



# Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly newsletter

June 2007

## Message from the President

By George Straw

Well, it seems like the lull after the storm or should I say, "We can breath now that the convention is over." It was a lot of fun and a lot of work. I am sure everyone is happy that it is behind us. We will have a report at the meeting in June to let everyone know the financial status of the convention.

I would like to thank Sylvia Smith for searching for new officers for the club. She has done a wonderful job. We now have a new Vice President/Program Chairman – Brandon Smith, Secretary/Newsletter Editor – James Bonney, and Treasurer – Ted Colomina. I thank everyone for taking these positions. We still have the position of President open and need someone to step up to take that position. I am ready to step down for awhile.

We had some items that were won at the Convention that need to be picked up at the meeting on June 2. Paul Surratt has a \$100.00 gift certificate and some Japanese art; Ravi Sharma has a cedar elm. These will be at the next meeting so please pick them up then.

A special thanks to everyone who donated items to the raffle. BonsaiSmiths, Joebonsai.com, Dallas Bonsai Gardens, Jackson Pottery, Nicholson Hardy, Mas Nakashima, and Meco Bonsai.

It has been a great 2 ½ years for me. I have enjoyed being the President of the club and look forward to working with the new board and know that you all will give them the support that you have given me.

George



## June Program

### Beyond Pre-Bonsai

Conducted by: Howard & Sylvia Smith

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: North Haven Gardens

Date: Saturday, June 2

For June, Howard and Sylvia are doing a program on tree refinement that will deal with more intermediate stages of bonsai development.

Members are also encouraged to bring a tree if they would like the opportunity to have a discussion on possible future directions for it. Any time left after the main program will be devoted to these discussions.

See you there!

### BSD CALENDAR:

- **Beyond Pre-Bonsai**  
9:00am Saturday, June 2nd  
North Haven Gardens
- **TBD**  
9:00am Saturday, July 7th  
North Haven Gardens

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### BSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Straw, *President*  
[GSTRA@aol.com](mailto:GSTRA@aol.com), 214/357-3048

Brandon Smith, *Vice President*  
[bsmith@epicurean.com](mailto:bsmith@epicurean.com)

Ted Colomina, *Treasurer*  
[tedco2230@msn.com](mailto:tedco2230@msn.com)

James Bonney, *Secretary*  
[amy.james@gte.net](mailto:amy.james@gte.net)

John Miller, *President Emeritus*  
[bonsaimiller@aol.com](mailto:bonsaimiller@aol.com)

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

## JUNE BONSAI

By John Miller



Do you have ants in your bonsai? Some ants are after the honeydew exuded by aphids feeding on the leaves and will leave when you get rid of the aphids. However, if they are building nests in the soil, like my fire ants, that is another story entirely. The tunnels and cavities will prevent proper watering and result in loss of roots. After you get rid of the ants be sure to grab your chopsticks and work the soil down and eliminate any holes. You will probably need to add a little more soil on top.

This year has been pretty cool. You should still be able to leaf prune if you need to, but be careful, it could turn hot in a hurry. Remember do it only on healthy, vigorous trees. Put the tree in a semi-shaded location out of the wind until new foliage appears. Again never leaf prune the atropurpeum varieties of Japanese maples, they do not rebud but will usually come out again next spring.

When night temperatures stay above 60 degrees you can think about repotting some of the tropicals. I would wait another month though for the buttonwood.

It is important to continue the twig pruning of your trees on a regular basis. While doing this chore look at the tree to see if there is a need to do some refinement pruning. Refinement pruning is a deeper pruning to replace a branch that has grown too long or too big with a smaller one. This is usually done with the secondary or tertiary branches not the primary branch coming from the trunk. I prefer to do this refinement pruning on deciduous trees in the winter when I can see the branch structure. But on bonsai like the yaupon hollies I like to do it at this time when the tree is actively growing so that any winter dieback is apparent. Trees that weep a lot from cuts such as maples or pines should not be done at this time.



The extended cool and damp weather is good for fungal diseases like black leaf spot. Treat with potassium bicarbonate or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda). After the foliage is hardened a bit you can treat with 1% hydrogen peroxide (1 part 3% peroxide to 2 parts water) weekly. Warm damp weather will bring its own fungal problems like mildew. Same treatment.

Also watch for signs of insect problems. The spider mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, and mealy bugs. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and cider vinegar per gallon of water) to control all these. It also gets any caterpillars and even bagworms. You can use some of the other organic controls like horticultural oil or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully and DO NOT apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods.

## A Message from The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit

### TTSBE Looking for Directors

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit is looking for candidates to take up directors positions for 2008. The elections are to be held in November of this year. It is the hope of the board to involve candidates from clubs all around Texas. Members meet once a month and the location can rotate as chosen by the board.

Interested candidates may contact:

Els Ulug  
(512) 707-9742  
[eulug@yahoo.com](mailto:eulug@yahoo.com)

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit is a non-profit organization dedicated to expanding awareness of the bonsai art by creating and maintaining a permanent exhibit for care and public display of outstanding bonsai from Texas artists and others.

*Learn more about The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit at their Web site:*

<http://www.ttsbe.org/>



It does not do much good to spray if you do not do it correctly. Hose end sprayers have too coarse a spray and usually do not cover very good. All pathogen controls must be sprayed with a sprayer that has a nozzle which produces a fine spray in order to cover the entire leaf surface, top and bottom. You GOTS to get all them bugs or they come right back. And you GOTS to spray on a regular basis. Any bugs or spores hiding in cracks will repeat the infestation.

Even if the days are relatively cool the sun can still get the pots pretty hot. Not only does this dry out the soil very fast but the tree roots cannot live in a hot soil. A temperature I have heard given is that 120 degrees will kill roots on most plants. I cannot give you a precise to-do list since your backyard is different from mine but you should be sure that the sun does not hit the pots directly. If you use a cover of any kind be sure that the side of the pot is protected also. A loose weave cover is preferable to solid paper or foil. Leave an air space between the cover and pot and soil.

Most plants in pots will not enjoy a full day of 90 plus sun. Partial shade should be provided. A shade cloth awning is the best as it will protect in the middle of the day. A shade cloth on the west side will protect from the late afternoon sun. This is the worst sun as the temperature is already high and the drier air makes the rays more intense.



Get to know you trees like your children. Which ones use more water and which ones stay moist between waterings. If some are difficult to keep happy you can try moving those to a cooler location (but be sure they get their sunlight). Another trick is to group problem trees together so that you can hit them with a shot of water twice a day and not have to spent the time going through all your trees.

## Events of Interest



- **Great Tuesdays, Cool Thursdays & Children's Concert Series**  
May - July — concerts at the Dallas Arboretum. Call ahead. Seating is limited.
- **Concerts in the Garden**  
June 1-July 7 — weekends at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.
- **Longview Bonsai Society's Summer Show**  
June 22nd-23rd
- **Fort Worth Bonsai Society Annual Show & Sale**  
Sept. 29-30 — at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

## 2007 LSBF Convention Display Winners!

It was a wonderful display, one to be proud of. Picking display winners was hard, but here they are!  
Photos courtesy of the Fort Worth Bonsai Society.



Best Conifer



Best Deciduous



Best Tropical



Best of Show

## Sanderson Creek Bonsai

— 1634 Stella Street • Fort Worth, Texas —

Bonsai trees/soil, lava, pumice, expanded shale,  
kanuma, akadama, pots, Joshua Roth tools  
& Dyna-Gro/Dyna-Rok products  
all provided with a smile!



Hours: 2:00 to 6:00 pm Tues-Fri, 10:00 to 5:00 pm Sat  
**817-534-3220** [www.sc-bonsai.com](http://www.sc-bonsai.com)

## Bonsai Smiths

Howard and Sylvia Smith

[www.BonsaiSmiths.net](http://www.BonsaiSmiths.net)

[bonsaismiths@earthlink.net](mailto:bonsaismiths@earthlink.net)

Tel# (972) 392-1430

Fax# (972) 661-0694

• Cultivators of fine trees

• Collection maintenance

• Private instruction

• Classes, lectures & demos



## Pegasus Pottery

By Sandi McFarland

“Specializing in carved stoneware”

Cups, plates, bowls, etc.

And now creating small bonsai pots!

Let me make something special for you!

1405 Limetree Ln.

Irving, TX 75061

972-438-9782

[potter@pegasuspottery.com](mailto:potter@pegasuspottery.com) • [www.pegasuspottery.com](http://www.pegasuspottery.com)

*10% Discount to BSD Members!*

## 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](mailto:GSTRA@aol.com) or James Bonney at [amy.james@gte.net](mailto:amy.james@gte.net).

A decorative header for an advertisement placeholder, featuring a stylized branch with three leaves and three circular ornaments hanging from it.

## 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](mailto:amy.james@gte.net)

A decorative footer for an advertisement placeholder, consisting of a series of diagonal lines forming a striped pattern.

# 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

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: \_\_\_\_\_