



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly Member Newsletter

October 2013

Message from the President

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slysmith@tx.rr.com

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anast1925@aol.com

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chuck_talley@tandybrands.com

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diane_lowe@live.com

Jerry Riley, *Membership Chair*
jafa625@gmail.com

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

Les Porter, *Newsletter Editor*
lesliep@baylorheath.edu

Mary Polk, *Member at Large*
doggiedigs2@att.net

Hiram Quinones, *Member at Large*
hiramaquinones@yahoo.com

It's Auction time!! No need to say that this is probably the most fun you're going to have in a long time (well, at least till next year). There will be many different bonsai related items up for auction: plant material, pottery, books and so much more. Get there early to take advantage of the preview that usually starts at 9:30am and to get registered. The auction should begin around 10:00 a.m. And if you are bringing items please start arriving at 8:30am as there is only one hour to get all items logged and registered!! It's going to be a fast paced day and you never know what treasure awaits you! Although take a sneak peek and check out the pictures of some of the auction trees further in this newsletter.

In other news, the Board met last month and we are now confirming next year's program schedule. We have one open month and could use some ideas from our membership. Anything you want to see or learn next year? Remember to see me or any other Board member and give us your ideas and feedback. I look forward to announcing the year in programs this December. This is something that the club did years ago instead of giving you the program schedule in little pieces. I'm hoping this will encourage the Fort Worth or Longview clubs to join us from time to time. We may even encourage out of town visitors. Bonsai is what unites us, education is what feeds us, and camaraderie helps us grow.

Happy Bonsai Shopping!

Sylvia

North Haven Gardens

Our friends at North Haven Gardens have lost a family member. Ralph Pincus passed away last month at the age of 98. Ralph and his wife Muriel opened North Haven Gardens in 1951 on a nine-acre pasture on North Haven Road, that was then about 2 miles north of the Dallas city limit. He spent more than 60 years as a Dallas horticulturist and was instrumental in starting the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.

More details about his long and productive life as a lover of trees can be found in the September 6th issue of the Dallas Morning News.



October Program

October 5th - Club Auction

Let the fun begin; it's time for the annual club auction! We've been chatting it up for months now, but let us remind you of the process.

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. All items go on the tables to the right side of the room to be recorded. Please keep your items together and stay with them until they are inventoried and listed on our sheets.

Howard Smith will once again be our auctioneer extraordinaire. The more he knows about an item, the better he can represent it to the audience, which should help you get the best price. Please use the form at the end of the newsletter to provide relevant information about a tree or item and attach it to your items before bringing them in.

Everyone (buyers and sellers) must also register at the front desk and get a paddle to be used for bidding. Your paddle number is our only way to keep track of who wins an item so be sure to get one.

Once all the bidding is done, we've got some bookkeeping to do to reconcile all the totals, so chill out for a bit and we'll handle the check-out process as soon as we can for all those who made purchases. We prefer cash or a check from members, although we also will take a credit card. Bankcard fees are adding up, so there will be a \$3 transaction fee added to any credit card purchases. Non-members can only pay by cash or credit card.

If you are owed money after the auction, we will mail you a check within 7 - 10 day. We appreciate your patience as it takes time to coordinate schedules among volunteers to reconcile our totals.

Here is a recap of the rules:

- 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%. You decide your reserve price (the minimum you will accept for an item). Your reserve price must be at least \$50.
- 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 2014.
- Items under \$50 value are considered donations to the club - no splits.
- No items may be sold prior to or after the auction unless prior approval from auctioneer.

Thanks for all your help in making this club fundraiser the best one yet! ✍

Upcoming Events



Saturday, October 5th, 9 - Noon
Club Auction

Saturday, November 2nd, 9 - Noon
Study Group - Bonsai Smiths

Saturday, December 7th, 9 - Noon
Japanese Landscaping and Xmas Party

Saturday, January 4th, 9 - Noon
Forest Plantings

Events Elsewhere



October 18th - 20th
Kathy Shaner Seminar/Workshop
Buda, TX

October 19th
2013 Fall Foliage Festival
Weyerhaeuser Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection
Federal Way, WA

October 31st - November 3rd
Golden State Bonsai Federation
2013 Convention
Burbank, CA

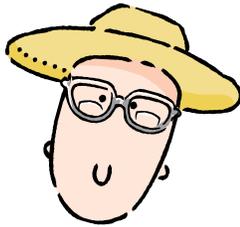
November 30th
Bonsai Winterfest, New England
Bonsai Gardens
Bellingham, MA

January 18th - 19th
Bay Island Bonsai Annual Exhibit
Oakland, CA

April 10th - 13th, 2014
LSBF State Convention
Houston, TX

October Bonsai Tips and Advice

by John Miller



Now is the time to start your trees toward their winter siesta. If you wait until the temperature drops, you get too rushed and omit some of the little housekeeping duties.

When the leaves start turning the sap has quit for the year and you may check the branches and twigs to see if any need to be trimmed. Remove any wire that is too tight; rewire if necessary. Cutting back any protruding branches will keep them from snagging and possibly breaking other trees when you put them down. Don't cut the buds off the spring flowering plants unless absolutely necessary if you want flowers next spring.

Remove the top half-inch of soil and replenish it with new soil. This will remove weed seeds that have blown in and will make next year's job easier. Of course if you plan on repotting next spring it isn't necessary.

Do you need to change the pot? Making notes at this time will give you 3-4 months to find the proper pot.

For the beginners, plants like the cedar elm, oak, and maple that are hardy much further north can be set on a clean gravel bed. When the real cold (26 or lower) gets here cover the pots with loose mulch. Plants that grow south of Dallas, crape myrtle, firethorn, some azalea, need to have root protection. I let them get frostbit but bring them in before freezing. Of course the tropicals need to be babied.

All this is basically talking about the broadleaf deciduous trees. Evergreens do not go dormant in winter. Some broadleaf types like boxwoods slow way down but still need sunlight. These broadleaf evergreens need the basic winter protection of deciduous trees but have a higher water need.

Cut back on the 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.

Pests on deciduous trees are not usually of much concern in the fall since the leaves are about to fall anyway. Scale must be taken care of with a horticultural oil spray. Mites can be a problem if we get a few warm days in a row. The organic foliar spray with seaweed (kelp) will not only take care of them but will be beneficial to the tree as well.

Insects will continue to be present on evergreens. Cooler days mean a resurgence of the aphids. Mites and scale will also still be around. Treat with a light horticultural oil which will kill the adults and also wipe out the eggs and over-wintering pupae. Be sure to cover all the cracks in the bark to get to the eggs. The organic spray (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water) 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 (I sometimes need to wet the branch to loosen the scale shell).

Repot in the fall? The best time to repot is when active growth begins. The plant tells you that conditions are right and it will respond immediately. However, your own schedule, business or personal events, or other reasons you may have to do it. Repotting means new root growth and new roots are usually very tender. You will need more protection for them and watch your watering carefully. This year I will be doing some repotting during the fall and/or winter.

Take a critical look at some of your trees. As time goes on with only refinement pruning, the branches and twigs will grow beyond your original design. You may need to do some heavier pruning. No heavy pruning will lead to the lack of refinement and a top heavy tree with branches out of proportion. Do the rejuvenating pruning this fall and repot at the proper time next spring.

It's time to take a good look at your tropicals too. Before going into their winter quarters they need to be vigorous, pruned and free of problems. Give them a good feeding preferably with an organic fertilizer. If you use a water soluble type use a low dilution and feed every 2-3 days. Prune all new growth back to the trees best shape. Keep any new growth pinched to 2-3 leaves. Use your desired insecticide and/or fungicide now and again just before you take them in. ✍

September Programs in Review

This past month we were treated to two great bonsai programs. John Miller led the regular program where we discussed the various components that typically make up most recommended bonsai soil mixes. The following week we hosted the LSBF Guest Artist Cheryl Manning.

Bonsai Soils

John tackled a topic that might not be the most exciting of programs, but it was certainly one of the most important. Since the overall health of our trees determines how long we actually get to enjoy them, this was not a program to miss. His program certainly clarified for novice bonsai enthusiasts why dirt, peat moss, or potting soils are not viable options for Texas bonsai. The health of a tree is all about the health of the roots. Too much or too little of both water and air is a bad thing and the soil you choose plays a crucial role. What is also important is to know your backyard conditions, your available time for watering, your trees, etc. Your conditions determine which soil type is right for you.



John has years of experience dealing with our challenging North Texas weather, so avoid what you read in magazines, books, and on the Internet about what soil mix to use. Instead learn from someone who has experienced Texas heat and cold over many harsh seasons. We discussed all the various materials that are typically used in bonsai soil mix. These generally fall into three categories: clays, aggregates, and organics.



Rarely would you use any of the materials alone, but rather in combinations or mixes that provide the roots a place to thrive. That means good water retention and drainage properties, as well as surface structure and air space that can promote healthy root growth.

Not only did he speak from his years of experience, but he recently conducted tests to support his recommendations. The net result is the APL mix (Akadama, Pumice, Lava) that the Bonsai Smith's use had the highest absorption of water and a high percentage of available air space. A balanced combination! Check out his results in the chart below. ✍

Test used an equal volume of material; results were measured in ounces		Base Materials						Blends / Mixes		
		Akadama	Pumice	Lava	Shale	Turface	Granite	Smith's APL Mix	Hurley's Mix	John's Mix
1.	Dry Weight (Base)	8.9	5.9	7.4	9.2	7.4	16.5	7.1	7.8	6.3
2.	Filled w/ Water	16.4	12.4	15.6	14.7	14.5	22.6	14.7	13.5	12.8
3.	Air Space (Line 2 – 1)	7.5 63%	8.5 70%	8.2 68%	5.2 43%	5.1 42%	6.1 51%	7.6 63%	5.7 48%	6.5 54%
4.	Water Drained	11.5	8.0	12.2	10.5	12.0	17.9	9.3	10.3	9.7
5.	Water Absorbed (Line 2 – 4)	4.9	4.4	3.4	4.2	2.5	4.7	5.4	3.2	3.1

September Programs in Review (cont'd)

LSBF Artist – Cheryl Manning

We were the next to the last stop on Cheryl Manning's whirlwind tour of Texas bonsai clubs, but you wouldn't know it by her enthusiasm when she saw our fabulous demo tree. It was a very large raft style native cedar elm that John Miller collected many years ago and has been nurturing and training along the way. To the untrained eye, it looked like a forest planting but the trees were all connected below the soil line.



However before beginning her demonstration, she shared some information with us about a project she 'inherited' many years ago and brought to its conclusion. It is a book of John Naka's bonsai illustrations that he did over the many decades of working with bonsai enthusiast throughout his travels. The book is now available through Stone Lantern Publishing and is sure to become a collector's item. Cheryl also brought a gift for our club. She presented us with a limited edition print of her drawing of John Naka doing an illustration. Cheryl is a gifted artist in her own right and we will offer the lovely print at our upcoming auction.

She then talked a bit about her early days of learning about bonsai. When working with John Naka, he always adhered to a philosophy that the most important elements in good bonsai are: Roots, Trunk, and Branches – in that order. When she studied in Japan, her *sensai* advocated: Trunk, Roots, and Branches. It is a matter of opinion, but she encouraged us to think in terms of 'guidelines', rather than 'rules'.



As she turned to the demo tree, she shared several of her guidelines as she was trying to pick the best front. One of the first was to try to feature the largest tree toward the front and keep smaller trees in the back to help create depth. A rotation of the material slowly around the room allowed each of us to see her perspective. As she worked she helped us understand why she made certain pruning decisions. An important one was to allow the overall flow of the trunks to influence which branches to shorten or eliminate. She also reminded us about the need for negative space to "let the birds fly through."

As the raft/forest grouping became even more beautiful, the excitement of our raffle grew. Some lucky winner was going home with that fantastic bonsai material. As it turned out, our newest club member was also the luckiest. Phil Lozano had just joined the club at our previous meeting and he had the winning ticket. Welcome to the club Phil and congratulations! ✍



Photos courtesy of Lance Williamson

Auction Trees

Check out these trees that will be in our auction. Who will be the lucky winners?



Tip of the Month

SLOW DOWN!



This is the time of the year to slow things down; less water, less fertilization, less work. Check this month's To Do List for more details but remember to slow down watering and check daily in case we have an extra warm or windy day!

Since we have been talking about soil.....

If you want pumice for preparing your own soil mix, fellow club members Alvaro, Jennifer, and Todd made a bulk purchase and still have it available to us. They can bring it to a future meeting. The pricing is as follows:

	Category	Gallons	Price
Bucket	Unsifted	5	\$15
Bucket	Small	5	\$18

Please contact Alvaro now at arciniegas.sin@gmail.com if you are interested in getting some buckets.

Also Ray Hernandez of Bent Tree Bonsai is a good local source for lava rock. See his ad at the end of the newsletter for his contact information.



October's To-Do List

This is a simple monthly checklist for those enthusiasts who have the knowledge and skill required to perform the tasks listed. It is intended to tell you 'what' to do, not 'how and why' to do it. Want to know more? Send in any questions you might have or come to any monthly program to discuss further.

All Species

- Adjust location if needed with change of sun position
- Adjust watering schedule because of cooler nights

Deciduous

- Slow down feeding
- Trim to silhouette

Evergreen/Conifer

- Wiring can be done
- Light pruning and thinning on junipers
- Slow down feeding

Flowering/Fruit

- Light trimming to silhouette
- Slow down feeding

Tropical

- Begin to prepare for winter housing
- Topsoil changes can be done now if needed
- Light fertilization

Link of the Month

Have you heard about an online bonsai forums and study groups? You've got to register to join but other than that there is a lot of information out there you might find beneficial. You also may recognize some of the folks who participate. After all, we are part of an international community of bonsai lovers. So give it a go and join the club!

Here are two you may want to check-out:

International Bonsai Club

<http://ibonsaiclub.forumotion.com/>

Bonsai Study Group

<http://bonsaistudygroup.com/index.php>

Club Digs

We are in need of new areas to collect raw material and now is a good time to send out a 'scout party' to check out the property. Do you know of anyone with land available for us to use? Ideally it would be within a 2 hour drive of Dallas with land that is not too densely wooded. Open land that perhaps has been grazed by livestock can make for some good gnarly bonsai. Please let any board member know or talk with Dave Schleser if you know of a potential spot. Dave can be contacted at ranchu39@yahoo.com.

Learning Opportunities

Bonsai Smiths

Upcoming Classes



June 29, 2013 – Japanese Black Pine Session II / Juniper Workshop

November 9, 2013 - Japanese Black Pine Session III – **Full**

January 25, 2014 - Japanese Black Pine Session I – **6 seats left**

February 8, 2014 - Repotting and Root Refinement – **4 seats left**

May 17, 2014 - Maple Tree Ramification and Refinement Session I

June 28, 2014 - Japanese Black Pine Session II / Juniper Workshop

July 12, 2014 - Maple Tree Ramification and Refinement Session II

We also offer soil mixes. Our APL mix will be available in November!

www.BonsaiSmiths.net

2013 Kathy Shaner Seminar

October 18th – 20th

Buda, TX

* Seminar *

* Grafting Workshop *

* Bring-Your-Own-Tree Workshop *

For more information, contact Collin Murphy at

ckmurphy2000@gmail.com



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Auction Information Sheets

Please Print



Origin of Tree/Item: _____ Date Collected or Repotted: _____

History/Items of Interest: _____



Origin of Tree/Item: _____ Date Collected or Repotted: _____

History/Items of Interest: _____



Origin of Tree/Item: _____ Date Collected or Repotted: _____

History/Items of Interest: _____



Origin of Tree/Item: _____ Date Collected or Repotted: _____

History/Items of Interest: _____
