



Bonsai Society of Dallas

January 2005

From the Editor:

By Sandi McFarland
Well, this is my first BSD newsletter! I am so grateful to be a part of BSD and to be able to serve the club as Secretary! I hope that you will find the newsletter to be filled with helpful information.

I welcome all of you to contribute to the newsletter! If you have an article that you would like for me to publish, please email it to me at potter@pegasuspottery.com.

Message from the President:

By George Straw

I would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know how excited I am about being the President for the next two years. Of course, it will be very difficult to follow in Howard and Sylvia's footsteps. I cannot begin to thank Howard and Sylvia enough for everything that they have done for the club. I am sure they will be more than willing to help out when needed.

We are very pleased to announce that we will be having two club digs this year. The first one will be at my place in Whitesboro on January 29 and the second dig will be on February 12 in Van Alstyne at Roy Hernandez's place.

We will have a map to the January dig in this newsletter and then February will have the map for the February dig.

The digs will be great opportunities for members to acquire trees at very little cost, just manual labor. If you have never been on a dig, do not feel intimidated; there will be experienced members there to help you with selection and how to dig. We will have a list in the newsletter of items that you will need for the dig.

Bring your change to the club, we will have cookies and soft drinks for sale to help with the club finances.

By now your tropicals have winter blankets on them and the deciduous trees are being studied to see what trimming can be done while dormant. (you can see branch placement much better at this time). Read John Miller's column and he will keep you well informed on what you should be doing during the year. Thanks for all of your help, John!



BSD Calendar

- Jan. 6—Mike Hansen, Seasonal care of Black Pine
- Jan 29 - BSD Club Dig at George Straw's Farm
- Feb 3 - John Miller, Catlen Elm
- Feb 5 - John Miller Workshop, Catlen Elm
- Feb 12- BSD Club Dig in Van Alstyne
- Mar 3 - TBA
- Apr 7 - TBA
- May 5 - TBA
- Jun 2 - TBA
- Jul 7 - Club Barbeque
- Aug 4 - TBA
- Sep 1- Club Auction
- Oct 6 - TBA
- Nov 3 - TBA
- Dec 1- Club Holiday Party

January Program

By Daryl Le

Date: January 6, 2005
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: North Haven Gardens
7700 Northaven
Dallas, TX

Mike Hansen, owner of MPB Bonsai Studio, will be the presenter for our January meeting. His presentation will focus on the details of Japanese black pine care by season. This will be supplemented with photos and illustrations. The final part of

the time will be devoted to styling a small Japanese black pine that he will donate for our Club Raffle. Mike has 22 years of experience as a bonsai teacher and lecturer, and 34 years worth of learning and love for bonsai. In addition to the nursery at his studio in Pflugerville, Texas, Mike also has a USDA Quarantine Facility to house imported trees which must remain in quarantine

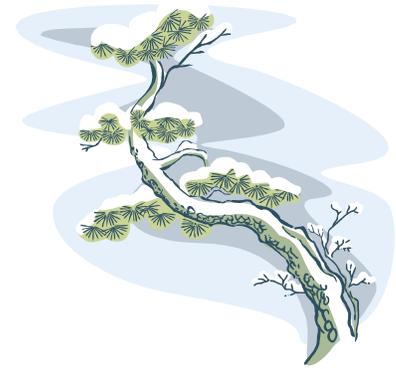
for two years. He will have black pine and other trees available for release in about a year, when they are out of quarantine. We are sure he will be glad to answer any questions you might have about the quarantine process. Mike has spoken at the club on several occasions and we are sure you will enjoy hearing him at the January meeting.

Other Dates of Interest:

- Jan 15 - LSBF meeting 1PM Zilker Park, Austin
- Feb 19 - Shohin Society, 10am, Persimmon Hill Bonsai, Austin
- Apr 16 Shohin Society, 10am, Persimmon Hill Bonsai, Austin
- May 13-15 LSBF-FtWorth convention, Holiday Inn North, Ft Worth
- Jun 11 LSBF meeting 1PM Zilker Park, Austin
- Jun 18 Shohin Society, 10am, Persimmon Hill Bonsai, Austin
- Sep 17 Shohin Society, 10am, Persimmon Hill Bonsai, Austin
- Oct 8 LSBF meeting 1PM Zilker Park, Austin

January Bonsai

By John Miller



Cold weather is here again. Be sure your trees are well watered before going thru a deep freeze. They will be losing water to evaporation, but will not be able to replenish it if the soil is frozen. Protection from high winds is necessary so they will not dry the tops out. Sunlight is not necessary on deciduous trees when they have lost their leaves. In fact, it can be bad for the tree because it will heat up the trunk and could make the tree come out of dormancy too early.

I advocate placing the trees on a well drained ground bed in a protected shady area. Then cover the pots with a shallow layer of mulch. You should know which trees have a greater need for water. If you put these trees together it will be easier to check your need for watering while they are in the bed.

I would treat the evergreens in a similar manner, but put them where they can get some sun.

Personally, I keep my outside hardy trees on the benches until the temperature goes below 25. Then I set the deciduous and more tender evergreens on the ground below and between the benches until a temperature in the teens is expected. At that point, I will use old carpet and quilts to cover the benches. For the rest of the winter I leave them there and lift the sides for air circulation of the deciduous trees and uncover fully the evergreens when the temperature rises. Sounds like a lot of work, but I developed a routine that fits me and it isn't as bad as watering in the summer.

Of course, the tender and semi-tender trees need protection. The semi-tender get left out for some frost, but no freezing. When freezing is expected, they get put in a cool area. If they show growth again, they go to the greenhouse. It's not a big greenhouse and doesn't give optimum growing conditions, but keeps things from freezing.

Indoor trees will be using more water to offset the lower humidity. Soil will also be losing water faster through its surface. Be sure to watch the indoor trees for insect problems. Most plant insects love a controlled atmosphere like the indoors. Spider mites seem to get the most attention here because they do great in a low humidity and the lack of foliage spraying. Scale can be an easily overlooked source of trouble. There is usually more severe problems with plants that have been kept outdoors in summer than brought in without any treatment. Indoor trees need to be fertilized regularly and will require periodic trimming as they continue to grow through the winter.

Greenhouses are much the same as indoors. However, most greenhouses are kept more humid. The higher humidity is to the liking of aphids and fungal diseases. It may also result in your keeping the soil too moist with associated root problems. Use the standard insect controls that you used last summer. I use my Garrett Juice mixture.

Styling can be done at this time but no repotting unless you are going to keep the tree from freezing after that. Repotting initiates new root development which is usually not very hardy.

A better approach would be to study one or two thoroughly each day making notes on what needs to be done. January is an excellent time to start any remodeling projects that may be necessary. While the trees are dormant you have better view of the branch structure. Do any need to be moved or removed? Do any coarse branches need to be cut back to a smaller side branch for refinement? Do any long straight branches need wiring to give them motion? Does the tree really need a drastic redesign? You can also trim the twigs back while you have them there.

Any long warm spells during the month could activate some of the insect problems but as a rule there are no special needs to look for in January. Spraying with a dormant oil spray will kill adults, nymphs, and eggs of any trying to over-winter on your trees. Some dormant sprays can be used on new growth but better results overall will be obtained if you do it before Valentine's Day. A weak lime sulphur dormant spray will also get fungal spores and should be done before February 1.

If you have your summer display and growing benches cleared, you could use a stronger solution lime sulphur to disinfect that area too. The underside of the benches should be sprayed also. Might even eliminate spider mites next year.

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: _____

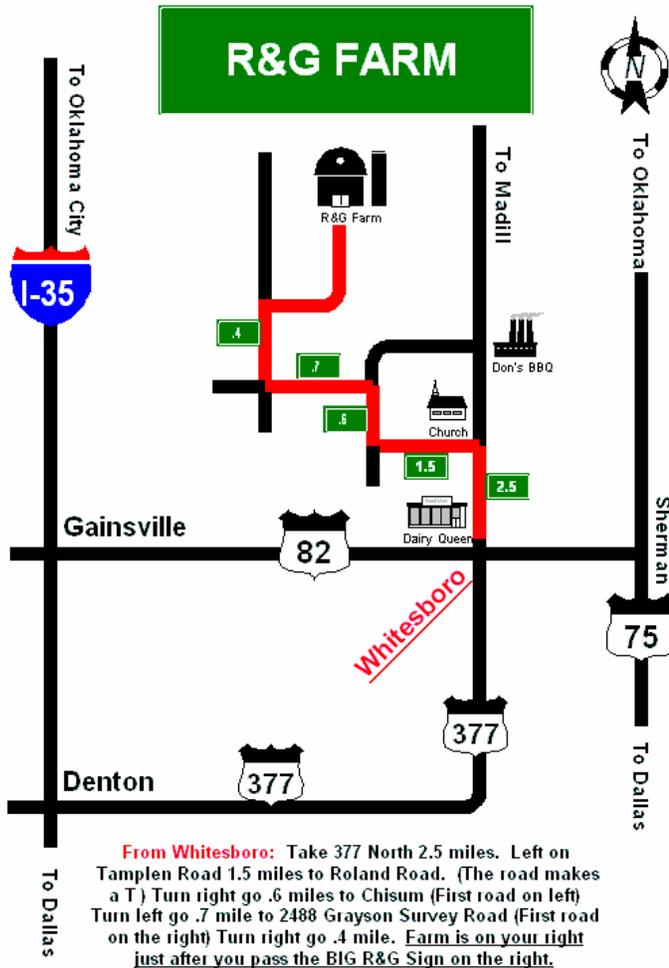
BSD Board of Directors

President—George Straw, GSTRA@aol.com, (214) 357-3048
Vice President—Daryl Le, troioi_98@yahoo.com, (214) 995-0693
Treasurer—Jennifer Triptow, jtriptow@hotmail.com, (972) 437-1930
Secretary—Sandi McFarland, potter@pegasuspottery.com, (972) 438-9782

The Club Digs are Just Around the Corner!

(Must be a current and paid member for 2005 to participate in the Club Dig)

Our first Club dig will be on January 29, beginning at 9:00 am and will take place at George Straw's farm. Please see the map below. We will have another Club dig on February 12 in Van Alstyne—more information will be provided in the February newsletter.



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.



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

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

"BONSAI SMITHS" will be conducting several workshops this year. These workshops will be given by Howard and Sylvia Smith who have been in training with Boon Manakatipart for over three years. Each will be full day workshops starting at 9:00AM and are usually limited to 6 participants; lunch can be brought or purchased. The cost is \$50 per class and will cover each subject intensively, including both lecture and hands on time, plus handouts to help you review what you've learned at home. The spring classes are scheduled as follows:

Saturday, Feb. 5

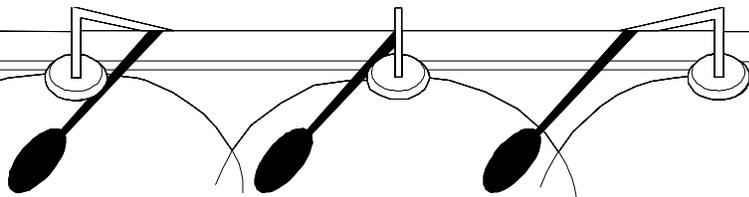
'Repotting' (from beginners to advanced): This is an intensive class to teach you the Japanese style of repotting. Using this technique you will learn the proven method used to grow better nebari and improve the overall health of your trees. We will also cover how to choose a pot suited for each bonsai tree's species and style.

*What to bring: bonsai tools, wire, trees, pots, wire mesh, and bonsai soil (all are available to borrow or buy if needed) *Please do not bring more than two or three trees as we may only have enough time to repot one or two. Remember that you will be learning the technique and we will not be using the entire time to just repot. If you do not have a tree available but would like to learn the technique, you may "borrow" one of our trees to practice on.*

Saturday, March 12

'Japanese Black Pine' (Spring - Session I): The first of a three part series teaching you how to work on and improve your JBP. Black pine are worked on usually only three times in a year. During the spring session you will learn about needle plucking, trimming, repotting and wiring. It is not necessary to bring your own tree but it will be helpful to bring your personal trees to learn how to work on JBP during their different stages of development. If you have brought a pine to this workshop in the past, you may want to work on the same pine in order to continue the work that was started. *What to bring: bonsai tools including bonsai tweezers and sharp bonsai scissors, copper wire and black pine bonsai (Pots, aluminum wire, mesh and bonsai soil are all optional. Supplies are available to borrow or buy if needed)*

For more information or to reserve your workshop space, please contact Howard or Sylvia Smith at 972-392-1430 or at BonsaiSmiths@earthlink.net



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Half page—\$20 per month

Full page—\$35 per month

*For more information, contact Sandi McFarland at
972-438-9782 or potter@pegasuspottery.com*

We need your help!

If you would be willing to volunteer some time to scan old newsletters and burn them to a CD for archiving, please contact George Straw at GSTRA@aol.com or call him at (214) 357-3048.