



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly Member Newsletter

January 2011

Message from the President

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed some time with friends and family over the past weeks like I did. Our December program was a hit! Thanks to the courageous members who submitted photos and talked to our group of over 30 people about your gardens. It was fun seeing the different outdoor set-ups and techniques used by our members - Lance has a lot of BIG trees! Our club is a great place to learn techniques that will make our bonsai thrive! James Bonney did another excellent job putting the presentation together and wrapping up the December newsletter. Thank you to Diane Lowe and Sylvia Smith for our final 2010 installment of Bonsai 101. The series has been informative and a good way to continue our education and attract new members to the club

Looking back on 2010 I am proud of the programs and artists our club experienced. We ended the year with 77 members, which is an all-time high according to club historian John Miller. As mentioned, Bonsai 101 was a significant contributor to that growth as was continued support, interest, and attendance by each member. Thank you for your participation and involvement in making our club successful. Some 2010 highlights include: Jim Gremel showing us how to make squash junipers, Sandi Macfarland's pot making workshop, Roy Nagatoshi styling junipers, a successful club auction, and Dave and Garrett teaching on jin and shari techniques. We had a good mix of member driven programs and outside guest artists and workshops. I especially enjoyed when we raffled off those nice trees, which were won by Lois Flood (Mustang Grape), Randy Harris (Juniper), and James Tingle (Juniper) - we would love to see those trees at a future meeting. The Fort Worth convention by our sister club was also a blast. Mark Bynum and the Fort Worth club pulled off a fantastic weekend of bonsai allowing us to experience Guy Guidry, Peter Warren, Matt Ouwinga, and other talented artists.

I am excited about 2011 too! In December we filled all of our open board positions. I think each of our new members shares the passion and enthusiasm that will make our club better the next two years. Alvaro Arciniegas & Jennifer Sin, a husband and wife team has stepped up to be co-Vice President and co-Program Chair. They have been club members since 2007 after relocating from the East Coast and they have recently studied bonsai intensively under Boon. Hiram Quinones accepted the Newsletter Editor position. Hiram has been a club member since September 2009 and is already taking over the production of this newsletter. Bronson Havard stepped up to the Secretary position where he will keep our club on track. Diane, Sylvia, John, Jerry and I will continue in our positions. Tim Phan has agreed to join our 2012 convention planning board as Workshop Chairman - he is proprietor of Bonsai Ware, is a student of Boon and a very talented person. Make sure and welcome the new board members and please give any and all of the board your opinions on ways we can make our club member experience better

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(President's Message continued)

Our 2011 calendar is coming together nicely. We will give Alvaro and Jen a few months to shape the program calendar. We already have one of the top bonsai artists in the U.S. confirmed for our July program. In January we will have two club digs (Glen Rose coordinated by Fort Worth club and George Straw's coordinated by Sylvia Smith) and a bonsai supply-buying trip. Our program calendar will focus on "hands on" work and our February program will be repotting demonstration followed by hands on repotting help - so bring a tree. In March we will be back at the Arboretum during their busiest weekend for our annual bonsai show. It is a lot of work setting up and a great opportunity for members to learn the finer points of showing trees. We want every member to bring a tree to every meeting in 2011 - time will be allotted for show and tell.

We hope to build on the knowledge gained with the Bonsai 101 series and put in place many after-meeting consultation and work sessions to put our knowledge into practice. Time will be allotted for show-and-tell, consultation and styling

Due to the New Year holiday there will be no January program. Take time to review the newsletter for other key dates since January is still a busy with club activities. Finally, please remember to get the membership renewals in by mail or to Diane at the February meeting.

Happy New Year!

Chuck

George Straw Dig on January 16th

We're set for a trip to George Straw's land for yet another club dig. Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 16th (the day after our shopping day at Dallas Bonsai Garden). There are still a lot of great winged elms on this land ready to be dug and made into nice bonsai in just a few short years. These are very hardy trees, great for beginners or for those who want to add trees with quick refinement potential to their collection.

What else you say? Well, how about native companion plants or natural sandstone rock planters. As if that's not enough, this year Howard and Sylvia Smith will be selling off some of their field grown pine trees from George's land. These will be available to dig at a small fee of \$10-\$25 per tree. All of these trees are seedling cuttings that vary in age from 4-8 years. They have the initial work already started and are sure to make great bonsai.

The dig begins at 9:00am. For directions to the farm click on the link to his website http://georgestraw.com/GeorgeStraw/Map_to_the_Farm.html

Upcoming Events



Saturday, January 1, 2011
New Year's Day – **No Club Meeting**

Saturday, January 15, 2011
Buying Trip at Fred Meyer's
9-12 Noon at **Dallas Bonsai Garden**
see newsletter for details!

Sunday, January 16, 2011
George Straw Dig 9:00 am
See newsletter for details!

Saturday, January 29, 2011
Glen Rose Dig at Jim and Mel's
10:00 am
See newsletter for details!

Saturday, February 5, 2011
Club Meeting 9–12 Noon
Repotting Demo & Workshop

Saturday & Sunday March 5-6, 2011
Club Show at the Dallas Arboretum

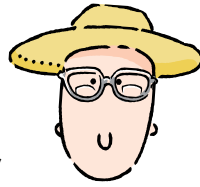
Buying Trip 1/15/2011

Our club will hold its annual buying trip to Dallas Bonsai Garden on January 15 from 9-12 noon.

Fred Meyer recommends that members to their shopping off his website and bring their list with them on Saturday morning.

Fred will offer club members a discount off the prices quoted on-line. (He estimates an average discount of at least 10%.) Stock up now on much needed Bonsai tools and supplies.

Visit the website at:
www.dallasbonsai.com



January Bonsai

Tips and advice by John Miller

I thought that last month's virtual tour program was one of the best we have offered for beginners to learn some of the things needed to keep the bonsai healthy. My suggestion for you is not to try to copy the ideas completely but to consider them all and adapt them to fit your back yard or apartment balcony. Each location has different needs.

My most unforgettable January calamity in recent years was having two Catlin elms and a trident cut and stripped by a packrat for his nest. The two elms took some time but they recovered. The trident never did. I now keep outdoor rat poison blocks scattered among the trees. I like blocks rather than pellets since they are easier to pick up come spring.

Other outdoor pest problems will depend upon the temperature. If there are many warm days spider mites, scale, and aphids may show up. Use the same controls you did last summer

Indoor plants will have the same pest you had last summer and maybe some more since any eggs will hatch and they usually love the warm indoors. So keep your eyes peeled when you are watering.

Watering tends to be a bonsai growers biggest problem in winter. It is difficult to determine how dry the soil is when they are put close together in winter storage. That could be another argument for having a porous well-draining bonsai soil, which is very difficult to over water. Just remember that the water will evaporate quickly when the warm winter sun hits the pots and more so if there is a little breeze.. Too much water could cause root rot, fungus or other damage.

January is an excellent time to do styling work. Deciduous trees are bare so you see the real tree and are not confused and misled by foliage. Examine the branch structure and decide if you need to reposition any branches. If the tree has been styled for some time, you may need to reduce the length of some branches by selectively cutting back a larger secondary branch and developing a smaller branch. This also gives you more movement in the branch. Remove vertically growing twigs and small branches. Do your trees need to develop more ramifications? If so make a note to do some rigorous tip pruning when growth starts next spring.

Evergreens may be worked on although the best time would have been last fall. Their sap flow is now at a minimum so they will not bleed too much.

Do not do too much work on spring flowering plants like azaleas, their buds were set late last summer or fall and you will be losing some blooms. Most late bloomers (wisteria and crape myrtle) generally have their blooms on new growth so you can style them now.

Greenhouses can be a great source of bonsai enjoyment in January. Of course, there is always the tropicals that stay green the year around and will therefore need a bunch of care. I let my small elms and maples get a month of cold, hopefully they get to 25 a couple of times to be really dormant. Then between Christmas and New Years I bring them into the greenhouse and can do their repotting in January and enjoy the flush of new foliage before the bigger trees need anything.

The cheapest but best way to upgrade your collection is to join on the club digs. You obtain several years work in a morning. Most digs are scheduled in the late winter, which get them at close to the optimum digging stage. If you have doubts about the care after you get home just ask any of your fellow collectors. They all like to share techniques. Collected trees become bonsai faster than growing your own from cuttings

The only way to learn bonsai is to do it. You cannot get the 'why' out of a book. You need to have someone help you with the styling and he should point out not only what he is doing but also why he is doing it. All clubs work hard on having good programs but the real learning occurs by taking advantage of workshops offered, both by local club personnel and by visiting artists. When you go to your club's local show spend more time with the trees (go around several times, you will see something different each time) and less time chatting. I got most of my initial knowledge by following the two club 'experts' around the room and listening to their critiques (mostly of their own trees). The LSBF state convention each year offers a concentrated weekend of study. I still like to watch a master work and listen to his comments. There will always be something slightly new or different or a different approach that will be clearer. Wiring or repotting might be a boring task but the presentation is never boring. The LSBF show is in Corpus on May 13-15, plan on attending!

December in Review

by Hiram Quinones

December is a month of sharing, giving and joy. At our December club meeting many members did just that by sharing pictures of their gardens and bonsai! We were all treated to a fantastic show-and-tell. I found that the morning flew by as member after member stood up and shared not only their collections with us (through pictures) but some of their creativity in dealing with winter weather, sunlight and pesky, furry critters. The creative solutions to dealing with the squirrel problems were practical in some cases (just crumble chicken wire) and whimsical in others (animal cages, etc.)

Pictures are worth one thousand words; so let me share with you some of the images that were part of our virtual garden tours. Enjoy the picture show!



REMINDER

It's time to renew your membership dues for 2011.

Please get your dues to Diane by mail or in person the next time you see her.

Many thanks for your support!



Fort Worth January Program

What: Grafting Demo by Se Sohengeh

When: Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 7:00 pm

Where: Fort Worth Botanical Garden
Deborah Beggs Moncrief Garden Center
3220 Botanic Garden Drive North
Fort Worth, Texas

Ever wanted to know what bonsai grafting means or why would it be useful? Well, Se Sohengeh, long time bonsai professional will demonstrate how to get a branch or root exactly where you need one through grafting techniques. He will explain the tools and wrapping skills needed and explain the differences between several grafting techniques. He will also help the attendees who bring in a tree with grafts on their own trees. Dallas members are invited to attend.

Glen Rose Ashe Juniper Dip 1/29/2011

Our club dig to Jim and Mel's place in Glen Rose will take place on Saturday, January 29, 2011. We will meet at 10:00 am at the ranch. Check the December issue for an article by Mark Bynum about the tagging trip that took place at Glen Rose.

Soil at Glen Rose is caliche so bring a maddoc, root hook, lopper, sharpshooter, small saw to cut roots a good shovel, gloves, shrink-wrap, duct tape and any other tools you feel maybe helpful during a dig. Ashe junipers must not bare root and root ball must not crack, so make sure to include the shrink-wrap and duct tape to protect the roots.

Additionally, plan on bringing water or Gatorade, a way to carry your new plants (small wagons are good) and a spray mist bottle with water to spray any exposed roots.

Directions: The easiest route to follow is to get to Glen Rose any way you wish. Upon entering Glen Rose, take Hwy 144 around to the Court House. From the Court House, travel south on Hwy 144 six miles to the intersections of county roads 2007, 2008, and 2004. Turning left at their juncture with 144, take an immediate right on CR 2004 (this road becomes CR 2720 within a few hundred feet as it crosses over into another county). These are now gravel roads. Proceed southeast 3 miles to CR 2730 (no sign here), turn left and proceed 1.3 miles. Look for the first rock mailbox on your left; across the street take the first driveway up to the barns and the gate. LOOK FOR "FWBS" markers with arrows posted at key turns.



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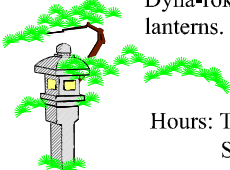
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