



Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly Member Newsletter

June 2022

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Message from the President

As many of you may be aware, the San Antonio Bonsai Society hosted the 2022 installment of the annual Lone Star Bonsai Federation Convention in San Antonio last month. It was a lot of fun, there was a lot of learning, a lot of workshops, and was a well-managed event. One part of the 4-day agenda was the annual in-person LSBF Board Meeting. Member clubs send their respective elected delegates to the convention and hold the in-person meeting on opening night. Since I am also the LSBF Rep. I'll provide more details on news from this important meeting in my LSBF Update in this Newsletter below. However, I'd like to use this month's "Message from the President" to discuss the biggest piece of news which came from this meeting (biggest in terms of impact to BSD).

The LSBF Board has officially awarded Bonsai Society of Dallas the 2025 Annual Convention!

This is huge news for us for many reasons. We last hosted the LSBF Convention in 2017 and it was a smashing success thanks to the dedication of the convention board and all the volunteers. Conventions ideally are profit oriented ventures which can help to financially supplement the hosting club's programs for several years after the convention. By the time you read this, the BSD Board will have an official Convention Board & started the initial development of the various categories of convention projects. There will also be a new section of the newsletter dedicated to updates from the Convention Committee.

Conventions are a LOT of fun and very useful & informational for bonsai enthusiasts of all levels. There are great opportunities for excellent material, expert instruction, beautiful trees from members of the entire LSBF Community of Clubs, great socialization, and much more. But a successful convention cannot be achieved by the Board alone. It takes the active participation of volunteers from the Club as well. There will be abundant opportunities to help as we go along and even more so as the actual convention dates approach. These opportunities not only assist in supporting the Club's convention, but also present unique opportunities to learn more about bonsai from very fundamental perspectives. From A to Z, no matter what you do, you will learn more about bonsai as a volunteer than you would think possible. So as we go along this journey together over the next 3 years, when a Convention Board member approaches you with an opportunity to assist, I hope you'll say "Absolutely, how can I help?"

~*Brian Myers*

LSBF REPORT

The Lone Star Bonsai Federation (LSBF) held its in-person meeting at the convention in San Antonio on 4/28/22. As noted in the “President’s Message” it was a very eventful meeting, lasting 3.5 hours! I’ll try to be informative, but brief. As always, if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask me in person or by email.

- Following the lead of Lake Charles Bonsai Society and Louisiana Bonsai Society, the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society sent an ambassador from their club to the meeting to express desire to join LSBF. A vote was held, and passed unanimously, to invite them to join. This is a large and active club and will obviously have a big impact on LSBF in many ways. Stay tuned for news on this as it develops.
- LSBF will be resuming the creation and distribution of their newsletter soon. I’ll be reviewing them for useful member information and may be forwarding them to the members if and when this takes place. Watch your inbox!
- 2023 LSBF Seminar – Ft. Worth has been officially approved to host a 1.5 day seminar (instead of a convention) at the Ft. Worth Botanical Gardens in June of 2023. The topic will be Shohin and Mame Bonsai. The featured artist will be Suthin Sukosolvisit who recently received “Best in Show” at the 2021 Nationals in Rochester, NY. Stay tuned to your newsletters for more info soon to come!
- 2024 LSBF Convention will be in Houston. They’re progressing on the details of their event. Stay tuned here for updates on this as well.
- 2025 LSBF Convention has been voted and officially awarded to Bonsai Society of Dallas. Our Convention Board has been established and will be holding its first meetings soon. **STAY TUNED FOR HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE AND HELP!**
- There are on-going discussions (with no defined actions yet) regarding
 - A defined Convention Support Committee and Convention selection processes and timelines
 - Ways to increase Presence/Branding for and awareness of LSBF
 - Enhanced Facebook and Website functionality
- The next meeting will be held in July or August so I’ll update you on those events as they happen.

~Brian Myers

🌳 JUNE PROGRAM 🌳

Join our local bonsai professionals The Bonsai Smiths! This is one of 3 opportunities a year we have to work with Sylvia and Howard. It is a great chance to advance a tree on your bench and get it on the way to being in a show. Now is a great time to make larger cuts, set structure, defoliate, and wire out almost all species. It is also the beginning of the repotting season for tropical trees.

The Smiths will be back in late Summer/early Fall for another round of work and then for repotting season in February 2023. These are the ideal times to bring the same tree back for more work with help from the Smiths. Of course you can bring any tree to any one of these meetings, but bringing the same tree each time to move it forward was the original idea. Please bring trees, tools & wire and be ready to learn!

Happy Summer & Bonsai On! ~ Scott



UPDATED PROGRAM SCHEDULE & ZOOM INFORMATION

| Status | Month | Date | Day/Time | Program | Topic | Location |
|-----------|-------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---|----------|
| Confirmed | June | 6/4/2022 | Saturday 9 - 12 | Bonsai Smiths | BYOT | NHG |
| Confirmed | July | 7/2/2022 | Saturday 9 - 12 | Wiring 101 | Wiring 101 | NHG |
| Confirmed | Aug | 8/6/2022 | Saturday 9 - 12 | Nursery Stock Transformation | Nursery Stock Transformation 3 Trees/3 Teams/3 Raffles | NHG |
| Confirmed | Aug | 8/6/2022 | Saturday 1 - 4 | Juniper Workshop | Juniper Workshop | NHG |
| Proposed | Sept | 9/3/2022 | Saturday 9 - 12 | Bonsai Smiths | BYOT | NHG |
| Confirmed | Oct | 10/1/2022 | Saturday 9 - 12 | LSBF Artist – Pedro Morales | Demo and possible Workshop | NHG |
| Proposed | Nov | 11/5/2022 | Saturday 9 - 12 | Annual Club Auction | Open to Bonsai Items | NHG |
| Confirmed | Dec | 12/3/2022 | Saturday 9 - 12 | Pot Luck and BYOT | Food & Tree Evaluations | NHG |

ZOOM EVENT INFORMATION (the same for every event):

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

One tap mobile: +1-346-248-7799, 2262333815# (Houston)
+1-669-900-9128, 2262333815# (San Jose)

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

Bonsai Society of Dallas & COVID-19 (IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE)

Without regard to any member's vaccination status, other immunity status, or other health concerns, and for the health, safety, comfort, and security of all members,

**Masks are required to be properly worn by
all members when inside the meeting room.**

**If you do not have a mask, one will be provided
for you at the Member Check-In Desk.**

We will do our best to maintain some degree of social distancing but that may not always be possible given attendance and table space availability. If you need a greater distance than exists at any given meeting, please let us know and we will certainly accommodate you.

May Program Review

Will Baddeley graced us with his presence and shared his carving mastery during our May monthly meeting at North Haven Gardens. He worked on a slant-style Cedar Elm with deadwood near the base and a hollow created at the stump cut. This piece will continue to evolve under the hand of mother nature—a remarkable demonstration.

During the afternoon, eight members had the unique opportunity to have 1:1 styling recommendations from Will. On Sunday, he gave a private six-hour workshop at a member's home during which he further explained how to make carving decisions and taught more detailed carving techniques. A good discussion and good time was had by all! THANK YOU to Will Baddeley and those who made this Texas tour possible.

~ Haydee



TIP OF THE MONTH

Below are summer tips from Bonsai Master Boon Manakitivipart, for Juniper & Ficus. (ALWAYS ascertain exactly what you have and look for any species-specific exceptions.) Although he refers to July, the heat of our Texas summers may make some of this work appropriate for June, as well.

**Before you work on your tree, you need a plan. What stage of training is your tree in? If you have a finished tree, you can defoliate, prune, wire, & cut back new shoots.*

**Juniper can be styled, restyle, wired, & pruned in July. After heavy work, protect it under a shade cloth. Fertilize your juniper moderately year-round.*

**Finished Ficus trees can be defoliated, wired, & pruned back. For trees in training, large leaves and long internodes are a sign of good health. It is time to wire new shoots and let them grow. Defoliating promotes small leaves but can weaken bonsai, and done too much can cause small branches to die. Defoliate only strong, finished trees.*



Boon's Postrata Juniper

Upcoming Events



- June 4** BYOT with the
Bonsai Smiths
9 – 12
- July 2** Wiring 101 – BYOT
9 – 12
- Aug 6** Fun with Nursery
Stock Transformation
9 – 12
- Aug 6** Juniper Workshop
1 – 4

Events Elsewhere



- May 26 – 29, 2022**
Brussel's Rendezvous 2022
Bonsai Convention
Olive Branch, MS
- June 23 – 26, 2022**
Milwaukee 202Two Convention
Mid-America Bonsai Alliance
Milwaukee, WI
- August 13, 2022**
Annual Auction & Raffle
Fort Worth Bonsai Society
Fort Worth, TX
- October 13 – 16, 2022**
9th World Bonsai Convention
Virtual for the first time
Perth, Australia
- November 5 – 6, 2022**
Fall Festival
Fort Worth Bonsai Society
Fort Worth, TX

AIR LAYERING WORKSHOP WITH BRIAN MYERS:

Thank you to those who have been waiting patiently for an update! Due to scheduling conflicts with NHG, we may need to seek a member willing to host the workshop. First, though, we need to get a rough head count. Please contact me via email to let me know if you are interested in participating. Once I have an idea how many are interested, I'll send out an official call for a host if it's needed. There are many trees for which it is still a great time to air layer and as anyone who attended Brian's demo knows, he has a lot of knowledge to impart and does so expertly. kristencumberland@gmail.com

LINK OF THE MONTH

Following up with the Tip of the Month, here is the link to Boon Manakitivipart's wonderful website. The photo gallery is incredible and the links tab leads to many fascinating other sites. Enjoy!

www.bonsaiboon.com





June To Do List

All Species

- Fertilize trees depending on species' needs
- Protect from extreme heat
- Check wire requirements
- Treat for insects as needed

Deciduous

- Cut back shoots and rewire branches
- Feed moderately throughout summer months

Evergreen/Conifer

- Decandle medium to large Japanese Black Pine beginning at the end of the month. Other pines are treated according to species and cork-bark black pines are decandled every other year. Wire, if needed, within one week of decandling.
- Junipers can be thinned and wired as needed, "pinching" on refined trees to maintain shape

Flowering/Fruit

- Cut long shoots & wire trees at the end of month to set flowers for the following year
- Thin Azaleas to two leaf buds on strong areas and three leaf buds otherwise; whirls should be trimmed to two side branches
- Refrain from more pruning until late June

Tropical

- Continue repotting through first week in June

Beginner's Bulletin Board

There are no 'dumb' questions when you're a beginner!

Send your question to kristencumberland@gmail.com.

Question:

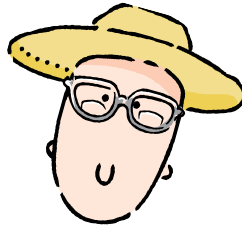
What is meant by reverse taper and what causes it?

Answer by Diane:

With bonsai we are constantly working to create the right proportion of taper within each tree. This is critically important in order to create the illusion of a large, old, beautiful tree. Taper must appear in our trunks (wider at the base and narrower at the top) and also in the branches (wider near the trunk and narrower at the tips) to give the viewer that image of an old tree. This applies to the entire branch structure, to include secondary, tertiary, etc. branches. We must create this taper in the overall space envisioned for your 'finished' tree. Reverse taper is when the trunk or branch taper actually gets thicker, instead of thinner, as it extends upward or outward. It is a very undesirable development. It happens when multiple leaves/branches emerge and grow in the same area. The more branches, the faster the reverse taper develops.

June Bonsai Tips and Advice

by John Miller



If you think you need to leaf prune, you probably can still do it but be careful, it could turn hot in a hurry. Never leaf prune the atropurpeum varieties of Japanese maples, they don't rebud very well. When night temperatures stay above 60 degrees you can replot your tropicals, although not any buttonwoods.

Some tropicals can be leaf pruned all summer. The *Ficus nerifolia* especially benefits by leaf pruning and can be done more than once each summer. That will develop the heavy twiginess you see in the *Ficus* bonsai from the Far East.

As the summer progresses the growth of deciduous trees slows. But still, keep an eye out for errant shoots. Keeping a clipper with you when watering will let you take care of most of them. Just like in the spring a shoot too long will over-thicken the twig. Pruning is now largely transferred to the tropicals.

Tip pinching on some flowering species like crape myrtle will result in fewer flowers but if you don't they get out of shape. I balance the flower/ design question by pinching early. This provides more growing tips to divide the energy and the resulting flower is shorter. Less showy but more in scale.

Also if you have fruiting bonsai, you should reduce the number of fruit on the tree. The number one goal of the tree is to provide seeds for reproduction and it will starve itself in order to do so. Again, most fruit are too large to look good on a bonsai

You may think the days are cool but the sun can make pots pretty hot. Not only does this dry out the soil fast but the tree roots do not like hot soil. Afternoon shade helps the foliage but morning sun can heat up the pot, so be sure that the sun does not hit the pots directly. A solid cover on the soil is not very desirable as it makes it hard to water. Long fiber moss on the surface will protect the soil and let water get thru.

Cloth on top of the moss would work and can be extended out to protect the sides of the pot. Aluminum foil has been used and some have built wooden boxes the same size as the pot to set the bonsai in but these are not desirable techniques as they do not leave any air space.

Get to know your 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 these together so that you can hit them with a shot of water twice a day and not have to spend the time going thru all your trees.

Extended damp weather (if we have it) is good for fungal diseases like black leaf spot and mildew. Treat weekly with potassium hydroxide, or sodium hydroxide (baking soda), or a 1% hydrogen peroxide.

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 fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and cider vinegar per gallon of water) to control all these. You can use some of the other organic controls or a chemical according to label directions. Always read the label directions and never apply oil-based chemicals to buttonwoods.

If ants, or any other creature, are building nests in the soil, 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.

The best way to fertilize bonsai is by using fertilizer cakes. The cakes provide a slow constant feeding each time you water. Cakes made with a cottonseed base will provide as acid ph when they break down which we need in any city water system I know of. Making your own is easy and much cheaper than buying them. I use chemical fertilizers such as Miracid or Peters a couple of times a month also. My main problem with chemicals is not knowing how many bad salts may accumulate in the soil and also in knowing that each time I water I am washing the chemicals out on the ground and potentially into our groundwater.

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: _____