



# Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly newsletter

October 2010

## Message from the President

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Message from the President
- October Program – Club Auction at NHG
- October Bonsai Care Tips
- Board Elections Correction
- September Review
- Upcoming Events & More!

### BSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chuck Talley, *President*,  
*Co-Program Chair*  
[Chuck\\_Talley@tandybrands.com](mailto:Chuck_Talley@tandybrands.com)

Bill Weber, *Vice President*,  
*Program Chair*  
[webwill1@yahoo.com](mailto:webwill1@yahoo.com)

Diane Lowe, *Treasurer*  
[diane\\_lowe@live.com](mailto:diane_lowe@live.com)

James Bonney, *Secretary*  
[amy.james@gte.net](mailto:amy.james@gte.net)

Jerry Riley, *Member Relations*  
[jafa999@yahoo.com](mailto:jafa999@yahoo.com)

John Miller, *President Emeritus*  
[bonsaimiller@aol.com](mailto:bonsaimiller@aol.com)

Sylvia Smith, *President Emeritus*  
[slysmith@earthlink.net](mailto:slysmith@earthlink.net)

*Has your address changed?  
Comments? E-mail the editor at*  
[amy.james@gte.net](mailto:amy.james@gte.net)

*Would you like to get this newsletter  
via e-mail? [Become a member.](#)*

I am proud of our club for such a great program last month! We had over 65 people attend our September program featuring Roy Nagatoshi styling two junipers. It is really encouraging to see that size crowd and it is rewarding to our board. Special thanks to Bill Weber for keeping up with Roy and for chairing the workshop. Congratulations to James and Rudy on winning those junipers. We will continue working with North Haven Gardens to improve the acoustics and speakers in the facilities.

A club favorite, our annual auction, will be our October program. Please review the program section of the newsletter for details. We will need a few helping hands that morning so please volunteer when you come. Volunteers will help organize the auctioned trees and keep the material flowing. The material and donations improve each year so I am sure a lot of people will be pleased with their bonsai bargains.

We changed our November program from “Ground Growing” to “Jin and Shari Carving”. Thirty-year club member Dave Schleser and member Garrett Larson will show us tricks and techniques for getting some great deadwood features. I hear they are even bringing some power tools. That should be exciting!

Our club board serves for two year terms and those terms end December 31st. Please plan to vote on the board in our November program. Nominations will be opened at both our October and November meetings. All board members plan to stand for re-election, except for James Bonney. James has served the club as Secretary and Newsletter Editor the past two terms. He may be re-locating outside of the Metroplex and he needs to focus on that transition. You may nominate yourself or anyone else for any position, just email your nomination to me at [chuck\\_talley@tandybrands.com](mailto:chuck_talley@tandybrands.com) or attend and nominate at one of the next two programs. Fresh energy and perspective is good for any board so please volunteer for Secretary, Newsletter Editor, or any other positions you think would serve the club.

See you next Saturday! Chuck



Roy Nagatoshi at the September styling demonstration. Photo J. Bonney

## 2010 BSD Club Auction

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30 AM to Noon,  
North Haven Gardens

Auction time is here again! Time to grab some great deals and improve your collections in a matter of hours instead of years. Also, if you're looking to reduce or fine tune your collection, the auction is the perfect place to either donate or sell your trees, supplies, books or other bonsai-related items. The auction has been steadily increasing in size, so expect this one to be big as well.



Some great material from last year's auction. *Photo courtesy James Bonney*

Now is the perfect time to start gathering items that you'd like to sell and items that you'd like to donate to the club. Remember, this is the club's number one money generator. Funds acquired during our auctions are used to bring in top-notch out-of-town artists like Roy Nagatoshi, Peter Warren, and Roberto Martinez Acosta, and local stars like Howard and Sylvia Smith, Dave Schleser and John Miller.

Here's how the auction works:

- You may bring any bonsai or bonsai-related item(s) for the auction.
- Items worth over \$50 are sold on an 80/20 split. This means the member gets 80% of the bid price, the club gets 20%. These items must have a *minimum* reserve price of at least \$50. (No items may be sold prior to or after the auction unless you have worked this out with the auctioneer.)
- Items under \$50 value are considered donations to the club—no split.

(Cont. on page 3)

## Upcoming Events



Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9–12 Noon  
Club Auction

Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup>  
Kathy Shaner 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar  
Austin, Texas

Saturday, Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, 9–12 Noon  
Jin & Shari with Dave and Garrett &  
Bonsai 101: Care of Bonsai, Part 2

Saturday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 9–12 Noon  
Members' Virtual Garden Tour &  
Bonsai 101: Artistics, Part 2

Saturday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> – No program due  
to holiday

January – Club dig and bonsai  
buying trip; dates and places TBD

February – Repotting demo &  
workshop

## Link of the Month



I took a bunch of pictures at Roy Nagatoshi's demo and workshop last month. Too many to put in the newsletter, so I've put them on my Picasa account online. There are multiple shots of each workshop member and many with Roy working on workshop trees, so if you want pictures, head on over to:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/jbonney1430/LSBFTravelingArtistRoyNagatoshi#>

- All items to be brought to the auction should be delivered between 8:30–9:30 AM the day of the auction. If you cannot bring your items at this time please make arrangements with a friend to bring them for you as we do not have a place to house items before the auction. Items will be checked in at this time and no item will be accepted after 9:30.
- Everyone must sign in and get a paddle. Please return these when you are done bidding or when you are ready to check out.
- We can take cash, checks and credit cards (*MC, Visa & Discover*). If you are selling items, you will be mailed a check from BSD at a later time and please be patient with us. It takes time to coordinate schedules with our volunteers so that we can count up the totals after the auction is through.

We do ask that everyone bidding have a paddle and if they are bidding for a non-attending friend, that they establish a maximum bid ahead of time so as to not disrupt the flow of the auction. Volunteers helping with the auction *can* and *are* encouraged to bid on items for themselves. We would like everyone to be able to enjoy this event!

Speaking of volunteers, in order to run our auction more smoothly, **we need volunteers to be runners** (*move items to and from the auction table*). Don't worry, **we make sure all volunteers get a chance to bid!** Please contact Sylvia Smith at [slysmith@earthlink.net](mailto:slysmith@earthlink.net) or (972) 754-9883 or any board member if you are able to fill one of these posts. Thank you! ✍

---

## Board Elections Coming in December November

In the September newsletter I mentioned that the elections are held in December. Actually, they are held in November (*Oops!*). Now, with that out of the way, I need to mention that President Talley will open the floor up for nominations at the beginning of both the October and November meetings. A vote will be taken immediately after the November nominations. Please don't be shy about nominating members whom you think will step in and do a good job...even if that nomination is yourself!

It's through the dedication of people willing to lead our club that we all can enjoy the benefits that come out of

our organization. A new board is elected every two years and they guide the club, make monetary decisions, choose guest artists, and get to create cool new programs (*like Bonsai 101*). Positions up for nomination are president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Summaries for these positions can be found in the September newsletter.

[http://www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com/newsletters/bsd2010\\_sept\\_news.pdf](http://www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com/newsletters/bsd2010_sept_news.pdf)

One position we will need to fill is the newsletter editor. (*For the past few terms, the secretary and editor positions have been held by the same individual, but they can be split if need be.*) I've let the board know that I am looking to make some personal changes that will preclude me from continuing as the editor. So, if you know anyone willing and interested in the editor position, please have them contact a board member. ✍

---

## Ficus Nerifolia-salisifolia-salicaria

John Miller sent the following link to me and said it'd be a very good read.

There is a very good article on the Willow-leaved Fig on the web at the address given below. Better look at it soon as it may be taken off when the next BCI newsletter is out. It covers the origin, naming, propagation, and care of this species in more detail. Even though the pictures are slanted toward shohin the information is good for any size bonsai.

[http://www.houstonbonsai.com/newsletters/bci/Sept\\_2010\\_BCI.pdf](http://www.houstonbonsai.com/newsletters/bci/Sept_2010_BCI.pdf)

---

## Virtual Tour Program

Thanks to everyone who sent in photos for the virtual tour. Everybody has a little something different to contribute. If you want to add some photos to the December presentation and haven't done so already, talk to James at the meeting or send him an email at [amy.james@gte.net](mailto:amy.james@gte.net)! ✍



## September Bonsai

Tips and advice by John Miller

Take a good look at your bonsai before you put them away for the winter. Is the foliage pretty ragged looking after our hot summer? Something you may get to try next year is a product with silicon in it which is supposed to make for stronger and thicker cell walls. Stronger cells in the leaves will help them withstand more heat and wind. There are probably several brands—one that I know about is Dyna-Gro Pro-TeKt. It has a 0-0-3 formula with silicon so you could use it for a fall fertilizer if you desire. Check website [www.dyna-gro.com](http://www.dyna-gro.com).

Some people like to 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. Repot at the proper time next spring which is when the buds swell and new growth is imminent. However, Kathy Shaner (Sylvia has said it too) has recommended that you remove the top 1/4 to 1/2 inch of soil and replace it with fresh soil. This will help eliminate weed seed that has blown in and may make watering easier.

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

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

While you are looking at the wires look also at the lower trunks. If there is any moss growing on the bark spray it with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. Moss may make a tree look aged but it rots the bark quickly.

Insects will continue to be present. Cooler (but not cold) days mean a resurgence of aphids. Mites will also still be

around. Scale can also be a problem. Treat with a light 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 that I use for all insects (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water) will work on evergreens and will also give them some nutrients. The dead scale will probably have to be removed physically. A soft toothbrush works for me (I sometimes need to wet the branch to loosen the scale).

Feeding of deciduous trees should be discontinued for the winter. Evergreens and conifers will benefit from a low nitrogen feeding. Organic fertilizers are better as they will breakdown into nutrients more slowly as the season gets cooler and the tree's activity slows. Be sure to use one that supplies the 13 micronutrients needed. The organic spray given above can be used as a soil drench if you dilute it a little more. Kelp is an excellent source of the essential minor elements needed by plants.

After 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 those 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 prevent the formation of heavy branches in the top part of the tree where faster growth often occurs. Anything out of proportion will ruin the aesthetics. Work can be done now or later during the winter at your leisure, but it is easy to forget about it when the tree is in winter storage.

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 crape 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. Whatever your winter storage plans, make sure that you can easily check the soil for watering needs.



Roy gets to know some members before the September demonstration. Photo J. Bonney

(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 removes water from the tops of the trees. The roots cannot obtain water to replenish the loss and the top desiccates to the point of death.)

Creating a few shohin bonsai can lead to some winter enjoyment. Since they do not take much room, you can find a space in the house or a small greenhouse. Let them go dormant for a short period and you can take them in and have new growth in a very short time. Small elms are especially good for this. Then sit back and enjoy your little fellows in the house while the winter wears on.

And finally, look for some good “potensai” at nurseries. They’ll be clearing out their areas to make room for the X-mas trees. Remember that half-dead stuff may be a great find. We’re only interested in the lower trunk, so don’t bother looking at the green bushy top. After all, that part is merely junk to us. ✍

---

## January Dig

Every winter the club conducts a dig so members can experience the thrill of hunting for “yamadori” (wild growing trees), which is one of the best sources for bonsai stock. Nothing beats a lovely crisp morning out walking the land and finding that one tree that will someday become a showstopper.

The board is taking suggestions for new and exciting possibilities for 2011’s dig. If anyone knows of a location that would be the perfect spot for a club dig, let us know right away! Remember, there’s permission to be sought and logistics to work out, so we’ve got to get crackin’ on it soon. The dig is barely four months away! ✍

---

## September in Review

by James Bonney

I told you to get ready for a huge weekend in September, and boy was I right! I think we may have had the highest attendance all year. Most of the membership turned out to see Roy Nagatoshi give a demonstration on not just one, but *two* trees.

Growing up, Roy started out working side-by-side with his father at the family nursery, Fuji Bonsai in Sylmar, California. In 1975, Roy completed his degree in ornamental horticulture and struck out on his own. In ’97,

Roy took over for his father at Fuji Bonsai and has been there ever since. In addition to running the family business, he travels regularly teaching and giving demonstrations at all levels; from world conventions on down to the local hobbyist club.

Although Roy is adept at dealing with most species, it was no real surprise when asked what some of his favorites are. Roy said that the prostrate and San Jose junipers are really good species. He likes that they can grow anywhere in the country. Roy is well known for his grafting abilities, and one of his big passions is to graft Kishu shinpaku branches onto San Jose junipers! This blends the wild look and of the San Jose with the wonderfully compact foliage of the shinpaku.

Roy likes to start his designs by eliminating the branches that are unnecessary. And so it was with our demo trees. While he did this, he talked about proportion. He states proportion is vitally important, because it is the only way to make a convincing imitation of a mature old tree. So, any branch that was out of proportion was also sacrificed. What is considered out of proportion, we asked? Roy said that basically any branch that is more than 1/3 the diameter of a branch that it splits off of will look out of proportion.

Watching Roy perform jin work was fun—big tools and plenty of crunching noises followed by a gasp here and there from the newer members. He did some hand-breaking and peeling as well.

During wiring, Roy had this to say about picking a wire size, “a way to know that the wire is correct for a branch is to tap it afterward. If it wobbles around, the wire is too small.” He mentioned that experience will make you the best judge.

Roy says that when you first style a tree, it will look unnatural and man-made. Don’t worry. Nature takes over and fills in the empty spaces and continues the work of making it look natural again. This takes time—that is to say, there is no “instant” bonsai!

The afternoon workshop was full of excellent material. It’s really nice to see so much collected material beginning to make its way into members’ hands. What’s even better is seeing them reaching the point where they’ve survived collection and can now be worked on. Listening in on Roy’s expert advice was almost as enjoyable as watching the participants get down to work making their future masterpieces. One of Roy’s best pieces of advice was to “be brave”. Good potential does not become great bonsai through timidness and inaction! Thank you Mr. Nagatoshi for helping our club take another step toward elevating the hobby we so enjoy! ✍



Roy gets right to work. Off come the unwanted branches.  
*Photo J. Bonney*



The line is becoming visible. *Photo J. Bonney*



The jin work. Lots of unwanted branches means plenty of deadwood! *Photo J. Bonney*



Roy speaks with Alvaro about his tree's possibilities at the workshop. *Photo J. Bonney*

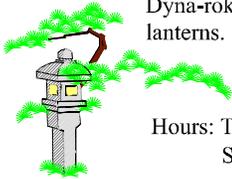


Roy makes some adjustments while Bill prepares the wire. *Photo J. Bonney*

## Sanderson Creek Bonsai

— 1634 Stella Street, Fort Worth, Texas —

Bonsai, collected and pre-bonsai trees, sieved soil, lava, pumice, exp-shale, kanuma, akadama, pots, Dyna-rok, Joshua Roth tools, classes and granite lanterns.



☀ You are welcomed! ☀

Hours: Tuesday thru Friday 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

e-store [www.sandersonbonsai.com](http://www.sandersonbonsai.com) ph# 817-534-3220

[www.sandersonbonsai.com](http://www.sandersonbonsai.com)



Cell: (469) 648-8202

### BENT TREE BONSAI

wide range of quality  
Indoor and Outdoor  
Bonsai & preBonsai

Instruction-Tools-Pots  
Supplies



Ray Hernandez-owner  
By appointment only

5915 S. Cockrell Hill  
Dallas, Texas 75236

**Bent Tree Bonsai: (469) 648-8202**



**Bonsai Ware**  
Timothy Phan  
www.BonsaiWare.com  
BonsaiWare411@gmail.com  
972-679-0384

*Bonsai, Japanese & Chinese Pots,  
Stands, Tools, Books, Suiseki,  
Pre-mixed Bonsai Soil, Akadama,  
Lava, Pumice*

[www.bonsaiware.com](http://www.bonsaiware.com)



**Bonsai Smiths**

**Howard and Sylvia Smith**  
www.BonsaiSmiths.net  
bonsaismiths@earthlink.net  
Tel# (972) 754-9883  
Fax# (972) 661-0694

- Cultivators of fine trees
- Collection maintenance
- Private instruction
- Classes, lectures & demos

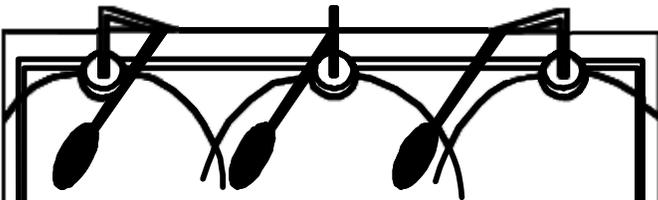
[www.bonsaismiths.net](http://www.bonsaismiths.net)

### 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
- Sanderson Creek Bonsai
- Ray Hernandez's Bent Tree Bonsai
- Dallas Bonsai Garden

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 James Bonney at [amy.james@gte.net](mailto:amy.james@gte.net).



**Place Your Ad Here!**

Business card size – \$5 per month  
Half-page – \$20 per month  
Full page – \$35 per month

For more information, contact  
James Bonney at [amy.james@gte.net](mailto:amy.james@gte.net)