



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly newsletter

February 2008

Message from the President

By Sylvia Smith

Can you feel it in the air? Days of warmer weather, the constant check on last minute freezes, scouting out digging sites and the anxiety of repotting on everyone's mind! Yes, Spring is just around the corner and before you know it (especially with our unpredictable Texas weather) everything will be in full bloom!

Last month we had our first of several buying trips. Everyone who attended had a great time and got some great deals. Dallas Bonsai Garden will be honoring a 10% discount on your orders if you call Fred (www.dallasbonsai.com) and let him know that you are a Dallas Club Member. Our advertisers: Sanderson Creek Bonsai (www.sc-bonsai.com) in Ft. Worth also have a full line of repotting supplies at 10% off to club members, BonsaiSmiths (www.BonsaiSmiths.net) has your hard to find Akadama pre-mix from Japan, and don't forget that we have our own resident potter, Sandi McFarland (www.pegasuspottery.com). No excuses for not being able to find what you need! Make sure that you check for future buying trips to old, new, and perhaps unknown bonsai vendors. Remember to get those membership renewal forms in the mail as you will need your membership card to get your discounts after March.

I'd like to thank everyone so far for their input in our Club Survey. These are really important if we are to make changes that the member's are wanting so please let us hear from all of you and make your voice heard. Remember you have until the end of this month to get your survey in along with your membership renewal so that you can be entered in the Stone Lantern \$50 gift certificate give-away to be awarded next month. Also, keep in mind that our show at the Arboretum will be on the weekend of March 8 - 9. Start looking at your collection of trees and keep that perfect pot in mind when you go shopping for supplies.

Last but certainly not least, get those shovels out and please don't miss our upcoming "Club Dig". I'd like to thank George Straw for letting us dig on his land again. If you haven't been to George's farm, you should get out there at least once, especially if you haven't been out since the house was built and finished. George has mostly deciduous trees on his farm and he still has several naturally dwarfed specimen and clumps available for the taking. Ft. Worth has graciously invited us to go to their digging site this month. I hear they have scouted this site and have found some nice surprises so they are glad to be back to this digging site too! Mark Bynum will be filling us in on these activities as well as providing this month's talk on how to dig trees in the wild. "Be Prepared", as the old Boy Scout motto goes!

Sylvia Smith



BSD CALENDAR:

- How to Dig Bonsai Trees (and other delights!)
February program by Mark Bynum
9:00 AM Saturday, Feb 2nd
North Haven Gardens
- BSD Club Dig
9:00 AM Saturday, Feb 9th
at the farm of George Straw
Whitesboro, Texas

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Message from the President
- February Program
- February in Bonsai
- January Meeting Recap
- Club Dig (map included)
- Events of Interest
- Hiroyoshi Yamaji demo in Pflugerville

BSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sylvia Smith, *President*
slysmith@earthlink

Ted Colomina, *Treasurer*
tedco2230@msn.com

James Bonney, *Secretary*
amy.james@gte.net

John Miller, *President Emeritus*
bonsaimiller@aol.com

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

February Program

“How To Dig Bonsai Trees” (and other delights!)

Conducted by: Mark Bynum
Place: North Haven Gardens

Time: 9:00 AM - 12 PM
Date: Saturday, February 2nd

Our February Program features one of our own members, Mark Bynum. Mark will show us how to find and then dig bonsai trees with a proper root ball that will greatly increase the survivability rate of your efforts. He has illustrated and printed his program as a handout so that all in attendance will have detailed information to take home. The second part of the program answers the question, “Now that I got my tree home, what do I do with it?”

Mark Bynum has a degree in Architecture from the University of Texas at Arlington, 1974. Following his love of the out-of-doors, he has been in the landscape industry for the last 34 years serving as a laborer, then nursery manager, landscape architect, and all the way up to landscape architecture business owner. In that time, he has personally dug over 250 landscape trees, countless landscape shrubs, and supervised the digging of over 1300 field grown and wild trees. Mark says the most enjoyable part of digging wild trees is merrily tromping over the countryside to locate and tag suitable trees.

With two local “digs” coming up in February, you do not want to miss this program!

February in Bonsai

By John Miller



The big event we are looking forward to is coming up—repotting season. Normally the “best” time to repot is when the sap starts to flow and buds swell. Practically we usually need to fudge this a little due to constraints on our time so we need to do it earlier. Never after to buds open. Preparing a group of basic soil can save time at the actual repotting. Mix your favorite recipes in 3 sizes, for small, medium and large pots, and then modify them by adding some extra of one material for the particular tree you are repotting. There is no perfect mix but you must decide based on your backyard.

The basics of good mixes:

- Permit free drainage. Use granular material—decomposed granite, lava gravel, pumice, haydite, Turface, etc.
- Provide water retention material—akadama, ground or decomposed bark (organic, should not break down too quickly).
- Provide air space—use appropriately sized particles.

Moisture retention is controlled by the type of material—e.g., akadama (good) vs. granite (poor) and by particle size (finer particles retain more residual water).

January Meeting RECAP

President Sylvia Smith opened the January meeting by discussing the Masakuni raffle that SABS was conducting as a fund raiser for TTSBE.

Plans for a supply buying trip were discussed for the following Saturday at Dallas Bonsai Garden.

Sylvia announced that both the Dallas and Ft. Worth digs have been set for February—the 9th for Dallas & the 16th for Ft. Worth.

Dave Schlessler informed the members that Mike’s Garden Centers was having a 50% off sale on all items.

For the monthly program, Andy Rutledge gave a superb lecture dealing with the artistic side of bonsai that focused specifically on Bunjin (literati); calling it less of a style and more of a feeling.

His passion is in the communicative side—the message or story—in the art. The lecture covered topics such as the relationship of nature and art, how line, form, texture and color are the “syntax” and used to create the feeling conveyed by the piece, and how these things put us in context with its meaning.

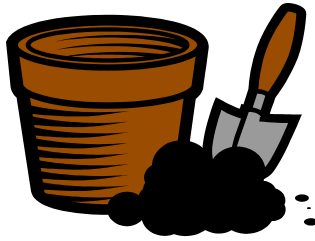
Andy Rutledge lectures at the January Meeting



Photo courtesy of J. Bonney

A good mix for this part of the world is equal parts of akadama, lava gravel, and pumice.

My viewpoint on akadama is that it is not magic. It is merely the soil native to Japan, which is a volcanic island. After lava has broke down they dig it and low fire it to dry it, break it up and sieve it into uniform sizes to use as one part of their bonsai soil. We do not have anything native comparable on the market in the USA. The advantage of akadama is that it holds water uniformly throughout the particle and is soft enough for roots to penetrate easily. Having this source of moisture close to the trunk results in short fibrous roots. So I have started using it on my bonsai. I feel the pinch of dollars too much to utilize it on the growing stuff even though I am sure it would speed up their development.



Check wire applied last year. During dormancy the woody portions tend to lignify and swell. Severe wire marks can occur. Remove any tight wire.

Early February is the end of the season for major pruning. You may be able to continue for a while on some late sprouting species such as the oaks. After the onset of sap flow you should not try to make big cuts. Cut paste or pruning sealer cannot withstand the hydraulic pressure created by the urge to grow.



One of the ways to enjoy January and February is to have a greenhouse. I have a small lean-to type on the east side of the garage. A small electric heater keeps it fine (45-50 degrees). This keeps my few tropicals and pomegranates. I also let my small elms get 3-5 weeks of cold and then bring them in. They then start greening up in about two weeks. Helps fight the winter blahs.

If there is a significant warm streak, you could get some activity from overwintering pests. A dormant spray (horticultural oil or a very weak lime sulphur) should be used on outside plants. The lime sulphur should not be used on any green growth or after buds begin to swell. The lime sulphur will also serve to kill fungal spores and help control any bacterial diseases. For the greenhouse use the original organic spray mixture. I get good control of mites, aphids and even scale with it. It should be used on a regular basis.

My original organic spray is 1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water. This may be used as a foliar spray or an organic soil fertilizer. I prefer to go easy on the soil application until the new growth slows down. Using organic fertilizer cakes on top of the soil is a better way to fertilize. You may make your own or buy one of the commercial versions from your local bonsai vendor. I do not advocate adding potassium bicarbonate or baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) to control fungal problems. They will chemically interact with the vinegar. Use them separately if you have mildew or other fungal problems. ✍

Events of Interest



- **Bonsai Society of Dallas February meeting**
Saturday, Feb. 2nd
“How to dig bonsai trees”
- **Bonsai Society of Dallas Club Dig**
Saturday, Feb. 9th
(Details on pg. 4)
- **Valentine’s Day**
Thursday, Feb. 14th
- **Ft. Worth Bonsai Society Club Dig**
Saturday, Feb. 16th
(Details on pg. 4)
- **Public Bonsai Demo**
Mr. Hiroyoshi Yamaji
Pflugerville, Texas
(Details on pg. 5)
- **Dallas Bonsai Club March meeting**
Saturday, March. 1st
Elm forest planting demo
- **BSD club Spring Show**
March 8 – 9, 2008
Dallas Arboretum



2008 BSD Club Dig

Date: Saturday, February 9th

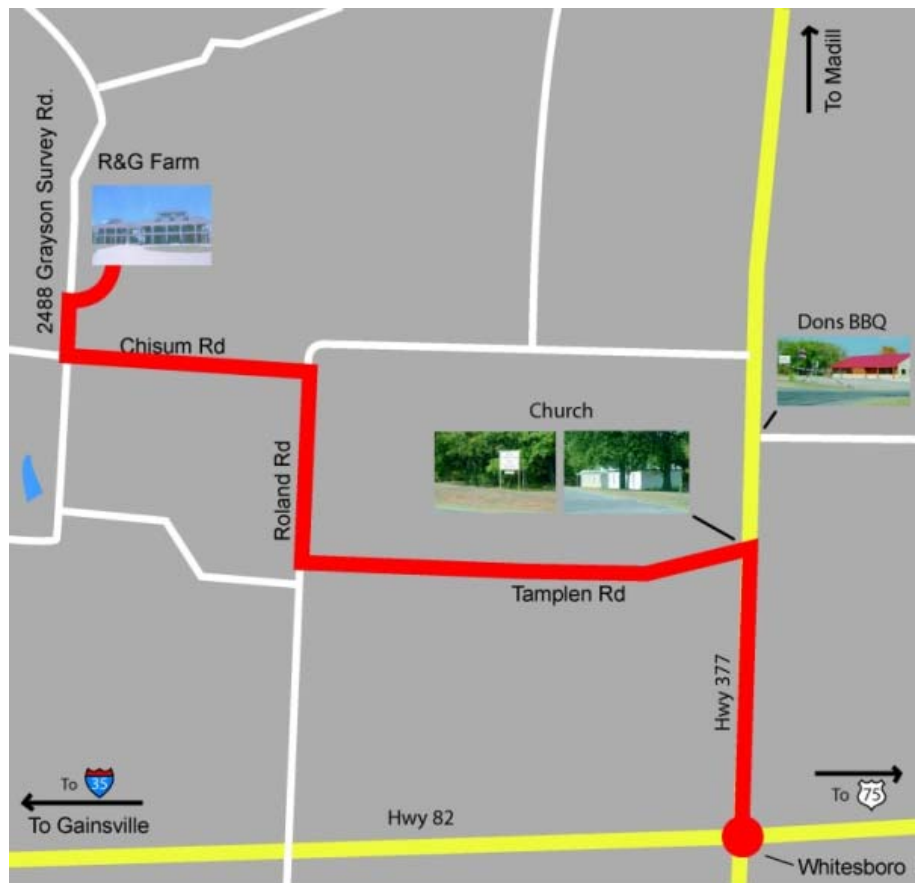
**Location: R&G Farm in Whitesboro,
Texas**

This year's club dig will be on Saturday, February 9th at George Straw's R&G Farm in Whitesboro, Texas. Start time for the day will be 9:00 AM. Refer to the map below for directions and a number George can be reached at in case you get lost.

Mark Bynum will be presenting "How to Dig Bonsai Trees" on Saturday, February 2nd. You will not want to miss this lecture if you plan on participating in the dig. Mark will help prepare you for the upcoming digs with knowledge and handouts; both invaluable assets for beginners and even veterans of a few digs.

We encourage everyone to come, especially the beginning enthusiast. Bonsai digs do not come along every day and the best way to learn is by *experience!*

The map with directions can also be found at www.georgestraw.com under the "Map to the Farm" link.



From Whitesboro:
Take 377 North 2.5 miles.
Take a Left on Tamplen Rd. and go 1.5 miles.
Take a Right on Roland Rd. (the road makes a T) and go .6 miles.
Take a Left on Chisum Rd. (the first road on the Left) and go .7 miles.
Take a Right on Grayson Survey Rd. (first road on the Right) and go .4 miles.
Farm is on your right at 2488 Grayson Survey Rd..

George Cell: 214-957-3205 / Farm: 940-668-8620

Ft. Worth Bonsai Society Glen Rose Dig

— BSD is invited to attend!

By Mark Bynum

Date: Saturday, Feb. 16, 9:00 AM

Gather up your diggin' tools and join us close to Glen Rose at Jim Cheatham's place. We went there last year and there were plenty of naturally twisted Ashe Juniper. Live Oaks, Hackberry and a few Cedar Elms are also available.

Directions: The easiest route to follow is to get to Glen Rose any way you wish. From the Glen Rose Court House travel south on Hwy 144 six miles to the intersections of county roads 2007, 2008, and 2004. Turning left at their juncture with 144, take CR 2004 south, then three miles southeast to CR 2730, turn left and proceed 1.3 miles. On a rise on the right will be visible two houses. Look for the first rock mailbox, take the first driveway. We will meet at the gate by the barns at 9 am.

Of course, it is always wise to study a map before coming out. This will be a loong drive from the Dallas area, please plan ahead. Contact person is **Mark Bynum at cell phone 817-980-4304** in case you have a problem. The plant material will be worth your trip!


Public Bonsai Lecture Demonstration with Mr. Hiroyoshi Yamaji at MBP Bonsai in Pflugerville, Texas



On Sunday February 24, 2008, at MBP Bonsai in Pflugerville, Mr. Hiroyoshi Yamaji from Kokobunji-ku, Japan will conduct a lecture/demonstration on the art and horticulture of bonsai. His presentation will begin at 12:30 PM with breaks during the afternoon. The presentation will be very instructive and will give everyone from beginner to advanced bonsai enthusiast new perspectives to add to their own practices. There will be ample time for questions and answers both during and following the presentation. The tree Mr. Yamaji creates will be raffled at the end of his presentation. Proceeds of the raffle will be donated to The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit.

This lecture/demonstration is open to everyone without charge. Please do not hesitate to come.

For directions go to www.mbpbonsai.com. See the **Maps & Directions** tab for travel info. 📄



Pegasus Pottery

By Sandi McFarland
"Specializing in carved stoneware"
Cups, plates, bowls, etc.
And now creating small bonsai pots!
Let me make something special for you!

1405 Limetree Ln.
Irving, TX 75061
972-438-9782


potter@pegasuspottery.com • www.pegasuspottery.com
10% Discount to BSD Members!

Generous Businesses Give Discounts to BSD Members

Present your BSD membership card at the following participating businesses for a 10% discount on merchandise:


- The Bonsai Smiths
- 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

Howard and Sylvia Smith
www.BonsaiSmiths.net • Cultivators of fine trees
bonsaismiths@earthlink.net • Collection maintenance
Tel# (972) 392-1430 • Private instruction
Fax# (972) 661-0694 • Classes, lectures & demos



Sanderson Creek Bonsai

1634 Stella Street • Fort Worth, Texas

Bonsai, trees/soil, lava, pumice, expanded shale,
kanuma, akadama, pots, Joshua Roth tools
& Dyna-Gro/ Dyna-Rok products
all provided with a smile!

Hours: 2:00 to 6:00 pm Tues-Fri, 10:00 to 5:00 pm Sat
817-534-3220 www.sc-bonsai.com



Place your ad here!

Business card size—\$5 per month
Half page—\$20 per month
Full page—\$35 per month

For more information, contact James Bonney
at 972-527-2132 or amy.james@gte.net

Dallas Bonsai Society

2008 Membership Survey

This survey is to help serve our members by obtaining feedback regarding programming and the booking of visiting artists. Responses are encouraged and appreciated. We want to ensure that the Dallas Bonsai Society continues to provide valuable programs for our membership. Space is provided for extra comments. Please comment freely as this information will help us better serve the club.

Participants in this survey will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to Stone Lantern to be awarded at the March meeting. (Must be a paid 2008 member, so if you haven't sent in your membership dues already, do it today!)

1. How often do you attend club meetings?

8-12 per year 6 – 8 per year Less than 6

If you attend less than 6 meetings per year please specify why (choose as many as applies).

This is all I can schedule

The meetings do not offer enough interest

I cannot attend meetings on Saturday mornings because of work or other

I prefer evening meetings

I prefer weekday meetings

Not applicable / none of the above

2. If an artist or event is booked on any day other than our regular scheduled meeting time (Saturdays), how likely are you to attend if your schedule allows?

I would attend Most likely 50%/50% Unlikely I would not attend

3. What day of the week would be best to schedule guest artists?

Sat. Sun. Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. Fri.

4. What time during the day would be best to have the program?

Mornings Afternoons Evenings Other: _____

5. Where would be your preferred place to hold the event?

North Haven Gardens Let the Board decide Other: _____

6. How far ahead of time should we notify members prior to a guest artist event?

1 month 2 weeks Other: _____

[More >>](#)

7. What type of material would you like to see a guest artist work on?

Deciduous Tropical No preference Other: _____

8. What style of event would you like to see more of involving guest artists?

Lecture/demo Workshop (bring a tree) A mix is fine Other: _____

9. Would you be available to work for the club?

No

Yes

Officer Committee Program Other: _____

Comments: Please provide any comments you feel would help the club improve your experience. Feel free to suggest programs, artists, scheduling or anything you wish. Or let us know why you didn't come to a program. Criticisms are important too!

If you wish to be eligible to claim the Stone Lantern gift certificate or you are interested in helping the club in any capacity, please fill in the information below and either hand this survey in at a monthly meeting or mail to the club at: PO Box 836922, Richardson, TX 75083.

Dallas Bonsai Society - 2008 Membership Survey

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact # _____

***Winner required to be current 2008 BSD Member.**

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 any Club Meeting

Bonsai Society of Dallas meets on the first (1st) Saturday of each month.

Time: 9:00 AM
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: _____ Membership Year: _____

Amount Paid: _____ Date: _____

Dues received by: _____