



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly newsletter

July 2007

Message from the President

By George Straw

This has really been a different summer. We have not had a problem with keeping our plants watered. The main problem this year is over watering and when you are working on your trees outside, being very careful of mosquitoes. Be sure to protect yourself when outside as they are predicting more cases of West Nile.

As you know, we still do not have the President position filled. If you think that someone would be good in that position, please let the Board know and we will talk with that person about the position. We will hold an election if we get more than one person that is interested. I hope that by the August meeting we will be able to hold an election or let the club know that someone has stepped up to that position.

Brandon, is working on some great things for the coming months so watch your newsletters and check the web site for updates on coming events. If you have not had the opportunity to see Boon, you will not want to miss this on Friday night.

PLEASE SUBMIT NAMES FOR THE PRESIDENT POSITION!

George



July Program

Time for Tropicals

Conducted by: John Miller
Place: North Haven Gardens

Time: 9:00 AM
Date: Saturday, July 7th

July's program will be a double-header with John Miller starting off working on repotting tropicals and then performing some development work on several Catlin elms (*Ulmus parvifolia* var. 'Catlin') that are to be used in a forest planting.

There will also be a door prize awarded!

Don't be late!

BSD CALENDAR:

- **Time for Tropicals**
9:00am Saturday, July 7th
North Haven Gardens
- **TBD**
9:00am Saturday, August 4th
North Haven Gardens

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BSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Would you like to get this newsletter via email? Has your address changed? Comments? E-mail amy.james@gte.net.

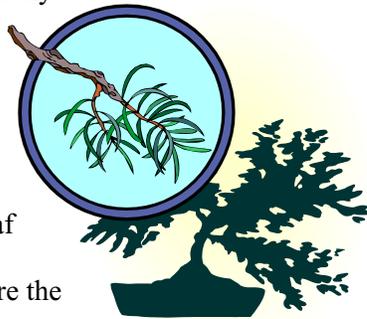
JULY BONSAI

By John Miller

What a difference a year can make. This time last year was hot (15 days over 97) and dry. This year only one day pushed to 97 and I haven't watered in over a week. Of course I check each tree every day to be sure they are not shedding the water outside the pot. Trees seem to be loving it. My semi-tropical live oaks are growing fast, need to be clipped every couple days. Of course the elms do better in cooler weather.

When you repotted your trees in the legume family, Texas ebony is one, did you see nodules on the roots and thought they were root knot nematodes? Do not pick those nodules off. The legumes, which also include beans and alfalfa among others, have the ability to take nitrogen from the air and fix it for use in the soil. These nodules are the result so are perfectly normal and natural, leave them alone.

The temperate humid condition may mean that the plants can keep up with damage done by certain insects so that you do not see the stress. You should check them to see if there may be scale on the twigs and leaf stalks or along the leaf center rib. Spider mites are almost certain to be developing. You should treat for problems before the weather decides to turn dry and hot.



When checking the results on your plants after spraying remember that the spray usually will not remove the 'evidence' of problems. The webs will still be there after the mites are killed, The shells of the scale will be attached to the leaf or stem. These will have to be removed by hand, by a jet of water, or some other way. A soft toothbrush works good on the scale shells.

A word of caution: some sprays will damage plants in hot weather and others will damage tender new growth. Always read your label.



Check your water practices. I prefer to water heavily in the evening (in normal weather). That gives the plant all night to renew itself without losing most of its water to evaporation. Then in the early morning, they get a quick foliage spray, wetting the surface of the soil which may have dried out overnight. This was what I did while working since the morning task only took 10 minutes or so. Now I still prefer to water heavily in the evening but the morning is more done more slowly and trees

given a little more individual attention as some of them do not need water in the soil. Be sure to do the double watering bit--water thoroughly and then after a few minutes water again so that the dry soil particles will get moistened.

(continued on pg. 3)

Boon at Bonsai Smiths!

For those of you not in the know, "Bonsai" Boon Manakitivipart is in town and is giving a demonstration at the Bonsai Smiths home on Friday, July 6th (the evening before the monthly meeting). The specific material hasn't been decided on, but there is sure to be some valuable wisdom shared.

The event starts at 6:30pm and is a **pot-luck**, so bring food and drink.

Now you're in the know!

Directions:
Bonsai Smiths
7527 Spring Valley Rd.
Dallas, Tx. 75080
(between Coit Rd. & Hillcrest Rd. on the north side of the street)
Click [Map](#) for the Internet-enabled

Learn more about Bonsai Boon at his Web site:

<http://www.bonsaiboon.com/>

Learn more about Bonsai Smiths at their Web site:

<http://www.bonsaismiths.net/>



When the humidity is low I mist my junipers in the evening. I believe the story that in the wild junipers open their stomata in the cool of the evening absorbing any dew that may occur and close in the heat of the day to conserve moisture. The other species may get a foliage spray in the morning.

Many of our bonsai would do just fine in the full sun all summer long.

However none of them like their feet scorched

which is what is happening when the sun heats the pot (and thereby the soil) to temperatures over 120 degrees.

Dappled shade would do nicely because the sun will not shine on one spot very long but partial shade (such as morning sun and afternoon shade) will not suffice when the morning sun is as hot as it is here in Texas. When you put some kind of sun screen on remember to shade the sides of the pot as well as the soil. A light mulch on top of the soil will work great. Covering the pot with foil or putting it in a box made to fit will help but there should be room for air to flow around it. Old rags work fine also if they do not blow off. Try to find a cover that will let you monitor your watering easily.



When the trees are in stress because of the heat they are particularly sensitive to insect problems. The organic people say that bugs are attracted to plants that are in stress and will head there first. That may be true or it maybe that the healthy plants natural defenses keep them in check and you see the bugs on the stressed tree first. Whatever, watch for any signs of damage and treat for them. Sometimes the tree is almost dead before you notice the damage (e.g. spider mite damage on junipers). That is why I like the organic approach of using Garrett Juice regularly. It is not only a foliar feed but will kill the spider mites, scale and most other small insects including bagworms.

The humidity in summer varies quite a bit but when it sticks around for a few days look for fungal problems to appear, mildew being the most prevalent. Foliage spraying in the morning will not be a problem because it dries pretty quickly. Treat with potassium carbonate which you can find at any nursery with a decent organic section. There are several chemical sprays available too.

As a rule we do not feed our trees enough. Since the mix we use has very little nutrient value, we must make up with our fertilizer practice. The best "rule" I have heard was given at the Ft Worth June program by Matt Ouwinga who primarily grows trident maples.

Matt's rule:

- A. Apply organic fertilizer balls each 6 weeks. Discard old balls.
- B. Apply fish emulsion every two weeks.
- C. Apply liquid plant food on alternate weeks.

Events of Interest



- **Great Tuesdays, Cool Thursdays & Children's Concert Series**
May - July — concerts at the Dallas Arboretum. Call ahead. Seating is limited. More at www.dallasarboretum.org.
- **Fort Worth Bonsai Society Annual Show & Sale**
Sept. 29-30 — at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. More at www.fwbg.org.
- **The Amazing Chocolate Tree National Exhibit**
Opening Date TBD-Dec. 31
9am - 5pm—Dallas Arboretum
The exhibit is an educational, interactive experience of the chocolate-making process. You'll learn everything from the pollination process of the tree's tiny flower, to the steps involved to transform the cacao seed into the tasty treat that we all know and love. More at www.dallasarboretum.org.
- **Nashville Bonsai Society July 28-29**—[For those of us who like to travel...]
2007 Middle Tennessee Regional Bonsai Show July 28 and 29th at the Todd Gallery-MTSU Campus, Murfreesboro, Tenn. The show is open to bonsai clubs in the region. Hours of event: Sat. 10-5pm, Sun. 11-4pm. Admission is free. Featured artist is Matt Ouwinga. Details can be found at www.nashvillebonsai.com or call Barbara Walton at (615) 337-4728.

Sanderson Creek Bonsai

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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 James Bonney at amy.james@gte.net.

Bonsai Smiths

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BONSAI SOCIETY OF DALLAS

www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com

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Please mail to:
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Richardson, TX 75083-6922
Or Turn in at Club Meeting

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

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Date: _____

Individual Membership: \$25.00

Joint Membership: \$30.00

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Amount Paid: _____ Membership Year: _____