



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly newsletter

November 2007

Message from the President

By Sylvia Smith

We had another successful auction! I want to thank our fearless auctioneer who I think has done a wonderful job for the last 6 years. He knows how to get the crowd going and he goes through a lot of material in a short period of time... thanks Howard. Also, I can't thank our helpers enough for all of the hard work they put into getting our auction set up and running smoothly. It's a lot of work and they made it look so flawless! Thanks to John Miller, Ted Colomina, Timothy Phan, James Bonney, Sandi McFarland and our honorary club member Glen McFarland, who really works hard for us even though all the bonsai belong to his wife! Thanks to all those other helping hands that were not mentioned and everyone who participated. We could not do this without your help and your donations.

Let's not forget that it's time to get our memberships renewed. Those who joined during the auction will be on the 2008 membership list. Please make sure that you send your membership form in the mail as soon as possible. We would like to have all membership dues in by January so that we can have an updated membership roster to give to all of our members. This will be a good way to stay in contact as we have some fun buying trips in store for the coming year. Just click on this link to the membership site and print out the PDF membership form to mail to us with your check.

<http://www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com/join.php>

See you in November.

Sylvia Smith



November Program

Preparing your trees for Winter

Conducted by: Sylvia Smith

Time: 8:30 AM - 12 PM

Place: North Haven Gardens

Date: Saturday, Nov 3rd

Sylvia Smith will be discussing how to prepare for winter and the work that needs to be done on your trees at this time.

BSD CALENDAR:

- Preparing your trees for Winter
November program
8:30 AM Saturday, Nov 3rd
North Haven Gardens
- The Forest for the Trees
December program
8:30 AM Saturday, Dec 1st
North Haven Gardens

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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.

November Bonsai

By John Miller



There is an article in BCI magazine (Vol 46 No 4 Oct-Nov-Dec 2007) that should be required reading for all. It is by Robert Steven in Readers Forum regarding using the textbook rules for bonsai. These rules are important for the beginner to learn what makes for a good bonsai. However, as Mr. Steven points out there are many times when breaking the rules will create a much better bonsai. You need to know about nature and the why of things to do this. For example, crossing branches usually creates confusion in one's eye, but in the case of creating a windswept it may be necessary to result in a believable design. Another example: on a multiple trunk style, the height of each trunk is proportional to its diameter. However, it may not be possible to reduce the smaller trunk height due to lack of branches or to remove it because that would give you an ugly 'u' base. You may be able to leave the smaller trunk's height but you compromise by keeping the foliage more sparse (because trunk size in nature is dependent on the amount of foliage above it).

Fall and winter is the proper time to do wiring, styling and plucking work on pines. Repotting is saved until growth starts in the spring and candle pruning in summer.



Have your winter quarters clean and ready so that you can put your trees there quickly in the event a freeze is forecast. But don't put them there too soon as they are easier to care for where they are.

After moving the bonsai, it would be a good idea to spray the benches with lime-sulfur to kill insect eggs and mold spores. If you are putting the trees under them for the winter, move the trees away before spraying them. The cold

should be good enough to stop insect activity on the trees so the area will not become re-infested when the trees go back to await the colder weather.

Most important in winter is to keep the soil moisture at a proper level. This is sometimes hard to do because the trees do not use as much water as when they are growing. However, the cold winds will dry out the tops quickly. I believe that most winter damage in Texas is due to lack of water rather than to low temperatures. Mulch helps keep the roots warm and retards evaporation, but it makes for difficulty in seeing if the soil is damp enough. Most soils with enough organic material to keep the tree happy in the summer will be too wet if watered daily in the winter and wet cold means root rot. Try to position them so you can check the soil. If you are not watching the soil in their pots you may either get root rot fungus or it dries out—either way, you have a “finished” (for you beginners that reads dead) bonsai. It is easier to care for if you have them under roof, that way you know you need to tend to watering.



LSBF Meeting Notes

The LSBF had their final meeting of 2007. They announced that LSBF members no longer have to join the ABS to participate in the 2008 convention. They also discussed future LSBF convention meeting sites (2009 will be in Houston and 2010 will be in Ft. Worth), and announced that the 2008 Visiting Artist is Mike Hagedorn. More info will follow at a future date.

Events of Interest



- **Dallas Bonsai Club November meeting**
Saturday, Nov. 3rd
- **Daylight Saving Time ends**
Sunday, Nov. 4th
2:00 AM
- **Veteran's Day**
Sunday, Nov. 11th
- **2008 ABS/LSBF Seminar Meeting** — New Braunfels, Tx., Nov. 17th
- **Thanksgiving Day**
Thursday, Nov. 22nd



The above-average temperatures this fall may have stressed your trees. If you have a tree that is weak and unhealthy you should not attempt to style it in any way; just get it happy by adjusting its soil, feeding, and getting rid of any parasites. Styling just adds to its stress and problems.



When trees go dormant which indicates a reduced sap flow they may be pruned, that is have major limbs removed.

Trimming may also be done while the leaves are off the trees and you can see what you are doing. Evergreen types will probably still be active. Pruning them should be held until later.

The general wisdom is that dormant trees need no fertilizer. However, as long as the soil is not frozen there will be some root activity. I do not add any fertilizer to dormant trees but I will leave the organic fertilizer cakes on until spring in case they happen to get some good out of them. The organics will not break down much in cold weather anyway. Evergreen types (e.g., pines, junipers, yaupons and live oaks) however continue some activity and therefore can use a small amount of low nitrogen fertilizer.

A horticultural oil spray should be applied during the winter to control scale. It will also get any overwinter insects or eggs that may be trying to get thru the winter on your plant. This purpose is what lime-sulphur was first used for, and some Japanese still use it, but the oil is safer on bonsai and may be used on evergreens where the lime-sulphur should not be used. However, do not use oil-based spray on buttonwoods.



By this time any tropicals you have should be under cover. Most do not like temperatures below 50 degrees. All tropicals should be checked and treated for any insect problems since any insects will multiply fast when they get into warmer quarters. Spider mites and scale can be especially damaging if the plant is moved into the house where the humidity is low.



Semi-tropical plants like crape myrtle, pomegranate and pyracantha need to go dormant to stay healthy over a long time but they cannot take much cold on the roots. They will be killed by temps somewhere between 25 and 30 degrees. These I set down on the ground and mulch for light freezes and then bring into a protected area for the colder winter. Sometimes I will let them go dormant for a month and then take into the greenhouse to start early and I can enjoy their new foliage in January.

Take advantage of low prices when nurseries are clearing out space for Xmas tree sales. You can sometimes find some bargains there especially if you remember that trees with broken/dead tops can make nice bonsai starter material. Look on the discard pile in the back. ✍

Auction Recap



The club auction last month was a great success in view of the challenges of scheduling and the weather. The profit was pretty good considering the low turnout. The rain didn't help matters much, but we did have about half a dozen non-members that were just making purchases at North Haven that morning jump in on the auction. We managed to sell everything except for a few reserve-priced items. As far as the Grand Total; the club pulled in \$4,058.30 in sales. \$1,865.70 is the clubs, with the remaining amount to be paid out to members.

Out of that grand total, our guest artist Peter Warren bid \$315. Prior to the auction, he worked on one of the junipers (at no charge to the club), which sold for \$120. He also donated back to the club about \$100 in auction items that he'd won, which can be used for door prizes at club meetings. Basically, Peter spent his hard-earned cash on our auction and was happy with the great deals that he got. And we got a guest artist totally paid for on donated auction items!! Not bad!

The evening round robin with Peter yielded four participating club members and an additional four as observers. Three of the trees that were worked on came directly from the morning's auction. We want to thank Peter for his generosity and for the help he provided at the auction loading and unloading trees and tagging auction items. We hope to see him again soon!

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By Sandi McFarland

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- 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.

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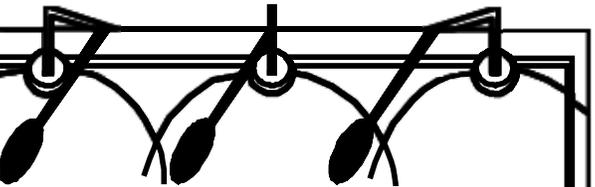
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BONSAI SOCIETY OF DALLAS

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 (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: _____

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Individual Membership: \$25.00

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