



# Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly newsletter

December 2010

## Message from the President

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. The cooler weather is here and I followed John Miller's tips and have my tropicals protected. And it was just in time too. I hope everyone has their collections sorted for the winter as well.

We thank Dave Schleser and Garrett Larson for an excellent program last month. I hear everyone learned some new tricks and how to use some of the advanced jin and shari techniques.

I am looking forward to our December meeting. We will take any final nominations to round out our 2011-2012 board. After business is taken care of, we will take a "virtual" tour of some of our members' gardens. James has put together some great garden photos from about a dozen members. Our members will discuss their favorite photos and give their perspectives on their bonsai set up. Please join us in the *smaller meeting room* at North Haven Gardens. The club will be providing refreshments for our Kolache Christmas Party, so bring your appetite. See you there!

Let's not forget that there is a tagging expedition to Glen Rose scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. This has been a fun experience to share with the Fort Worth club, and we expect this year's to be just as fun. See Mark Bynum's article on page 3.

December is renewal time for yearly membership dues. Dues help pay for guest artists, tools and supplies, workshops, etc. Benefits include lectures, workshops, access to member experience and monthly newsletter among others. See the registration form at the back of this newsletter.

Even though the Board is changing a few hands this month, we're working hard on next year's schedule of programs. Although there will not be an official program for January due to the holiday, we're looking into a bonsai buying trip and our annual club dig during the month. February will bring a repotting workshop and March will see us returning to the Dallas Arboretum for the club's Spring Show. As you can see, we pretty much have the first part of the year covered, but this doesn't mean we're not looking for ideas. If you've got an idea for a program you'd like to see, talk to a board member and we'll see what we can do!

See you Saturday!

Chuck

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- Upcoming Events & More!

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Has your address changed?  
Comments? E-mail the editor at  
[amy.james@gte.net](mailto:amy.james@gte.net)

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## Virtual Garden Tour & Kolache Christmas Party

9 AM to Noon, North Haven Gardens

### Virtual Garden Tour & Kolache Christmas Party

Join us Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at North Haven Gardens for one heck of a good time as we celebrate the season with kolaches and drinks while we experience a great virtual garden tour of a dozen members' gardens. Plenty of advice will be shared on how these members handle taking care of their bonsai. Snacks and drinks will be provided by the club.

**\*NOTE\* Our meeting has been moved to the smaller meeting room this month (our old meeting room) due to conflicting schedules with North Haven. (Same building as the bathrooms.)**

### Bonsai 101

At the conclusion of our tour, Diane will host our last Bonsai 101 of the year: *The Artistic Side of Bonsai – Part 2*. This excellent series of lectures has been focused toward helping beginners get up to speed and this session will be filled with more advice and examples from the more subjective side of our hobby. Please join us!

## 2011 Corpus Christi State Bonsai Convention

by John Miller



Mark your calendars for the 2011 convention in Corpus Christi. It will be titled "Gateway of Bonsai" and will be held on May 13-15. The convention hotel will be the Holiday Inn Emerald Beach and rooms will be \$99/night. The guest artists will be Ed Trout, Bill Valavanis, and Shaun Smith. All plant material is in-hand. It will include a previously unseen species of weeping elm (shohin-sized) the workshop for which will be led by Terry Ward. There will be a daiza carving workshop in which the stone and wood are provided. Also included are an exhibition critique, a slide show on suiseki and bonsai, and an "Emerging Talent" competition. That will take place on Thursday before the convention and will be a sponsored event wherein shimpakus will be provided for styling and each club will be invited to nominate one member to participate. There will be guidelines for who is eligible and the styled trees will be auctioned afterward. Also, on Thursday evening there will be an "Early Bird Reception" at which hors d'oeuvres and liquid refreshments will be provided.

## Upcoming Events



Saturday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 9–12 Noon  
Members' Virtual Garden Tour,  
Holiday party & Bonsai 101: Artistics,  
Part 2 (small mtg room)

Saturday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>  
FWBS/BSD Glen Rose Tagging  
Expedition (details on page 3)

Saturday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> – No program due  
to New Year's holiday

January – Club dig and bonsai  
buying trip; dates and places TBD

Saturday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 9–12 Noon  
Repotting demo & workshop

Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 9–12 Noon  
John Miller will lead a demo - TBD

Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>  
Club Show at the Dallas Arboretum  
(Details to be finalized)

## Link of the Month



A few months ago we all got to experience first-hand the talents of Roy Nagatoshi when he toured Texas as the LSBF Guest Artist for 2010. Now, for those of us wondering what his nursery contains (let's face it... we all want to know), Joey McCoy, President of the Austin club has come through with several dozen photos of this amazing man's work. Check it out on Joey's online photo album at:

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/9290304@N06/sets/72157624838189594/wit\\_h/4940273793/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/9290304@N06/sets/72157624838189594/wit_h/4940273793/)

Think of it as a "bonus" virtual tour destination.

# Tagging Expedition to Glen Rose

by Mark Bynum

The **Fort Worth Bonsai Society** and the **Bonsai Society of Dallas** will be taking a tagging trip out to Glen Rose, Texas. This is the same property that we have been to for several years. This will be a good time to enjoy the beauty of the land as you leisurely hunt for your perfect tree free from the worry of digging the tree right away. The plan is to meet at the gate on site at **10 am, Saturday, December 11** (see directions below). As we did last year each member will be given 3 official tags to use to reserve your trees for the **dig in February, 2011**. This does not mean you are limited to 3 trees when the dig date comes, but you will have at least 3 good ones to work on for sure. A GPS device will be a modern tool to use to locate your trees when we come back to dig.

At about noon, after we tag some trees and tromp around enjoying the scenery, we will regroup at the gate and head over to the Fossil Rim Wildlife Park and eat lunch at the Overlook Restaurant. It is not too far away and will be an exhilarating continuance of our enjoyment of the Glen Rose area. We will treat our hosts, Mel and Jim, to lunch. You may wish to tour the Fossil Rim Wildlife Park after lunch.

Another attraction, just west of Glen Rose, is the Dinosaur Valley State Park. If you have not been there, it is a very interesting 2-3 hour experience, from an indoor information building to dinosaur tracks in the Paluxy River. There is not much walking and many features are easily accessible by car. Even if you do not want to tag any trees, you are welcome to come on out spend an enjoyable day in the country.

*Note 1: This is a tagging trip only; however, you may bring tools to test the digability of your chosen trees. Wear proper shoes and bring a water bottle. A hat is wise.*

*Note 2: 2011 will be the last dig as a club on this property. This will be our 5<sup>th</sup> year out there and we are*

*running out of trees for a large group of people. Do not miss out on this final opportunity.*

**Directions:** The easiest route to follow is to get to Glen Rose any way you wish. Upon entering Glen Rose, take Hwy 144 around to the Court House. From the Court House, travel south on Hwy 144 six miles to the intersections of county roads 2007, 2008, and 2004. Turning left at their juncture with 144, take an immediate right on CR 2004 (this road becomes CR 2720 within a few hundred feet as it crosses over into another county). These are now gravel roads. Proceed southeast 3 miles to CR 2730 (no sign here), turn left and proceed 1.3 miles. Look for the first rock mailbox on your left; across the street take the first driveway up to the barns and the gate. **LOOK FOR "FWBS"** markers with arrows posted at key turns.

Trust me; these directions will get you there even if the internet maps do not show exactly the same road numbers. Watch the road signs closely as you leave Glen Rose. Mark Bynum is the contact, cell #817-437-8936. Cell phones do not always work at this site. ☺



Some of the wonderful Ashe junipers at the Glen Rose dig site.  
*Photo D. Schleser*

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## TTSBE Fundraiser "The Big Weigh-in"

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit is conducting a fundraiser in conjunction with the Corpus Christi 2011 state convention. The TTSBE is calling for each club to save all cast-off copper and aluminum wire (separately please!). It will be delivered to the state convention next May. Each club's collection will be weighed and verified. The club that brings in the greatest weight will receive a 24-inch bunjin pot! So please, when you're removing wire from your trees from now until then, consider saving it and donating it to the club for use in this great contest. Don't make the mistake of assuming you don't have enough to make it worthwhile. *Every little bit helps! Thanks!*

I will be sending out the fall TTSBE newsletter in a few days, so be on the lookout for more information from the TTSBE! — James



## December Bonsai

Tips and advice by John Miller

Usually not too much has to be done right now. That is, if you prepared last month and you have no tropicals inside to care for. The big thing is to know what temperatures your trees can withstand and to remember that **water** is very important in the winter time. If you did not get your pines and junipers taken care of last month, do it quickly.

Since trees do not use as much water during dormancy, it is easy to overlook checking on them. The low humidity usually found during winter helps dry the soil. Winter sun can be pretty hot and if it shines directly on the pot it will hasten the drying process. Winter will also usually be more windy. Therefore, however you bed down the trees, you need to check the dryness often. The same trees that needed more water during the summer will also need to be checked more often during the winter. I think that more trees are lost during the winter to having the soil dry out than from the actual cold.

Deciduous trees should not be placed where they receive winter sun. After a period of dormancy, daily heating of the tree could cause it to break dormancy prematurely. If that happens, you will need to keep it above freezing the rest of the winter.

Plants have different degrees of hardiness for their top growth and their roots. The reason being is that the ground acts like a large reservoir of heat, and here in our area it seldom freezes more than an inch or two down. Therefore, plants like pomegranate and crepe myrtle—which are at the northern extent of their range—can withstand light freezes when planted in the ground, but will only be hardy to 32 degrees in pots. Any plant that you are unsure of should be protected from freezing. This can be a tricky issue, because if they are not kept cool after they go dormant, they will break dormancy and start to grow too soon. And growing without sufficient light causes long spindly growth which you cannot control. My best solution for this, when I lived in town, was to have a long platform with two wheels that I used to pull half-hardy plants into the garage on nights where freezing was forecast and kept outside at all other times.

The cold weather will keep any insect problems under control outside. You should use a dormant oil spray to kill over-wintering insects and eggs. A dilute spray of lime-sulfur can be used on deciduous trees if they have no green at all, which will also control fungal spores, but be sure to *follow label directions carefully*. A spray of horticultural oil can also be used. You should watch for damage from rodent types, rabbits, squirrel, and rats. They will seriously prune branches and strip bark in short order.

Bonsai in greenhouses or indoor bonsai will need to be watched for the normal indoor problems. Low humidity, spider mites and scales are your biggest problems here. I use the same controls in the greenhouse that I use outside all year. Also remember that trying to keep the humidity up by placing your trees on a humidity tray can possibly give you some soil problems.



Look at the amazing root base of this *Acer palmatum*! Dave said he won the tree from an online auction site. You just have to be alert for deals. *Photo J. Bonney*

You can take advantage of the winter slowdown by spending your time getting pots ready for spring, cleaning and sharpening your tools, studying what changes you would like to make on your trees and so forth. Making notes about what needs to be done on an individual tree is

great, but if you are like me your notes and trees are usually a long way apart. Another idea is to place a colored stake or ribbon on the tree; that way you will see instantly which one needs what done. For example, use red for “needs repotting”, purple for “needs a new pot”, yellow for “serious pruning”, orange for “should be restyled”, etc. These can be put on during the year as you are doing general routine work.

Why don't you give bonsai a present this year? The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit is progressing, but could go a lot faster with more donations. Send a check to The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, Inc/13450 N. Highway 183m Suite #116/ Austin, TX 78750-3227. Join the Cornerstone Society with a gift of \$100 or more. Find full details on the web [www.ttsbe.org](http://www.ttsbe.org).

*[The TTSBE's website is down for maintenance as of this writing, so look for details in the TTSBE's fall newsletter,*

which I will be sending out in the next several days.—  
James]

[John Miller provides monthly care tips and advice. If you have any questions about what has been discussed here or a specific issue you're having, contact John or any other experienced member at one of our meetings.] ✍

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## November in Review

by James Bonney

Carving. It's a skill all of us would like to have, but often are too timid to try. Dave Schleser and Garrett Larson put together a presentation aimed at getting us past our insecurities and on to creating beautiful features out of what can easily be an eyesore if neglected. Yet, carving is about more than just aesthetics, and there are reasons why you'd carve for the health of your tree as well. This dynamic duo showed several excellent examples of each circumstance.



Just a few of the carving implements that Dave and Garrett brought with them. *Photo J. Bonney*

Dave and Garrett began by explaining some horticultural benefits to carving. The first tree up was a Japanese maple; not the first thing you think of when you consider carving. However, this tree had a large pruning cut that was in obvious need of attention. When making large pruning cuts, most people go straight for the concave pruners and call it a day. This may work on a small cut, but with a major cut—one that takes multiple growing seasons to heal over—this can result in a “flat” spot at the site of the wound. This is due to multiple layers of cambium being deposited over time. This can create a ridge at the edge of a cut. The cure? Make the cut with flat cutters and then use a tool (such as a dremel carver) and work down around the edges so that the cut is slightly dome-shaped. This way, a multi-year healing will be smoother and match the curvature of the tree better.



Dave discusses improving a pruning scar that is healing in such a way that it will be flat and ugly when healed. *Photo J. Bonney*

Next on the list was a bougainvillea in need of some aesthetic help. This bonsai-in-training had been chopped down from a much larger landscape plant, leaving a wound that will probably never heal over or look natural even if it does. The solution? Carve the chop into a hollowed out section that looks like it had happened naturally. The sticking point here was that there had to be a relief to allow water to drain out of the hollow. Any water collecting in the hollowed out portion would rot over time, compromising the health and stability of the tree. Dave and Garrett carefully carved out a channel that would allow excess water to drain away. They also talked about several ways to preserve and harden the exposed wood, including using wood hardeners and even wood filler for areas that need to be built up a little.

The last two demonstrations were on conifers; trees most often associated with carved wood. Dave and Garrett talked a lot about tools and techniques here. Some people use power tools, and some traditional wood carving tools. Neither is a better way; just different. The two brought along dremels, carvers, splitters, pliers, wire brushes and more. Dave even brought some old dental tools, which he says are good for working on very tight spaces. Both spoke at length about how to make your carving look natural; following the grain of the wood, using tearing techniques to avoid obvious man-made cuts, and how to use a wire brush to soften marks left by working the wood.

After the program, Ladd Kelley graciously donated a ficus, and some fertilizer for a raffle. Caroline and Diane were the lucky winners. Congratulations!

At 11 o'clock Diane and Dave led *Bonsai 101: Care of Bonsai – Part 2*. With the winter months upon us, a lot of talk centered on preparing our trees for the cold weather.

Many of our newer members were keenly interested in this segment and had many questions. Diane hit upon high points of many other topics as well, including trimming, fertilizing, repotting, watering, and positioning.



Garrett talks about creating a channel on this bougie for water to escape a hollow that they will create. Drainage is as important as the aesthetics for this issue. *Photo J. Bonney*

It was a terrific day. Thanks to Dave and Garrett for providing such an interesting and entertaining program on carving, and to Diane and Dave for helping our newer members understand more about how to keep our trees healthy and happy! ✍



Dave gets to work on the deadwood. The bougie will be much improved with this work out of the way. *Photo J. Bonney*

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**Membership Dues Reminder**

***Just a quick reminder that it's time to renew your membership for 2011. A renewal form as been included at the end of the newsletter for your convenience.***

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Initial carving is done. Refinement from here will take place at a later time using hand tools and brushes. *Photo J. Bonney*



Dave and Garrett discuss working with the grain of the deadwood to produce believable results. *Photo J. Bonney*



Garrett sizes up the design possibilities before getting after that deadwood with loppers! *Photo J. Bonney*



Dave refines a jin using the a tearing/peeling technique that produces more natural results. This can be done with your handy pair of pliers. *Photo J. Bonney*



A few minutes with the wire brush extension and the sharp edges become soft and weathered looking. Dave finished up with a hand-held wire brush. *Photo J. Bonney*



The results are much more in scale with the rest of the tree. *Photo J. Bonney*



Dave and Garrett recommend wood hardener for stabilizing deadwood and esp. for any deadwood that rests at the soil line.



Onlookers soak up the instruction. Could we have a few new carvers on our hands soon? *Photo J. Bonney*



Caroline wins a raffled ficus at the end of the program. *Photo J. Bonney*



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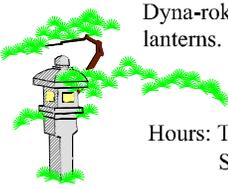
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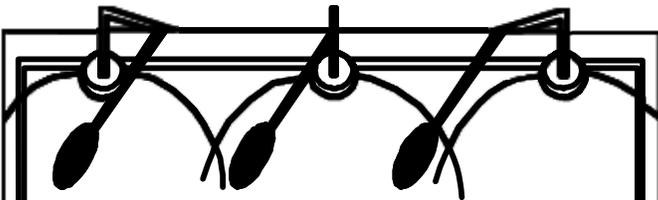
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- The Bonsai Smiths
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- Ray Hernandez's Bent Tree Bonsai
- Dallas Bonsai Garden

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 James Bonney at [amy.james@gte.net](mailto:amy.james@gte.net).



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# BONSAI SOCIETY OF DALLAS

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please mail to:  
Bonsai Society of Dallas  
P.O. Box 836922  
Richardson, TX 75083-6922  
Or turn in at any Club Meeting

The Bonsai Society of Dallas meets on the first Saturday of each month.

Time: 9:00 AM  
Place: North Haven Garden Center  
7700 Northaven  
Dallas, TX 75230

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

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

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

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

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership: \$25.00       | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Membership: \$30.00            | <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Include only my e-mail in the roster | <input type="checkbox"/> Exclude me from the membership roster |

For the convenience of our membership a roster is published for <b>members only</b> in March of each year. Please check the appropriate box if you do not wish to be included or want to limit your information.
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**Do Not Cut: For Treasurer Use Only**

### Member Receipt:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues received by: \_\_\_\_\_

The Bonsai Society of Dallas' membership fees are due in January. An individual membership is \$25.00; a joint membership is \$30.00. Memberships run from January to December of each year.

[www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com](http://www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com)