



# Bonsai Society of Dallas

## Message from the President:

By George Straw

I hope everyone is busy repotting. With this warm weather, the deciduous trees will start to pop open those buds and the flowering trees will be blooming. Remember that if you repot and we get some freezing weather, then you need to protect your repotted trees or you might lose them.

The Convention is getting very close and we are needing to get many different things from the club members.

1. We need cans with lids (size of large coffee cans) They will be used to hold the raffle tickets on items.
2. Raffle items – talk with friends, merchants, gift certificates from merchants will be great. Dinner for two, admission to movie, etc.
3. If you happen to know someone who works at Lowe's or Home Depot, we could really use the use some of the carts that the customers use for hauling plants. We will be moving a lot of stuff to the second floor of the hotel.
4. Last but not least, WE NEED YOUR HELP AT THE CONVENTION.

Registration for the convention and the workshops is starting to look very good. Remember that if you are not a full registrant and you want to do a workshop, you will be put on a waiting list as full registrants have first choice

for the workshops.

By being a full registrant, you are helping the club out and you will be able to attend the dinner/lunch for the days of the convention. You will not want to miss the demos at the dinners and you will not be able to attend unless you by the dinner ticket or are a full registrant. I hope that we do have a good participation for the Dallas Club, we are hosting the Convention.

The Hotel is offering a great price if you decide to stay there and not go home on Friday and Saturday night. It is only \$79.00 a night.

Please plan to bring trees and to attend our bonsai show at the Dallas Arboretum on March 3-4! Please see page 3 for more information.

We had a great turn out for the club dig at my farm. We invited the Fort Worth club and had about 15 people show up. There were some nice trees collected. When you see Jackie, ask her about the nice red cedar and also check with Mark Bynum about his twin trunk cedar elm. The weather was great for the dig. Here are a few pictures taken at the dig!



March 2007



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

Please  
renew your  
membership  
today!

### BSD Calendar

- Mar. 1 - Convention material review and Shohin - Sylvia & Howard Smith
- Mar. 3-4 - Spring bonsai show at the Dallas Arboretum
- Apr. 7 - **Saturday** - 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 Convention**
- May - TBD

## March Program by John Miller

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

The March program will be a double header. First George, Howard, and Sylvia will show and review some of the material for the convention workshops. Maybe even some finished bonsai like what you might expect to get from one.

Do you think of shohin and

other small bonsai as 'cute'? We will show that the small bonsai can be as rugged and aged looking as their larger cousins. Larger bonsai may get oohs and aahs but their very size mean that the detail work to develop the ramification and keep it that way is very time consuming. The same attention to detail must be made on small bonsai but each would only take an hour or so instead of several hours. The shohin size might allow those in

apartments with limited space to fully partake of the hobby.

Get ready for the April meeting. Sylvia is requesting that you bring trees you would think of showing at the convention so she can get an idea of how the exhibit will shape up.

Bring show and tell trees and any questions!

See you at the meeting!

### Other Dates of Interest

Mar. 31 - Spring Plant Sale - Fort Worth Botanic Garden  
Apr. 14-15 - Spring Festival in the Japanese Garden at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden

### BSD Member Tree Highlight

Please send me pictures and a short description of your favorite tree!

## March Bonsai by John Miller

Amongst the repotting, you will have to be doing the twig pinching of the early growing species. Japanese maples will be growing furiously while the tridents need repotting. Maples and other species with alternately growing leaves should be pinched as soon as the new tip can be discerned. Sometimes this requires you to separate the newly formed leaves to find the tip. This tip should be plucked with tweezers in order to get it before it gets long enough to cut with scissors. Do not let these trees grow out to 4-6 leaves before pinching because it leads to long internodes.



Alternately growing species, elms and oaks, are handled a little differently. Let them grow out to 4-5 leaves and pinch back to 2-3 leaves, selecting the new bud according to which direction you want the new shoot to take. You will notice that the first leaves are smaller than the succeeding ones, so by pinching regularly you will develop twigging with small leaves. More twigs divide the energy coming out the branch so that the later leaves will also be smaller. [Note: This is one of the 'secrets' of making a good shohin].

New foliage is usually very tender. If the sun gets very hot, you should give partial shade or at least have them protected from the afternoon sun and the wind.

Broadleaf evergreens, yaupons, boxwoods, etc, should be repotted when they show new buds starting. This is usually later than deciduous trees. Live oaks are not evergreens, they are termed tardily deciduous. They should be repotted when new growth starts. Usually, but not always, this is evidenced by the tree shedding its last years foliage. For me this is usually a week or two before the yaupons.

If you have wire on any trees, especially if from last year, check them carefully to prevent the ugly wire marks. Better to rewire than to let them get too tight.

Warm, humid spring weather is the favorite condition for many insects and fungal problems. Aphids get really wild but are easy to control. Ladybugs will clean a tree of aphids in a hurry. However, you can't keep them around unless they have more food to eat. Use Garret Juice (old formula) on a regular basis.

Insecticides will work if you follow the label and use the recommended timing and number of sprays. You have to do repeat sprays to get those you missed the first time and also any hatching from eggs. That is why I use the organic Garret Juice (old formula-1 tablespoon each of liquid kelp, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water) on a regular basis, preferably weekly. However, using it every other week will work on a maintenance level, i.e. you do not have an active problem.

Black spot is a fungal disease which affects my Chinese and Catlin elms and the yaupon hollies. Baking soda is an old standby for treating fungal foliage problems. Do not mix it in the G.J. as it reacts with vinegar.

Watering is usually not a big problem now, but you cannot ignore it. You need to observe each tree to determine which ones tend to dry out the fastest and remember that to use later on when the heat gets here.

To enjoy your bonsai more, check your local calendar and plan to have at least one displayed in your show. Pick out a couple of your best trees. Keep them nicely groomed. Look for some sort of 'stand' to display it on. Even a cork slab or a bamboo mat will give it a space of its own on the show table. Kokofu-ten might be able to be very selective, but we want all our members to participate and have the thrill of seeing someone stopping in front of their tree.

Azaleas are better repotted at this time than after they bloom. The energy for blooming is already in the buds. They will have time to get new roots started before blooming. There will be much less stress on the tree than trying to repot in the heat of the late spring. Azaleas and most flowering plants produce much more buds than will look good when they are all open. Remove all but two of the buds on each small branch.

*Drawing by Estella Flather 2006 © All rights reserved*



**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@pegasuspotttery.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](http://www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com)! It is being frequently updated with the new convention and registration information.**

**BSD Showtime!**

By Sylvia Smith

It's almost time for our annual spring show at the arboretum. This year we are set for the weekend of **March 3rd and 4th**. We had a great turn out last year!

I encourage more of you to play with the idea of bringing companions for your trees as well as stands. This is one of the reasons that we are setting up displays and "practicing" at every bonsai meeting. I'd like to see this turning into a fun and educational event for all. Remember that the only requirement for your tree is that it be healthy (no rough material please), in an appropriate size bonsai container (no plastic please), and if needed, with minimal wiring. The show will be set up as a semi-formal display.

We will have a People's Choice Award again this year, and I have also coordinated with the arboretum to give a bonsai demo on Saturday at noon to maximize interest.

Please remember to sign up to help set up and clean up. This is a great way to participate if you are new and unsure what to bring to a show. It is very important to have all of the trees arrive on Friday evening for set up, so please keep this in mind and maybe make arrangements at work if needed. The area has an alarm and will be locked, plus there is security available. If you are bringing a tree, please contact me ASAP and let me have the following information on your tree:

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

I can be reached at 972-392-1430 or my cell at 972-754-9883 or via E-mail at [Bonsaismiths@earthlink.net](mailto:Bonsaismiths@earthlink.net). The arboretum was really impressed with what we did last year so our goal is to just keep getting better!

## 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 Manakatvivipart, 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](http://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](mailto:bonsaimiller@aol.com).



# Bonsai Smiths

Howard and Sylvia Smith  
[www.BonsaiSmiths.net](http://www.BonsaiSmiths.net)  
[bonsaismiths@earthlink.net](mailto:bonsaismiths@earthlink.net)  
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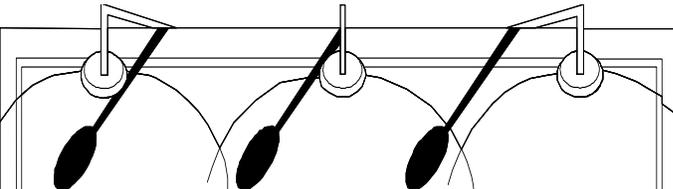
[potter@pegasuspottery.com](mailto:potter@pegasuspottery.com) [www.pegasuspottery.com](http://www.pegasuspottery.com)  
*10% Discount to BSD Members!*

### 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



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*For more information, contact Sandi McFarland at  
972-438-9782 or [potter@pegasuspottery.com](mailto:potter@pegasuspottery.com)*



### BSD Board of Directors

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Acting Vice President—John Miller, President Emeritus, [bonsaimiller@aol.com](mailto:bonsaimiller@aol.com)  
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Secretary—Sandi McFarland, [potter@pegasuspottery.com](mailto: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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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Individual Membership: \$25.00

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