

Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly newsletter

April 2009

Message from the President

By Dave Schleser

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Hi all. I am writing this message a little earlier in the month than usual, since I will shortly be leaving for Arizona to celebrate my birthday with friends camping and hiking through the in bloom. (How old you ask?? Suffice it to say almost as old as dirt!). A highlight of this trip will be the ability to dig stunted elephant trees outside of Yuma, AZ on private land belonging to a friend. These are semi-succulent desert dwellers that easily survive bare-rooting and shipping. In my (c p f " I) opinion, any trip is enhanced by being able to dig trees!

Our Arboretum show is now a thing of the past. Judging from visitors comments it was very well received. Sincere thanks to all our club members that supported it by bringing trees, helping with set-up and tear-down and volunteering as show hosts. We could never have pulled it off without this type of cooperation.

By now, just about all your trees should be in full growth. This means daily pinching of new growth and keeping an eye open for the presence of insect pests. Be aware that some of the greatest hazards to our trees are not insects but the vagaries of the weather. Late freezes can be devastating to tender new growth and a sudden hail storm can easily inflict irreparable damage to your collection. While it is easy enough to protect your trees from a predicted late frost, avoiding hail damage takes a bit of advance preparation. I recommend that you consider building a simple protective arbor over your bonsai benches that is covered with 1/4 or 1/2 inch hardware cloth. I did this years ago and it has worked wonderfully. The hardware cloth cover also makes it easy drape shade cloth across it when the sun gets stronger.

I hope that many of you are planning to attend the Texas State convention in Houston April 17 & 19. These are always fun and educational affairs, and this year's roster of guest artists is particularly outstanding.

Several members told me that the trees they dug at the Whitesboro dig have started into growth. That's great news! We will have to wait a few more months to determine the fate of our collected Ashe junipers, as they take a long time to decide whether to die or start growing - sometimes as late as July or August.

Can't think of anything else right now; hope to see you at the April meeting.....that is, if I decide to come home.
Cheers!
Dave S.

PeoplesChoice Award Winner. Ashe juniper
2009 Spring Show. Photo J. Bonney

Drip Irrigation for Bonsai Trees

(or "Can a Gecko Water Your Trees?")

April Program by Mark Bynum

FWBS member, Mark Bynum, has been a Texas Licensed Irrigator since 1976. He was instrumental in introducing and designing drip irrigation techniques to Freeway. Mark and his company designed and installed a drip irrigation system for the first commercial vineyard in Parker County in 1979, watering over 5 acres of new vines one drip at a time. Since then he has installed numerous residential and greenhouse irrigation systems.

Bonsai trees present particular problems for drip irrigation techniques and will be addressed in his program. Drip irrigation materials and tools, and how they all work together will be presented. How to install your own system as well as how to expand your existing system to include other plants in your yard, such as hanging baskets, will be discussed. As a group we will discuss the watering needs of your trees and listen to other members' experiences with irrigation systems. You will want to install your system before the end of April so bring your questions for a timely and informative program.



Photo courtesy of M. Bynum

Bonsai Convention News Update



More than half the workshops spots have already been reserved for the HBS/LSBF state bonsai convention. The following workshops are still open. The remaining spots are *black pine* (4), *boxwood* (4), *raintree* (6), *tiger ficus* (5), *small jasmine* (1), and both *bring-your-own-tree workshops* (6). *Workshop, consider signing up* now. Full registration is required to participate in the workshops. If you have any questions, please contact Jo Ann Batey at (713) 914-9180 or jbatey@comcast.net. Visit www.houstonbonsai.com for a brochure profiling the marvelous artists and workshops. A registration form is included at the end of this newsletter for those interested in signing up.

Upcoming Events



Drip Irrigation for Bonsai Trees

April Program by Mark Bynum
Saturday, April 4th at 9 AM
at North Haven Gardens.

The Spirit of Bonsai 2009 State Bonsai Convention

hosted by HBS & LSBF
April 17 - 19, 2009
Houston, Texas
www.houstonbonsai.com

HBS spring bonsai show & Japan Festival

April 25 - 26, Japanese gardens, Hermann Park, Houston, TX
11 AM to 5 PM both days.
www.hermannpark.org

Growing Bonsai in the Ground

BSD May program
by Frank Kroeker
Saturday, May 2nd at 9 AM
at North Haven Gardens.

Link of the Month



This month is all about us.

Keke took at n " the Spring show and the March program and uploaded them into a r j q v q " c n d w o " q p " I Albums. Check out all the show had to offer!

<http://picasaweb.google.com/jbonney1430/BonsaiSocietyOfDallas>

April in Bonsai

By John Miller



Do the math! Bonsai is a study in mathematics. You start with triangles in the design of individual trees and forest plantings. You use the golden rectangle or Fibonacci series to proportion the tree and pot.

Powers of two show you the multiplication of twigs in a very short time with proper trimming. Fortunately, you do not need to be a math whiz to do good bonsai, just follow the rules and it will look good without you having to know why.

Most trees will do well in the full sun at this time of year. However, if you have had them in partial shade, be careful about moving them directly to full sun. They probably should be acclimated gradually. Too much wind will cause the leaves to burn. Some damage may not show up until hot weather.

Repotting for most hardy bonsai has ended. Very late budding species like oaks may still be done, depending on your local climate. I also do dwarf yaupon and olives then. It is still too early for the tropicals. They should usually be held until the night temps are in no danger of going below 60°F.

Going on now is trimming, feeding, trimming, checking for insects, trimming, shows, trimming. You get the idea. Trimming is that is the pinching, plucking or whatever of new growth is the process that develops refinement on your tree and is vital to keeping it from losing that desired state. This is not pruning, which is the cutting of branches and which should not be done when there is a strong sap flow (which starts when the tree breaks dormancy and continues until after the leaves harden or later).

A good organic program takes care of both the feeding and the insect problems. I recommend the mixture of 1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water. (A

commercial product called Garret Juice, which is to be used the same way, is made of compost tea, dried seaweed, water, molasses and vinegar. As a fertilizer this should act the same, dried seaweed versus liquid kelp as an insecticide.) I use the mixture both as a foliar spray and as a soil drench fertilizer. As a weekly foliar spray it keeps aphids and mites under control as well as any other insect I've had. The prime requirement is to cover the entire plant, top and bottom of the leaves with a fine mist sprayer (no hose end stuff). I try to drench soil twice a month partly because of minor elements it needs through the foliage.

Fungal diseases can show up with damp weather. Leaf spot can be serious on Catalpa and Chinese elms and on hollies. Mildew shows up later with warmer weather. There are organic fungicides available; two of which are potassium bicarbonate and sodium bicarbonate (baking soda). NOTE: do not mix these with the vinegar in the foliar spray. Check an organics nursery or publications for other items to use. A 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide (dilute the standard 3% store bought stuff with two parts water to one part peroxide) is also recommended but it can injure very new foliage.

Be sure to check your soils each day for proper water content. It is easy to assume that the soil has plenty of water when the days are cool or there has been some rain. It is too easy for a tree with full leaves to shed water outside of the pot or a good sun and low humidity after a front to dry the soil. I suggest that you remove most of the moss so that you can see and feel the soil in order to determine how dry it is. (Moss growing on the trunk or roots will cause the bark to rot also) An automatic watering system will be an aid but you should not rely on it to replace hand watering. Hand watering allows you to adjust the watering for each tree individually. Also, most automatic



systems use a drip system which only waters a small spot in shallow containers.

If you have early blooming azaleas, you should remove some of the buds. Most azaleas have way too many buds to look good when they do not have room to open fully.

And last but surely as important as the rest, if you want to learn bonsai, get to the Lone Star Bonsai Federation convention being sponsored by Houston this year. If you j c x g p ø v " t g e g look on their website n k v g t www.houstonbonsai.com. ☺

March in Review

Spring Show

It was another busy month in March, and what a great spring show! We had lots of member participation both with time and trees! We are getting faster, more efficient and are presenting a more appealing show with each passing year. The information cards at each tree were a bit hit and provided interesting tidbits that spurred many questions from visitors. The question I got the most this { g c t " y c u . " ð y j c v " f q g u " ÷ k p " v

Y g " j c f " c " e q o d k p Award this year n g u ø " E j q k e g " with both members and visitors casting their vote for their most popular tree. This year, Ho y c t f ø u " C u j g l w p k r g t " v q q m " h k t u v " y k v j " X c Kiyohime) as first runner-w r " c p f " U { n v a r k c ø u " to work with and get a chance to view and discuss the various techniques different members use to achieve the results we all desire." Check out some of the program and j g " Lemon Hill) as second runner-up. I took the time to r j q v q i t c r j " g x g t { " v t g g . " u q " O q p v j ö " v q " x k g y h e s h o w t . g " r j q v q u show photos" below! ☺

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this our d g u v " u j q y " { g v 0 " K v " e q w n f p ø v

March Program

For our March program, President Dave Schleser led an interactive repotting demonstration and lecture, fielding questions throughout the process. Proper tools, types of soil mixes and repotting schedules for various species were discussed.

For the second part of the program members brought in trees for advice from both Dave and John Miller. It was very exciting to see the types of trees other members like 0 " to work with and get a chance to view and discuss the various techniques different members use to achieve the results we all desire." Check out some of the program and j g " show photos" below! ☺



Trident maple and Catlin elm. Photo J. Bonney.



Sunday afternoon visitors. Photo J. Bonney.



Boon Manakitivipart worked on this Juniper at the 2007 state convention in Dallas. *Photo J. Bonney.*



Van and John answer some questions. *Photo J. Bonney.*



Visitors getting some one-on-one with Dave. *Photo J. Bonney.*



2nd runner-up. Lemon Hill Juniper. *Photo J. Bonney.*



1st runner-up. Kiyohime maple. *Photo J. Bonney.*



Prunus (Wild cherry). *Photo J. Bonney.*



Dave discusses key features to look for in designing a tree while John visualizes. *Photo C. Scholz.*

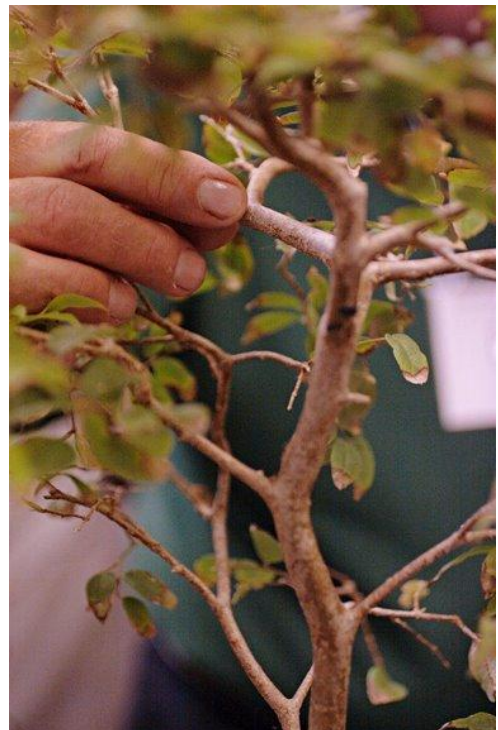


John marks branches to prune for James. *Photo C. Scholz.*



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. *Photo C. Scholz.*



Selecting branches. *Photo C. Scholz.*



Join the Spirit of Bonsai
2009 LSBF/HBS state bonsai
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The Houston Bonsai Society
Lone Star Bonsai Federation
Details can be found at
www.houstonbonsai.com



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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
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.

Sanderson Creek Bonsai
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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

LSBF/HBS April 17-19 2009 Convention Registration Form



Please make checks payable to LSBF/HBS
Mail to: D M Batey, LSBF/HBS 2009, 10239 Longmont, Houston, TX 77042

Credit Card Visa MasterCard Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____ (3 digits on back of card)

Card Holders Signature _____ Print Card Holder's Name _____

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Second Registrant

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

City _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____

Telephone (____) _____

E-Mail _____

E-Mail _____

Convention Registration Fees	Cost	First Person	Second Person	Total
Early (Received by March 15) Full Registration for All Weekend Includes Friday and Saturday dinners, Sunday breakfast, observation of all workshops, lecture/demonstrations, exhibits, and vendors	115			
Full Registration Received after March 15 for All Weekend	135			
Observation Only: Daily Fee to Observe Workshops and Lecture/Demos				
Friday	30			
Saturday	30			
Workshop Participation Fees				
Workshop 1 Friday 9-12 AM: Boon Manakitivipart - Japanese Black Pine	160			
Workshop 2 Friday 9-12 AM: Roy Nagatoshi - European Olive	175			
Workshop 3 Friday 2-5 PM: Boon Manakitivipart - Bring Your Own Tree ***	45			
Workshop 4 Friday 2-5 PM: Roy Nagatoshi - Saunders Boxwood	115			
Workshop 5 Saturday 9-12 AM: Boon Manakitivipart Brazilian Raintree	185			
Workshop 6 Saturday 9-12 AM: Mrs. Milagros Rauber Herrera - Water Jasmine				
Larger (4) Trees	190			
Smaller (6) Trees	150			
Workshop 7 Saturday 9-12 AM: Roy Nagatoshi - Bring Your Own Tree ***	45			
Workshop 8 Saturday 2-5 PM: Mrs. Milagros Rauber Herrera— Tiger Bark Ficus	135			
	Total			

*** Bring Your Own Tree Workshops will be held if the other Workshops are filled

Note: Workshop enrollment is limited to 10, so sign up early

Hotel:

Houston Marriott Westchase
2900 Briarpark Dr. Houston, Texas 77042 USA
• Phone: 1-713-978-7400

There are a limited number of rooms available, so book early.
Ask for the \$89. Bonsai rate.
For more information regarding the hotel see their website:
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/houwmm-houston-marriott-westchase/>