



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly Member Newsletter

Oct 2020

Message from the President

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Goodbye summer, you will be missed, hello fall! Kind of crossing my fingers that we are done with the high 90's. I think we have had quite a productive year so far, all things considering. We have enjoyed some amazing artists, a successful exhibit, and a lot of progress on our social media presence. But wait, we're not done yet!

I want to say thank you to Mike Lane that shared how he was inspired to get into the art of bonsai and how he learned from a great artist but still maintains his own style. October we will be learning from Andrew Robson of Portland, Oregon and I must tell you, I am excited!

On top of that news, we WILL be hosting an auction this year. As you can imagine it will be different, but I think still quite fun. You will be able to post your bonsai related auction items up to and for five whole days on one of the BSD Facebook pages (link to that page will be sent in a separate email and posted)! It will look and feel much like the other bonsai auction Facebook pages but with one very important difference, no shipping needed. This will be intended as a local auction; non-members will be able to post and bid however they must make arrangements for local pick-up. This venue will give each person the chance to fully describe and boast about their item and will give all of DFW a chance to bid on it!!

I will be the Auction Chairperson and will field any questions or concerns. Also if you are not familiar with Facebook, not comfortable on how to post your item or don't have a Facebook account but would still like to auction an item you can send pictures and information to me at president@bonsaisocietyofdallas.com and I will either help you with your post or post the item for you and help you with the arrangements after.

This auction makes up most of the club's funding and helps us provide great artists and programming all through the year. None of our board positions are paid positions so remember we all do this out of passion for the art and all funds go back to you the members. Again, thank you everyone for your patience and flexibility through this interesting year and stay safe everyone!

Joshuah Murphree

Fort Worth Bonsai Society

LIVE AUCTION

Saturday, Oct. 10

at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, University Drive, Fort Worth.

Additional details can be found on page 7.

September Program

Fall/Winter Deciduous Work with Andrew Robson

9:00am October 3rd, 2020 (zoom meeting)

Our guest artist for our October Zoom meeting will be Andrew Robson. Andrew is an emerging deciduous artist in the American bonsai community. Andrew recently completed a 3 year apprenticeship with Michael Hagedorn, after graduating from Yale University. Andrew serves as a member of the Portland Bonsai Village and has previously served as a board member of the American Bonsai Society. He currently exhibits work at the Portland Japanese Garden, and regularly lectures at the garden's Japanese Arts Learning Center. Andrew and his family are currently building a deciduous-focused bonsai garden, school and nursery, RAKUYO-en, just outside of Portland, Oregon. While some conifers hang around RAKUYO, the overwhelming focus is on deciduous bonsai.

The lecture will begin at 9 am after a brief update on bonsai business. Log in to the link provided and please keep your audio on un-muted. Log in to the link provided and when the program begins, we will mute everyone's microphones. We have been using the "chat" feature to ask any questions during the presentation that you may have. As always, we want everybody to have an opportunity to participate so hopefully we have made this easy for everyone to log on to Zoom via their computer or smartphone. If you have any issues, please contact anyone on the Board ahead of time and we will be happy to help you get set up. Remember that this is a video conference and we would all enjoy being able to see everyone and say "hi."

We hope to make this a very informative demo that will pave the way to future on-line demos and maybe even step by step workshops on-line. We really hope you will join us. Last month was quite successful and filled with good knowledge and we hope this month and each consecutive month after will be larger attended.

There are pictures available on his website.

<https://www.rakuyobonsai.com/trees>

<https://zoom.us/j/2262333815>, Meeting ID: 226 233 3815

One tap mobile: +13462487799, 2262333815# US (Houston)
+16699009128, 2262333815# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location: +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acdIY0oRTY>

Upcoming Events



- Oct. 3 Fall/Winter Deciduous Work with Andrew Robson
- Oct. 18-24 Online club auction
- Nov. 7 Study Group with Bonsai Smiths
- Dec. 5 Guest Artist Todd Schlafer

Events Elsewhere



- Atlanta Bonsai Society 2020 Fall Virtual Bonsai Show
<http://atlantabonsaisociety.com/wordpress/show-2020-fall-virtual-show/>
- September 20-27, Rocky mountain bonsai society 51st Annual Exhibition, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, Colorado.
- Oct. 8-11, 2020, Global Bonsai Seminars, the US National Arboretum, Washington, DC.
- Oct 10-11, The Bonsai Club of Utah Fall Bonsai Show, Red Butte Garden, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Oct 16, Paint Nite: Harvest Moon Bonsai, Austin, TX,
<https://www.yaymaker.com/us/tx/austin/25899/events/virtual-venue-your-device-austin-tx/october-16/harvest-moon-bonsai-virtual-event-10-16-2020-10258071/>

October Bonsai



Tips and Advice

By John Miller

Now is the time to start your trees toward their winter siesta. If you wait until the temperature drops, you get too rushed and omit some of the little housekeeping duties.

When the leaves start turning the sap has quit for the year and you may check the branches and twigs to see if any need to be trimmed. Remove any wire that is too tight; rewire if necessary. Cutting back any protruding branches will keep them from snagging and possibly breaking other trees when you put them down. Don't cut the buds off the spring flowering plants unless absolutely necessary if you want flowers next spring.

Remove the top half-inch of soil and replenish it with new soil. This will remove weed seeds that have blown in and will make next year's job easier. Of course, if you plan on repotting next spring it isn't necessary.

Do you need to change the pot? Making notes at this time will give you 3-4 months to find the proper pot.

For the beginners, plants like the cedar elm, oak, and maple that are hardy much further north can be set on a clean gravel bed. When the real cold (26 or lower) gets here cover the pots with loose mulch. Plants that grow south of Dallas, crape myrtle, firethorn, some azalea, need to have root protection. I let them get frostbit but bring them in before freezing. Of course, the tropicals need to be babied.

All this is basically talking about the broadleaf deciduous trees. Evergreens do not go dormant in winter. Some broadleaf types like boxwoods slow way down but still need sunlight. These broadleaf evergreens need the basic winter protection of deciduous trees but have a higher water need.

Cut back on the watering now that the temperature is a little lower but don't allow the trees to dry out. Trees require less water during the shorter days and lower temperatures. However, you need to remember that the wind can



still stress the trees so water by checking the soil and not just on a given schedule.

Pests on deciduous trees are not usually of much concern in the fall since the leaves are about to fall anyway. Scale must be taken care of with a horticultural oil spray. Mites can be a problem if we get a few warm days in a row. The organic foliar spray with seaweed (kelp) will not only take care of them but will be beneficial to the tree as well.

Insects will continue to be present on evergreens. Cooler days mean a resurgence of the aphids. Mites and scale will also still be around. Treat with a light horticultural oil which will kill the adults and also wipe out the eggs and overwintering pupae. Be sure to cover all the cracks in the bark to get to the eggs. The organic spray (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water) will work on evergreens and will also give them some nutrients. The dead scale will probably have to be removed physically. A soft toothbrush works for me (I sometimes need to wet the branch to loosen the scale shell).

Repot in the fall? The best time to repot is when active growth begins. The plant tells you that conditions are right and it will respond immediately. However, your own schedule, business or personal events, or other reasons you may have to do it. Repotting means new root growth and new roots are usually very tender. You will need more protection for them and watch your watering carefully. This year I will be

October Bonsai

Continued

doing some repotting during the fall and/or winter.

Take a critical look at some of your trees. As time goes on with only refinement pruning, the branches and twigs will grow beyond your original design. You may need to do some heavier pruning. No heavy pruning will lead to the lack of refinement and a top heavy tree with branches out of proportion. Do the rejuvenating pruning this fall and repot at the proper time next spring.

It's time to take a good look at your tropicals too. Before going into their winter quarters they need to be vigorous, pruned and free of problems. Give them a good feeding preferably with an organic fertilizer. If you use a water soluble type use a low dilution and feed every 2-3 days. Prune all new growth back to the trees best shape. Keep any new growth pinched to 2-3 leaves. Use your desired insecticide and/or fungicide now and again just before you take them in. ✍

Beginner's Bulletin Board

There are no 'dumb' questions when you are a beginner at any new endeavor. However sometimes begin monthly meeting. Got a question? Send it to Haiying at haiying_huang@yahoo.com for an individual response anonymously here in a future issue so that others can learn.

Question: One of my Cedar Elm trees completely dried up during summer. Fortunately, it leafed out when the weather cooled. Is there anything I can do to help it recover and prepare it for winter dormancy?

Answer: This situation can happen quickly during our hot summer, when the tree has dried out and the lack of moisture in the leaves caused them to burn and fall off. The good news is it on a Cedar Elm, which is native to Texas and should bounce back relatively well. The fact that you are already seeing new buds and leaves is an indication that it is recovering. However now is the time to be careful and modify your watering amount commensurate with the amount of leaves you currently have. Have you noticed the soil surface isn't drying out as fast as it used too? That is because it doesn't need to absorb as much water for so few leaves. Overwatering at this point is the danger. Watch the soil surface and only water when you see it drying out. Too much water may encourage root rot which would not be healthy for the tree.

As we approach autumn, it is time to prioritize fertilization for all your trees, including this one. Fall fertilization is even more important than in the spring. This is the critical period of time when you need to supply it with what it needs to develop and strengthen its vascular tissue to survive the winter and have the energy to push new growth in the spring. However, do not use a fertilizer high in nitrogen. Nitrogen encourages the growth of leaves and the focus at this time of year is to strengthen the vascular tissue and the roots. The nutrient value of fertilizer is indicated by a series of three numbers printed on its container. The numbers represent percent nutrient content of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (in that order). A fertilizer marked with 0-10-10 is perfect for this time of year for all your trees and should be applied multiple times over the course of our autumn season.



September Program Review

Tropical Bonsai Styling and Care with Mike Lane

Our September Program featured returning guest artist Mike Lane from Florida via Zoom. Mike's program focused on ficus bonsai and the "banyan" aesthetic popular around the world, including key points to the style, variations of the aesthetic, and other uses for ficus material. Mike showed us one of the oldest known ficus trees germinated by humans, a banyan ficus from Sri Lanka that is said to be from 288 BC, and a 240 year old banyan ficus, which is the oldest known bonsai from Taiwan! The slide show that Mike provided had examples of banyans in nature as well as bonsai from around the globe. He also presented a few progression examples and shared his tips for developing banyan style bonsai. Finally, Mike had a questions and answers portion while he demonstrated a root grafting technique on one of his larger ficuses.

Many thanks to Mike for once again sharing his knowledge of tropical bonsai!



Tip of the Month

Five things you should do to your bonsai trees in fall



1. Make sure that your evergreens and conifers get enough sun: they will still grow in the fall so they will need as much as possible. If necessary, move them to a sunnier spot.
2. Adjust your watering: in general, trees will need less water in fall but watch for the drying wind.
3. Fertilize them properly: the nutrients you provide to the tree now will prepare them for spring growth
4. Watch if the pot drains well: this will be a good indication whether a tree needs a repotting in spring or not.
5. Do a final pruning and wiring for the deciduous trees: after their leaves have change color, remove them, and then do the pruning/wiring.

October's To-do List

This is a simple monthly checklist for those enthusiasts who have the knowledge and skill required to perform the tasks listed. It is intended to tell you 'what' to do, not 'how and why' to do it. Want to know more? Send in any questions you might have or come to any monthly program to discuss further.

All Species

- Adjust location if needed with change of sun position
- Adjust watering schedule because of cooler nights

Deciduous

- Slow down feeding
- Trim to silhouette

Evergreen/Conifer

- Wiring can be done
- Light pruning and thinning on junipers
- Slow down feeding

Flowering/Fruit

- Light trimming to silhouette
- Slow down feeding

Tropical

- Begin to prepare for winter housing
- Topsoil changes can be done now if needed
- Light fertilization

Member News

Got news to share? Let us know...

Hope you and your family are safe and healthy during this unprecedented time. There are many ways we can connect with our members while staying at home. Consider posting at our Facebook page, writing an article for the newsletter, or sending suggestions for our future virtual programs.

<https://www.facebook.com/BonsaiSocietyofDallas1>

Link of the Month

Indoor bonsai care: you may consider bringing your bonsai trees indoor when the weather cools. The link below provides a detailed instruction on how to care for the bonsai trees when they are indoor.

<https://www.bonsai-boy.com/catalog/indoorbonsaicare.html>



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Workshop Schedule



Juniper Rock Planting
Saturday, February 22, 2020



Collected Juniper
Saturday, August 29, 2020



Japanese Black Pine - Session 1
Sunday, February 23, 2020



Sunday, August 30, 2020



Japanese Black Pine - Session 2a
Saturday, June 27, 2020



Japanese Black Pine - Session 3
Sunday, November 15, 2020



Japanese Black Pine - Session 2a
Saturday, June 27, 2020



JBP - Session 2b. Wiring
Sunday, June 28, 2020

All workshops run from 9am-3pm and are \$80 per person (lunch not included). Pre-payment guarantees a spot. Limit 6-8 participants. Workshops can be reserved by contacting Sylvia Smith at 972-754-9883 or via e-mail at sylvia3smith@gmail.com

Due to COVID-19 Restrictions, All Workshops at BonsaiSmiths Have Been Cancelled for 2020 Until Further Notice

Fort Worth Bonsai Society

LIVE AUCTION

Saturday, Oct. 10

at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, University Drive, Fort Worth.

\$1 ticket Raffle starts at 10am, Auction starts at about 10:30. All bonsai related items. Many of the Dallas members have attended in the past.

We normally have this Auction/Raffle in May. Due to the Covid-19 situation, we had to move it to October. Covid-19 protocol will be strictly observed at the live auction. Face masks and social distancing required. Garden personnel will monitor your temperature at the door. Hope you can make it. Info: 817-437-8936.

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 bring to any club meeting

Bonsai Society of Dallas meets on the first (1st) Saturday of each month.
Time: 9:00 AM

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Date: _____

New Membership

Individual Membership: \$30.00

Renewal Membership

Joint Membership: \$35.00

For the convenience of our membership a roster is published for **members only** in March of each year.
Please check the appropriate box if you do not wish to be included

Include me in the membership roster

Exclude me from the membership roster

Do Not Cut: For Treasurer Use

Member Receipt

Name: _____ Membership Year _____

Amount Paid: _____ Date: _____ Received By: _____