



Bonsai Society of Dallas

February 2007



It's membership renewal time again! The last page of this newsletter is a membership form.

Please renew your membership today!

Message from the President:

By George Straw

The Convention Board is very busy trying to make sure that everything is moving along on the Convention at the end of April. I am very excited that we have all of the vendor tables sold and a waiting list. Save your money and be prepared for a fantastic selection of trees, pots, tools and many items related to Bonsai!

We are getting a good response to the email that was sent out regarding help for the convention. Thanks to everyone who has already signed up. Remember that if you can only help for part of the day, we will be glad for the time you can volunteer. We need people for Thursday evening for setting up and helping the vendors get set up. Then Friday and Saturday will be full. Sunday is a half day and helping vendors move every-

thing out of the hotel.

We are needing raffle items for the Convention. Sandi is in charge of the raffle and we will be accepting all kind of items. We do have a weekend with free breakfast at the Holiday Inn Love Field that will be in the raffle, some bonsai pots, and some art pieces. Hit your friends up for items. Restaurant tickets, movie tickets, museum, tickets, sculpture, pots, etc.

The results are back on the email sent out about the change in the meeting date. The majority of people felt that Saturday morning would be the best time to have the meeting. We regret that there will be some people that will not be able to attend on Saturday morning due to work or personal responsibilities. But

we have decided to move our meeting to the first Saturday of each month starting on April 7 at 9:00 AM. This meeting will be on preparing your tree for an exhibit. If you are going to exhibit a tree in the show, please bring your tree and we will be discussing how to prepare the tree, pot, and the use of moss as well as talking about stands and companion plants for the exhibit. Even if you are not going to exhibit a tree, this will be a very informative meeting for you to attend. The meeting for February and March are still being held on the first Thursday or the month.

George



February Program by John Miller

Date: Feb. 1, 2007
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: North Haven Gardens
7700 Northaven
Dallas, TX

Do you have a one-repots-all type of bonsai practice? You wouldn't do that with your other pets. Bonsai is no different. While some basics carry across the board, each type of tree requires

some small but important differences. Our program for February will be exploring these nuances. After an introduction on general practices, Sylvia and/or Howard will discuss junipers and pines. If time allows, there will be an actual demo or two with dirt flying and soil components for you to run your fingers through!

Again, you are encouraged to bring items for show and tell or to get questions answered.

Also, I will be there between 5-5:30 if you need anything or want to talk. Others usually show up early also. See you there!

BSD Calendar

- Feb. 1 - Repotting
- Feb. 10 - Club Dig
- Mar. 1 - TBD
- Apr. 7 - Tree Preparation for Show/Kusamono Work Day
At the April 7 meeting, please join us to help pot kusamonos for table decorations at the convention! Bring your potting tools, and any questions you have about kusamonos!
- Apr. 20-22 - LSBF

BSD Member Tree Highlight

Japanese Maple
by Dave Schleser

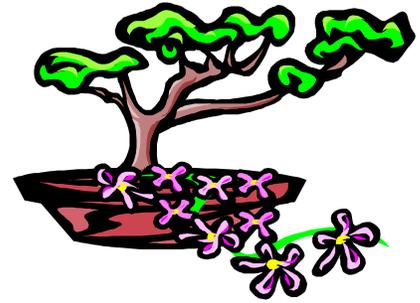


This tree was started over 45 years ago from seedlings and trained by George Gray (one of the founders of BSD) who willed it to me upon his death in 1991. It stands 22" tall. The interesting thing is that it is actually TWO trees grafted together at their base when it was originally designed. It is a root over rock style but the rock has been largely "swallowed" by the root development.

February Bonsai by John Miller

With the potting season coming up a few words about "soils" is probably in order. These can be prepared in advance to ease the strain if you have several bonsai. The basics of good mixes:

Permit free drainage. Use granular material--akadama, decomposed granite, lava gravel, pumice, haydite, Turface, etc. Provide decomposition material (organic, should not break down too quickly)--ground or decomposed bark. Provide air space--Use appropriately sized particles.



Moisture retention is controlled by the type of material (e.g. akadama vs granite) and by particle size (finer particles retain more residual water).

Check wire applied last year. During dormancy, the woody portions tend to lignify and swell. Severe wire marks can occur. Remove any tight wire.

Early February is the end of the season for major pruning. You may be able to continue for a while on some late sprouting species such as the oaks. After the onset of sap flow, you should not try to make big cuts. Cut paste or pruning sealer cannot withstand the hydraulic pressure created by the urge to grow.

Remember, the best time to repot any tree is when the new growth activity is just getting started. For deciduous trees, this is evidenced when the buds are just starting to swell. Having your soil mixes (it takes more than one type) ready before the season starts lets you spend your time getting them done at the best time. Sometimes your work will prevent you from being able to pot when you would like. In these cases, repotting should be done earlier in the month, never after new foliage has broken. Also after repotting, the plants must be protected from freezes. The new roots develop quickly and are very tender.

One of the ways to enjoy January and February is to have a greenhouse. I have a small lean-to type on the east side of the garage. A small electric heater keeps it fine (45-50 degrees). This keeps my few tropicals and pomegranates. I also let my small elms get 3-5 weeks of cold and then bring them in. They then start greening up in about two weeks. Helps fight the winter blahs.

If there is a significant warm streak, you could get some activity from over-wintering pests. A dormant spray (horticultural oil or a very weak lime sulphur) should be used on outside plants. The lime sulphur should not be used on any green growth or after buds begin to swell. For the greenhouse, use the organic original Garrett Juice mixture. I get good control of mites, aphids, and even scale with it. It should be used on a regular basis.

Garrett Juice is 1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water. This may be used as a foliar spray or an organic soil fertilizer. I prefer to go easy on the soil application until the new growth slows down. Using organic fertilizer cakes on top of the soil is a better way to fertilize. You may make your own or buy one of the commercial versions from your local bonsai vendor. I do not advocate adding potassium bicarbonate or baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) to control fungal problems. They will chemically interact with the vinegar. Use them separately if you have mildew or other fungal problems.



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

Your convention chairs are:

Chairmen:

George Straw

gstra@aol.com 214-357-3048

Howard Smith

bonsaismiths@earthlink.net 972-392-1430

Co-Chair:

John Miller

bonsaimiller@aol.com 903-776-2910

Registration & Display Chair:

Sylvia Smith

bonsaismiths@earthlink.net 972-392-1430

Vender Chair:

Howard & Sylvia Smith

bonsaismiths@earthlink.net 972-392-1430

Marketing Chair:

Howard & Sylvia Smith

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! It is being frequently updated with the new convention and registration information.

25TH LSBF CONVENTION by John Miller

Have you made your reservations for the 2007 LSBF convention in Dallas? Remember, there will be no workshops at next year's convention. We have an impressive lineup of talent for this year's 25th LSBF convention. You can't beat the collection of Marco Ivernezzi, Boon Manakativipart, Suthin Sukosolvisit and Shane Cary.. Add to that Mike Hagedorn, just back from Study in Japan; Sylvia and Howard Smith, both of whom completed Boon's three year intensive course and have their own nursery; and John Miller, who plays around Texas. Some of the workshop material is being brought in by Boon, Suthin, and Shane. Boon has been prepping the large demo trees for two years!

Registration forms may be gotten on line at www.bonsaisocietydallas.com or from your LSBF representative. Hotel information is as follows:

Holiday Inn Select Dallas - Love Field

3300 W. Mockingbird
Dallas, Texas 75235

Enjoy a reduced rate of \$79 per night by calling the hotel at (214) 357-8500 or (877) 211-3289 and informing the reservation personnel that you will be attending the Bonsai Convention or register on the web. **Be sure to mention the discount code: BSO.**

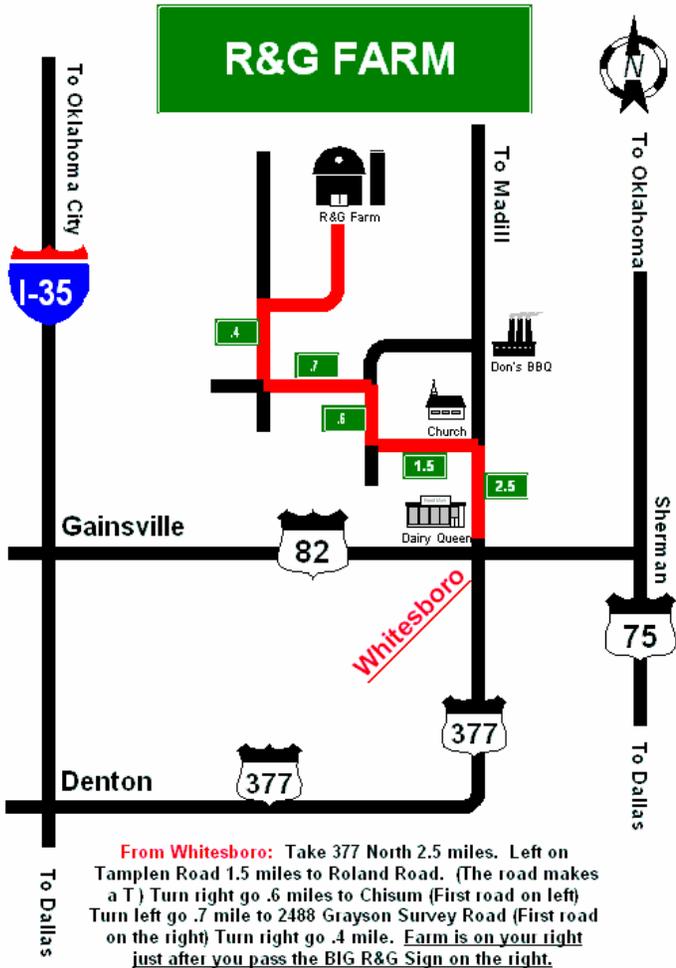
A more formal display area is planned and will have a section for suiseki and also for antique bonsai pottery. These will require special security measures. It would be helpful if you made advance contact with the exhibit chairman or any member of the convention committee if you would like to exhibit a tree, stone, or pot.

Any questions will be promptly answered. One contact would be John Miller, 903-776-2910, bonsaimiller@aol.com.

The Club Digs are Just Around the Corner!

(Must be a current and paid member for 2007 to participate in the Club Dig)

Our Club Dig will be on February 10, beginning at 9:00 am and will take place at George Straw's farm. Please see the map below.



George Cell: 214-957-3205 / Farm: 940-668-8620

TOOLS TO BRING ON A CLUB'S BONSAI DIG

David M. 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.

TOOLS TO BRING ON A CLUB'S BONSAI DIG Continued...

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.

That's it for now; hope to see you at what is an excellent collecting area.

DIG AFTERCARE by John Miller

What do you do after you dig your tree will make a big difference in its chances for survival and how fast it recovers so that it can be turned into a bonsai.

Removing as much of the excess top before digging will help in several ways. It reduces the amount of water loss both at the site and later at home. The smaller top reduces the amount of vibration transmitted into the root ball shaking the dirt loose. It also allows you to get closer the tree and makes digging easier. The resulting tree and root ball will be easier to handle.

The root ball should be protected from drying as much as possible. Either wrap it tightly with plastic wrap or put it in a growing container with good soil well packed around the root ball. Tie the tree securely to stabilize it. If the soil is dry, you should have some water to dampen the root ball. Spray an anti-desiccant like Cloud Cover or Wilt-Pruf on the trunk and foliage to help retain moisture.

At home, keep the newly collected tree out of the sun and protected from winds until it shows some sign of growth. The roots should also be protected from freezing. Mulching will generally be sufficient to do this. Very little fertilizer will need to be applied the first year unless it shows very active growth.

One of the problems encountered in Texas comes from the heavy clay soils we usually find at our collecting sites. If these soils dry out (white clay or caliche especially but the black soils also to a lesser degree) they are very hard to get to take up water again. Water looks like it is entering the root mass but in fact it goes down to the clay and then runs off to the side and out of the pot leaving the root ball bone dry. I believe that this is one of the major causes of losing the ashe junipers. Elms that put new roots into the potting mix from the tips of the cut roots at the edge of the old root ball are not so touchy. A technique to help this is to drill a few small holes through the root ball and put good soil into them. The size of the holes is not important, just so they are large enough to get your mix into them. This allows water to enter the center of the roots. This good soil will also provide a path to get oxygen into the root ball, which also encourages new growth.



Bonsai Smiths

Howard and Sylvia Smith
www.BonsaiSmiths.net
bonsaismiths@earthlink.net
tel# (972) 392-1430
Fax# (972) 661-0694

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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
- Sanderson Creek Bonsai

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 at

Sanderson Creek Bonsai

1634 Stella Street • Fort Worth, Texas

Bonsai, trees/soil, lava, pumice, expanded shale,
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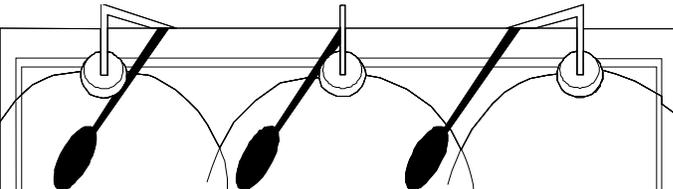
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817-534-3220 www.sc-bonsai.com



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BSD Board of Directors

President—George Straw, GSTRA@aol.com, (214) 357-3048
Acting Vice President —John Miller, President Emeritus, bonsaimiller@aol.com
Treasurer—Open
Secretary—Sandi McFarland, potter@pegasuspottery.com, (972) 438-9782

Lone Star Bonsai Federation Meeting Minutes

January 20th, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 PM by President, John Denton. He welcomed Kathleen Williamson as the new representative for the Shohin Society.

Approval of the Minutes

John called for any changes to the minutes of the last meeting. No changes being suggested, a motion was made and carried to approve the minutes as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Pat Ware presented the Treasurer's Report. She noted that an extra \$250 was budgeted for the LSBF Newsletter to allow the addition of a page of color illustrations as requested by Carl Quisenberry editor. She pointed out that the extra money was offset by the elimination of lunch costs and termination of the lease on the credit card imprinter. After discussion, a motion was made and carried to approve the Treasurers Report. Yvonne pointed out that her email address was listed incorrectly in the newsletter. Her correct email address is:

LSBF Conventions

2007 – John Miller discussed the upcoming convention in Dallas. He indicated that a website was available through the Bonsai Society of Dallas web site. The web site includes pictures of the workshop trees being held by the Dallas club but not those that will be brought in by individual artists such as Suthin who will be providing his own Itowigawa shimpakus. The Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Select, adjacent to Love Field. The hotel rooms are \$79/night and the reservation code is BSO. John reminded each club to provide a raffle item. Marty Klajnowski inquired if the convention has any insurance coverage for theft. It was pointed out that the LSBF has a blanket coverage for personal liability but not for theft. John agreed to inquire of the hotel.

2008 - Marty Klajnowski discussed the 2008 convention which will be hosted jointly by San Antonio, Austin and the American Bonsai Society.

The convention will have no "daily" reservations. Only "full" reservations.

The exhibit will have a \$2 admission fee for non-registrants.

The trees for the Joshua Roth Competition will be provided by the ABS.

The vending area will be 12,000 sq. ft.. It is unclear as to whether the vendors will be required to be full registrants.

The registration fee is not yet known. This year's (2007) ABS convention registration fee is \$315.

Corpus Christi will supply San Antonio with a credit card imprinter. It need only be activated.

The hotels will be El Tropicana. Rooms to be \$129 or \$139/night.

The hotel is providing suite upgrades to the visiting artists, and the Austin, San Antonio, and LSBF Presidents. In addition, the hotel is providing 2 free rooms to the convention committee for the length of the convention to do with as they like.

There will be 3 lunches, 2 dinners and daily snacks provided.

The hotel owns no skirting so any required by vendors will be available for \$5/day. Vendors may bring their own.

The ABS had asked for someone from LSBF to join as a board member. Mike Hansen has agreed.

The ABS requested that we provide the names of several artists that we would like to see present seminars at the convention. Marty took down several names and will pass them on but has had no word of who has been asked or accepted.

2009 – Buddy Allen indicated that Houston will host the convention in 2009

LSBF Speaker Tour

2007 – Yvonne Padilla announced the Pedro Morales has accepted the invitation to be the 2008 LSBF Speaker. He will charge \$250/event. She is trying to schedule our tour to follow his appearance in Rochester, New York. That would put the tour start around the 11th or 12th of September. Yvonne passed around a sheet on which she asked representatives to write down the number of events we will sponsor and the dates of our regular club meetings. She will try to accommodate them as much as possible.

2008 – Buddy Allen volunteered to be the LSBF Speaker Tour director for the 2008 tour. He asked that each representatives bring back their club's suggestions for speakers.

Expanding the LSBF

At the previous meeting, Marty Klajnowski presented a proposal for the LSBF to consider expanding the federation to include adjoining states. She asked for returns from the clubs as to their thoughts. She emphasized that this is not a deciding vote for expansion. She is merely seeking an expression of interest in looking into the idea. Buddy Allen indicated that after discussion, the Houston club voted "No". Yvonne indicated that Corpus Christi club was interested in hearing more about the matter (Yes). Carl Quisenberry indicated that the Austin club had discussed it but had not reached a decision. All other clubs were urged to bring the issue up at the next meeting and to email John Denton with a vote of "Yes" or "No" by the end of February.

Nominating Committee

President John Denton suggested that it was not too early to put together a nominating committee for the next term which will commence in 2008. John volunteered for the committee as did Buddy Allen, and Carl Quisenberry.

Next Meetings

The next meeting will be held on June 9th beginning at 1:00 and will be held at the LCRA Board Room located in the Hancock building at 3700 Lake Austin Blvd.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

BONSAI SOCIETY OF DALLAS

www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please mail to:
Bonsai Society of Dallas
P.O. Box 836922
Richardson, TX 75083-6922
Or Turn in at Club Meeting

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

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Amount Paid: _____ Membership Year: _____