



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly Member Newsletter

October 2011

Message from the President

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Has your address changed?
Comments? E-mail the editor at
hiramaquinones@yahoo.com

My trees and I have been enjoying the recent cooler weather and rain! It is amazing how much better my trees respond to rain water than tap water. Maybe I need to think about a spot for a rain barrel in my backyard. Last month we had great turnout over a holiday weekend with a program focused on backyard benches and other structures to protect and display our bonsai. I learned a lot and I enjoyed the pictures and presentation Diane Lowe put together and how John Miller showed us tips on measuring soil porosity. Special thanks to them both for preparing and delivering this program. If you have an idea for a future program you would like to see, please let any board member know. We are always looking for fresh ideas.

October is an exciting month for our club. We have our annual club auction on Saturday, October 1st. This is a long time club favorite and it is exciting for all of us to see trees, pots, magazines and supplies. Take a look at your collection and see if there is anything you would like to donate or auction off - see the newsletter for details. We will have and need volunteers to keep the morning running efficiently. I purchased several of my best and favorite trees during the auction the past years. I always felt like I got a great bargain. This year we invited our past club members to join us so perhaps you will see some old friends.

Be sure to come back the following Saturday for guest artist Erik Wigert. Erik is a talented bonsai professional from Florida. In the morning Erik will demonstrate his skill as he styles and shows his techniques to take a tree to the next level. Erik has a great web-site highlighting his <http://www.wigertsbonsai.com>. After the demonstration we will break for lunch and then return for an afternoon hands-on workshop. Take a look at the article that follows for a description and picture of the material. I believe there are only a few seats left. We've also been invited to join our friends in the Ft. Worth club at their event on Thursday, October 6th.

And also in October is the Kathy Shaner seminar which is being held in Buda, TX, just south of Austin. Kathy is a fantastic artist and teacher. We are so excited to have her at our convention next year. Details were sent out in a separate email a week or so ago so don't forget to get in on this annual event.

Be sure to review the rest of the newsletter for other important club information and tips on October tree care. See you at the auction!

Chuck

P.S. Club member and newsletter editor Hiram Quinones is finally home from the hospital and recovering after several weeks of illness and a surgery - we wish him a speedy recovery.

October Program Annual Auction / Fundraiser

8:30 AM to Noon, North Haven Gardens

Are you ready for some fun? Be sure to come to this month's program and be ready to buy, sell, or just enjoy seeing what is available this year. We never know what we are going to get until the morning of the sale. So gather up your bonsai and related material that you don't need and consider a donation to the club. For the really good stuff, consider selling and sharing the proceeds with the club.

Once again, here are the guidelines.

- You may either donate items for sale with all the proceeds going to the club, or you may split a portion of the proceeds with the club for any items valued over \$50.
- Items worth more than \$50 are sold on an 80/20 split. This means the seller gets 80% of the bid price, the club gets 20%. These items must have a minimum reserve price of at least \$50; you decide your reserve price.
- If you wish to split proceeds of a sale greater than \$50, you must be a club member. If your membership has lapsed, you can easily join the club that morning for \$25, which allows you to sell at the auction and also enjoy the benefits of membership through the end of 2012.
- All items to be auctioned should be delivered between 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. at North Haven Gardens in the large meeting room inside the greenhouse. Items will be checked in at this time and no item will be accepted after 9:30 a.m.
- Items under \$50 value are considered donations to the club - no splits.
- No items may be sold prior to or after the auction unless you have worked out an arrangement with the auctioneer.
- If you are owed money after the auction, we will mail you a check within 7-10 days after the auction. We appreciate your patience as it takes time to coordinate schedules among volunteers to reconcile our totals

Please plan to arrive early to get a good look at items as they come in. Everyone must receive a paddle for bidding purposes. If you plan to sell items give yourself enough time to check in, get your paddle, and also queue for the process of checking in your merchandise. We take cash, checks (members only), or credit cards.

So come early, bring your coffee, chat with fellow club members, and enjoy the fun! ☺

Upcoming Events



Saturday, Oct. 1st, 9 – 12 Noon
Annual Club Auction

Thursday, Oct. 6th 7 – 9 pm
Ft. Worth Club meeting – LSBF
Guest Artist Erik Wigert

Saturday, Oct. 8th, 9 – 12 Noon
LSBF Guest Artist Erik Wigert –
Lecture and Demonstration

Saturday, Oct. 8th, 1:30 – 4 pm
Erik Wigert Workshop (small room)

Saturday, Nov. 5th, 9 – 12 Noon
Study Group – Howard and Sylvia
Smith

Saturday, Dec. 3rd, 9 - 12 Noon
Collecting Trees and Aftercare –
Mark Bynum + Xmas Party

Help Wanted



We are in need of a volunteer to fill an open position on the board. It is the Vice President/Program Chair.

Would you consider serving a partial term through 2012? Most of our programs are set for the first half of the year so it is a great way to give back to the club and learn more about bonsai without too much 'heavy lifting'.

If you have any questions about the position or how often we meet, please ask any board member. Nominations will be taken at the November meeting.

LSBF Guest Artist

Erik Wigert

by Sylvia Smith

Erick Wigert of Wigert's Bonsai in Ft. Meyers, Florida is making his way through Texas as our touring LSBF guest artist. He visits us on October 8th for what should be a great day. We've got a lecture and demonstration planned for the morning, then a workshop in the afternoon.

Erik has become an accomplished bonsai artist in the past ten years, having won several awards including: 2nd place winner of BCI Bonsai magazine photo contest 2011, Best Tropical Bonsai at the 1st US National Bonsai Exhibit 2008, Second Place winner of Florida Bonsai Societies Scholarship competition in 2007, Second place ABS Joshua Roth New Talent Competition 2006, as well as having his trees on display at Epcot Center, Walt Disney World from 2005 -2011.

For our morning session, Erik will be talking about the *Haematoxylum campechianum* or Campeche, as it is commonly known. It is a tropical and has a very unique wood for carving. It is known to 'bleed' when cut and is sometimes called the Bloodwood Tree as well. Erik will tell us more about this unique species and will use it as his demonstration tree. Please be sure to join us and watch him do an initial styling and perhaps a bit of carving as well.

In the afternoon we have a workshop with Erik that begins at 1:30 p.m. in the small conference room. The workshop will feature the *Gmelina Philippensis* or Parrots Beak as it is sometimes called. This tropical has an 'ivy' shaped leaf and the trunk will develop an interesting bark with age. Repeated pruning will allow it to develop a very dense canopy and occasionally the tree will put out a unique hanging yellow flower. The workshop is \$49 and includes the tree. **There are only 3 open seats** so if you would like to participate, email Diane Lowe at diane_lowe@live.com to sign up. Silent observation is available to club members. ☞



Workshop tree - *Gmelina Philippensis*

Study Group Series

Our November program is right around the corner. Have you picked out your tree(s) that you want to work on? Now is the time to be thinking about it. Perhaps something that has had a first styling from a workshop, but needs the next step. Maybe it is an acquired tree that needs further refinement. Or start with an initial styling if you like. Whatever you choose to bring, be

sure you've got your camera to begin the process of documenting its evolution. This series will repeat three times a year so it is a great way to learn how to refine and develop good bonsai. Our club will continue to exhibit trees at upcoming shows to enlighten and enrich the community. This is a great way to get your trees show-ready and learn a tremendous amount along the way. Howard and Sylvia Smith of Bonsai Smiths will share their extensive knowledge and guide us. ☞

Another Erik Wigert Invitation

by Mark Bynum

The Fort Worth Bonsai Society invites the members of the Bonsai Society of Dallas to an evening with Erik Wigert, Thursday, October 6. Erik will be giving a slide presentation on *Bougainvillea* including several case studies.

We invite anyone with a *bougainvillea* to bring it along for a quick critique by Erik after the main program. At the end of the evening we will raffle 2 *Bougainvillea* 'Helen Johnson' from Erik's bonsai nursery. This will be a quick preview of the same variety of *bougainvillea* that will be offered in a workshop at the Dallas convention in April, 2012.

The meeting starts at 7 pm at the main building (Deborah Beggs Moncrief Garden Center, 3220 Botanic Garden Dr.) of the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens. Look for the large garden clock off of University Drive. Light refreshments available.

Before the meeting we all meet at Dos Gringos Restaurant, just north of the Botanic Gardens on University Drive, arriving at 5-5:30 pm for drinks and a meal. Come and have dinner with Erik and your fellow bonsai enthusiasts. We hope to see you there! *For questions or directions, please call Mark at 817-437-8936.*

September Program Recap Backyard Bonsai

By Bronson Havard

There certainly is a lot to think about when selecting the right location in your backyard for your growing collection of bonsai. Diane Lowe and John Miller walked us through a lot of considerations and showed some great pictures of different bench designs.

Every back yard is different so there is no single solution that works for everyone. However before embarking on a project, Diane pointed out a few things to consider:

- Sort and classify your collection – conifer, deciduous, evergreen, tropical (semi); different types need different conditions
- Consider how important your overall backyard aesthetics are; if it has to look good too, that is important to consider early
- Location, location, location – know the sun's path seasonally to anticipate when your benches will be in full sun (consider shade cloth) versus mostly shade (good for deciduous during dormant period); consider an overhead structure to protect against hail damage
- Watering options – hand, sprinklers, drip irrigation

They also talked about various structures like greenhouse, cold frames, arbors, pedestals, and benches. Lots of bench designs were discussed and pictures were shared.



John also gave us insight on how to determine the absorption rate of different types of bonsai soil mixes.✍



Joshuah Murphee's pedestal design



Dave Schleser's enclosed benches allow for safe winter protection below and hail damage



The Norbury bench design documented at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/norbury/sets/72157617697509234/>



Convention Update: What Can You Do?

By Sylvia Smith

Just seven more months left before our convention in Dallas and there are so many things to prepare for and think about. Your Convention Board has been busy taking care of the details so that you are able to enjoy your convention to its fullest. Registration forms will be available later this month, so look at the workshop schedule and sign up for your favorite classes. Remember that it is first come first serve, so don't get left out!

Helping out at the convention doesn't cost a thing but time. **As the hosting club, the convention will be run solely on BSD club membership so we need everyone to participate, even those new to the club.** Don't know how to help? Here is a list of the board leaders and where they need help. Look these over and decide which one(s) match your personal style and contact the chairman to get your name on

their list. We will also have sign-up sheets at the monthly meetings between now and convention time, keeping you posted on where we need help the most. A lot of the work will begin the day the convention starts, but there are a few things that can be taken care of prior to our start dates.

Convention Chairman and Co-chair - They coordinate the convention from start to finish and are in charge of pretty much everything. If you want to help these guys, just sign up to help any of the other chairmen below! Have any questions, concerns, or suggestions? These are the people to contact:

Chuck Talley - chuck_talley@tandybrands.com or 214-228-5276

Sylvia Smith - slysmith@tx.rr.com or 972-754-9883

Raffle and Auction Chairman - Organizes the raffle and auction items and all related sales during the convention. This one is the MOST important, as all proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets and auction items will fund the club until the next time we host a convention.

Helpers needed for:

1. **Storing and collecting items for the convention raffle**
2. **Helping to store and set up items for raffle at the convention**
3. **Selling tickets for raffles throughout the convention weekend**
4. **Runners are needed for the auction set up and sale. (A perk is having first look at the items up for auction and getting your list and paddles ready first!)**

Special Note from the Raffle Chairman: "It is well known that the raffle/auction crew has wild parties in the storage room late at night during the convention. Sign up now so you will not be left out!"

Mark Bynum - mark.bynum@tx.rr.com or 817-437-8936

Exhibition Chairman - Is in charge of setting up and organizing the work schedules and events in the display area. If you would like to display a tree at the convention, this is the guy you need to see! Helping out with the display set up is also a great learning opportunity. The more you help set up a show, the more you learn about the aesthetics and nuances of putting on a semi-formal display (and sometimes the guest artists pop in to give some advice so you never know!).

Helpers needed to:

1. **Set up the show the night before the convention starts**
2. **Sign up to be a greeter, a monitor or lead a docent tour**
3. **Help special events in the show (i.e., artist critiques or show photography)**
4. **Help tear down show and transport display materials to storage location**

Howard Smith - BonsaiSmiths@tx.rr.com or 214-693-4317

Vendor Chairman - Is in charge of securing vendors to participate in the convention and organizing the vendor area at the hotel. Works to make sure our vendors feel welcome and assist in the organization of bringing their goods in for set-up. If you would like to be included as a vendor, this is your contact person!

Helpers needed to:

1. **Help set up vendor room and label table spaces for each vendor**
2. **Help greet and cart vendors into the vendor area Thursday morning (Perk: Get the first peek at what the vendors are bringing to sell or get your hands on the good stuff first!!)**
3. **Help set-up Vendor Preview Night (Special Event on Thursday before the convention starts)**

Bill Weber - webwill1@yahoo.com or 972-679-2936

Workshop Chairman - Is in charge of organizing and obtaining all material for the convention workshops and demos. Howard Smith and John Miller have both worked hard to obtain all of the material for our function. During the convention we will need volunteers with muscles!!

Helpers needed to:

1. **Pick up and take bonsai material to the convention hotel site**
2. **Organize material in storage room**
3. **Prepare each workshop room and demo area prior to each function**
4. **Serve as room monitor in a workshop room (don't be shy about requesting to monitor your favorite workshops or demos)**

John Miller - bonsaimiller@aol.com or 214-228-5276

Registration Chairman - Is in charge of all convention registration organization and essentially the convention Treasurer. It is a really BIG job that has been filled by our multitasking guru Diane Lowe. She will need the most help, especially on the first day of the convention so that everything gets started on time and everyone gets their information for the weekend.

Helpers needed to:

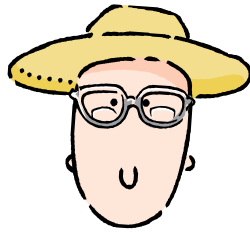
1. **Help rally items for donations for the goody bag**
2. **Help put together goody bags and registration packets**
3. **Help participants register and get their welcome packets (especially on the first day)**
4. **Help sell any open workshop seats**
5. **Help sell accessories (t-shirts, hats, pins.....)**
6. **Greet and welcome guests and answer questions**

Diane Lowe - diane_lowe@live.com or 972-679-8861

Some of you have already signed up to help but we need to know which committee you would like to serve on. Please sign up again for the committee(s) you would like to work with. Thanks! ✍

October Bonsai Tips and Advice

by John Miller



It is time to cut back on watering now that the temperature is a little lower but don't allow the trees to dry out. Trees require less water during the shorter days and lower temperatures. However you need to remember that the wind can still stress the trees so water by checking the soil and not just on a given schedule.

Insects will continue to be present. Cooler (but not cold) days mean a resurgence of the aphids. Mites will also still be around. Scale also can be a problem. Evergreens and any deciduous trees whose foliage turns can be treated with horticultural oil which will kill the adults and also wipe out the eggs and overwintering pupae. Be sure to cover all the cracks in the bark to get to the eggs.

The organic spray (see inset box) will work on evergreens and will also give them some nutrients. The dead scale will probably have to be removed physically. A soft toothbrush works for me, although I sometimes need to wet the branch first to loosen the scale.

Feeding of deciduous trees should be discontinued for the winter. Evergreens and conifers will benefit from a low nitrogen feeding. Organic fertilizers are better as they will break down into nutrients more slowly as the season gets cooler and the trees' activity slows. Be sure to use one that supplies the 13 micronutrients needed. The organic spray can be used as a soil drench but dilute it a little more. Kelp is an excellent source of the essential minor elements needed by plants.

As the trees lose their foliage, you can study their trunk lines and branch structure. Any faulty styling and the general design features can be observed more easily and corrections planned. Look for crossing branches and work to eliminate them. Cut vertical growing twigs both growing up and those growing down. Reduce long internodes by cutting back and growing new extensions. Clean out heavy branch clusters that make the tree look too dense. Be particularly attentive to prevent the formation of heavy branches in the top part of the tree where faster growth often occurs. Work can be done now or later during the winter at your leisure but it is too easy to forget about it when the tree is in winter storage.

Speaking of winter storage, have you decided what goes where? Now is the time to start your outdoor trees toward their winter siesta. If you wait until the temperature drops, you get too rushed and omit some of the little housekeeping duties. Start now by making sure that your selected area will be free of insects and other vermin. Remember that in Texas more trees are lost in the winter due to drying out than to the cold. The wind in winter has amazing drying powers. So while protecting the roots, be sure to give your trees a wind screen. Make sure that you can check the soil for watering needs. It helps if you know which particular plants dry out faster and situate them together. Winter kill usually comes because the soil has frozen and the sun and/or wind is removing water from the tops. The roots cannot obtain water to replenish the loss and the top desiccates to the point of death.

For the beginners, deciduous trees like the cedar elm, oak, and maple can be set on a clean gravel bed. When the real cold gets here (26° or lower) cover the pots with 3-4 inches of fairly loose mulch. Plants that grow south of Dallas, such as crape myrtle, firethorn, and some azalea (semi-tropicals) need to have more root protection. I like to let them get frostbit but bring them in before

freezing. In other words, I want them to go dormant and then I move them into a cool location to stay dormant all winter. Of course the tropicals need to be babied. Buttonwoods and Ficus are examples. They don't like to go below 50° so find a suitable place but keep the humidity high.

Evergreens do not go fully dormant in winter and need to be exposed to sunlight. An example would be boxwood which slows way down, but still needs sunlight. Conifers also need sunlight throughout the winter months. Some people leave them on top of their benches for the winter but I prefer to give their roots the same basic winter protection of deciduous trees. They have a higher water need which is why I group them together.

Follow these guidelines and your trees should come through the winter without problems.

[If you have any questions about what has been discussed here or a specific issue you're having, contact John or any other experienced member at one of our meetings.]

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| <p>Organic Spray Formula</p> <p>1 Tbsp. Liquid Kelp 1 Tbsp. Fish Emulsion 1 Tbsp. Apple Cider Vinegar-5% 1 Tbsp. Molasses 1 Gal. Water</p> |
|---|



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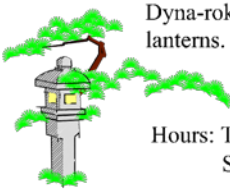
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☀ You are welcomed! ☀

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to BSD Members**

Identify yourself as a BSD member at the following participating businesses for a 10% discount on merchandise:

- The Bonsai Smiths
- Sanderson Creek Bonsai
- Ray Hernandez's Bent Tree Bonsai
- Dallas Bonsai Garden

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 Hiram Quinones at hiramaquinones@yahoo.com.