



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Message from the President:

By George Straw

Well, we have had our first cold spell and if you live north of Dallas, you had better had your tropi-

cals in the greenhouse and their feet warm. Mine were starting to shiver a little last night. The buttonwood was in the house and very happy. I did what I say I am not going to do every year. Wait until the last minute to get my tropi-

cals in the greenhouse. December will be the club Holiday Party. If anyone would like to host it, please let me know. We will let every-

one know where it will be held. This is always a great time for everyone to enjoy spending time with the club members.

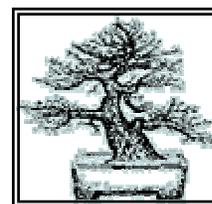
I am very sorry to have to tell you that Daryl Le is resigning as of the end of the year. There is still a year left in his term and we are not looking for someone to step up to that position. If you would like to be the Vice President/Program Chairman, please let me know. You will have lots of help so please do not worry about not knowing what to do. Thank you,

Daryl, for all of your help and I am sure we will have your active support in the club even though you have a conflict and are unable to be Vice President.

I want to thank John Miller for stepping in and doing the Shohin presentation at the last meeting. Marti had an illness in the family and was not able to come, so John stepped in and saved us! As usual, it was very interesting and very informative. Thanks again, John!

From the Editor:

OK, I know you're out there - I can hear you breathing! Help me out here, folks! I would love to publish some new articles! Got a great black and white picture of one of your bonsai or a picture of a bonsai that you drew? I'd be happy to put it in the newsletter! Please email them to me at potter@pegasuspottery.com! Thank you!!



BSD Calendar

- Nov 3 - Yvonne Padilla
- Dec 1- Club Holiday Party
- Jan. 5 - TBD
- Feb. 2 - TBD
- Mar. 2 - TBD

November Program

Date: Nov. 3, 2005
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: North Haven Gardens
7700 Northaven
Dallas, TX

Our speaker for the November meeting will be Yvonne Padilla.

Yvonne was born in Blanco, Texas, lived in the hill country for a few years then her family moved to San Antonio. She moved to Corpus Christi when she married her husband, John.

Yvonne became friends with one of her neighbors, who invited her to join a garden club. She has been in a garden club for over 40 years. She studied design and horticulture. In 1980 the same friend invited her to a Corpus Christi Bonsai Club meeting. Yvonne joined and has been active ever since. She has taken workshops with several bonsai artists from the United States and other countries. She has been chairman of four state conventions and co-chairman of three. She has conducted Lecture/Demos and workshops throughout the state, been presi-

dent of LSBF for 5 1/2 years and served on the board as an officer in other positions. At present, she is Vice-president of the Corpus Christi Bonsai Club and conducts a workshop each second Wednesday of the month for the club.

Yvonne will be discussing cascades at the November meeting and doing a demo in cascade styling.

We hope you will join us for this great lecture and demo!

Other Dates of Interest:

- Nov. 10 - FW Bonsai Club Meeting
- Nov. 25-Dec. 31 - Holiday at the Dallas Arboretum
- Dec. 8 - FW Bonsai Club Meeting



November Bonsai

By John Miller

Do you know that your bonsai soil hides a world of scientific mystique?

My new issue of Bonsai Today has an illustration in a book review that shows four different types of water in your soil, hygroscopic water, capillary water, gravitational water, and drainage water. For the most healthy plant, you need to understand all four types and provide for them in your soil. The book being reviewed was one I bought years ago when it first came out and I think it still is one of the best: *Bonsai, Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy* by Deborah R. Koreshoff.



Do you need to change the pot? Making notes at this time while getting the trees ready for winter will give you 3-4 months to find the proper pot.

It's been too hot to move the bonsai out so that I can spray the benches with lime-sulfur. I want to spray them to kill insect eggs and mold spores before putting the trees under them for the winter. I want to have enough cold to stop the insect activity on the trees so I will not re-infest the area when the trees go back to await the cold weather.

The long range forecast I heard was for a warmer and wetter winter than average. That really doesn't change what you do with your bonsai. It may rain every day for three weeks and then go dry for ten. If you are not watching the soil in their pots, you may either get root rot fungus or it dries out, either way--finished (for you beginners, that reads dead) bonsai. It is easier to care for if you have them under roof, that way you know you need to tend to watering.

BIG NOTE: The unusual weather we had this fall, a fairly long cool spell between several 100+ degree days, has stressed many trees. If you have a tree that is weak and unhealthy, you should not attempt to style it in any way, just get it happy by adjusting its soil, feeding, and getting rid of any parasites. Styling just adds to its stress and problems.

When trees go dormant which indicates a reduced sap flow, they may be pruned - that is, have major limbs removed. Trimming may also be done while the leaves are off the trees and you can see what you are doing. Evergreen types will probably still be active. Pruning them should be held until later.

The general wisdom is that dormant trees need no fertilizer. However, as long as the soil is not frozen there will be some root activity. I do not add any fertilizer to dormant trees but I will leave the organic fertilizer cakes on until spring in case they happen to get some good out of them. The organics will not break down much in cold weather anyway. Evergreen types (e.g. pines, junipers, yaupons, and live oaks) however, continue some activity and therefore can use a small amount of low nitrogen fertilizer.

Most important in winter is to keep the soil moisture at a proper level. This sometimes is hard to do because the trees do not use as much water as when they are growing. However the cold winds will dry out the tops quickly. I believe that most winter damage in Texas is due to lack of water rather than to low temperatures. Mulch helps keep the roots warm and retards evaporation but it makes for difficulty in seeing if the soil is damp enough. Most soils with enough organic material to keep the tree happy in the summer will be too wet if watered daily in the winter and wet cold means root rot.

A horticultural oil spray should be applied during the winter to control scale. It will also get any overwinter insects or eggs that may be trying to get through the winter on your plant. This purpose is what lime-sulphur was first used for, and some Japanese still use it, but the oil is safer on bonsai and may be used on evergreens where the lime-sulphur should not.

By this time any tropical you have should be under cover. Most do not like the temp below 50 degrees. All tropicals should be checked and treated for any insect problems since any insects will multiply fast when they get into warmer quarters. Spider mites and scale can be especially damaging if the plant is moved in the house where the humidity is low.

The semi-tropical plants like crape myrtle, pomegranate, and pyracantha need to go dormant to stay healthy over a long time but they cannot take much cold on the roots. They will be killed by temps somewhere between 25 and 30 degrees. These I set down on the ground and mulch for light freezes and then bring into a protected area for the colder winter. Sometimes I will let them go dormant for a month and then take into the greenhouse to start early and I can enjoy their new foliage in January.

Plan your spring repotting tasks so you will have the necessary pots and other supplies. Take advantage of low prices when nurseries are clearing out space for Xmas tree sales. You can sometimes find some bargains there especially if you remember that a tree with broken/dead tops can make nice bonsai starter material.

Need a Membership Form?

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



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- Pegasus Pottery

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