



# Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly newsletter January 2008

## Message from the President

By Sylvia Smith

Hello everyone, hope you all had a great holiday season. Here we are now, another year gone and past and hopefully our trees are better for it. This is of course what it's all about. As we get older and wiser, so should our bonsai grow and improve from year to year. This philosophy can also be applied to all of us as a club. The board has recently been discussing our club's lack of participation with hands on workshops as well as a decline in our general attendance. In order for us to effectively look at these issues and make changes accordingly, we would like to have all of your input, feedback and suggestions as individuals and most importantly as part of the BSD family.

Attached on your newsletter you will find a short survey. Please fill this out and either send it back to us or drop it off at the next meeting along with your renewed membership. All surveys sent to us will be added to a drawing for a \$50.00 gift certificate to Stone Lantern Publishing. Here you can choose from a wide variety of bonsai related books, tools, accents or anything else you might need. We have asked that all surveys sent have a current membership. Over time it has become more difficult to keep up with who's membership is due when, who's paid and who hasn't, which member's get a newsletter and who just gets a reminder. Please help me make James' and Ted's job a little easier this year by getting those memberships in on time. You have until the end of February to do so.

Membership will also be a plus this year as we plan out our "members only" bonsai digs and bonsai buying trips at secret and local nurseries and including some special discounts. Only members will receive E-mails with the time, location and date of these. We have a great year planned, so I hope to see you at most of the meetings this year. Happy 2008!

Sylvia Smith  
[slysmith@earthlink.net](mailto:slysmith@earthlink.net)

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## January Program

The Artistic Side of Bonsai

Conducted by: Andy Rutledge  
Place: North Haven Gardens

Time: 8:30 AM - 12 PM  
Date: Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

Got a pretty good handle on the horticultural aspects of bonsai? Great! Because in this program, Andy Rutledge goes beyond the "how" of bonsai and discusses the artistic side of superior bonsai design.

### **BSD CALENDAR:**

- The Artistic Side of Bonsai  
*January program by Andy Rutledge*  
9:00 AM Saturday, Jan 5<sup>th</sup>  
North Haven Gardens
- Collecting Bonsai Trees  
from the Wild  
*February program by Mark Bynum*  
9:00 AM Saturday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>  
North Haven Gardens

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### **BSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Sylvia Smith, *President*  
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John Miller, *President Emeritus*  
[bonsaimiller@aol.com](mailto:bonsaimiller@aol.com)

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

# January Bonsai

By John Miller

There seem to be a lot of digs scheduled throughout the area. Even TTSBE has now gotten into the act and is sponsoring two digs in some great territory. So get out your shovel, loppers, chain saw and your other favorite collecting paraphernalia. Check and sharpen them and be ready to join your 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.

Your primary job in cold weather is to be sure your trees are well watered before going into 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 and that could make the tree come out of dormancy too early.

Because the ground holds a more even temperature, 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. Evergreens can use a very light feeding during the winter. Maybe 1/4 the summer rate.

Personally, I keep my hardy trees on the benches until the temp goes below 25. Then I set the deciduous and more tender evergreens on the ground below and between the benches until a temp 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 around the deciduous trees for air circulation and uncover fully the evergreens when the temp rises. Sounds like a lot of work but I developed a routine that fits me and it isn't bad.

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 a low humidity and the lack of foliage spraying. Scale can be an easily overlooked source of trouble. The flat green kind can be hard to spot on the underside of leaves or tight against the stem. Indoor trees need to be fertilized regularly and will require periodic trimming as they continue to grow through the winter.

Bonsai Society of Dallas

Club Dig !



In a special E-mail sent out regarding a couple of digs sponsored by the TTSBE, it was mentioned that the Dallas club's dig was scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup>. **Well, that date has been changed!**

The Dallas club's dig has been **rescheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>** at George's farm. This allows us to have Mark Bynum speak on collecting trees from the wild at our February meeting the week before the dig! If you've never been on a dig, or you just want a refresher, don't miss this lecture!

## Masakuni Raffle

Courtesy of SABS



To help with the costs associated with next year's LSBF/ABS Convention in, the San Antonio Bonsai Club is raffling off a 17-piece MASAKUNI tool kit (donated by Marty Klajnowski). This kit normally retails for around \$1400!

Steve Hendricks of the Ft. Worth Bonsai Society is holding tickets for our region. Interested parties should contact Steve without delay at (817) 737-7953 or e-mail him at [stevenhendricks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stevenhendricks@sbcglobal.net).

**There are very few days left to enter. The drawing will be held January 10, 2008, so don't delay!**

[Note that John Miller will have a few tickets at the January meeting; but remember, your ticket and entry fee MUST be mailed AND received before the drawing! —Ed.]

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 organic foliar spray all winter.

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<sup>st</sup> 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 as well. It 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 good approach is to study one or two trees 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. ✍

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## Bonsai Society of Dallas 2008 Member Survey



As our President stated in her monthly message, there were concerns that our special guest artist events last year seemed to have a somewhat lower turnout than was expected and that general participation seemed down. We want to ensure we are doing everything possible to make the Bonsai Society of Dallas a rewarding experience. So please take a moment to fill out the attached survey and mail it or bring it to the January or February meeting. You will be eligible to win a **\$50 gift certificate** from Stone Lantern to be presented at the March meeting. (\*Must be paid member for 2008 to win.)

It is important that we hear from you. The more responses we get, the better we can make future programs, so **please take a moment** and let your voice be heard!

## Events of Interest



- **Dallas Bonsai Club**  
**January meeting**  
Saturday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>  
The Artistic Side of Bonsai
- **TTSBE Dig #1**  
Weekends of Jan 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>  
in San Antonio, Tx.  
Please contact Donna Dobberfuhr  
for details at (210) 326-0860 or  
[Two2views@yahoo.com](mailto:Two2views@yahoo.com)
- **TTSBE Dig #2**  
Weekend of Jan 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>  
in Eagle Pass, Tx.  
Please contact Mike Hansen at:  
[mbpbonsai@hughes.net](mailto:mbpbonsai@hughes.net)
- **Dallas Bonsai Club**  
**February meeting**  
Saturday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Collecting trees From the Wild
- **Dallas Bonsai Club**  
**Club Dig**  
Saturday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>
- **Valentine's Day**  
February 14<sup>th</sup>

## Quick Notes!

Hey, this is just a friendly reminder that our **club start time is 9:00 A.M.** I realize I accidentally left it at 8:30 in the last newsletter. Sorry!

Also, North Haven Gardens requests that since we now meet during their open hours, that we park our cars next door at the JCC parking lot. Thanks!

Send Survey Responses to:

**Bonsai Society of Dallas**  
**P.O. Box 836922**  
**Richardson, TX 75083-6922**

Or bring to the Jan or Feb meeting.

# THE TEXAS STATE BONSAI EXHIBIT

HIGHLIGHTS ENDING 2007

Respectfully submitted Donna L. Dobberfuhr, sec. TTSBE

- The board conducted seven fundraisers during the year.
- Hired a fundraising consultant, Seeds For Change.
- New and expanded and easy-to-update website: [www.ttsbe.org](http://www.ttsbe.org)
- Land was found, 12.2 acres in Mustang Ridge, TX.
- September an anonymous donor gave \$25,000 to facilitate the purchase of the Exhibit property.
- Mike Hansen and Elaine White closed on the site for the Exhibit in Mustang Ridge, TX.
- A investor (a private individual and friend of Bonsai) stepped forward and offered to carry our mortgage at 8.5% for 15 years.
- A very large ceramic pot (65"x42"x3.5") was ordered from China for the Cedar elm forest planting donated to the Exhibit by the Pepitone family of Houston.
- Two significant volunteers, Els Ulug nominating committee chair and Debra Van Cleef organized the database of individuals associated with bonsai.
- Six (6) new board nominees elected in November to start in January 2008; Marie Byer, San Antonio, Greg Setter, Austin, Mike Watson, Austin, Bill Moore, Austin, Nancy Moore, Austin and Els Ulug, Austin.



The Pepitone Cedar elm forest planting in its new Chinese pot. Lori Hansen at left.

## Minutes of Meeting Dec. 1, 2007 as reported by James Bonney

President Sylvia Smith called the December meeting to order about 9:20 A.M.

Sylvia and John discussed the 2008 ABS/LSBF Convention. It was noted that a couple of sources have the date incorrect but that it is correct on the ABS Web site ([www.absbonsai.org](http://www.absbonsai.org)). *[The date listed on the Web site is June 19-22, 2008. — Ed.]*

John talked about the TTSBE's creation of the Pioneer Society. Individuals/families/corporate gifts exceeding \$100 or more in 2007 will receive special recognition once the exhibit is complete. More details can be found at [www.ttsbe.org](http://www.ttsbe.org).

John passed on information that to help raise money for the ABS/LSBF convention in San Antonio, the San Antonio Bonsai Society is raffling off a Masakuni bonsai toolkit (donated by Marty Klajnowski). Details can be found in this newsletter.

After the business meeting closed, Dave Schlessler gave a wonderful talk about forest plantings or "groves" as Dave likes to call them. Dave lectured on the different multi-trunk options, the importance of spacing in grove design, and creating near and far-perspective plantings.



Photo courtesy of Mark Bynum

## 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

## 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](mailto:GSTRA@aol.com) or James Bonney at [amy.james@gte.net](mailto:amy.james@gte.net).

## 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](mailto:potter@pegasuspottery.com) • [www.pegasuspottery.com](http://www.pegasuspottery.com)  
10% Discount to BSD Members!

A decorative header featuring three stylized musical notes (treble clef, quarter note, eighth note) hanging from a horizontal line.

## 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](mailto:amy.james@gte.net)

A decorative footer consisting of a series of parallel diagonal lines forming a striped pattern.

## Bonsai Smiths

Howard and Sylvia Smith

[www.BonsaiSmiths.net](http://www.BonsaiSmiths.net)

[bonsaismiths@earthlink.net](mailto:bonsaismiths@earthlink.net)

Tel# (972) 392-1430

Fax# (972) 661-0694

- Cultivators of fine trees
- Collection maintenance
- Private instruction
- Classes, lectures & demos

# 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!

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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.

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## 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 (1<sup>st</sup>) 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

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Do Not Cut: For Treasurer Use Only

### Member Receipt:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues received by: \_\_\_\_\_