs involved. We are therefore offering a "Name" Contest and separately, a "Logo" Contest.

NAME CONTEST

Come up with a catchy name for the convention and enter as many as you like. Typed or handwritten is fine.

LOGO CONTEST

Keep in mind that the logo will also become the pin for the convention. The logo must contain: BSD, FWBS, 2017 or '17, and LSBF somewhere in the design. A rough sketch with some color indicated is fine. We are not looking for finished artwork. Enter as many designs as you like.

GENERAL CONTEST DETAILS

- The **deadline** is set for noon, **Saturday, February 6, 2016**, at the end of the Dallas Club meeting.
- Turn in your entries at any Fort Worth or Dallas club meeting or send your entries to Sylvia Smith (slysmith@tx.rr.com) or Mark Bynum (mark.bynum12@att.net), Co-chairs of the Convention. Be sure to include your name.
- All entries will be judged by and become the property of the 2017 Convention Committee.
- Winners of each contest will be awarded \$50 worth of raffle tickets at the Convention.

Show Prep – Pottery

By Sylvia Smith

As we approach repotting season this year, keep in mind that we will have another exhibit in March. Make sure you buy that perfect pot this month! What constitutes a good pot? Well, there is a new found craze for antique Japanese imports as we learned last year from Michael Ryan Bell. These are quite beautiful but sometimes too shallow to keep your trees in year round so make sure you have a slightly larger pot ready to put your tree into after the show.



Semi-cascade in an octagonal pot



This cream pot contrasts the color of the red berries on this Winterberry

Antique pottery can be expensive and is not the only alternative. The key is to pick the correct shape for your tree. Most styles (formal, informal, slant, etc.) will fit into an oval or rectangular pot that has a width of approximately 2/3 the height of the tree, and it should be as deep as the thickness of the trunk. Round and square pots should only be used on literati or cascading trees. The color should enhance the tree somehow by highlighting the foliage or trunk in some way. A very colorful pot should be used on companions or on very nicely ramified trees so that the pot does not overpower the tree. Conifers should never be potted in glazed pots because they prefer to be dryer and non-glazed pottery is more porous than glazed pots. The only exceptions are Ginkgo, Redwood or anything that can also be classified as deciduous.

"Where do I find a pot," you ask? Here are a few ideas: On Facebook there is a group called "Bonsai Auctions Groups Community". Michael Ryan Bell sells pottery here as well as other very talented new artists. Dallas Bonsai Gardens, www.dallasbonsai.com has a good selection of fine Tokanome pottery that is very show worthy. Sara Rayner is one of America's most popular potters. She can even customize your pot to fit your tree by providing her a few dimensions (turn around could be lengthy so this would be one to buy now for next year). Her site is www.redwing.net/~daalms/. ✍



A very decorative pot should only be used on companions or a very strongly composed tree such as this beauty berry.

Tip of the Month

Mist House

How to keep cuttings in a humid environment

If you were intrigued to try some of the propagation techniques featured in last month's article on the topic, consider using an old aquarium as your mist house. The added height of the aquarium will allow room for the longer deciduous cuttings we typically take. It is also a great way to repurpose an aquarium that might have a leak that can't be fixed. Clear plastic can be secured to the top to provide closure and it is the perfect way to keep moisture in and wind out. Place small rocks or pebbles at the bottom before placing the pots in so that they stay above any excess water that might pool at the bottom. Don't forget to keep it out of direct sunlight.



December Program in Review Study Group – Bonsai Smiths

It was another fun study group with Howard and Sylvia, this time made even better with our Christmas goodies to nibble on while we got great advice on each of the trees. They started us off with a general discussion of the things we should be doing this time of year on the four main groups of trees – deciduous, conifer, evergreen, and tropical. They then made their rotation, tree by tree and left the owner in place to do the work.

Thanks to all the board members who came through once again to provide the food and beverages. And special thanks to Chris S. for all these great photos. ✍



Photos courtesy of Chris Scholz

Bonsai Smiths

Upcoming Classes

Full Day Workshops - \$75



February 13, 2016 – Japanese Black Pine Session 1 (Spring Work)

February 20, 2016 – Deciduous/Maple Workshop Session 1 (Root Refinement & Grafting)

February 27, 2016 – Rock Planting Workshop

We also offer soil mixes. Our APL mix will be available in January!

Soil Prices (tax not included)

APL Mix - 5 gal. - \$59, 1 gal. - \$15

Akadama - \$35 per 20 liter bag, Pumice - \$4 per gal., Lava - \$3 per gal

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Business card size is \$5.00 per month

Half page size is \$20.00 per month

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For more details contact:

Jerry Riley

jafa625@gmail.com



January's To-Do List

This is a simple monthly checklist for those enthusiasts who have the knowledge and skill required to perform the tasks listed. It is intended to tell you 'what' to do, not 'how and why' to do it. Want to know more? Send in any questions you might have or come to any monthly program to discuss further.

All Species

- Water as needed and keep from freezing

Deciduous

- Only repot trees whose leaf buds are beginning to swell; protect from freezing thereafter
- Light pruning can be done now (use sealant); delay heavy pruning until spring

Evergreen/Conifer

- Repotting can begin now, but protect from freezing thereafter
- Delay fertilization until 4 – 6 weeks after repotting

Flowering/Fruit

- Repotting can be done now while trees are still slightly dormant; avoid if currently in flower
- Trimming should be done after flowering (use sealant); buds can be sacrificed every other year to achieve better ramification

Tropical

- Winter precautions still in effect – no repotting
- Boost humidity if kept indoors

Link of the Month

Have you been looking for the perfect bonsai stand? Perhaps you need to consider having one made. The folks in the Portland area know who to turn to. It's Austin Heitzman, bonsai enthusiast and master wordworker. Many of his stands were featured at The Artisan's Cup. Check out his website at http://austinheitzmanfurniture.com/x55/x_furniture_disp.php



Member News

Got news to share? Let us know.....

As a reminder, club membership must be renewed each year by January 1st. Regardless of what month you originally joined the club, they are due again in January. The only exception is if you joined in October, November, or December of the previous year. Please use the form at the end of the newsletter to renew your membership as soon as possible. Thanks!

Beginner's Bulletin Board

There are no 'dumb' questions when you are a beginner at any new endeavor. However sometimes beginners are reluctant to ask a question in a monthly meeting. Got a question? Send it to Diane at diane_lowe@live.com for an individual response. Your question may also appear anonymously here in a future issue so that others can learn.

Question: I acquired an Ashe Juniper for the first time earlier this year and I notice that some of the foliage has changed color to a brown shade rather than green. It is about 50/50 brown/green. The foliage isn't dropping but I'm wondering if this normal or if I have a problem.

Answer: Some juniper species change their foliage color during frosty periods to a purplish brown which is connected with their frost protection mechanism. In spring they should turn green again. If the color change is associated only with the growing tips it might be a sign of juniper blight, a fungal infection. Based on the time of year, it is likely the normal color change associated with winter. However be careful not to over water and insure good drainage. Ashe Junipers prefer drier conditions. However if a freeze is coming, be sure to water.



BONSAI SMITHS

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Membership Form

Please mail to:
Bonsai Society of Dallas
P.O. Box 836922
Richardson, TX 75083-6922

Or bring to 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 Road
Dallas, TX

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Date: _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership: \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Membership: \$30.00 |

For the convenience of our membership a roster is published for **members only** in March of each year.
Please check the appropriate box if you do not wish to be included

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Include me in the membership roster | <input type="checkbox"/> Exclude me from the membership roster |
|--|--|

Do Not Cut: For Treasurer Use
Member Receipt

Name: _____ Membership Year _____

Amount Paid: _____ Date: _____ Received By: _____