



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Message from the President:

By George Straw

Well, I think that our Texas hot weather has set in and the water company is smiling very big when they get my check. I spend my mornings and evenings in the yard with the water hose. The tropi- cals are loving the hot weather, though, and it is time to repot and work your tropicals.

The black pines are also ready to be worked and then you will be through with them for a little while as long as you water and fertilize.

We had a great time at Sandi McFarland's house, learning how to make pots for our accent plants. It

was a great workshop and if you missed it, you will be able to see the end results at the BBQ. We will be putting the glaze on our pots before the BBQ.

Remember that we will have a club meeting on July 7 and the BBQ on July 9. Be sure to let Sandi know if you will be coming and what you will be bringing.

I have some great news: THE WEB SITE IS UP AND RUNNING! Thanks to all of the help from David Quisenberry, Andy Ruthledge, and Howard Smith. Please go

in and check it out. You will notice that all of the 2005 newsletters are available online. Each month's newsletter will be added to the web site. We have links on there to other clubs, and bonsai related sites. If you know of anyone who has a bonsai related site and would like to have the link on our web site, please contact me so that I can forward that to Andy.

I hope to see everyone at the BBQ on July 9!



From the Editor:

I'm sorry I missed the June meeting, but we had a great time going to Washington DC for the World Bonsai Convention! I felt very blessed to see, up close and personal, John Naka's "Goshin," a gorgeous Foemina Juniper forest planting! I also highly recommend the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the National Arboretum - exquisite!! I look forward to seeing you at the BBQ on the 9th! Stay cool, everyone!

BSD Calendar

- Jul 7 - John Miller, "Beat the Heat!"
- Jul 9 - Club Barbeque
- Aug 4 - Shane Cary, Tropi- cals
- Sep 1- Club Auction
- Sep 17 - Marc Noelanders Workshop
- Oct 6 - Marty Klajnowski, Shohin
- Nov 3 - Yvonne Padilla
- Dec 1- Club Holiday Party

July Program By Daryl Le

Date: July 7, 2005

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: North Haven Gardens
7700 Northaven
Dallas, TX

John Miller will share with us his great knowl- edge regarding water, heat, and bonsai!

He will help us to un- derstand what plants need and how they re-

spond to stressful condi- tions - and Texas heat is sure stressful!

Please join us and find out ways to beat the heat and keep your bon- sai happy!



Other Dates of Interest:

- Sep 17 Shohin Society, 10am, Persimmon Hill Bon- sai, Austin
- Oct 7-9 Kathy Shaner at Per- simmon Hill Bonsai, Austin
- Oct 8 - Fall Plant Sale at the Fort Worth Botanical Gar- dens
- Oct 22 LSBF meeting 1PM Zilker Park, Austin
- Oct 22-23 FallFest at the Japanese Gardens at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens

July Bonsai

By John Miller

I've had several questions lately regarding plants looking sickly and pale even with a spray program to control insects. A few well placed questions usually lead to spider mites and maybe a scale buildup. The problem seems to be one of not understanding the ABC's of insect control. The fundamentals are the same whether you use a chemical spray or one of the organic controls. (1) You must apply the control several times. For spider mites, it is a minimum of three times on five day intervals in order to get those you missed or that hatched from eggs. If you go too long you need to add more sprays. (2) You must thoroughly cover the plant, bottom of foliage and the bark, as well as on the top of the foliage. Hose end sprayers are very inefficient in this respect. They usually have too large of drops to cover properly, they cannot be directed properly, and they do not mix the chemical evenly. (3) You must read the label to determine if the control is proper for your needs.

I prefer to use a pump-up tank sprayer. This unit has a short hose and a wand with the nozzle at a slight angle. Adjust the nozzle tip to give a fine spray, almost a mist, which comes out in a cone shape. This wand can be inserted into the foliage with the cone of spray covering both top and bottom of the leaf, and also covering the twigs and limbs.

When checking the results on your plants after spraying, remember that the spray usually will not remove the 'evidence' of problems. The webs will still be there after the mites are killed. The shells of the scale will be attached to the leaf or stem. These will have to be removed by hand, by a jet of water, or some other way.

A word of caution: Some sprays will damage plants in hot weather and others will damage tender new growth. Read your label.

Trees have enough problems trying to supply water to the foliage during our summer without having to feed all those bugs.

Check your water practices. I prefer to water heavily in the evening. That gives the plant all night to renew itself without losing most of its water to evaporation. Then in the early morning, they get a quick foliage spray, wetting the surface of the soil which may have dried out overnight. This was what I did while working since the morning task only took 10 minutes or so. Now, I still prefer to water heavily in the evening but the morning is done more slowly and trees given a little more individual attention as some of them do not need water in the soil. Be sure to do the double watering bit--water thoroughly and then, after a few minutes, water again so that the dry soil particles will get moistened.

When the humidity is low, I mist my junipers in the evening. I believe the story that in the wild junipers open their stomata in the cool of the evening absorbing any dew that may occur and close in the heat of the day to conserve moisture. The other species may get a foliage spray in the morning.

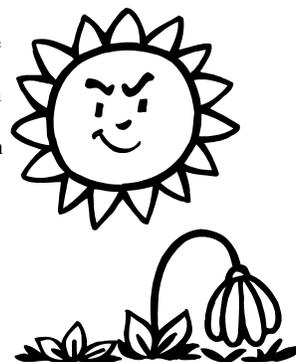
Many of our bonsai would do just fine in the full sun all summer long. However, none of them like their feet scorched, which is what is happening when the sun heats the pot (and thereby the soil) to temperatures over 120 degrees. Dappled shade would do nicely because the sun will not shine on one spot very long but partial shade (such as morning sun and afternoon shade) will not suffice when the morning sun is as hot as it is here in Texas. When you put some kind of sun screen on, remember to shade the pot as well as the soil. A light mulch on top of the soil will work great. Covering the pot with foil or putting it in a box made to fit will help but there should be room for air to flow around it. Old rags work fine also if they do not blow off.

Since the trees are in stress because of the heat, they are particularly sensitive to insect problems. The organic people say that bugs are attracted to plants that are in stress and will head there first. That may be true or it maybe that the healthy plants natural defenses keep them in check and you see the bugs on the stressed tree first. Whatever, watch for any signs of damage and treat for them. Sometimes the tree is almost dead before you notice the damage (e.g. spider mite damage on junipers). That is why I like the organic approach of using Garrett Juice. It is not only a foliar feed, but will kill the spider mites, scale and most other small insects, including bagworms.

The humidity in summer varies quite a bit but when it sticks around for a few days, look for fungal problems to appear, mildew being the most prevalent. Foliage spraying in the morning will not be a problem because it dries pretty quickly. Treat with potassium carbonate which you can find at any nursery with a decent organic section. There are several chemical sprays available, too.

I am feeding this year with a dry granular plant food worked in the top layer of the soil. I felt that the fertilizer balls did not stay wet long enough to break down and properly feed the tree. So far, I am better satisfied. Most recommendations are to feed the trees with fertilizer balls. Many are available commercially or you can make your own, depends on how many bonsai you have. Even with the fertilizer balls, I like to give a feeding with a liquid fertilizer every other week also. Chemical fertilizers may burn roots if the soil temperature (remember the sun factor) gets too warm, probably like upper nineties or more. Be sure to read the label for guidance. The change to a winterizing fertilizer will not take place until September.

You still need to visit the barber shop or beauty salon and get your top worked on during the summer. Your trees, too, keep growing and need their periodic beauty treatment. Keep the ends trimmed and the stray shoots cut out. It's not that bad when you can sit in the shade with a big lemonade and really enjoy being with your bonsai. That way you will have your tree ready for the fall show or you will be ready to enjoy it when the change of seasons give it pretty colors.



Need a Membership Form?

Please contact Sandi McFarland by phone at 972-438-9782 or by email at potter@pegasuspottery.com.

Rooting Cuttings by Jackie Paul

Basic cutting information:

Start with a cutting that has at least four leaves. Cut the bottom off close to the first set of leaves. Take off the first two leaves at the bottom and if you are using rooting hormone, dip the cutting in rooting hormone. (Rooting hormone comes in different strengths, available at Mellinger's mail order) Then put your cutting in your growing medium. I like to use perlite, it is sterile and you do not risk bacterial infection from soil. Also, on really tough cuttings, I use a product that florist use to arrange flowers. It is called Oasis (the wet form of florist foam) available at craft stores. This is especially helpful when trying to root some of the plants that are hard to root, like maples that are usually grafted (also, using the stronger rooting hormone gives better results). For maples, I usually take cuttings in the winter when the tree is dormant, December or January. Either store in a plastic bag in the refrigerator crisper section or go ahead and pot up with the florist foam and perlite. You have to be sure to keep the cuttings moist from this time until you pot them in perlite or soil (just spray with a little peroxide and water solution, the peroxide keeps mold from developing) I pot the cuttings about the middle of February, when the trees outside start to become active. Then I keep them in the greenhouse until they are ready to pot in soil. Always keep your cuttings in shade and be sure to mist several times a day especially after the foliage comes out. It usually takes about 6 weeks to 2 months for the cutting to take root. After you are sure the cutting has roots, you can pot the whole cutting in potting mix, the florist foam and perlite have no nutrient value, so if you leave the cutting in the perlite you will need to fertilize every couple of weeks and be sure the cuttings are kept moist. I leave the cutting in the florist foam, the roots grow right through the foam.

I do basically the same thing to root pines. Take the cutting when the candle has become fat but has not started to grow, usually about January or February. Cut off some hard wood, last year's growth, with the candle and insert in the perlite. I don't use florist foam for rooting pine cuttings. It seems to keep the cutting too moist.

Generous Businesses Give Discount to BSG 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

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 Sandi McFarland potter@pegasuspottery.com.



Pegasus Pottery
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*For more information, contact Sandi McFarland at
972-438-9782 or potter@pegasuspottery.com*

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Come join us for the Club Barbeque!

Saturday

July 9, 2005

7:00—11:00 pm

The club is buying the meat—the rest is potluck!

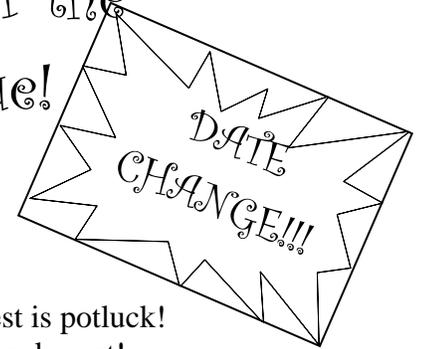
Please bring a vegetable, drink, or dessert!

It will be held at
Sandi McFarland's house
1405 Limetree Ln.
Irving, TX 75061

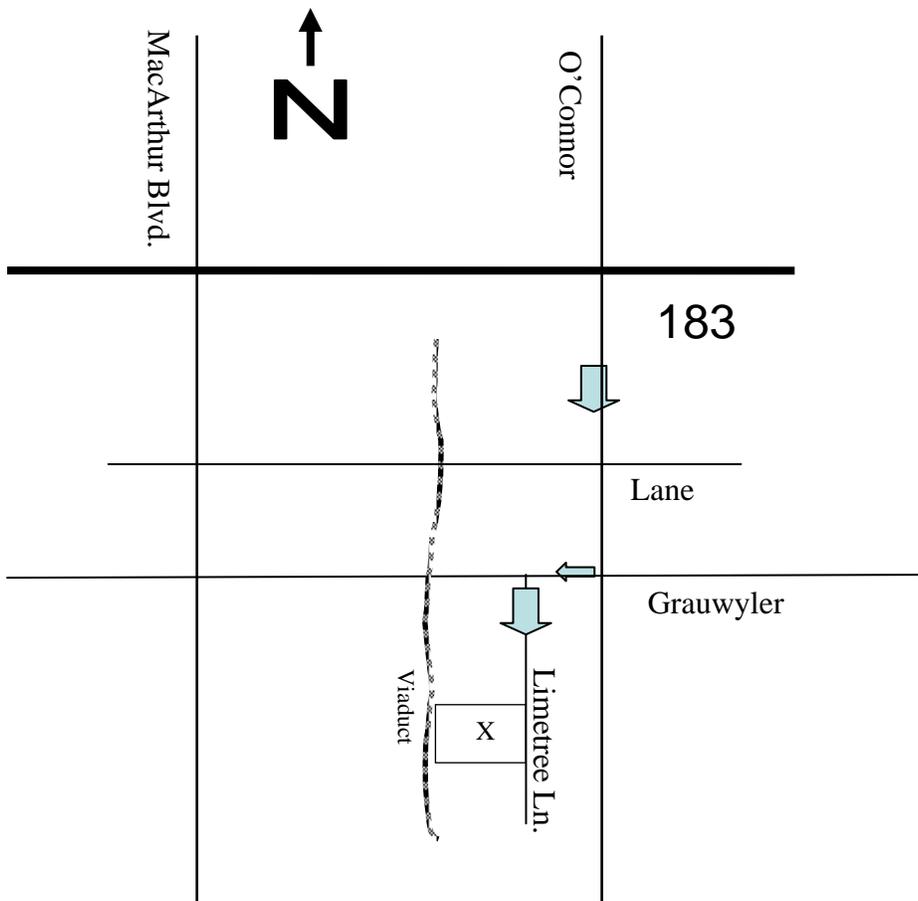
Please RSVP to Sandi and
let her know what you will be bringing!

972-438-9782

potter@pegasuspottery.com



*you are welcome to bring your swimsuit and towel and jump in our pool
for a cool-off!*



**MacArthur Blvd. At
183 is damaged and
under construction!
Please avoid that
intersection!**

Take 183 to O'Connor
and go South. Turn right
on Grauwylar (it is still
under construction and
will detour you to the left
side of the road, but it is a
two-way road there).

Turn left at the first
street, which will be
Limetree Ln.

Our house is about half-
way down on the right – a
red brick house with a
brick mailbox in front at
the curb. (It's the first
brick mailbox on right)