



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly newsletter

Sept 2007

Message from the President

By Sylvia Smith

BSD CALENDAR:

- Don't Let the "Dog Days" get you down
*9:00am Saturday, September 1st
North Haven Gardens*
- LSBF Traveling Artist
Pedro Morales
*6:00pm – 8:30pm
Tuesday, September 17th*

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BSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Would you like to get this newsletter via email? Has your address changed? Comments? E-mail amy.james@gte.net.

I didn't think that I would become President again so soon but I am happy to do so, reminding everyone that I'm probably reaching the statute of limitation on this post. I'm happy to see that our membership is still growing and I encourage all of you to participate in meetings as I am hoping to have a few field trips lined up between this year and next. A club is only as good as it's participating members so please don't be shy, ask many questions and participate in workshops, demonstrations and shows wherever possible!

So, how do your trees look after we went from tropical forest to Sahara desert in one week? Some trees are definitely more susceptible to our summer heat than others and this coming **Saturday, September 1st** we will be talking about what to do to keep our trees looking good, which plants are better suited for the heat, how to deal with the extreme weather changes and how to prepare for fall. Also, for those of you who know the answer to these questions, do you know how often to defoliate maples and when? When is the right time to decandle pines? What trees need to be fed during the summer months and which do not? What do you do with your tree after the shock of heat has caused early leaf loss? This is not a class just for beginners so bring your pens and paper and get ready to ask questions.

Also, as an extra special treat, we will host Pedro Morales from Puerto Rico on **Monday, September 17th**. **WE WILL NOT BE MEETING AT NORTHAVEN GARDENS FOR THIS SPECIAL MEETING.** Please check this newsletter for details on place and time. I would hate for anyone to miss this as Pedro is one of the nations top rated bonsai artist. He was one of the headliners during our Convention in 2001 and we are glad to see him return to Texas. He will also be giving a "bring your own tree" workshop. This will be on a first come first serve basis with payment. The workshop will be in conjunction with the Ft. Worth Bonsai Society and the cost is \$40 per person. Silent observation will also be available at no cost to any bonsai club member.

For more information you can contact me at 972-754-9883 or leave a message at 972-392-1430.

See you soon.
Sylvia Smith



September Program

Don't Let the "Dog Days" Get You Down

Conducted by: Sylvia Smith
Place: North Haven Gardens

Time: 9:00 AM
Date: Saturday, September 1st

Last month's program gave us a glimpse into the alluring world of Japanese gardening. John Powell gave us an intimate look into the day-to-day maintenance of one of the leading "living museums" in Japan, sharing tips regarding design using "shared scenery," pruning techniques for trees and shrubs and the differences between sun gardens and tea gardens.

From the exotic lands of Japan, we return this month to our own gardens to learn how to combat the difficult and sometimes downright destructive elements of a Texas summer. Sylvia Smith (with maybe a little Howard thrown in?) will be talking about what to do now that the "real" summer has shown its face. Tips on how to keep our trees looking good during the extremes we're enduring, feeding schedules, plus how to prepare for fall (which comes on pretty fast!) will be presented. Also discussions regarding decandling pines and defoliating maples. Get ready to get schooled!

LSBF Texas Tour Artist

On **Monday, September 17th** the LSBF Traveling Artist Pedro Morales will be in Dallas to give a demonstration to the club. This will be a fantastic opportunity to meet and learn from a master of the bonsai art.

Mr. Morales is in great demand around the world for his expertise. He will be one of the headliners at the Golden State Convention in California this fall. He 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 in the World Bonsai Contest. His articles and work are published in most of the bonsai magazines today.

The event will be held at the **W. O. Haggard, Jr. Library** in Plano. The event will start at 6 p.m. with a Meet-the-Artist hour. The program will start promptly at 7 p.m. The program will conclude at 8:30 p.m.

[W.O. Haggard, Jr. Library](#)

2501 Coit Road
Plano, TX 75075

972.769.4250
(follow the link above for a map)

In addition to the Dallas demonstration on Monday, the Ft. Worth Bonsai Society is hosting a Pedro-lead workshop the day before on Sunday, Sept. 16th at the Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens. This is a joint event with the Dallas club. This is a bring-your-own-tree event, so don't forget to bring tree/materials. The fee will be \$40. Silent observation is free to all members.

Seating is limited to a first-come-first-served basis for the workshop, so if you wish to register, do so early! Contact Sylvia Smith at slysmith@earthlink.net or 972-754-9883, or John Miller at bonsaimiller@aol.com for details.

Bonsai Society of Dallas '07 CLUB AUCTION

The board has decided that our November meeting will be devoted to the club's annual auction. This puts the auction on Saturday, November 3rd starting at the regular meeting time. This is our best opportunity for a good turnout and allows for possible over-run on time.

Further details will be forthcoming in the October newsletter. If you wish to participate, donate or sell anything at the auction, you can contact a board member and we'll get some info out to you.



Shirts, Ball Caps & Pins, Oh My!

There are a few collectables left over from this year's convention and the club is making them available for 50% off! Each item displays the beautiful graphic designed for the 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.)



September Bonsai

By John Miller

What do you think about while you are watering your trees? Is this just a mindless chore or are you thinking about how that tree is developing and what will need to be done in the future? Good observing would let you plan ahead and obtain materials you need. A different pot perhaps or you may notice the start of an insect problem or the need to get them ready for winter. It pays to make a habit of doing more than just applying water.



And get out to hear Pedro Morales. He is one of those guys well versed in all aspects of bonsai, temperate and frigid also, but has the misfortune of being thought of as only doing tropicals. If I was into big tropicals like Steven's big ficus, I certainly would take advantage of his expertise in that field. However, his experience in growing plants in heat would certainly pay off in having a Texas workshop with him.

This year has been pretty good temperature-wise for the bonsai. But it could still give us some days with pretty hot temps. So as the sun changes its angle make sure that the pots do not get too much afternoon sun.

Help your trees go into dormancy. Withhold 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 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 its just not worth trying to save the wire. 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.

- (1) 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.
- (2) Also be sure that you will be able to check the water needs of the trees.
- (3) It should be somewhat protected from winds but should have some air movement to help prevent molds from developing.
- (4) 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.

Events of Interest



- **LSBF Texas Tour Artist Pedro Morales**
September 17, 2007
(See info on page 2 of the newsletter.)
- **Fort Worth Bonsai Society Annual Show & Sale**
September 29-30, 2007 at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. More at www.fwbg.org.
- **Kathy Shaner's 12th Annual Seminar**
Oct. 20-21, 2007 (see info on page 2 of the August newsletter)
- **Dallas Bonsai Society Club Auction**
Saturday, Nov. 3rd, 9am-12pm
North Haven Gardens (more info on pg 2 of this newsletter)



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 fungal 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 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 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
www.BonsaiSmiths.net • Cultivators of fine trees
bonsaismiths@earthlink.net • Collection maintenance
Tel# (972) 392-1430 • Private instruction
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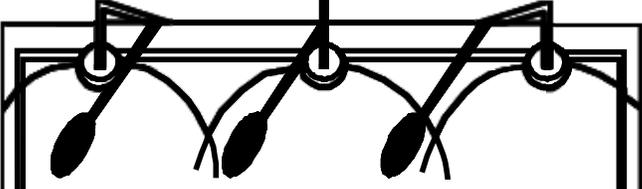
Hours: 2:00 to 6:00 pm Tues-Fri, 10:00 to 5:00 pm Sat
817-534-3220 www.sc-bonsai.com

**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 or James Bonney at amy.james@gte.net.



Place your ad here!

Business card size—\$5 per month
Half page—\$20 per month
Full page—\$35 per month

For more information, contact James Bonney
at 972-527-2132 or 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 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

Date: _____

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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Do Not Cut: For Treasurer Use Only

Member Receipt:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Amount Paid: _____ Membership Year: _____