



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Message from the President:

By George Straw

I have been really excited about the turn out for our club meetings. Each month has been a full house and if you have missed the meetings, you are missing some wonderful information.

Last month, Dave Schleser opened the meeting with a talk on Japanese maples, and showed a beautiful display with a maple. Next, John Miller gave a great talk and demo on catlen elm and then on Saturday, he had a workshop. Everyone at the workshop was excited to have a wonderful catlen elm to work on and then John gave us an extra tree as we were leaving. So, if you were unable to attend, you missed out on a great workshop for only \$25 - plus going home with two trees! Thank you very much, John!

Sylvia has been very busy getting everything organized for the Arboretum show in March. If you have not notified her to help with

the show or to bring a tree for display, please do so. This is a very big undertaking and we need all of your help. Sylvia will be doing a demo on behalf of the club at the show, as well as being interviewed on the radio about bonsai before the show. We are hoping for a big turn out and new members. We will have a bonsai tree for a raffle on Saturday and Sunday, so we hope to make some extra money for that.

The club now has two digs behind us for the year. We had mud and all the fun things that go with a club dig including a couple of cars stuck. But everyone had a great time and went home with some native trees that will become great bonsai.

I hope that everyone is reading through his or her newsletter. Sandi is doing a wonderful job with the newsletter.

Andy Rutledge has volunteered to take over the club web page. He has redesigned it and it should be up and running very soon. We will send a notice out to everyone to let them know so they can go in and have a look at the new face lift. I want to take this opportunity to thank David Quisenberry for all of his efforts this past two years on the web page and keeping it up to date.

Well, I am sure that everyone has been very busy with repotting and trimming on their deciduous trees. With this weather, we will have trees budding on us and so be careful if we get a hard freeze and protect your trees.

I hope to see everyone on March 3, and encourage your other bonsai friends to come and join the club.



BSD Calendar

- Mar 3 - Mike Smoller, Cedar Elm
- Mar 5-6 - Spring show at the Dallas Arboretum
- Apr 7 - TBA
- May 5 - TBA
- May 13-15 - LSBF Convention in Fort Worth
- Jun 2 - TBA
- Jul 7 - Club Barbeque
- Aug 4 - TBA
- Sep 1 - TBA
- Oct 6 - TBA
- Nov 3 - TBA
- Dec 1 - Club Holiday Party

Other Dates of Interest:

- Apr 16 - Shohin Society, 10am, Persimmon Hill Bonsai, Austin
- May 28-31 - 5th World Bonsai Convention, Washington, DC
- 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 22 LSBF meeting 1PM Zilker Park, Austin

March Program By Daryl Le

Date: March 3, 2005

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: North Haven

Gardens

7700 Northaven

Dallas, TX

Mike will be restyling and adding trees to a Cedar elm forest which he put together last year from locally collected material and transfer it onto a man-made rock slab from Vito Megna (in Austin). Before actually putting the forest together he will briefly discuss the origin of the trees, the theory of how to arrange them in a forest planting, and the special potting medium used on a flat slab (Warren Hill's formula).

ABOUT ME - by Mike Smoller: I have been interested in bonsai since I was a child. When I was only twelve years old

I put together my first display using a plastic bonsai tree, white crushed marble and a porcelain figurine, purchased at a home decorations store here in Dallas. My first live tree attempt was a juniper in 1976, a few years before I first joined the Club, which I attempted to introduce into a bonsai pot not knowing a thing about bonsai other than I thought they looked neat. It died, but I still have the pot! I joined the Bonsai Society of Texas (that's what the Club was named then) in 1979. I was very impressed by the trees I saw displayed at the annual show. One, which particularly caught my eye, was a 12' tall Cedar elm owned by Ted Guyger - our late club master. It's trunk had a wonderful windswept line. When I asked him how he got it to look like that, he informed me that what I was seeing was exactly how he had found it in the wild. He said that he merely dug it up, kept it healthy and nurtured it as bonsai material. (Ted always was very modest about his own abilities.) Nonetheless, I

focused on what I now realize was a very **bad beginners lesson**, that great trees are out there just waiting to be found. While this is actually true, given the constraints of time to hunt, geographic area accessible, etc., the odds of actually finding such a masterpiece in the wild that you can collect are vanishingly small. But nonetheless, for years thereafter I spent my time at Club digs fruitlessly looking for that "perfect" tree, while more knowledgeable individuals were collecting, collecting, collecting. If I had known back then (we are talking about 20+ years ago) what I know now, I would have collected many more trees, and by now I would have a larger number of mature bonsai. The beautiful trees of John Miller amply demonstrate this philosophy, nearly all of which have been developed from seed, cutting or collected material.

My own bonsai habits have drastically changed for the better in recent years.

I have been on a collecting binge - collecting 15 trees in 2001, 9 in 2002, 20 trees in 2003 and 14 in 2004 - mostly for the creation of forest plantings. While only a few of these trees would appear at first glance to have much potential as individual trees, they can all be developed **over time** into decent bonsai. And that's my point, if you are into bonsai, get trees, ask the questions you need to keep them alive, and watch them develop over the coming years. Don't be afraid to try something you're not sure of. Watch what happens as your experiments grow and develop. Remember, bonsai is not a hobby for the impatient (unless you have a lot of money to spend on buying "finished" trees), but you can get a lot of satisfaction watching nature take its course as modest material matures into real bonsai.



March Bonsai By John Miller

March will see you working to control new growth, continuing your repotting, disbudding azaleas, and working (i.e. enjoying) spring bonsai exhibits. You just may have time problems if other members of the family want to get out of the house to go Easter shopping or whatever and you have to go with them.

You may continue repotting on deciduous species until you see a tiny bit of green on the tips of the swelling leaf bud. Be sure to keep the newly repotted tree out of the wind and late morning or afternoon sun. Evergreen species will generally be okay to repot later on. Yaupon does better if you wait until it warms a bit more. Even though it gets quite warm now, we can expect a freeze in March, so you may have to protect trees that have started growth and those that have been repotted this winter.



Bonsai will start growing in late February or March in this area, depending on your wintering techniques and on the species. After growth starts, some species can take a couple degrees of frost but unless you know what your particular tree can take, you should keep it from freezing. Also, newly growing roots are more tender. In this area you should keep the new foliage out of the strong winds, however, they should have some breeze to help harden the new foliage and to help keep insects and fungal diseases at bay.

Keep your shears handy so you can keep the new growth on your trees pruned. The shoots of species with alternate leaf growth (like elms) should grow only to 5-6 leaves and be pinched back to 2 or 3 (depending on which direction you wish the new growth to take). Shoots of trees with opposite leaf growth (maples) should have the new tip pinched (tweezers work better than scissors for this) as soon as you can see it. Doing this regularly is the only way to keep the leaves small and give you nice twiginess (also known as ramification).

Anytime there is new, tender growth, the spring bugs, like aphids, will show up. If you have been doing a good organic program, the ladybugs will keep the aphids and other soft bodied insects in check. The praying mantises come along later on when the weather is warmer. I am seeing a lot of mantis eggs since I don't use chemical sprays.

Warm humid days favor the development of fungal diseases such as leaf spot on elms and yaupons. Again the organic program will work on them as well.

Fertilizing is necessary when the trees start to grow. Too many trees exhibited do not have a good dark green foliage. Since we are using soilless mixes for the most part, a different technique is required than used for most potted plants. Water soluble chemical fertilizers should be used at half strength and more often than given since they will wash out with the next watering. The same is more or less true with liquid organic fertilizers. The best technique is to use solid organic fertilizers. Fertilizer cakes on the surface are the best way. They break down slowly and a small amount is carried into the root zone each time you water. Pelletized organic material can be spread on the surface also but they tend to crumble and create an undesirable surface. Be sure that the material you use has a balanced formula and not high in nitrogen.

The local foliar feed formula given by Howard Garrett is one tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water. Chelated iron and Epsom salts can be added at 1 tablespoon per gallon. A commercial mixture is sold under the name of "Garrett Juice" which you should be able to find at organic nurseries, but it doesn't seem to have the insect control capability that the original formula does. It is fine as a fertilizer though.

Hydrogen Peroxide as fungicide: It is suggested to use a 1% solution sprayed on top and bottom leaves to control fungi (leaf spot, powdery mildew, etc). The normal medical solution as purchased is a 3% solution so dilute that with 2 parts water to 1 part peroxide. One article cited TA&M studies which showed that a strength greater than 1.7% produced some leaf burning on tender test foliage. A 0.1% solution aided in rooting cuttings and in controlling Botrytis. Can be added to drip systems and foliar feeds. The peroxide degenerates into water and oxygen fairly rapidly so is no threat to the environment. Personally, I have used 1% peroxide on elms and yaupons later on in the season, spraying once a week. It got rid of the black spot with no damage. However, when I sprayed tender new foliage with it I caused considerable burn. Therefore, anytime I use peroxide it will be on mature foliage and at a 0.5% solution.

Need a Membership Form?

Please contact Sandi McFarland by phone at 972-438-9782 or by email at potter@pegasuspottery.com.

Bonsai Display *By Shane Carey*

Bonsai translated simply means a tree in a container. The container is to the tree, what a frame is to a painting. A nice bonsai stand instills dignity into the bonsai display. An old Japanese saying is that a bonsai without a stand, is like a man without shoes. The accent plant, scroll or suiseki helps complete the display by giving the viewer an additional element. This additional element would depict something from the same locale were the bonsai would be found if it were a full size tree growing in nature. When the bonsai is displayed with the stand and accent, a natural artistic work is created.



Coniferous Bonsai

Conifers may be shaped in all major bonsai styles, but are most commonly done in the formal and informal upright style.

The container used for conifers are unglazed. Browns are most common, other colors that may be used are grey, sand, and red. Container shape is determined by the trees style. Formal and informal style are shown in rectangles and ovals.

The stand used is rich in color. Deep red and brown tones contrast with the foliage and highlight the bark of the tree. A rectangle stand is used with the formal and informal upright and slant styles. Taller square and round stands are used for semi-cascade and cascade styles.

Small grasses and rushes are used to accent the conifer. Blooming plants are acceptable as long as they do not distract from the tree. Suiseki may also be used, particularly mountain stones.

Deciduous Bonsai

Informal upright, slant and broom styles are the most common used for deciduous trees. Seldom are they styled in semi-cascade or cascade styles.

Containers for deciduous trees can be glazed or unglazed. Suitable glazed containers include light blue, light green and white. Grey, sand and brown are the preferred colors for unglazed containers.

Rectangle and oval shaped stands with soft contours compliment the deciduous tree. A stand very dark in color will make a nice contrast with the light colored bark of deciduous trees.

Small ferns and moss best accent the deciduous tree. A stone that holds water is very attractive with maples, beech and hornbeam. Ornamental figures such as bronze or brass birds and other animals are acceptable.



Flowering and Fruiting Bonsai

Flowering and Fruiting bonsai are styled in many different shapes. The design should be chosen to accentuate the flowers or fruit and the natural growth habits of the tree.

The container can be either glazed or unglazed. Blue, white, green, and yellow in light or dark tones should be chosen to contrast with flowers or fruit.

Less formal and highly ornate stands are used more often with flowering and fruiting trees.

Accent plants with interesting leaves and other unique characteristics accent the fruiting tree nicely. Figurine are often displayed with flowering and fruiting trees. A nice hut or waterfall will also add interest to the display of a flowering or fruiting bonsai.



Broadleaf Evergreen Bonsai

Most of the broadleaf evergreens used for bonsai are actually small growing shrubs rather than trees. Broadleaf evergreens like Satsuki, Gardenia, and Pyracantha are trained in traditional pine tree styles. Many of these bonsai will bear flowers or fruit.

All colors of glazed bonsai container are acceptable. If the tree bears flower or fruit choose a pot color that would be chosen for flowering or deciduous trees. Broadleaf evergreens that do not fruit can be planted in unglazed grey or brown containers.

Stands should be formal in shape, like the stands used for conifers. The stands while formal in shape can be much more ornate than what would be used for a conifer.

Since most of these bonsai do not grow as actual trees in nature, practically any type of accent material can be used. Some trees will look better with no accent at all, instead allow for an open space to the side of the tree which has more movement.



Evergreen Bonsai

Informal upright, slant, semi-cascade, and cascade styles are all used for evergreen bonsai. Formal upright style is seldom used with exception to Cryptomeria which is strictly styled as a formal upright.

The preferred container for these trees is an unglazed in red or brown. Glazed containers are not traditionally used. Container shapes can be very unusual and should be selected to strongly accent the shape movement of the trunk.

Since most of these trees are collected and have curved or rugged trunk lines, stands can be primitive to formal in style. Root stands and slabs of wood are often used to display an evergreen bonsai.

Flowering plants like quince contrast nicely with these trees. Plants with delicate foliage should be avoided. Mountain suiseki are very good displayed with evergreen bonsai.



The Three Piece Display

The three piece display as its name states is the combination of three elements in one display. The elements used are bonsai, suiseki, accent plants, and scrolls.

There are numerous possible arrangements. The most common consist of two trees of different genera and an accent or suiseki. Another often used display consist of a tree an accent and a suiseki.

All guidelines for each genera of tree should be followed. Suiseki and other elements chosen should harmonize with each other. Care should be taken when selecting the elements so that no particular part is overpowering, instead the three pieces harmonize as one.



The Shohin Display



The shohin display is an arrangement for miniature bonsai. Bonsai, suiseki, accent plants, figurines, and scrolls are all elements that may be used in the shohin display. An odd number of elements from 3 to 9 is best.

Trees for the shohin display can be from the same genera but are usually not in the same family. The trees are styled according to the guidelines of that particular species.

Containers for shohin tree are selected the same as for larger trees but with more flair.

The stands for shohin display are constructed to display the trees at varying heights. These stands are made in many different styles but all will have uneven shelves.

All accent elements chosen are also small in scale. The accent elements should harmonize with the tree which is displayed closest to it. The accent also can be used to give movement or contrast to the display.

BSD at the Dallas Arboretum on March 5-6!

Our annual show at the Dallas Arboretum is almost upon us and Sylvia Smith is still in need of volunteers! Please contact Sylvia as soon as possible to see what is needed. Also, please contact her if you would like to display a tree. She needs to know the following information for each tree:

1. species name or common name
2. approximate age
3. how long in training
4. how it was obtained (nursery stock, collected, etc.)

Sylvia can be reached at 972-392-1430 or by cell at 972-754-9883 or via email at bonsaismiths@earthlink.net.

Please bring your family and friends to see the display and enjoy the beautiful Arboretum!



"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, 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
10% discount on merchandise except soils

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit is having a Garage Sale this Fall!

Elaine White of the Texas State Bonsai Exhibit (the group that is trying to develop a bonsai garden in Austin for the state of Texas) has contacted us for donations of items for their garage sale. They are legally independent of any other bonsai organization and are incorporated and qualify as a nonprofit charitable organization and donations may be tax deductible. This is a public garage sale so non-bonsai items are needed, too.

If you would like to donate something, please bring it to the LSBF conference in Fort Worth in May. Elaine will welcome your donations at their table at the near the Raffle area. If you cannot take your donation to the conference, John Miller has kindly offered to gather items brought to him at the March, April, or May BSD meetings and take them to Elaine.

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

Texas LSBF 2005 Bonsai Convention

May 13-15, 2005

Holiday Inn North, 2540 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76106, (817) 625-9911
Sponsored by: The Fort Worth Bonsai Society and the Lone Star Bonsai Federation

Featured Artists:

Walter Pall, Germany; Mary Madison, Corpus Christi; John Miller, Dallas/Fort Worth;
Estella Flather, Fort Worth; and Ray Hernandez, Dallas/Fort Worth

Workshops:

Trident Maple, "Pokomoke" Crepe Myrtle, Root-Over-Rock Tridents, Piñon Pine, Chinese Elm Shohin,
Bald Cypress Forest, Casuarina, and "Bring Your Own"

Lecture/Demonstrations; Tree Critique; Bonsai Exhibit, Slideshow, Vendors, Raffle

For more information visit the Fort Worth Bonsai Society website at

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/3647/


Registration Contact: Steven Hendricks - stevenhendricks@sbcglobal.net

Bonsai Display at the LSBF Convention

The Lone Star Bonsai Federation Convention will be in Fort Worth on May 13-15, 2005. For the bonsai display at the convention this year, the convention organizers have decided to show one tree from each Texas bonsai club.

In order to choose a tree to symbolize BSD, we would like to have an unbiased panel choose from pictures sent in from BSD members of a favorite tree in their collection. If you would like to have your tree considered, please send a picture of your bonsai to Howard and Sylvia Smith by either email at bonsaismiths@earthlink.net or by mail at 7527 Spring Valley Rd., Dallas, TX 75254.

Please have your submission in by no later than March 31, 2005.



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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

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 potter@pegasuspottery.com.

Calloway's Nursery has a Great Offer for You!

Donna Harris, the store manager of Calloway's Nursery on Greenville Ave. in Dallas, has invited the members of the Bonsai Society of Dallas to come by their location and pick up two free soil sample kits. Return the kits with your soil and they will send them to the Texas Plant and Soil Lab to test and call you when the results come in.

These soil tests are a \$20 value for free and when you drop off your sample of soil, you will receive coupons and special discounts good for Calloway's quality products.

Please contact Donna with any questions:

Donna Harris, Store Manager

Calloway's Nursery,

7410 N. Greenville Ave., Dallas, TX 75231

214-363-0525



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