



# Bonsai Society of Dallas

October 2006



## Message from the President:

By George Straw

We have made it through our Auction and I am very pleased with the way that it turned out. We took in total sales of \$3,279.85 and after paying the 80% to the members, the club made \$1,499.85. That is very good, but I was hoping that we would have cleared over \$2,000.00. We have the convention coming up and will have upfront expenses that the club will have to pay.

We had a very good turn out with a lot of non-members attending. The Dallas Morning News had a great article in the paper about the auction with a picture of a bonsai tree. This article got a lot of attention. My phone number was listed as a contact number and it was ringing off the wall with questions before the auction.

The total number of items brought in this year was much smaller than last year. Part of

this may have been because of the \$50.00 min for 80/20 split. This decision was made by the board because last year we had so many small items that were entered for a 80/20 split that Howard was spending a lot of time on items that were making the club \$1.00 or \$2.00.

We have a membership of around 80 people. We only had 12 people who brought items in for auction. What bothers me when I look at numbers like this is that this club cannot run on just a handful of people who help out financially and also who help with the work for the club. We have a convention coming up in April 2007 and it cannot be pulled off without the help of everyone in the club, even if it is just a few hours of working at the convention. The convention is a big job and it requires a lot of man hours to make everything happen. SO PLEASE OFFER YOUR SER-

VICES TO HELP WITH THE CONVENTION.

I would like to thank everyone who helped us out at the auction. Howard, Sylvia, Tom, Tim, Greg, Sandi, John, and a very special thanks to Glenn, Sandi's husband. The after auction went very smooth with Glenn having it all organized outside. Thanks again to everyone who helped out.

Fall is upon us and you should start thinking about making room inside somewhere for those tropical and semitropical trees. But if you are like me, you will be out the at midnight trying to make room in the greenhouse because it is going to freeze that night and you still did not get ready. Each year I say this is the last time I am going to put it off to the last minute. We will see what happens this year. Maybe a new leaf will turn over!

### BSD Calendar

- Oct. 5 - David Schleser - Lesser Known Natives for Collecting
- Oct. 14 - Sheryl Manning - Club Workshop
- Nov. 2 - Shane Cary - TBA
- Dec. 7 - Progress critique on the trees from the May program
- Feb. 24-25 - Advanced Group Workshop 2007 at the Irving Community Center

### BSD Member Tree Highlight

Shimpaku by Shane Cary



## October Program

Date: Oct. 5, 2006  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Place: North Haven Gardens  
7700 Northaven  
Dallas, TX

This month's program will be a presentation by our long time member David M. Schleser on the subject of ignored native tree species that make wonderful bonsai and do well in this area. Only a few of the approximately 800 species of North American native trees and tree-like woody shrubs are being commonly cultivated as bonsai. This short list includes such species as cedar elm, buttonwood, bald cypress, apple and

California juniper. Others such as the ponderosa pine, American larch, and Texas ebony are grown more locally. Undoubtedly numerous other trees of equal or greater merit are just waiting to be discovered by the Texas bonsai hobby. David will talk about the care and training of several generally ignored (at least here in Texas) species that he has worked with and highly admires. These include such diverse species as the red maple, Carolina silverbell, red cedar, loblolly pine and American beech. He will also bring samples of these as well as the other species he will be talking about.

David has been a member of the BSD for over 30 years (joining the same day as John Miller) and his relatively small collection is comprised almost entirely of collected native species. He is also an avid collector of cactus and a breeder of Chinese fancy goldfish. A dentist for 19 years that wisely changed careers, he is a former curator/aquatic biologist of the Dallas Aquarium, cofounder of the natural history photography and writing company Nature's Images, Inc., and regularly leads photography, natural history, and tropical fish collecting eco-tours to the gorgeous Peruvian Amazon.

### Other Dates of Interest

- Sept. 16, SSOT - Austin Panel critique. Workshop, Japanese style scroll.
- Sept. 21-Oct.31 - Autumn at the Arboretum at the Dallas Arboretum
- Oct. 14 - Fall Plant Sale at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden
- Oct. 28-29 - Fall Festival in the Japanese Garden at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden
- Through Dec. 31 - Ultimate Tree Houses at the Dallas Arboretum

# October Bonsai by John Miller

Now is the time to start your trees toward their winter siesta. If you wait until the temperature drops, you get too rushed and omit some of the little housekeeping duties.

When the leaves start turning, the sap has quit for the year and you may check the branches and twigs to see if any need to be trimmed. Cutting back any protruding branches will keep them from snagging and possibly breaking other trees when you put them down. Don't cut the buds off the spring flowering plants unless absolutely necessary, if you want flowers next spring.

If you have not checked your wiring yet this fall, you had better look at it. The fall growth can make the tree swell up and get bad wire marks in a hurry. If the tree/limbs do not stay where you want them, then rewire it - placing the new wire in a slightly different path or possibly wrap in the opposite direction.

Do you need to change the pot? Making notes at this time will give you 3-4 months to find the proper pot.

Winter quarters: Here in Texas, more trees are lost in the winter due to drying out than to the cold. Of course that doesn't mean for you to leave the tropicals out or to let the roots freeze on southern trees like the crepe myrtle. Even in a greenhouse or sunny window the soil can dry out amazingly fast. The wind in winter has amazing drying powers, too. So while protecting the roots, be sure to give it a wind screen but make sure that you can check the soil for watering needs. (It helps here if you know which particular plants dry out faster and situate them together. Winter kill usually comes because the soil has frozen and the sun and/or wind is removing water from the tops. The roots cannot obtain water to replenish the loss and the top desiccates to the point of death.

For the beginners, plants like the cedar elm, oak, maple that are hardy much further north can be set on a clean gravel bed. They do not need any sunlight until spring. When the real cold (26 or lower) gets here, cover the pots with a fairly loose mulch. Plants that grow south of Dallas, crepe myrtle, pyracantha, some azalea, need to have root protection. I like to let them get frostbit but bring them in before freezing. Of course the tropicals need to be babied.

All this is basically talking about the broadleaf deciduous trees. Evergreens do not go fully dormant in winter. Some broadleaf types like boxwoods slow way down but still need sunlight. These broadleaf ones need the basic winter protection of deciduous trees but have a higher water and sunlight need.

Pests on deciduous trees are not usually of much concern in the fall since the leaves are about to fall anyway. Scale must be taken care of with an horticultural oil spray. On evergreen plants, most problems are done for the year. Mites can be a problem if we get a few warm days in a row. The organic foliar spray with seaweed (kelp) will not only take care of them but will be beneficial to the tree as well.

Cut back on the watering now that the temperature is a little lower but do not allow the trees to dry out. Trees require less water during the shorter days and lower temperatures. However you need to remember that the wind can still stress the trees and dry out the soil, so water by checking the soil and not just on a given schedule.

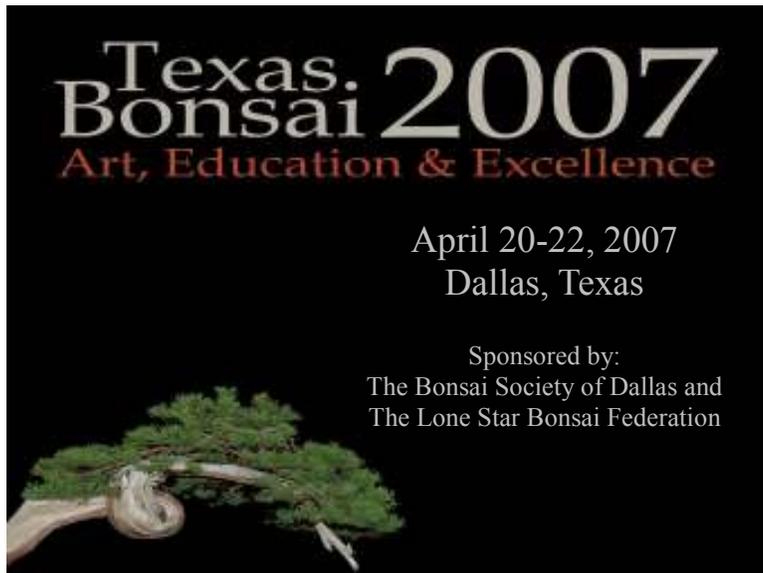
Insects will continue to be present. Cooler (but not cold) days mean a resurgence of the aphids. Mites will also still be around. Scale also can be a problem. Evergreens and any deciduous trees whose foliage turns can be treated with an horticultural oil which will kill the adults and also wipe out the eggs and over-wintering pupae. Be sure to cover all the cracks in the bark to get to the eggs. The organic spray (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water) will work on evergreens and will also give them some nutrients.

Feeding of deciduous trees should be discontinued for the winter. Evergreens and conifers will benefit from a low nitrogen feeding. One such mix might be 60% cottonseed meal and 40% bone meal. Being organic, this will break down into nutrients more slowly as the season gets cooler and the trees activity slows also. The organic spray given above can be used as a soil drench. Kelp is an excellent source of the essential minor elements needed by plants.

As the trees lose their foliage, you can study their trunk lines and branch structure. Any faulty styling and the general design features can be observed more easily and corrections planned. Look for crossing branches. Cut vertical growing twigs both growing up and those growing down. Reduce long internodes by cutting back and growing new extensions. Clean out heavy branch clusters that make the tree look too dense. Be particularly attentive to the formation of heavy branches in the top part of the tree where faster growth often occurs. Work can be done now or later during the winter at your leisure but it is too easy to forget about it when the tree is in winter storage.

Some may repot in the fall but I feel that it is counter-productive to do so. New roots are more prone to freeze damage if we get a bad winter. It has been stated that the key to safe repotting is to minimize root disturbance and to exclude severe root pruning. This seems to me to be a recipe for developing root problems, poor drainage leading to root rot and the inability of the soil to hold enough water to last all day. No heavy pruning will lead to the lack of refinement and a top heavy tree. I would recommend that you do the above paragraph this fall and repot at the proper time next spring.





**Mark your calendars for the  
2007 LSBF Bonsai Convention!**

Your convention chairs are:

**Chairmen:**

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Howard Smith

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*bonsaimiller@aol.com* 903-776-2910

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**Vender Chair:**

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**Marketing Chair:**

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*bonsaismiths@earthlink.net* 972-392-1430

**Raffle Chair:**

Sandi McFarland

*potter@pegasuspottery.com* 972-438-9782

**Website Chair:**

Andy Rutledge

*andy@andyrutledge.com*

**We need your help!**

You can help make this convention successful! Contact one of the convention chairs and offer your help today!!

**Keep an eye on the club website, [www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com](http://www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com)! It should be updated with the new convention and registration information soon.**

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## **Cheryl Manning Program & Workshop** by John Miller

The Lone Star Bonsai Federation state tour speaker this year will be Cheryl Manning. The Dallas program and workshop will be on Saturday, October 14. There will be a lecture/demo in the morning and a "Bring Your Own Tree" workshop in the afternoon.

Cheryl started bonsai in California and was part of the masters study group of John Naka. She studied in Japan under Mr. Yasuo Mitsuya, the same teacher as Kathy Shaner and Boon Manakitivipart. Consequently she is well versed in also aspects of bonsai. Some of her work can be found on her website at [www.betterbonsai.com](http://www.betterbonsai.com).

I would suggest that to get the most out of her talents, you take to the workshop a plant that has pretty good possibility for being a bonsai, i.e. it has a trunk, decent nebari, and low branches and foliage to work with. The species of tree is relatively unimportant as she works with all kinds of conifers and deciduous trees.

If you wish to reserve a space in the workshop (probably \$30) please let me know:

email: [bonsaimiller@aol.com](mailto:bonsaimiller@aol.com)

phone: 903-776-291

address: 1655 C.R. 1121, Farmersville TX 75442

## We Need Your Frequent Flyer Miles!

We will be bringing in four artists for the Convention in April. Would you be willing to use your frequent flyer miles to get a ticket for one of the artists? The club will pay taxes on the tickets! It usually takes 25,000 miles for a round trip ticket. We have one ticket donated already so we just need three more!

Please contact George at 214-357-3048. Thanks for your help!



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- Pegasus Pottery

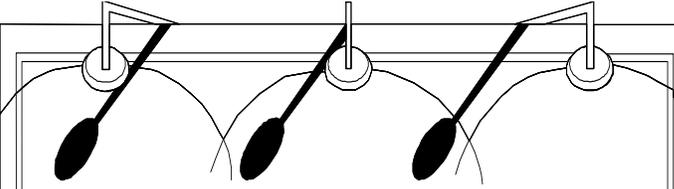
We are so grateful to these businesses for their generosity to BSD members! If you have a business and would like to offer a discount to club members, please contact George Straw at [GSTRA@aol.com](mailto:GSTRA@aol.com) or Sandi McFarland at [potter@pegasuspottery.com](mailto:potter@pegasuspottery.com).



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