



Bonsai Society of Dallas

January 2007



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

BSD Calendar

- Jan. 4 - Collecting trees
- Feb. 1 - TBA
- Feb. 24-25 - Advanced Group Workshop 2007 at the Irving Community Center

BSD Member Tree Highlight

Fukien Tea
by George Straw



This tree was purchased in October 2000. It was in pretty bad shape at the time of purchase as it was very root bound and had been subjected to low temperatures. It did not look good but had some great potential with the size of the trunk and the movement. Craig Coussins was the first artist to work on it. It is pictured in his book "Bonsai School." He used this tree to show how to root prune. That was in June 2001. Shane Cary has also done work on the tree 2001. So this is what 6 years of TLC will get you!

Message from the President:

By George Straw

I understand that the meeting last month was a very good one. I am sorry that I had to miss it! I had some family problems out of state that I had to attend to.

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday and a very good New Year's.

You will not want to miss the program this month as it will be on club digs. John is will be checking out a dig site for us and I understand that there will be an opportunity to find some great trees to add to your collection. We will also be handing out the list of supplies needed when you go on a club dig that Dave Schleser wrote for the club. The dig will probably in February, but more will come on this when it is finalized.

We are getting real excited about the Convention coming up in April! Our Vendor room is almost full already, with some really great Vendors attending. Be sure to check out the full page color ad in the latest Bonsai Today. The Web site should be up and running by the time you get this newsletter. Andy had done a great job with the Convention information. I would suggest that you sign up for workshops ASAP as we have already started booking the workshops, so if you are interested in one, book it now. We have some very nice trees for the workshops.

REMEMBER, WE WILL NEED EVERYONE'S HELP WHEN THE CONVENTION IS HERE. THERE IS A LOT OF LEG WORK GOING ON DURING THE CONVEN-

TION, SO HELP IS NEEDED IN EVERY AREA OF THE CONVENTION.

Sandi is in charge of the Convention Raffle and we need to have a lot of items for the Convention. Ask your friends for items. Check with businesses that you are in. We can use Gift Certificates, passes, tickets to shows, etc. That is where the club makes most of its money. We also will need large coffee cans (2lb) for holding raffle tickets for the items. Please save these and check with your friends about coffee cans. We need the can and the lid.

Keep thinking about who you would like to see as your new Board Members. We will be voting on that in March.

George

January Program by John Miller

Date: Jan. 4, 2007
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: North Haven Gardens
7700 Northaven
Dallas, TX

The last program set up by Mike Smoller, before he decided that a good job was better than staying in Dallas, was to be on collecting techniques. Not only do we have a club dig in the planning stages, but you can get out on your own. It is much easier to locate one or two trees than to

find a site with enough material to warrant taking the whole club.

The techniques seem simple enough, but you might learn enough to keep you from digging a 3" hackberry with a 30" root ball or bare rooting an ash juniper or something equally bad. We will cover what tools we have found necessary and good accessories to have like Saran Wrap.

In conjunction with this pro-

gram, for show and tell, please bring something you have collected. It does not need to be styled yet, just to show the potential of what is out there to encourage beginners to do it.

NOTE: Because of the new regulations at North Haven Gardens we must be out of there by 8:00pm. Therefore the meeting will have to start promptly at 6:30pm and not dally along the way.

January Bonsai by John Miller



Time to get out and check your shovel, loppers, chain saw, and your other favorite collecting paraphernalia. Be ready to join the group when a dig is scheduled. That's the best way to get old material that will do well in your area. If you are lucky, you may just find one that nature, machinery, or cows have done most of the styling for you.

Cold weather is here again. Be sure your trees are well watered before going through 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 also necessary so the tops will not dry 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 soil which could make the tree come out of dormancy too early.

I advocate placing the hardy 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 fully uncover 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 (e.g. crape myrtle and pomegranate) 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.

Tender or tropical trees that are kept indoors 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 low humidity and the lack of foliage spraying. Scale can be an easily overlooked source of trouble. There are 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.

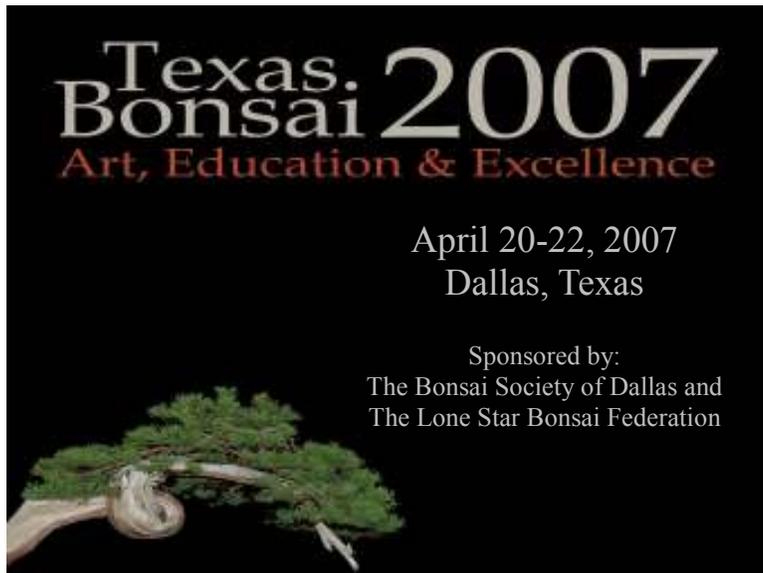
Greenhouses are much the same as indoors. However, most greenhouses are kept more humid. The higher humidity is to the liking of aphids and fungal diseases. It may also result in your keeping the soil too moist with associated root problems. Use your standard insect controls that you used last summer.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

Back to the outdoor trees. 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 and not at all if any green is showing.

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.

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.



**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

After a spate of hospitals, accidents, and other misfortunes, things are back on track here in Dallas for the 25th Lone Star Bonsai Federation convention... The convention information is now on the web. Go to www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com and click on the convention.

The convention is at the Holiday Inn Select, 3300 West Mockingbird in Dallas which is adjacent to Love Field and has a complimentary shuttle. To get the reduced rate of \$79, you should use the code BSO when making your reservation.

As it is a Silver Anniversary we hope to make it a very enjoyable and educational event and have invited not just one, but three nationally and internationally known bonsai professionals - Marco Invernizzi, Boon Manakitivipart and Suthin Sukosolvisit. We also will be pleased to host Michael Hagedorn on his American debut after his return from a three year apprenticeship in Japan under Shinji Suzuki. Local talent also includes Shane Cary, Howard and Sylvia Smith, and John Miller.

The three headliners will each be doing a lecture-demo after the evening dinner as was done in early conventions. All the workshops will be excellent opportunities to learn as well as creating good trees. (You should perhaps be informed that there will be no workshops at the 2008 convention. It will consist solely of a seminar type presentations, which will be great, but no hands on.)

We are also expecting an unusually broad group of vendors that will tempt you to wreak havoc with your checkbook with fantastic trees (finished, collected, large field grown, etc...), as well as that tool you've been looking for, one of a kind pots, the perfect bonsai workstation turntables, supplies, and of course suiseki.

We plan to put together a memorable, high quality semi-formal display, including a special bonsai pot section as well as suiseki. Our bonsai display chairman always gives 110% and puts together a show that not only displays individual trees at their best but also as a whole flows together as one. Our headliners will be judging the trees and awards will be given. Also we want all clubs to participate in this. More on this next month.

CLUB DIG

A relatively close-in dig is being set up. The tentative date is January 27 with a second choice of February 3. The area is west of Waxahachie and will have just about all kinds of material native to that locale.

A map and other pertinent information will be given in the February newsletter which will have to be published a few days earlier than usual or will be sent out as soon as details are final.

Be sure not to miss the January meeting for more information on collecting!



Bonsai Smiths

Howard and Sylvia Smith
www.BonsaiSmiths.net
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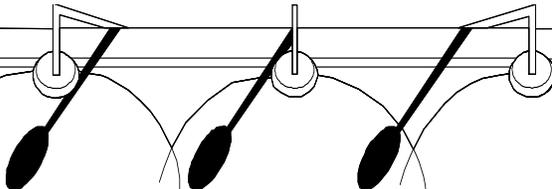
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10% Discount to BSD Members!

Generous Businesses Give Discount to BSD 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



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

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

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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Do Not Cut: For Treasurer Use Only
Member Receipt:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Amount Paid: _____ Membership Year: _____