



Bonsai Society of Dallas

May 2007

From the Newsletter Editor:

Well, this is my last newsletter! It has been an honor to serve as Secretary of the Bonsai Society of Dallas! Thank you so much to all of you for your help over the last two years - your pictures, articles and ideas!

I would also like thank everyone who helped with the raffle! Wow, that was some hard work!! I so appreciate Mark Bynum for taking the lead on the raffle when I could not be there due to work! Here are some of the wonderful folks who volunteered their time and hard work on the raffle - and please forgive me if I missed your name - I was out of my mind at the Convention and forgot to write down names, not to mention not being able to be there on Friday due to work!!

My sincere appreciation to Diane Lowe, Jackie Paul, Lance Williamson, Ladd Kelley, James Bonney, Paul Surratt, Mike Arce, Marjorie McAnulty, John Miller, Mark Hall, Karen Corbett, Van Davis, Tom Mozden, Steven Hendricks, Ron Kerley, and Gail Williams. And a special thank you to my friend Jackie Saunders who, while not a member of BSD or a bonsai enthusiast, spent all day Friday volunteering her time to help with registration and the raffle!

Sandi McFarland

Message from the President:

By George Straw

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with the Convention. I will not go into the convention in my message as there will be an article about the convention in the newsletter. This would never have been so great without the dedication of the Convention Board, Howard, Sylvia, Sandi, John. There were many long hours spent getting ready for the Convention and many hours when it was going on. I must not forget all of the club members that helped during the Convention. It was great to see so many club members coming down to help out, we could not have done it without you!

We do not have all of the results pulled together but will have that by the next newsletter so that everyone will know how we did at the Convention.

As you know, the new officers of the club should have taken over April 1. We still do not have a President or Treasurer! We need someone to step up and take these two positions. I have enjoyed my two years as President and my two years as Vice-President but I am also ready to step down and let someone else step in with new ideas.

The first Saturday meeting was held in April and they

had a very nice turn out. I was out of the country and did not get to attend. I have had some very positive response to the Saturday meeting time. I know that it will be difficult for some people because of work and I do regret that, but the rates had gone up or we had to shorten the time that we would meet. We chose to keep the time (3 hours) and so had to move to Saturday morning. This will also help us with the auction in September. We will not be rushed to get out of the building and may get shoppers stopping by to purchase things.

George

May Program by John Miller

Date: **Saturday**, May 5
Time: 9:00 AM
Place: North Haven Gardens
7700 Northaven
Dallas, TX

I will be doing developmental work on two collected dwarf yaupons to get them to their desired styles. One will be developed as a single trunk tree. The other is

to be developed into a multi-trunked clump style.

Also, if you attended a workshop at the convention, please bring your workshop trees to the meeting for "show and tell!" We would love to see your new artworks in process!

See you there!



BSD Calendar

Saturdays!

- May 5 - John Miller, Dwarf Yaupon
- June 2 - TBD
- July 7 - TBD

Other Dates of Interest

May - July - Cool Tuesdays and Thursdays concerts at the Dallas Arboretum - 7:30 pm
June 1-July 7 - Weekends - Concerts in the Garden at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden
Sept. 29-30 - Fort Worth Bonsai Society Annual Show and Sale at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden

May Bonsai by John Miller

Back home after the convention it will take a bunch to get caught up with things left undone. The new growth almost got away. My cork oak had 3 inch growth over the last five days.

For those interested in obtaining the native Wisteria that never fails to bloom, Ladd Kelly reported that he found one-gallon size Wisteria Frutescens in bloom at Calloway's.

In the Dallas area, May is the time you do the leaf pruning job **if** you have to do it. If you have kept the new growth pinched properly, you have been getting the ramification usually attributed to leaf pruning. The only good reason for leaf pruning is to replace foliage that has been damaged by wind or insects. On some individual plants that have large foliage, the new foliage will usually be smaller. Leaf pruning should be done after the spring foliage has matured and supplied the tree with enough nutrients to produce a good crop of new foliage. It must be done well before the summer heat causes the plant growth to slow or stop. I consider the very latest time in this area to be Memorial Day. Leaf pruning is done only on **very healthy** trees. The tree should be fertilized 7 - 10 days before the operation. Cut the stems of those leaves that have them (maples) or cut across the leaf about 1/16 inch from the twig if leaves are attached direction on the twig (elms). It will not need as much water until the new foliage has developed.



When the Azaleas finish blooming, remove all seed pods and do any reshaping that is necessary. You have 2-2 1/2 months (that is mid-July) to work on them. They will start setting buds for next year's growth at that time.

When the nighttime temperature stays above 60 degrees, it is time to start repotting the tropical material. Since there are so many different requirements for tropicals, I will not try to cover their individual needs here. But in general, I like to put them in shade and mist them until the new growth starts.

Warm humid days are favorable for fungal growth. Watch for mildew, and black leaf spot on elms and yaupons, among others. As an organic control you can use baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) or better, use potassium bicarbonate that you can get at a nursery. Hydrogen peroxide in a 1% solution (mix 1 part of the normal 3% commercial product with 2 parts water) can be used on mature foliage. It may burn tender foliage but its only by-product is water.

If you have insect problems, you will need to apply your control, whatever you use, several times. For example, spider mites may go through the cycle from egg to adult to egg in as little as 5 days. Therefore you should spray 4 times, 5 days apart. Other insects will have a different cycle but that schedule should take care of almost everything.

Aphids, spider mites, and scale continue to be the most prevalent insects. The foliar feeding of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar (1 tablespoon each per gallon of water) is all the control I use for them. Scale is the most difficult because it is usually covered with a waxy coating (the scale). You may need to use a horticultural oil mixed as directed on the label. Be sure that the directions you read are for summer use as some have two dosages given, one for dormancy (usually the first and strongest) and one for summer. Do not use oil on buttonwood or any other plant not included on the label. Please note: the commercial variation sold as Garret Juice does not do the same as the above mixture. Use it as a fertilizer only.

If you see damage to the foliage or the plant is not doing well, look for other problems and if you don't recognize the culprit ask your favorite nurseryman for help.

Start checking your pots to see if the sun is heating them up. Our summer sun shining on dark pots can make the soil temperature soar and kill the roots. Try putting your hand on the pot. Roots are living organisms and cannot take high temperatures any more than you can. Heating also dries out the soil making you water more often. Any number of ways of keeping the pots cool will work, the requirement being to prevent the sun from getting to them. An inch or so of air space around the pot is desirable. I do not care for the aluminum foil methods because I don't care to have the light reflected into my eyes. A simple cloth with a slit to go around the trunk works fine.

Remember all the work that you did in the spring? Keep the new growth trimmed so that you haven't wasted your time. While trimming or watering, check the wiring periodically and remove it before it damages the branch. If the branch springs back some, rewire it.

If you are not on a regular organic foliar/drench feed schedule be sure to use fertilizer cakes with supplemental feeding with a good liquid fertilizer, one that includes the minor elements. Most bonsai I see are malnourished. The liquid water-soluble fertilizer gets washed out with the next watering and the tree starves until the next infrequent feeding. There are a number of fertilizers in pellet or cake form on the market or you can make your own.

The following is copied from the Corpus Christi newsletter. Thought it interesting since all their collecting trips get "Texas natives." Just remember this applies to those native to South Texas.

By David Whitaker

We still need to wait a few weeks before repotting Texas natives. A safe rule to remember, when root pruning/repotting Texas natives, do it when the lowest temperature of the night stays above 70 degrees. I and others have had success repotting at earlier dates in the season, when we do it we have to give it all the things it needs like the correct high and low temperatures every 24 hours, the correct light and humidity. It's the same way you treat a "indoor bonsai" during the winter... Well, on second thought, we might as well wait a few more weeks to be safe. I try not to take too many risks. I really don't like to lose a loved tree. We just need to be patient.

Bonsai Tree graphic by Lee Madison © 2007

Convention Artists Hard at Work!

Photos by Glenn McFarland



Marco Invernizzi and assistant at the Saturday night demo



Howard and Sylvia Smith assist Boon Manakitivipart

Thanks so much to these wonderful artists (including Mike Hagedorn, not pictured) and all who helped make this year's Convention a great success!

Shane Cary surrounded by workshop participants



John Miller works with a workshop participant



Suthin Sukosolvisit during the Sunday demo



**Don't let this
happen to
your bonsai!
Don't let
mudmen drink!**

Bonsai Smiths

Howard and Sylvia Smith
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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 at

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Acting Vice President —John Miller, President Emeritus, bonsaimiller@aol.com
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Another Great Convention By Sylvia Smith

I hope all of you were able to make it to the Texas State Convention hosted by Dallas. Many people approach us with compliments like; “We had a great time!” “What a relaxed atmosphere.” “Great workshop material.” “What a lineup of artists!” “I had more fun here than at the World Bonsai Convention!” “The food was excellent!” So, if you missed the convention, then you missed all of the above.

George and I are still working on the final numbers but we know that the convention was a success. We had 1/3 more registrants than at our last convention in Dallas. The hotel room nights were completely filled and most all of the workshops were also filled!! We had a huge turn out from many places outside of Texas including Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, California, St. Louis, Kansas, Utah and Monterrey, Mexico!! Not to mention all of our sister clubs were also represented - Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Ft. Worth and Longview. Wow! I guess it pays to advertise nationally.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without all of the volunteers that helped this convention run smoothly. **Mark Bynum**, we couldn't have done it without your hard work on Sandi's behalf. Also, a special thanks to **Steven Hendricks, Paul Surratt, Diane Lowe, James Bonney, Tom Mozden, Mark Wegman, Van Davis, Mark Hall, Jackie Paul, Gail Williams, Ladd Kelly, Dave Schlessler, Ted Colomina, Lance Williamson, Garrett Larson, Ron Kerley, Timothy Phan, Marjorie McAnulty, Karen Corbett, Young Diep, Jerry Riley, Kyle Downing, John Wey** and our newest members **Ravi Sharma** and his wife **Niru** who spent a lot of time at the registration desk. We even had some non-member helpers, Young Diep brought two helpers, Sandi McFarland's friend Jackie was at the registration desk ALL DAY Friday and let's not forget to mention **Glenn McFarland** who was our official photographer for the event, Dan LeBlanc from Ft. Worth offered to help, Howard's secretary and her husband took pictures of the show trees for our CD sales, and even our friends from California helped out! A pat on the back for the Board Members **George Straw, the BonsaiSmiths, Sandi McFarland and John Miller** for a job well done. And thanks to everyone else who helped out here and there. I hope everyone had fun!



Vendor Room



Display Room

See the June newsletter for the Bonsai Display winners!

BONSAI SOCIETY OF DALLAS

www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please mail to:
Bonsai Society of Dallas
P.O. Box 836922
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Or Turn in at Club Meeting

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Amount Paid: _____ Membership Year: _____