



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly Member Newsletter

January 2014

Message from the President

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Happy 2014! The start of a new year is always a time to take our December reflections and turn them into New Year's resolutions. That holds true with bonsai as well. What did I NOT do last year that I should have done? How was the overall health of my trees? Was my problem environmental, structural, or my horticultural care?

If your trees didn't put out much new growth last year, ask yourself why? Is your tree older and therefore grows slower? Was it recently collected and needs more time to establish roots? What soil medium are you using? If there was little growth, how do your roots look? Remember last year's meeting on soil types with John Miller? I think we all know the types of soil mediums available; now it's time for you to figure out which one works best for you. Change some of your trees into the better mix and see for yourself. You can run your own experiments with seedlings but I say, "Why reinvent the wheel"? Just do it!

What about the color? Did you have a spider mite problem last year? Did you treat them accordingly? Did you use dormant oil or preventive systemics last year? Or was it just a matter of poor feedings? How often did you fertilize? How much sun are your trees getting? Are your trees up against the fence or wall? Do you rotate them biweekly, monthly, not at all?

And that's just for starters. What about design? Does the pot go well with your tree? How close are your trees to being show ready? Where do you see yourself in 10 years? How about five? Now that I bombarded you with questions it's safe to say that there's a lot to think about when it comes to bonsai. Bottom line; it all depends on what you want out of this wonderful hobby. We are glad you are part of our club so you can continue to learn and share.

Here's to a Happy Bonsai Year!!

Sylvia

January Program Forests and Multi-Trunk Bonsai January 4th

The focus of the program for January will be on multi-trunk bonsai. Your first thought when considering a multi-trunk bonsai might be a forest planting. That is always a great choice and when done right, can be very pleasing to the eye.

However if you keep an open mind while looking at your available material, you may find other possibilities as well. Have you ever considered a *saikei*, or landscape tray? It just might give you a way to incorporate interesting material such as rocks and other plant material. You may even consider mixing species within the *saikei*.



John Miller will review the options with us including forest, multi-trunk, clumps and rafts. Please bring some of your multi-trunked bonsai for show and tell and/or critique. Various forest plantings, clump styles, or possibly a *saikei* would be good to share and add much to our program. ✍

Club Dig – 2014

Saturday, February 8th (weather delay February 15th)

We've got good news and bad news. The good news is we are set for a dig this year; the bad news is we only have one scheduled. So with that in mind, you won't want to miss it! We are back down in Rio Vista with our good friend Lore. She is a gracious host and gives us a warm place to rest and refresh for lunch. She has also added to her family of animals since we visited her last. She now has seven Jerusalem donkeys so they should be fun to see.



Hackberries are a sure thing and digging multiple small ones may give you great material for a forest or even a *saikei*. We may also find other material as we explore her ranch. A map will be included in next month's newsletter.

Upcoming Events



Saturday, January 4th, 9 – Noon
Forests and Multi-Trunk Plantings

Saturday, February 1st, 9 – Noon
Study Group – Bonsai Smiths

Saturday & Sunday, March 1st – 2nd
Dallas Arboretum Show

Saturday, April 5th, 9 - Noon
Field Growing Pre-Bonsai, Part 2
with John Kirby

Events Elsewhere



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

February 7th – 9th
California Shohin Society Seminar
Santa Nella, CA

April 10th – 13th
LSBF State Convention
Houston, TX

April 25th – 27th
**Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies
Spring Festival**
Hanover, NJ

May 22nd – 26th
**Bonsai Societies of Florida
Convention**
Orlando, FL

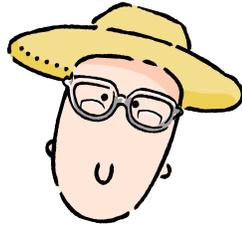
August 15th – 17th
**37th Annual Mid-America Bonsai
Exhibit**
Chicago, IL

August 21st – 24th
**BCI 2014 - Sunrise on Australian
Bonsai**
Queensland, Australia

September 26th - 28th, 2015
Artisans Cup of Portland
Portland, Oregon

January Bonsai Tips and Advice

By John Miller



Saying winter is here now is a bit of overkill. The ice storm had temps near 20. Since then it's been back up to 70. Those kinds of swings are bad for bonsai. Try to select locations to temporize the lows and highs by utilizing ground heat and artificial shade. At Fort Worth last month Mark Bynum reported that he measured pot soil temperatures of 33 degrees when the outside was 22. He had the trees sitting on the ground with a good layer of mulch over them.

Be sure your trees are well watered before going thru a deep freeze. They will be losing water to evaporation but will not be able to replenish it if the soil in the pot is frozen. Protection from high winds is necessary so they will not dry the tops 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 may heat up the trunk and could make the tree come out of dormancy too early.

I advocate placing deciduous trees on a well drained ground bed in a protected shady area. Then cover the pots with a shallow layer of mulch. This will give the roots several degrees of protection. 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.

Of course the tender and semi-tender trees need protection. The semi-tender get left out for some frost but no freezing. When freezing is expected they should be put in a cool area. If they show growth again they will need light.

Indoor trees 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. There are usually more severe problems with plants that have been kept outdoors in summer than brought in without any treatment. Indoor trees need to be fertilized regularly and will require periodic trimming as they continue to grow through the winter.

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 Garrett Juice mixture.

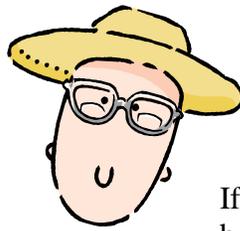
January and early February are ideal times to review your trees, especially the deciduous ones. Old wire should be exposed and you can easily remove it. Limbs expand during the fall and winter months and the wire may be cutting into them. Unless you wired late in the fall the branches should be set and the wires can be removed. On conifers you may have to leave the wire on longer. Check it and rewire any that are in danger of being girdled.

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 better approach would be to study one or two 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. You can also decide if that tree will need to be repotted this spring, is the present pot good or should you find a more appropriate pot for it.

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

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January Bonsai (con'd)

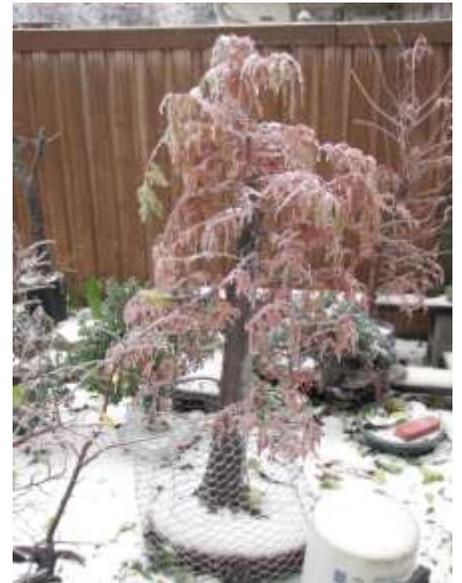
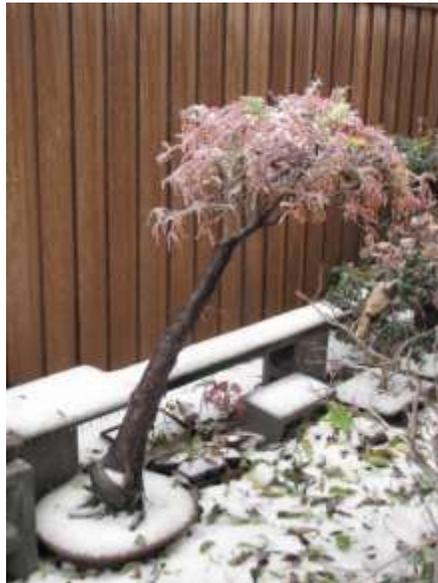
your trees. Some dormant sprays can be used on new growth but better results overall will be obtained if you do it before Valentine's Day. A weak lime sulphur dormant spray will also get fungal spores and should be done before Feb 1. Always read the label directions before using chemicals.

If you have your summer display and growing benches cleared, you could use a stronger solution of lime sulphur to disinfect that area too. The underside of the benches should be sprayed also. It might even eliminate spider mites next year.

If you have several trees and find that you run short of time during the repotting season you may gain a little advantage by mixing your soil this month. ✍

Bonsai & Ice

Photos by Lance Williamson



2014 LSBF Convention East Meets West

The Houston Bonsai Society cordially invites you to attend a state convention, April 10 – 13, at the Houston Marriott Westchase Hotel. The convention planners have arranged some exciting and rewarding activities that will please all who attend.

The program will feature workshops conducted by three internationally known guest artists. Pedro Morales from San Juan, Puerto Rico is a talented artist who is especially known for his work with tropical material. Pedro is the founder and master of the “Tropical Bonsai School”, which has caught on and is currently being taught internationally. David DeGroot is curator of the Weyerhaeuser’s Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection in Seattle, Washington since its creation in 1989. He is an award-winning designer and author who has been practicing bonsai since 1972. Arthur Joura is the bonsai curator at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, N.C. Joura manages the bonsai collection which is the largest of its kind in America and certainly the finest collection in the Southeast. Each guest artist will conduct (at least) three workshops, participate in a three-artists demonstration, conduct a critique of the exhibit and judge the exhibition.

The convention will also offer several special workshops and lecture/demonstrations. Dr. Scott Barboza, Geologist, HBS member and bonsai artist, will do a lecture/demo on soil substrates commonly used in bonsai. David Kreutz will do a lecture on Azaleas and their styling, care and maintenance. Alex Leong, HBS member and bonsai artist, will conduct a lecture/demo on the “Lingnan Style” a Chinese clip-and-grow method. Frank Mihalic, a second generation bonsai artist, will conduct a “make your own” Sterling Silver Pendant Workshop, using the “Lost Wax Process”

of jewelry making.

The exhibit area will present a collection of outstanding bonsai specimen that will surely please your senses and stimulate your imagination. The exhibition will consist of masterpieces from the collections of LSBF club members across the state. Contact the Exhibit Chairperson, Alan Raymond (phone 832-866-9546 or email amraymond@suddenlink.net). More details about making exhibit entries can be found in the Registration Package at www.houstonbonsai.com.

There will be vendors from Texas and other states to satisfy your desire for bonsai trees, plant materials, tool, pots, books, stones, clothing items, etc. There will be raffles, raffles, and raffles—throughout the convention offering bonsai, bonsai-related and a variety of other items. We will also have an auction after our Saturday evening dinner.

The Houston Marriott Westchase Hotel is located at 2900 Griarpark Drive, Houston, TX 77072. Phone 713-978-7400. A block of rooms will be available for convention attendees at the special rate of \$79.00 per night. Make your reservations directly with the Marriott and ask for the Bonsai Convention Special Rate.

Beginning January 6th, convention information and registration forms will be available at www.houstonbonsai.com, and then select LSBF State Convention. Full registration is \$150—before March 15th and \$175—after March 15th. Download, print and mail completed registration forms and fees to Houston Bonsai Society, c/o Eldon Branham, 1923 Michele Drive, Sugar Land, TX.

We hope to see you there!

Convention Registration Raffle!

For all BSD club members who have a confirmed registration by March 15th, we will have a drawing for reimbursement of your \$150 registration fee. This is the registration only for one person and will not include any workshops or other fees. Joint members are eligible individually. Drawing will be held at our April 5th meeting.

Bonsai Buying Trip – Sunday, January 5th 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Be sure to join us for our annual shopping trip to Fred Meyer's Dallas Bonsai. He offers club members a special discount this one day only. It is very important that you've made your selections in advance and bring your list with **specific item numbers** from the website. Go to www.dallasbonsai.com to complete this important step before you arrive. This is a warehouse, not a traditional retail store. Please be patient and enjoy the fellowship.

Dallas Bonsai
4460 West Walnut Street
Garland, TX 75042

Check out their ad on page 10. If you have questions, you can speak with Fred at (800) 982-1223 M – F from 1 pm to 5 pm.

Come prepared with your list and your holiday money to spend. ✍



Tip of the Month

Be Prepared



Yes, that means you! This is the time to think about getting all of your supplies ready for repotting season. Bonsai soil, pots for your trees, #2 aluminum wire to tie your trees in, mesh for the drainage holes, bonsai wire cutters, bent nose tweezers, bonsai pliers, a variety of root rakes, a good pair of root scissors and don't forget to start collecting your chop sticks!

Hey look there, we just gave you a list for our club shopping trip to Dallas Bonsai!

Happy Shopping!!

WHAT A WINTER – SO FAR

By Mary Polk

And, it ain't over, yet! Santa came early this year at our house with a **BIG THUDs** – no toys, just a bunch of very large broken limbs from our red oak and live oak trees. An especially large one split and crashed onto our roof! I guess Santa's timing was off and couldn't see through all the ice laden leaves still on the red oak. Our trees are giants with LOTS of leaves still holding tightly! Even our deciduous bonsai trees were holding their leaves and had not really gone through a good color change. Hopefully, none of you other club members had very much damage from the ice storm. The worst part was waiting until all that ice melted and it was "safe" for someone to come to our rescue (more than a week later) to get that huge stuff off our roof. Fortunately (I think as best I can tell), the roof was not damaged ... phew) or doesn't appear to be harmed. Our neighborhood has lots of large trees and many were damaged – as well as a few rooftops BUSTED by the crushing weight of fallen tree limbs. We count ourselves lucky to not have been CRUSHED by drunken Santa and his lost reindeer that came flying in via the ice storm. We tried to protect our little bonsai plants as best we could – but it is definitely going to be spring before we know their fate as they are not looking terribly happy at the moment. I think some of the tree limbs looming over their little branches frightened them as well as me. We are still somewhat in shock.



Sadly, too, I missed having our Holiday Party at NorthHaven with treats, coffee and friendship – but better to be safe than sorry on the slippery and messy roads. Plus, it seems every meeting is a monthly fun-for-all. The presentation showing Japanese gardens, etc. would have been very interesting – but we will have to wait and savor that at a later time. We just have a bunch of really neat people and we love seeing everyone (eh-hm), at every meeting or as often as they can make it.

Let's hope Santa and Rudolph check their calendar and GPS - and behave better - next year. I would have much preferred a large bucket of coal to the giant tree limbs on my roof.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone and hope to see you soon!



January'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

- Water as needed and keep from freezing

Deciduous

- Only repot trees whose leaf buds are beginning to swell; protect from freezing thereafter
- Light pruning can be done now (use sealant); delay heavy pruning until spring

Evergreen/Conifer

- Repotting can begin now, but protect from freezing thereafter
- Delay fertilization until 4 – 6 weeks after repotting

Flowering/Fruit

- Repotting can be done now while trees are still slightly dormant; avoid if currently in flower
- Trimming should be done after flowering (use sealant); buds can be sacrificed every other year to achieve better ramification

Tropical

- Winter precautions still in effect – no repotting
- Boost humidity if kept indoors

Link of the Month

Tony Tickle isn't a name you are likely to forget. Tony hails from the UK and has been working with bonsai since 1983. He specializes in native European trees, in particular; Hawthorn, Yew and Pine. He won his first Ginkgo awards in 1997, UK winner and runner up in the European New talent competition in 1995

Tony demonstrates at major conferences throughout the UK and Europe and is widely published. He has had his bonsai selected for four Ginkgo awards, nominated for a Noelanders award in 2009, and many other European events.

It doesn't sound like he gets to the States very often, but perhaps you might enjoy seeing some of his many videos and posts. Check out his website and blog at:

<http://yamadoriforsale.com/>

If you have not already done so, please mail, or better yet, bring your membership dues to the next meeting. Please use the form at the end of the newsletter to ensure we have your information up to date. Thanks!

Learning Opportunities

Bonsai Smiths

Upcoming Classes



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

November 9, 2013 – Japanese Black Pine Session III

January 25, 2014 - Japanese Black Pine Session I – 1 seat left

February 8, 2014 - Repotting and Root Refinement – 2 seats left

May 17, 2014 - Maple Tree Ramification and Refinement Session I – 3 seats left

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 is now available!

www.BonsaiSmiths.net

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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 bring to 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 Road
Dallas, TX

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Date: _____

New Membership

Individual Membership: \$25.00

Renewal Membership

Joint Membership: \$30.00

For the convenience of our membership a roster is published for **members only** in March of each year.
Please check the appropriate box if you do not wish to be included

Include me in the membership roster

Exclude me from the membership roster

Do Not Cut: For Treasurer Use

Member Receipt

Name: _____ Membership Year _____

Amount Paid: _____ Date: _____ Received By: _____