



# Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly Member Newsletter

July 2021

## Message from the President

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President Emeritus: *John Miller*

Oh July here we come, record temps in some states but here in TX not so bad so far. Please keep an eye on your trees, if they are outside, consider watering twice a day and now is the time to cut back on high nitrogen fertilizer.

Thank you, Howard and Sylvia, on a very fun and inciteful demo on your beautiful and iconic Ashe juniper. It was rewarding to see a tree that has gone through many phases, start to be re-shaped for its next phase of life.

This month we will be hosting Mr. Boon at the REI store in North Dallas! Do not miss this meeting. Because of the current CDC recommendations, we will be able to host 30 viewers in person but we will also have the online Zoom meeting up and available.

On to a different subject, as of today, I haven't received any tree submittals for the exhibit in August. Please do not wait till the last minute, if you would like to submit a tree let me know as soon as possible.

Happy Independence Day everyone!!

**Joshuah Murphree**



**First In-person Meeting of the Year! See page 2 for more details!**

# July Program

## Japanese Black Pine Demo and BYOT Workshop Boon Manakativipart

9:00 AM July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (REI on Northwest Hwy in Dallas and zoom meeting) (CST, UTC +6)

Our guest artist for our July meeting will be the incomparable Boon Manakativipart!

Although it was only a small juniper that started Boon on his journey, that tree would soon have a huge impact on his life and his future. He became fascinated with bonsai. Before long, he joined the Bonsai Society of San Francisco, the club through which he took his first beginner class in the spring of 1989. Anxious to learn as much as possible about bonsai, Boon studied with as many teachers as he could find in California.

Boon's bonsai skills advanced when he hosted bonsai master Akio Kondo, who was Kihachiro Kamiya's first apprentice. Later, Boon worked and studied at Kihachi-En (a famous bonsai nursery in Japan) and was an apprentice to Kihachiro Kamiya, a great bonsai master with multiple national awards.

In April 2000, Boon won the Grand Prize in the Kindai Bonsai Styling Contest in Japan. He was the only non-Japanese entrant in the contest. He has since won numerous other awards and recognition for his work, both nationally and internationally.

Boon returned repeatedly to Japan for prolonged periods of bonsai study until master Kamiya's passing in January, 2004. Boon founded and became the Sensei (primary teacher) of BAY ISLAND BONSAI, and started his business, Bonsai Boon, in 1998.

### IN-PERSON MEETING INFORMATION

**REI (in the classroom)** 5929 E Northwest Hwy, Dallas, TX 75231

Since the store doesn't open until 10:00 AM (and the meeting begins at 9:00 AM) entrance for the meeting will be around the side at the employee entrance near the loading dock.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance for this meeting will be limited to 30 persons. To confirm your reservation, **you must send your request by email to [bkarlson@gmail.com](mailto:bkarlson@gmail.com)** and be one of the first 30 to do so.

If we do not receive 30 confirmations, we may have to turn away arrivals if we get to 30 members who've already arrived. **So please don't take chances and send your confirmation now.**

### ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION

<https://zoom.us/j/2262333815>

Meeting ID: 226 233 3815

One tap mobile

+1-346-248-7799 2262333815# US (Houston)

+16699009128, 2262333815# US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aAGYadEKh>

## Upcoming Events



- Jul. 10 Japanese Black Pine Demo Demo and BYOT Workshop Boon Manakativipart
- Aug 7 Club Bonsai Show at Texas Discovery Garden
- Sept LSBF traveling artist, date TBD
- Oct 2 Club Auction
- Oct 10 LSBF traveling artist Mike Lane
- Nov 6 Bonsai Smiths Working Pines and others
- Dec 4 Demo and possible workshop – Jennifer Price

## Events Elsewhere



- Jul 1, 2021, Summer Bonsai Exhibit, Longview, TX
- Jul. 9-11, 2021, the British International Bonsai Show, <https://sussexbonsaigroup.wordpress.com/2020/07/03/the-british-international-bonsai-show-9th-11th-july-2021/>
- Jul. 17-18, 2021, Annual Bonsai Show, Cheekwood Estates and Gardens, Nashville, TN
- Jul 24, Introduction to Bonsai, Harrisburg, PA
- Aug 7, BYOT: Wiring — Bonsai Society of Greater St. Louis, Ellisville, MO
- Aug 22, Learn and practice the art of Bonsai using edible plants, Washington, DC
- Sept. 3-5, 2021, the 52nd Annual Bonsai Exhibition, Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society, Denver, CO

# July Bonsai Tips and Advice

By John Miller



July and August are usually the two most stressful months for bonsai in our neck of the woods because of the high temperature. To keep your bonsai as cool as possible, there should be no sun on the pot and soil where the roots are. Without going into a lot of detail some considerations you will be looking at.

1. Shade cloth. 40% for pines, junipers, tridents. 50% for less tough plants. 60% on the west side.
2. Water schedule. At 2 pm to cool the soil, at sundown to cool soil and refresh overnight, morning as necessary. This is optimum. You must adjust that schedule and soil mix to work with your schedule.
3. Soil covering. Chopped long fiber sphagnum to retain moisture also helps keep soil cooler.
4. Protect from late afternoon sun. Low humidity lets the full force of the heat come thru.
5. Consider foliage misting especially on junipers. Many species in the wild open stoma at night to take in dew. Some broadleaf plants do foliage feeding, usually for localized needs in the area of the leaf.
6. Keep insects under control especially the sucking ones - mites and scale.
7. Pot protection. Shade sides of pot. Use old cloth, shop towels, make boxes to fit. Some air circulation around the pot should be allowed.

We usually do not fertilize our bonsai enough. However during these hot days you need to exercise care. Slow release organics are best. Chemical fertilizers may burn roots if the soil temperature (remember the sun factor) gets too warm, probably like upper 90s or more, be sure to read the label for guidance. Most recommendations are to feed the trees with organic 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.

Also watch for signs of insect problems. The spider mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, bagworms, and mealy bugs. Preventative medicine is best, spray on a regular schedule. By the time you see signs of bugs, the damage is already done, especially from spider mites. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and 5% apple cider vinegar per gallon water) applied weekly to control all these. You can use some of the other organic controls or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully. **Do not apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods.** A hose end sprayer does not work very well, its droplets are too large and you have little control over where it goes. Use a pump sprayer with a fine spray and cover both top and bottom of leaves, trunks and all twigs. Most controls, whether chemical or organic, must be done on a regular schedule for good control. If you wait until you see damage it is usually too late.

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 and 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 soft toothbrush works well on the scale shells. There is no damage from this leftover evidence but it prevents you from seeing any new infestation that may occur.

Be careful when pruning the spring flowering species. They will set buds for next year's flowers in the fall. The Kurume azaleas set their buds in July and the Satsuki a little later in August. You need to find out if your particular flowering tree blooms on new or old wood and when it sets buds so you can keep it in shape and yet will not prune next year's flowers off.

# July Bonsai

*Continued*



Tropicals, buttonwoods, fukien tea, serissa, fig, etc., should be repotted during the summer while they are growing strong.

When the humidity is low, I mist my junipers in the evening. I believe the story is 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.

The humidity in summer varies quite a bit but when it sticks around for a few days so look for fungal problems to appear, mildew being the most

prevalent. Black spot will show up if the foliage stays wet very long. Foliage watering in the morning will usually 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.

If you use the Boon technique for growing pines, now is the time for removing the candles, earlier on bigger trees, later on smaller ones.

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## Beginner's Bulletin Board

There are no 'dumb' questions when you are a beginner at any new endeavor. However sometimes beginners are reluctant to ask a question in a monthly meeting. Got a question? Send it to Haiying at [haiying\\_huang@yahoo.com](mailto:haiying_huang@yahoo.com) for an individual response. Your question may also appear anonymously here in a future issue so that others can learn.

**Question:** It has been quite hot for the last couple of weeks. How should I keep the soil from drying up too quickly?

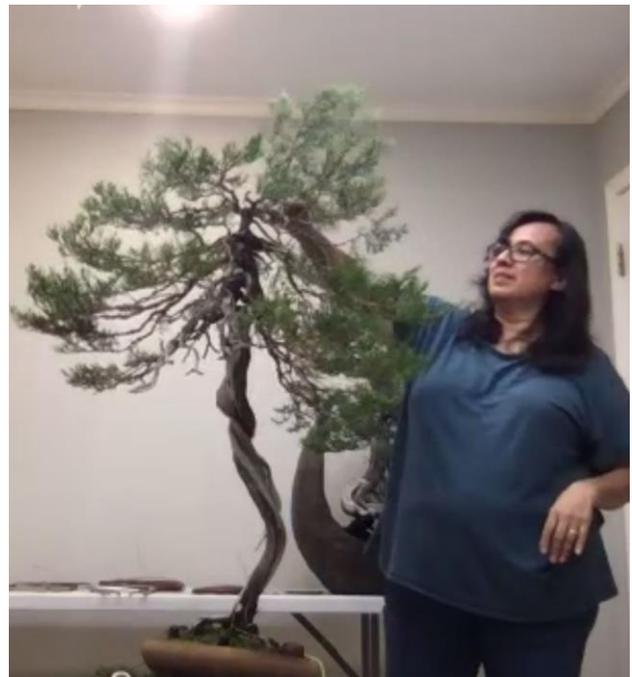
**Answer:** First, if you have not done so, move your trees to a shaded area or place a shade cloth above your bonsai bench. Pay attention to the late afternoon sun; it should not shine directly on your pots. Another way to keep the pots cool is to cover the pots using old T-shirt, bed sheet, etc. The cover should block the sun ray but still allow air circulation around the pot. To maintain moisture in the soil longer, cover the soil with chopped, rehydrated sphagnum moss. You may want to place a hardware cloth above the sphagnum moss to prevent the moss from getting blown away. An automatic watering system is a practical way to water the bonsais multiple times during the day.



# June Program Review

## Ashe Juniper Demo and Lecture with Sylvia and Howard Smith

Our June program featured the bonsai Smiths working on a prize-winning Ash Juniper tree. Sylvia started the workshop with the history of the tree and how it has been transformed over the years. The tree was a bit overgrown so the main goal of the demo was to re-style it. Sylvia and Howard worked together to transform the tree in front of our eyes. Throughout the demo, they also answered the questions from the audience and offered useful tips on styling ash junipers. Thanks, Sylvia and Howard for an excellent presentation.



### Tip of the Month

#### Set up a drip mist system for Bonsai

A drip mist system is a convenient way to water your bonsais during the heat of Texas summer. You can buy the hoses, fitting, emitter, etc. at any hardware store. Drip sprays in general work better than spray stakes and drip emitters. Place a mister every three feet or so to provide a complete coverage. For large bonsai trees, arrange the mister so that the water is directed at the top of the soil. With a water pressure of 30 psi or higher, the mist is almost fog like. This will wet the foliage evenly. You can also add fertilizer injectors to the mist system. Controlled by a timer, the trees can be left alone for one or two weeks. It is a good idea to check on it every day, though.



## July 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

- Begin to reduce fertilization regimen except on Tropical and Subtropical
- Continue to protect from extreme heat which may include increasing your watering times
- Treat for insects as needed; avoid using insecticides or chemicals during the hottest time of the day.

### Deciduous

- Cut back shoots and rewire branching as needed
- Feed lightly; do not let shoots become too strong unless you are thickening a branch.
- Light defoliation on trees in tertiary ramification.

### Evergreen/Conifer

- JB Pine decandling can be done on medium to large trees through July 4<sup>th</sup>; Shohin JB Pine can be decandled from July 7-10; wiring can be done within one week after decandling.
- Junipers can be thinned and wired as needed; "pinching" to maintain shape only.

### Flowering/Fruit

- Cut back if desired to maintain shape and structure
- Azaleas can be worked on through early July

### Tropical

- Fertilize 4-6 weeks after repotting
- Leaf prune for ramification (if not recently repotted)

## Member News

Got news to share? Let us know...

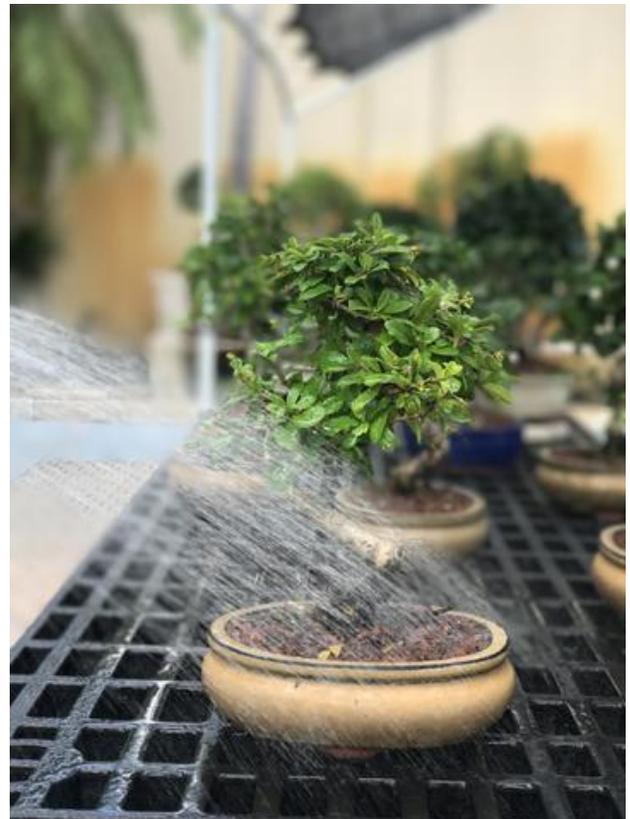
Hope you and your family are safe and healthy during this unprecedented time. There are many ways we can connect with our members while staying at home. Consider posting at our Facebook page, writing an article for the newsletter, or sending suggestions for our future virtual programs.

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

## Link of the Month

**Watering Bonsai Trees:** "watering bonsai trees takes years to learn." Really? How hard it could be? Read the link below to learn how and why.

<https://www.bonsaimary.com/watering-bonsai.html>





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

# 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 (1<sup>st</sup>) 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

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Do Not Cut: For Treasurer Use

Member Receipt

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Year \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Received By: \_\_\_\_\_