



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly newsletter

September 2008

Message from the President

By Sylvia Smith

Although it's still warm out some days, it's good to have the 100-degree weather behind us as we move into fall. September is the time to clean up your trees and prepare them for the change in weather. Trees that you were not able to repot (and needed it) or trees that have been heavily fertilized during the growing season may not allow water to flow through them as well. Howard and I often do a 'top soil change' when this occurs to improve watering until repotting time comes around again. Take your bent nose tweezers and scrape off the top 1/2" to 1" (unless you have a small shohin or mame tree). It's okay to work the roots in this area a little bit; heavy root work should be left for repotting season. After the old soil is cleared, add fresh bonsai soil and water. You will be amazed at how much easier it is to water and since we are entering a short lived growing spell, your tree will be happier too.

September is also the time to begin looking for members to become our future 'Board'. This year we will be in search of a President, Vice-President and Treasurer. Neither job is complicated, but does require that you care about the future of this club. As Past-President I will continue to serve on the board for the next two years and would encourage all of you to think about helping your club grow and prosper. It would be a shame to lose the momentum that we have gained because of lack or fear of volunteerism. If you would like to participate but are not sure how, please contact me with your questions at slysmith@earthlink.net or call 972-754-9883.

Sylvia



Photo courtesy of J. McCoy

BSD CALENDAR:

Saturday, Sept. 6, 9 A.M.

"Ask the Panel"

North Haven Gardens

Sunday, Sept. 14, 1 P.M.

"BYOT Workshop"

LSBF Visiting Artist Michael

Hagedorn

Heritage Park building, Irving, Tx

(see details on pg. 2)

Monday, Sept. 15, 7 P.M.

Lecture/demo w/ Michael

(see details on pg. 2)

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E-mail: amy.james@gte.net

September Programs

Ask the Panel & LSBF Visiting Artist

Ask the Panel

This month we have two programs. One will be our regularly scheduled first Sat. of the month meeting. We have begun a new "Ask the Panel" session that we will repeat a few times in the year. The panel consists of seasoned members of the club who have "been there, done that" and have not only experienced most of your bonsai woes, but have the knowledge to help you improve your trees with time. The Board thought that this would be a good way for members to bring in their troubled trees for advice and also a way to have a more consistent follow-up on how the trees are doing. Members are asked to either bring their trees or their questions to the meeting and as time passes it would be nice if the trees are brought back to show how they have changed, improved or recovered as part of a show and tell throughout the year.

LSBF Visiting Artist: Michael Hagedorn

Our second program is the LSBF traveling artist. This year our guest is Michael Hagedorn from Oregon. Michael has completed his studies in Japan with the famous Shinji Suzuki. You can read about Michael at his website www.crataegus.com. This program is scheduled for Monday, September 15th at 7:00pm, and it will be held at Howard and Sylvia's home (7527 Spring Valley Rd.) since North Haven is no longer allowing evening events in their facility.

Michael will also be at the Ft. Worth Arboretum on Saturday, September 13th, from 1-5pm. Sunday, September 14th we will have a joint workshop in Irving from 1-4:30pm, this will be a "Bring Your Own Tree Workshop" and the cost will be \$40 per participant. Space is limited so please contact Sylvia Smith at slysmith@earthlink.net or call 972-754-9883 if you wish to participate. Silent observation is free but seating space is limited.



Times and Locations:

Saturday, Sept. 6, 9:00 A.M.

"Ask the Panel"

North Haven Gardens
7700 North Haven Rd.
Dallas, Texas 75230

<http://www.nhg.com/map1.htm>

Sunday, Sept. 14, 1:00-4:30 P.M.

Michael Hagedorn
"BYOT Workshop"
\$40 signup; limit of two trees
Silent observation for free
Heritage Park Building
217 S Main St.
Irving, TX.
[Map link](#)

Monday, Sept. 15, 7:00 P.M.

Michael Hagedorn
Lecture & Demonstration
Sylvia Smith's home
7527 Spring Valley Rd.
Dallas, Texas 75254
<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Dallas&state=TX&address=7527+Spring+Valley+Rd>

Events of Interest



- **BSD September Program**
Saturday, Sept. 6, 9:00 A.M.
"Ask the Panel"
North Haven Gardens
- **LSBF Visiting Artist:**
Michael Hagedorn
(Multiple sessions — see the monthly program description for details.)
- **BSD Club Auction**
Saturday, October 4th
(Start examining your collections/materials now!)

Link of the Month



Joey McCoy of the Austin Bonsai Society attended the 2008 ABS/LSBF Convention in San Antonio, Texas earlier this year. While there he took a large number of great photos everything from exhibit trees to speakers to signage. Relive the event or see it for the first time through Joey's eyes here:

Seminars:

<http://flickr.com/photos/9290304@N06/sets/72157605929152510/>

Exhibit:

<http://flickr.com/photos/9290304@N06/sets/72157605929120289/>

August Program Recap

Last month we had a wonderful time hosting master bonsai artist Suthin Sukosolvisit of the Royal Bonsai Garden in Stoughton, Massachusetts. A long-time friend of the club and a featured artist at the '07 convention in Dallas, Suthin presented a demonstration for our club using a plant with an unusual history. The plant is a variety of the star jasmine family [*The exact variety is unknown to the author at this time.—Ed.*] with small leaves and a nice color. The story is that the plant was smuggled into the country from Japan many years ago by the late George Grey.



Suthin discusses the possibilities.

The plant has good potential and Suthin shared with us the many different styles that he could work with—cascade, broom, and he even suggested it could be made into two trees! He asked us to take a vote and the club decided on a broom style.



The form takes shape.

Suthin worked the tree down to its “essentialness” all the while sharing great insight on what to look for in good shohin bonsai prospects. After he was done with the demo tree, he decided to start working on member trees that had been brought in for advice. What a bonus! His question of the day became, “Do you want me to cut it?”

What a great session it was. For those of you who missed out, I hope you make this month’s sessions with our expert panel and with Michael. They should be a blast! ✍



The Future revealed.



Suthin takes a turn on member trees.



The raffle...



Mark has grown "ears".



And the winner!

Photos courtesy of J. Bonney

A Hidden Attraction

by Tyler Slawson

I was on cloud 9 the entire taxi ride there. I couldn't believe that I was actually going. During the ride, the taxi driver told us that in 19 years of driving in DC that he had never taken anyone to where we were going. So, that was interesting. When we first were pulling into the Arboretum, I could tell that it was a tree hugger's paradise: beautiful, luscious trees everywhere. It was my kind of place. It was hard to believe that we were in the middle of our nation's capital. The driver let us out and we followed the maps to the museum. I knew where we were when we got there. After months and months of looking at the virtual tours and photos available on the Internet, I was finally there: The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum.

A wooden gate stood at the opening. Beyond it were gardens. Their goal is to help you relax and clear your mind before actually reaching the bonsai. In the gardens was a 250-year-old stone lantern. We walked through and finally sighted the concrete monument welcoming us to the museum. The monument was part of a water display. On the monument was a Japanese White Pine. It was very pretty and a good example of the art you would find beyond that point.

There was a number to call for an audio tour on your cell phone. The tour told you in what order you needed to visit the four different pavilions. First: The International Pavilion. The International Pavilion hosts special exhibitions, as well as, a library full of books and articles relating to the hobby, some of the museums viewing stone collection and the welcome desk with publications about the museum and information about what bonsai is. The exhibition on display was one of azaleas. It had examples of how a scholar would display them in his space. There was one space for the penjing and the other for the bonsai. The azaleas were absolutely beautiful. I could see then why the species is so popular amongst enthusiasts.

Next was the Chinese Pavilion. The Chinese pavilion had a nice set-up. The bonsai lined the shelves next to the concrete walls and in the middle was a nice garden with subtropical plants such as a Cycad planted in the ground. I was very impressed with the Chinese bonsai and penjing, but even I knew what lay ahead in the next pavilion.

The next pavilion was the one that I had been waiting on: The Japanese Pavilion. I entered and wound my way on



the sidewalk through the trees and gardens taking in the beauty that they offered. Then, I saw it. It was like seeing a Hollywood celebrity. It was the famous Japanese White Pine that is over 350 years old. And, in case that isn't enough to make you excited, this bonsai survived the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. It survived, only because of the concrete walls that surrounded it. This is primarily why the walls of the museum are concrete. This tree is much larger than the many photographs on the Internet make it appear. I am very bad at estimation, but I would say that it is definitely 3 feet tall. It had a shade cloth above it to limit the sun and a fence surrounding it to keep the crowds at bay. I stood and observed for at least 8 minutes in awe of this tree. Following my way through the Japanese Pavilion the setup was the same as the Chinese Pavilion. The bonsai were either on stands or a shelf that lined the concrete walls. There were all forms of bonsai shape. They also had several group plantings on display.

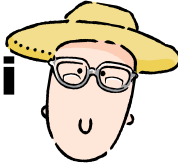
Next was the North American Pavilion. This pavilion had a variety of sizes in bonsai. Some of the bonsai were large and some were tiny. The setup was the same also for this pavilion. The bonsai in this pavilion were familiar because these are trees we can find here at home in North America. There was also a tropical conservatory but there were no bonsai in it at that time.

Unfortunately, that was the end of the tour. But, I wasn't ready to leave. I ran back through the museum another time taking pictures of my favorites, anxious to show to friends and family back home as well as preserving memories. The museum was a great learning experience just like the rest of Washington, only, in its own, individual way. I was able to study the nebari, as well as shape and many other aspects that make up a bonsai. The museum is funded by the United States government and therefore admission is free. The museum actually sparked an interest in one of my friends that was with me. I have also been able to show pictures to friends and family. I have had many ask questions or make comments about common misconceptions such as "I didn't know bonsai

could get that big” or “I didn’t know bonsai can be made from any tree.” I wish I could witness about Christianity as well as I have been able to do with bonsai. This museum is a major asset to our nation and we are very fortunate to have it. I thoroughly enjoyed this museum

September Bonsai

By John Miller



I think plants are more attuned to the varying length of days than temperature to set their life cycles—dormancy, flowering, etc. For example, the cedar elm sets buds in early August so they are ready to pop with the first fall rain so that its seeds have the best chance to survive long enough to get a root down. As I write this, we are having several days of 80 degree weather after the summer of 100’s. It is probably not late enough for the bonsai to go into their pre-dormancy slow down period. If they are still growing, continue twig pruning and other summer care.

There could still be some days with pretty hot temps. So as the sun changes its angle make sure that the pots do not get too hot in the afternoon sun. Also watering now becomes harder. As trees slow their growth they do not take as much water. Neither will they transpire as much on the cooler days. So check each one separately and water as often and as much as the individual tree requires.



Help your trees go into dormancy. Withhold nitrogen fertilizers from those outdoor trees now. They would need less water as they quit active growth but on warm days trees with green foliage will still transpire and need that water. Most tropicals have a dormant season also but it is caused by dry conditions rather than cold. These types need to be hardened also by cutting the fertilizer to halt active growth and give them lighter watering. This will enable them to withstand the transfer to the greenhouse better.

Check the trees you still have wire on. When the cooler days get here some trees will expand their branches and get wire cuts rather quickly. You need to check them periodically over the winter also. Winter growth will usually be pretty slow but can occur, especially on the evergreens. Cut the wire off. You can easily break the branches trying to unwrap the wire and it’s just not worth trying to save the wire. Be sure you do not overlook a

and would definitely go back. It was an experience that I will remember forever.

small piece of wire. It would cut into the branch very soon. If you need to reapply some wire take care.

Two other things you can do now. You should prepare your winter quarters and you should study your evergreen trees to determine if you need to do any restyling later on this fall.

Check on the place you expect to winter your bonsai.



Make sure that it is clean. Debris harbors insects and other plant pathogens. A strong lime-sulfur spray can be used to disinfect the area as well as your growing area after the trees are removed.



Also be sure that you will be able to check the water needs of the trees.



It should be somewhat protected from winds but should have some air movement to help prevent molds from developing.



Having it in a location where you can see the trees will allow you to enjoy the winter silhouette, i.e., the branch structure and ‘twiginess’, that is a great part of deciduous bonsai.

There is not too much to be done on deciduous trees at this time. Bugs and other problems are usually not a matter of concern since the foliage will be dropping soon. Evergreens and tropicals will still need to be watched for their insect problems, especially the spider mite which will be active into fall. Use the organic spray formula to control them. If we should have a stretch of



damp weather you should be watching for fungal problems—leaf spot, mildew, etc. Treat with potassium bicarbonate, (baking soda-sodium bicarbonate- will work about as well). I would be okay with using a 1% hydrogen peroxide solution at this time of the year for fungal control.


The organic spray formula is one tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water. This supposedly can be used as a foliar feed but I only consider it an insecticide.

Pruning and trimming 'can' be done any time that there is not a lot of sap flowing but is usually advisable to do it during dormancy. Sap flow is indicated by the foliar activity of the plant like in the spring. If your tree went into summer dormancy which occurs during hot weather then the cooler weather might result in a larger sap flow in late summer or early fall. If your plant gets a flush of new growth it would be advisable to postpone large pruning cuts for a while. Basically let your tree tell you when it is ok to operate.

Check nurseries for possible bonsai material. When the planting season is over they usually put everything on sale to clear it out so they can fill up with Christmas trees.




Howard and Sylvia Smith
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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 GSTR@AOL.COM or James Bonney at amy.james@gte.net.

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

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