



Bonsai Society of Dallas

February 2006

It's Membership Renewal Time!

The Bonsai Society of Dallas depends on your membership fees for continued operation and to bring you quality bonsai artists!

Please fill out the enclosed membership form and send it in with your membership fee as soon as possible!

Thank you so much!

BSD Calendar

- Feb. 2 - Craig Coussins - Juniper
- Feb. 4 - Craig Coussins - "Bring Your Own Tree" Workshop - Irving
- Feb. 11 - Club Dig in Van Alstyne
- Mar. 2 - John Miller - Japanese Maple Forest

Other Dates of Interest

- Feb. 18, SSOT - Austin Trident maple Workshop--fused trunk style and/or stone clasp.
- 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.

Message from the President:

By George Straw

I think all of the trees are in a state of confusion. They do not know if it is winter or spring. I have some trees that the buds are starting to swell and are wanting to pop open. I keep telling them that is not a very good idea as we may get some freezing rain before spring gets here.

I am looking forward to Craig Coussins visit here for the Dallas and Fort Worth show. We still have slots open for the workshop on February 4 so be sure to sign up at the club meeting if you have not signed up already.

Things are progressing on the Convention 2007. It looks like we will be having the convention at the Holiday Inn Select on Mockingbird. We will update everyone as

soon as we start getting things finalized on workshops, trees, etc. We will also have a place on the web site for the convention information with pictures of the artists and the trees. There will be a great line up of artists for the convention. When the committee chairman comes to you and asks you to help on his/her committee, please help out; this is the only way that we can have a successful convention. The convention money is what we use to run the club for the next 6 years and the way that we are able to bring in great artists for the club.

On February 7, Sylvia, Shane, and I will be heading for Japan for the Kokufu Exhibit. Needless to say we

are very excited. We will bring back some pictures, but not of the Kokufu trees as they will not let you bring in a camera.

Please get your membership in as soon as possible! March will be your last newsletter from the club if are not a member!

George



February Program

Date: Feb. 2, 2006
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: North Haven Gardens
7700 Northaven
Dallas, TX

Scotland's Craig Coussins will join us for a demo and discussion on junipers.

Craig Coussins started working on Bonsai in 1974 and spent the next 20 years studying under the UK's leading Bonsai artist.

He began teaching in June 1978 when he founded the Scottish Bonsai Association and soon after in 1983, he was a founding committee member of the UK Federation of Bonsai Societies. He was awarded the Patrick Neal Medal for services to Scottish Horticulture, a prestigious award presented by The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society. From 1990 Craig has traveled around the world teach-

ing his art. He studies the indigenous species of the country he visits and always works towards developing trees native in species and style of that country. He has worked in South Africa, England, Italy, Ireland, Russia, New Zealand, Belgium and all over America. He is a writer for many Bonsai magazines around the world, and has written four Bonsai books.

February Bonsai

By John Miller

This warm winter that we've had so far it makes it difficult to know what to do. If your trees show signs of growth, especially the swelling of the new buds, you will need to accelerate your repotting. However, after repotting at this time, you will need to protect the new roots and growth from severe weather. New growth will be damaged by a freeze. If they are only swelling a little and no green is showing you may be able to slow them by just moving the deciduous trees out of the sunlight, especially, and protect them from the warm south wind.

It would also be a good time to spray insecticide and fungicide to help control woolly bugs, worms, spider mites, mildew, and other fungi.

Weather in Texas is always unpredictable during the winter months. Watch for the wind as it dries out the soil. If it rains heavily, check your pots to see that they don't have standing water in them as this will cause roots to rot. Tilt the pot by placing a piece of wood or rock under one end, this will help drain the water out. It can also get cold; bonsai in their shallow pots cannot survive a prolonged freeze, so have a plan in case of a freeze, too.

It is best not to prune during this month and don't fertilize at this time!

Keep an eye on the wires on your plants so they don't cut in and leave scars that are difficult to remove. Remember, even though growth slows in winter, the wire still can cut into the tree. Deciduous trees will expand rapidly when new growth starts. If the wires are cutting in, take them off and don't rewire now.

Spring, in bonsai as in nature, is a long drawn out affair and each species has its own time table in dealing with it. To be really successful in bonsai, you must know what each species you have will need and how it responds to YOUR OWN backyard climate. If you have kept your trees from freezing, they will want to start growing much earlier than those kept outside all winter. Typically, in my collection which stays outside, the elms will be first, foliage showing about the end of February or the first of March depending on the winter, along with the earliest maples. Then later in March, the rest of the maples and most of the others. The deciduous oaks will come out around April 1. Out here in the country, I am 2 or 3 weeks later than I was in town, 30 miles away. The timetable has to be your own, set by watching the trees themselves. All bonsai functions should be done when your tree tells you that the timing is right.

Repotting can be done at any time during the dormancy, but new roots are susceptible to freezing so you have to have some place to protect them after repotting. The best time to repot the deciduous temperate zone trees is when the buds are just beginning to swell but before green is showing. Generally, this will be before the last of the freezing weather. Trees that leaf out early, maples and elms, can withstand a few degrees of frost but if repotted you should protect the newly growing roots. Sometimes this just means setting them on the ground, using ground heat for 4-5 degrees of protection. Some species, such as the oaks and willows, are naturally programmed to wait much later so that there is very little chance to get nipped.

Refinement is the process that makes a well-styled tree look great, developing fine ramification and obtaining smaller leaves. An important part of the refinement starts as soon as new growth appears (4-5 leaves or less). Keep it pinched so you keep the internodes short and develop a compact set of twigs with small leaves on the branches. On alternate leaved species (e.g. elms) pinch when the shoot gets 4 or 5 leaves. Fingernails or shears can be used. If the twig gets too long, it will be tough and you have to use shears. On opposite leaved trees (maples) pinch the central shoot as soon as it can be distinguished in between the first two leaves. To do this really right you need to use tweezers (with a dull point).

The newer wisdom on azaleas is that you also repot them at this time. The roots will be reestablished by blooming time. This is much easier on the tree than waiting until after bloom when the temperature will be hot. Before blooming starts, you will be removing a lot of excess buds anyway which will reduce the stress on the tree at that time. Remove enough buds to allow the remaining flowers to have room to fully open. This should be done in late February or early March on the early blooming species (Karume) but may go later in March for the Satsuki types.

Spring flowering plants will have their buds set on last year's growth, so pruning them will remove some flowers. Those that bloom later in the year will generally bloom on this year's growth. Pruning them may reduce the amount of flowers. In some cases, such as crape myrtle, tip pruning of the branch will result in no flowers at all. In these cases you must decide which is most important, ramification or flowers. A compromise would be to prune the branch shorter than you normally would and then let it bloom on new growth which will be at the proper length, at least for the first flowering of the season.

When the growth starts, the tree will need fertilizer. However, use one that has a small amount of nitrogen (the first number). The tree is naturally programmed to grow rapidly at this time, so you don't need to encourage it further. Feed lightly to maintain a healthy green foliage. Ideally, use an organic fertilizer which provides nutrients more slowly when the weather is cool. Trace minerals should be added to help with both the foliage color and the color of blooms.

If you have not used horticultural oil, the time is fast running out. The oil would be used to kill scale and overwintering mites and other boogers. When new growth starts, oil might damage the tender foliage. When new growth starts, the problems to look for are the above mentioned mites but especially aphids and mealy bugs. These can be controlled as well as giving the plants the required fertilizer by using an organic spray. (1 tablespoon each of liquid kelp, liquid fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar (5%), and molasses in one gallon of water. Or use a commercial mix like Garrett Juice. All these are available in any organic nursery.) If leaf spot, mildew or any other fungal problems appear, use a baking soda spray or a commercial fungicide.

An important job which many neglect, saying they are not going to show any trees, is (using an apt automobile term) to detail their trees. This makes them look their best and that helps give you incentive to follow other good practices. Start by checking the branches. Prune any out of place or too long twigs. Remove any unnecessary wire, which is wire on limbs that have set in place. Treat any jin and shari that needs it. Then move down to the pot. Be sure it is clean and all lime deposits are removed. Steel wool works great to clean pots. A coating with a very light wax polish such as leaf shine will make the pot look good and help keep the mineral deposits from forming. Then check the soil. It should cover the outer roots. The surface of the soil must be clean of any fallen leaves or other debris. Now it looks so good you might as well take it to a show!



Craig Coussins
“Bring Your Own Tree”
Workshop

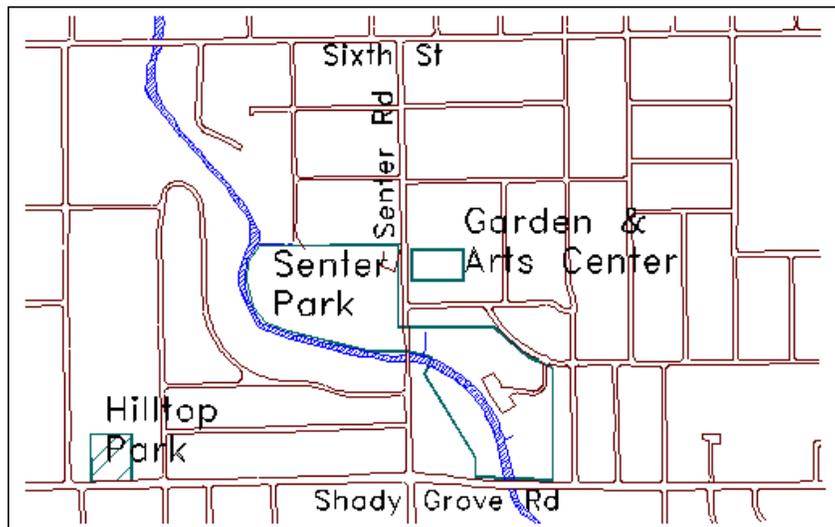
February 4, 2006

9:00-12:00

Cost: \$40

Garden and Arts Center, 906 S. Senter, Irving, TX

Take O'Connor Rd. South from 183 until it dead-ends into 6th. Turn left (East) on 6th and go to Senter. Turn right and proceed about 1/4 mile to the Garden Center on the left - set way back off the road....opposite of the Senter Park Recreation Center on the right. It is a brick home with a circular driveway.



Scotland's Craig Coussins will be doing the lecture/demo at the club on Feb 2. He is the author of four bonsai books including "Bonsai School 2003." Craig has taught bonsai techniques for over 30 years. Founder of the Scottish Bonsai Association in 1978, Craig is great speaker and teacher. This will be a workshop that you will not want to miss!

Please contact George Straw at 214-357-3048 or gstra@aol.com to reserve your spot in the workshop.

LSBF “Texas Visiting Artist 2006” - Cheryl Manning

LSBF announced that their “Texas Visiting Artist 2006” will be Cheryl Manning. She will be joining us for a demo in October - more information to be announced.

Cheryl's love of bonsai began in 1981 with her first basic skills course from Murata Bonsai Nursery in Orange County. Since then, she has studied with bonsai masters such as John Naka, Ben Oki, Harry Hirao, and Jim Barrett. She is currently a member of several bonsai and suiseki clubs such as California Bonsai Society, Nampu Kai, Descanso Bonsai Society, Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai, Aiseki Kai, Kofu Bonsai Kai, and Santa Anita Bonsai Society. She is also a board member of the National Bonsai Foundation.

In 1994, Cheryl completed a one-year live-in apprenticeship with bonsai master Yasuo Mitsuya in Toyohashi, Japan. Her trip was sponsored by the Golden State Bonsai Federation as part of its Japan Internship Training Program. According to Cheryl, "It was a fabulous experience with an incredible amount of information presented during the course of 50-hour work weeks. Mitsuyasan not only taught me about the styling and maintenance of trees, but also shared his knowledge on special techniques, wiring, display, and accents, as well as the politics of bonsai. Mitsuyasan was generous enough to allow me to capture this once-in-a-lifetime experience in over 4300 slides – which I enjoy sharing with all who are interested."

Cheryl has given numerous demonstrations, workshops, and slide presentations to bonsai clubs in California, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, Canada, and Australia. Her photographs and articles about bonsai--related topics have appeared in *Bonsai Today*, Bonsai Clubs International's *Bonsai Magazine*, the Golden State Bonsai Federation's bi-monthly journal *Golden Statements*, and the National Bonsai Foundation's *NBF Bulletin*.

Cheryl has also edited [John Naka's Sketchbook](#) (National Bonsai Foundation, 2005), a compilation of John's bonsai sketches from around the world. All profits from its sale go to the [John Naka Endowment Fund](#).

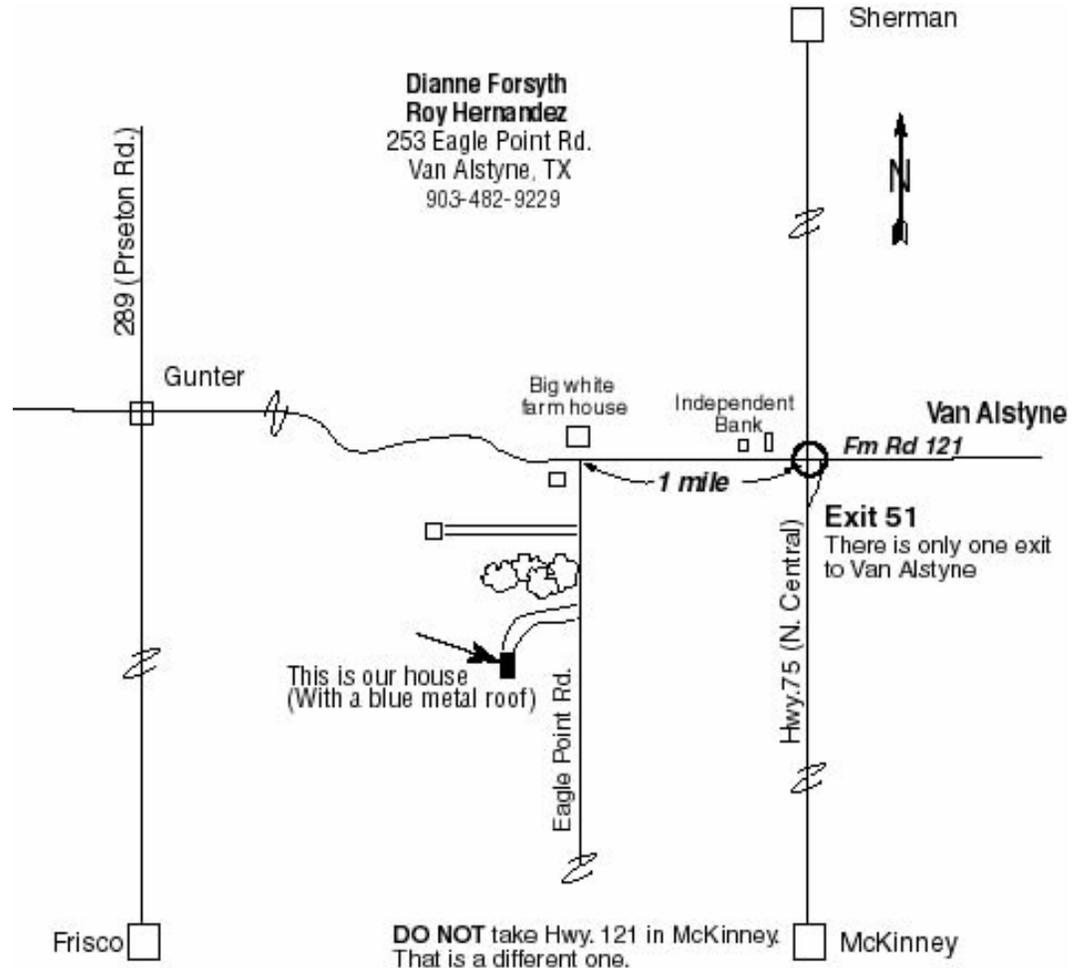
Please visit Cheryl's website at <http://users.ez2.net/manning/>

Please Join Us for the February 11 Club Dig!

(Must be a current and paid member for 2006 to participate in the Club Dig)

February 11 we'll have our second club dig in Van Alstyne, beginning at 10:00 am.

We look forward to seeing you at the dig!



WHAT TO BRING TO A BONSAI DIG

By Dave Schleser

This note is primarily intended as an aid to club members who have never been on a bonsai dig before. Please try and make it and do not become intimidated about your abilities. There are always many experienced members present who are more than happy to help you select plants with good bonsai potential and will also help in the actual digging. It is an opportunity to get yourself some exceptional plant material and it is loads of fun!

The appropriate tools you will need for successful collecting of native trees for bonsai will vary somewhat according to the species of trees and the type of soil they are growing in.

As examples, most conifers do not tolerate bare-rooting and will have to be collected with a large ball of earth around the roots. This will frequently necessitate bringing burlap and string to secure the root ball. Furthermore, digging trees growing in rocky soil or hard caliche will invariably require the use of a pick-ax, mattock and small pry bar.

We are very fortunate that most of the soil at George's ranch is soft and easily dug sandy loam or a soft clay/sand mix. There are some moderately rocky areas near the creeks but nothing that requires the use dynamite! In addition, the vast majority of the best trees are winged and cedar elms, oaks and 2 species of plum. All of these tolerate bare-rooting quite well as long as you do not permit the roots to dry out.

While everyone has their own must-have tools, the following is what I consider most important to bring:

1. A sharpshooter or regular round-ended garden shovel. This will be your single most important tool.
2. Loppers or pruning shears to remove superfluous branches and to cut through most roots.
3. An inexpensive Keyhole saw for cutting through taproots too large to be cut with a pruning shears. Be aware that cutting through a root imbedded in soil will quickly wear down the teeth of the saw, so bring an inexpensive or old one.
4. A trowel or bonsai root hook for the more delicate digging of roots or collecting of herbaceous plant material for use as bonsai companions (such as violets or dwarf ferns)
5. Saran Wrap or large plastic garbage bags to wrap or protect the roots. You can also use the rolls of shrink-wrap sold at Office Depot
6. A spray bottle to keep roots damp.
7. A Plastic tubs for storing and transporting your collected trees.
8. If you have a small red wagon or other small cart bring it. It can be very helpful in transporting the trees across pastures to your car.
9. I always bring a roll of florescent red flagging tape. I use it to flag trees that I am considering collecting. The tape not only makes it easy to find them again, but serves as a notice to other club members that a tree is spoken for. If you do not have tape I can always give you some. Please bring a permanent marker to put your name on the tag.
10. It is also a good idea to bring some drinks and snacks for yourself. A thermos of hot coffee might come in handy.
11. Have your soil mix ready when you get home.

Lone Star Bonsai Federation Meeting Minutes

January 21st, 2006 – 1:00 PM - Zilker Garden Center, Austin, Texas

LSBF President John Denton called the meeting to order at 12:55.

The president called for approval of the minutes. Yvonne Padilla indicated that she was in contact with Mary Miller and not Mary Madison about a training program. The motion was made and carried to approve the minutes as amended.

Beaumont Club

Dennis & Lisa Corley announced that the Beaumont club would not be renewing their membership in LSBF for the time being. The Corleys are stepping aside after several years of service and no Beaumont club member was willing to volunteer to be LSBF representative. Part of the reason is because of the severe hit the area took from Hurricane Rita. All club members have been affected to some degree. In 6 months or a year they will reconsider joining. John offered them a warm thanks for their service to a round of applause.

Treasurer's Report

Pat Ware passed out the treasurer's report. Because the treasury has gotten low Pat suggested that the LSBF may not be able to offer a reimbursement to the clubs for the LSBF tour this year. After income from the Corpus Christi Convention we will have a better idea. Pat indicated that the books had been audited by Marty Klajnowski. A motion was made! and seconded to pass the budget as presented. The motion carried.

Falling Membership

John Denton expressed concern with the loss to two clubs recently and the falling membership statewide. He asked for ideas on how to stimulate interest and recruitment of new members. John threw out the idea of subsidizing the local clubs in their advertising of the LSBF convention. A separate club sign-up booth at conventions was discussed as well. No motions were made.

LSBF Conventions

2006 Convention - Yvonne Padilla talked about this year's convention in Corpus Christi and urged other club members to bring trees, stones, and grass plantings for display. Marty Klajnowski suggested that each club commit to bringing 2-3 trees for the display.

Yvonne displayed a new credit card imprinter that they will be using for the convention, acquired through Merchant Services. There is a \$15/month charge but only in months when the imprinter is used. There is still a % charge for each transaction and a separate transaction fee. She felt that it would save money if we discontinued the use of our current machine which has a monthly charge of around \$37 whether it is used or not. In addition, Yvonne indicated that they have had trouble with the machine in the past. After much discussion it was moved and passed to discontinue the account with our current credit card company. Since LSBF owns the current machine Pat Ware agreed to store it.

2007 Convention - John Miller revealed that the 2007 convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Select, 3300 West Mockingbird Lane, across from Love Field. The dates are April 20, 21 & 22. The guest artists will be Marco Invernizzi, Boon Manakitivipart, and Suthin Sukosolovisit. In addition, Shane Carey will be doing a workshop and Michael Hagedorn will be giving a talk or demo. Howard and Sylvia Smith will likely do a workshop as well. The hotel cost will be \$79/night.

2008 Convention - Marty Klajnowski talked about the possibility of having the American Bonsai Society (ABS) as co-host with the San Antonio and Austin clubs in 2008. ABS indicated an interest and there has been some correspondence on the matter. The format for the convention is still undecided and there are a number of other questions that must be addressed but the LSBF representatives responded positively to the suggestion. Marty will continue in talks with the ABS.

LSBF Newsletter

Carl Quisenberry passed out the first group of post Terry Ward newsletters. It was mentioned that not all clubs are sending out their newsletters to the other LSBF reps. It was urged that each rep. insure that their newsletter editor has the address of the other LSBF reps.

LSB F Speaker Tour

Ron Smith announced Cheryl Manning as the 2006 LSBF Tour artist. Cheryl's charge will be \$250/event. Ron agreed to send out a link to her web site and to provide a biography for club newsletters. Ron also volunteered to serve as the 2007 tour director.

Dennis indicated that Beaumont would not participate in the LSBF tour and suggested that the Lake Charles society indicated an interest in participating. There is an open day in the middle of the tour but the representatives indicated a preference for Lake Charles to take a date at the end of the Texas tour if Cheryl Manning is agreeable. They should also agree to some contribution to travel expenses. Ron Smith will talk to Cheryl about it. Steven Hendricks reminded that each club member should provide Ron with a contact point so that he can supply Cheryl a list of contacts

LSBF Web Site

Steven Hendricks asked that each club provide a link to the LSBF home page on their club web site. The web site address will be mailed out with the minutes from the meeting. He noted that the Shohin and Longview clubs were the only two that did not have home pages for the LSBF site to link to and invited them to provide meeting and contact information to be put on the LSBF web page. Steven also invited each club to provide any "Special Event" information that can be put on a like-named page on the LSBF site. This could include information such as the dates for club displays or special guest artists that might be of interest to members from around the state.

Pat Ware announced that the next meeting will be on June 10th.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30.

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 will be available after the LSBF meeting January 21 or may be available sooner on their 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.

BSD Vice-President Position Open

The Vice President is responsible for arranging the guest speaker for each meeting. This may be a local person or someone from out of town, depending on the Club budget.

This position is also responsible for making sure that we have a meeting room (we have a standing for the first Thursday of each month at North Haven Gardens). But if we have any special event, then we would need to make arrangements for that. At the meeting, the Vice President would be responsible for introducing the guest speaker, as well as be responsible for flight arrangements and housing for the guest (this could be hotel or see if a member would like to host the guest). The Vice President is responsible for sending a bio of the guest artist and information about the program to the Newsletter Editor; and a notice about the program subject is to be sent to Tom Mozden for the Dallas newspaper (this must be done two months in advance).

The Vice President would also be expected to attend the Board meeting, this is usually about once every three months.

If you have any other questions about the position, please contact George Straw at 214-357-3048 or gstra@aol.com.

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.



Howard and Sylvia Smith
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BSD Board of Directors

President—George Straw, GSTRA@aol.com, (214) 357-3048
John Miller—President Emeritus, bonsaimiller@aol.com
Vice President—This position is open
Asst. Vice President—Tim Phan, phantosme@gmail.com, (972) 618-7134
Treasurer—Jennifer Triptow, triptow@sbcglobal.net, (972) 437-1930
Secretary—Sandi McFarland, potter@pegasuspottery.com, (972) 438-9782

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!

Dinner and a Demo?

by Jennifer Triptow

The board group has discussed the possibility of offering a unique evening for our membership: A gourmet 3-course meal and a demo! You see, amongst our membership we have a very talented chef who is the Saucier at the Mansion on Turtle Creek restaurant here in Dallas. His food is top-notch, mouth-watering, elegant, divine, and irresistible. Ok, so I am biased---he is my husband. But what I said about his food is still true!

A little about the chef: Richard has spent two decades perfecting his skills and techniques in Dallas, Denver, Aspen, and Eugene, OR. He has prepared formal and intimate private dinners for some of the world's most prominent politicians, businesspeople, actors, and musicians. His cooking style incorporates the techniques of classic French cuisine with the flavors of the American Southwest and Rocky Mountains. Richard began working for the Mansion on Turtle Creek in June of 2004 and was appointed the restaurant's first official Saucier in its long history in January 2005.

We are proposing the idea to the general membership and would like your feedback. Here are the specs: It would be open to a limited number of people (to be determined) and we would charge a fee in the \$40/\$50 range. It would be held at Howard & Sylvia Smith's house. Richard will serve up a salad course, a main course, and a dessert course. Wine would also be included. During the dinner Howard and Sylvia would be educating us with a bonsai demonstration. This would be a unique opportunity to enjoy a gourmet meal at a very low cost, observe a professional bonsai demonstration, get to know other club members, and an opportunity to bring a spouse or loved one who otherwise doesn't understand this obsession you have with trees! Oh, did I mention that the demo tree will be given away to one lucky dinner guest as a door prize?

So that's the idea. We want you to read about it, think about it, and tell us at the February meeting whether it is something you would consider attending. All bias aside, you certainly would have a great time!