



# Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly newsletter

August 2007

## Message from the President

By Sylvia Smith

### **BSD CALENDAR:**

- **The Zen of Japanese  
Garden Design**

*9:00am Saturday, August 7th  
North Haven Gardens*

- **TBD**

*9:00am Saturday, September 4th  
North Haven Gardens*

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[GSTRA@aol.com](mailto:GSTRA@aol.com), 214/357-3048

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John Miller, *President Emeritus*  
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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).*

First let me start by taking the time to acknowledge all of the hard work and dedication that has been given to this bonsai club by our President George Straw. For those of you who do not know, I was quick to recruit George into the bonsai club and wasted no time getting him on board. First as newsletter editor, George upgraded the look of our newsletter from a cub scout version to the great format that we use today. He was also instrumental in getting us updated to web newsletters which saved the club several hundred dollars a year. Of course this was only the beginning. Then came the secretarial position that came with the newsletter, the vote for Program Chair, the eventual "upgrade" to President, along with Convention Co-Chairman and even Treasurer when we no longer had one. We owe George a great deal of thanks for getting us moved from the YMCA in Richardson to a great garden setting at North Haven Gardens. When all other small garden clubs were being kicked out of North Haven last year, George fought not only to keep us there but upgraded our meeting time to during open store hours for added exposure to the general public, and most importantly, dropped our monthly fees from \$60 to \$25! In everything that George has done, including keeping me on track, he has given of his personal time to improve the quality of this club. I am very proud to call this guy my friend.

With that said, I think it's time to give the poor guy a break from all of the responsibility that he has had over the last almost 7 years. There have been a couple of nibbles but no real bites at the presidency. At the last board meeting, I volunteered to take over for George as long as he remains my back-up. We will be working together to keep the club with a full staff of worker bees until the next election. The new board members are all awesome and have started working hard at their new posts even prior to our first meeting. I would like to thank them again for helping this club stay strong. Of course this is still a club decision so there will be an official discussion and vote at the next meeting, but don't let that keep you from being there. We have a really great program lined up that you will not want to miss!

Sylvia



# August Program

## The Zen of Japanese Garden Design

Conducted by: John Powell  
Place: North Haven Gardens

Time: 9:00 AM  
Date: Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>

If you missed last month's program, you missed a good one! John Miller lead a discussion on Tropicals. Development and care of a *Ficus nerifolia* was given and it was repotted. Repotting of a *Bougainvillea* demonstrated problems that might be encountered if repotting at the proper time is not done.

This month's program promises to be a real treat. John Powell of Weatherford Gardens Nursery will be coming to talk to us about Japanese-style landscaping and incorporating bonsai into the design process. This will include a short virtual tour (via the miracle of video) of the Adachi Museum Gardens in Japan!



John Powell is a Japanese-style garden builder and pruning specialist from Weatherford, Texas. John is a 1983 graduate of West Virginia University with a degree in Forestry. He currently is the co-owner of Weatherford Gardens Nursery and Landscaping. After a first visit to Japan in 1993, Mr. Powell launched an intensive study of Japanese garden design, construction and maintenance. In 1997, he attended the first Japanese Garden Seminar conducted by the Kyoto University of Art & Design, followed by internships with Suzuki Zoen in Niigata, and most recently at the Adachi Museum of Art in Shimane, Prefecture. Mr. Powell is also a staff writer for the Journal of Japanese Gardening.

## LSBF Texas Tour Artist

On Monday, September 17, the LSBF Texas Tour artist for 2007 will be in Dallas. He is Mr. Pedro Morales of Puerto Rico. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more regarding tropicals. Whether we will have a workshop or a lecture will be decided at the meeting Aug 4. If a lecture, I would like it to include styling comments on your material.

Mr. Morales is in great demand around the world for his expertise in all phases of bonsai, not just in tropicals. He will be one of the headliners at the Golden State Convention in California this fall.

Pedro has been a speaker during three World Conventions: Florida in 1993, Munich in 2001, and Washington D.C. in 2005. In 2005, he won the Second Runner-up for the World Bonsai Contest. His articles and work are published in most of the bonsai magazines today.

To help in the decision making, contact Sylvia Smith at [slysmith@earthlink.net](mailto:slysmith@earthlink.net) or John Miller at [bonsaimiller@aol.com](mailto:bonsaimiller@aol.com) regarding your preferences.

## KATHY SHANER'S 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SEMINAR

Terry Ward has announced dates for Kathy Shaner's 12<sup>th</sup> annual seminar in Austin. The dates are Saturday, October 20, 2007 and Sunday, October 21, 2007 in Austin. It's going to be a show and tell, how-to from beginning to end packed full of bonsai techniques you can use! Add Sheila's Saturday night supper (included) and you have a fantastic weekend of learning, sharing and gourmet food.

Reserve Kathy's seminar dates on your calendar. Complete details and registration form will be on the way to you in late August. It's going to be another great seminar!

## Shirts, Ball Caps & Pins, Oh My!

For those of you unable to make the convention earlier this year, you're in luck! There are a few collectables left over and the club is making them available for 50% off! Each item displays the beautiful graphic designed for this years convention in full color.

Polo style shirts are available in black for \$12.50, T-shirts are available in white for \$9, ball caps in black for \$7.50 and enamel pins are \$2.50. (Not all shirt sizes are available.)



# August Bonsai

By John Miller

This cooler weather surely will not last all summer. When the summer sun hits the unprotected pots the root temperature will go high enough to kill roots.

For all except the tropicals this is the most stressful time. Most native species can take the full sun on the foliage but cannot take heating of the roots. Tropicals are usually repotted during warm weather but you should remember that even the tropicals do not like their roots hot. Sun on the pots may heat the soil and prevent new root development even though the tops may break new buds. No new roots eventually means 'dead tree', a finished bonsai.

You will need to provide some way to keep the sun off the pot while still providing air circulation around the pot. Partial shade, 50% shade cloth or afternoon shade will be great. Mulch on the soil will help, but does not keep the sides of the pot from getting hot. Even the morning sun can be too much on the pot in August. A cloth cover will work. Setting the pot in a loose fitting box does not give as much protection.

Not only does the heat get to our plants, but the low humidity causes the plants stress by evaporating the water from the leaves faster than the plant can move it upward. Any wind that is present multiplies the problem. Hot soil dries out faster. Therefore you may need to water more than once a day. If so, my preference is to water heavily in the evening letting the plant recover during the cool night and then to water lightly in the morning spraying the foliage also. It also minimizes the length of time the roots are hot.

Remember to water twice. Wait a few minutes after the first watering for the dry soil particles to absorb some of the water on their surface. Then the second watering gets the whole particle wet.



The stress caused by the temperature will give any insects a chance to wreak havoc. Watch for spider mites and scale, especially this month. The morning spray will help knock some off. The Garret Juice foliar spray will keep them down also. Horticultural oil sprays may be used year around. (The old oil sprays were heavy and would burn foliage so be sure to get the new type.) Even so, you should be cautious about using them in July-August. Chemical sprays are available, but most chemical reactions are accelerated by heat and may damage plants. **Read the labels!**

Be careful about applying fertilizer in hot weather. Even organic fertilizers create some chemical reactions and the above remarks apply here too. By the end of the month the nitrogen applied to the tree should be reduced. A little may be put on into September but the tree needs to be allowed to stop growth to get ready for dormancy. Evergreen trees benefit from a low nitrogen fertilizer through the winter.

## Events of Interest



- **LSBF Texas Tour Artist – Pedro Morales**  
September 17, 2007  
(Specific program format TBD. See info on page 2 of the newsletter.)
- **Fort Worth Bonsai Society Annual Show & Sale**  
Sept. 29-30 — at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. More at [www.fwbg.org](http://www.fwbg.org).
- **Kathy Shaner's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar**  
Oct. 20-21, 2007 (see info on page 2 of the newsletter)
- **The Amazing Chocolate Tree National Exhibit**  
Opening Date TBD-Jan. 6, 9am - 5pm—Dallas Arboretum  
The exhibit is an educational, interactive experience of the chocolate-making process. You'll learn everything from the pollination process of the tree's tiny flower, to the steps involved to transform the cacao seed into the tasty treat that we all know and love. More at [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org).



Any rainy spell can bring some fungal problems. Powdery mildew or black leaf spot are a couple of them. That is why I use the foliar spray in the morning, so that the leaves will dry quickly. The organic websites say you can mix baking soda with the Garret Juice for fungal control. However I have decided to do separate sprayings. The GJ has an acid (vinegar) which would react with the baking soda thereby reducing the effectiveness of both. Anyhow, all your trees would benefit from the GJ but not all would have a fungal problem.



If you have a fungal problem, you may also use potassium bicarbonate available at most nurseries. One brand is named Remedy, but that is also the name of a potent herbicide, please **check all labels**.

Most spring blooming plants make their buds in the fall so pruning them would limit the amount of flowers you will have. Do not prune azaleas any more this year if you want flowers next spring. Buds have been set by now. If you are still developing your azalea, go ahead and prune. Some varieties will set a few buds anyway. In general, when pruning look for the cluster of twigs at the site of last springs bloom. Cut out all but two, usually the ones growing horizontally. Be sure to cut back strong growing shoots to a couple of leaves.



Since deciduous trees have slowed their growth, you can do some pruning on them. However, pruning may stimulate new growth that may not have time to harden before winter, which would result in some dieback of the new growth.

On these trees it's better to wait until later. After leaves have fallen, you can see where corrections need to be made more easily. You should not let tip growth ruin the fine ramification on finished trees. Keep it pinched.

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*To all of the past board members*



*Thank  
You!*

*Your hard work and dedication is truly appreciated!*



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## 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
- Dream Gardens
- 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).

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## Bonsai Smiths

Howard and Sylvia Smith

[www.BonsaiSmiths.net](http://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 Turn in at 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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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Individual Membership: \$25.00

Joint Membership: \$30.00

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