



# Bonsai Society of Dallas

Monthly Member Newsletter

March 2023

## March Issue Highlights

- Message from the President
- March Program
- March Bonsai Tips
- Updated Program Schedule

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## Message from the President

Hi everyone and sorry for the late delivery. We've had a very busy February both from a club perspective and personally.

There are four key items to share with you this month so I'll try to be brief on each point.

First, this month is our big repotting extravaganza. It seems like Spring has sprung early for us. So, if your collection is anything like mine, you probably already have some (maybe a lot) of trees budding out like crazy. Don't let that alarm you too much about repotting. Yes, we prefer to repot most trees before they bud out but that doesn't necessarily have to be a hard/fast rule. After care is the main key and this will give us an opportunity to focus on that important aspect. Be sure to bring a tree or two with all your tools, soil, pots, wire and other supplies and be ready to learn and get things done for your trees. Also, this event is primarily for deciduous and conifer trees. We'll be holding a separate tropical tree event later this year at the proper time for tropics.

Second, next month is our annual spring bonsai show. Be looking for more information coming soon by email, on Facebook, and on the website. This year's show will again be chaired by our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Kristen, as well as a big support back-up by Jules Alegria. If you have trees you'd like to get ready for the show but need some final tweaking or advice, you could also bring them to this month's meeting as well.

Third, our membership renewal drive for 2023 officially ends on 2/28/23. If you haven't yet renewed, you can do so at this Saturday's meeting. But after that, the membership benefits renewal grace period will end. This year's renewal drive has been pretty successful but alas there are still 13 members who have not yet renewed or informed us of their intentions. Still, that's a relatively small percentage compared to previous years so we'll take that as a win!

And finally, this year's LSBF event is scheduled for June in Fort Worth. This year's focus is on tiny trees, Shohin and Mame. Suthin Sukosolvisit will be present and will host workshops and lectures. Registration information is scheduled to go live 3/1/23 and more information will be sent by email, Facebook, and on the website. In a state the size of Texas, it is not common for us in Dallas to have an LSBF event so close to us so I hope we'll all be excited to get the most out of this. Also, because the Fort Worth Society is our sister-club, we'll need to provide some volunteers to help support that event.

~Brian Myers

## UPDATED PROGRAM SCHEDULE & ZOOM INFORMATION

Status	Month	Date	Day/Time	Program	Topic	Location
Confirmed	Mar	3/4/2023	Saturday 9 - 12	BYOT	Repotting	NHG
Confirmed	Apr	4/1/2023	Sat – Sun TBD	Spring Show	Annual Spring Bonsai Show	NHG
Confirmed	May	5/6/2023	Saturday 9 - 12	Brian Myers	Airlayering Workshop	NHG
TBD	June	6/3/2023	Saturday 9 - 12	TBD	TBD	NHG
Proposed	July	7/1/2023	Saturday 9 - 12	Julian Tsai Demo	Julian Tsai Demo	NHG
Proposed	July	7/1/2023	Saturday 1 - 4	Julian Tsai Workshop	Julian Tsai Workshop	NHG
Confirmed	Aug	8/5/2023	Saturday 9 - 12	BYOT	Tropicals	NHG
Confirmed	Sept	9/2/2023	Saturday 9 - 12	Brian Myers	Airlayer Severing Demo	NHG
Confirmed	Oct	10/7/2023	Saturday 9 - 12	Auction	Annual Club Auction	NHG
Confirmed	Oct	10/15/2023	Sunday 9 - 12	Jim Doyle Demo	Jim Doyle Demo	NHG
Confirmed	Oct	10/15/2023	Sunday 1 - 4	Jim Doyle Workshop	Jim Doyle Workshop	NHG
Confirmed	Nov	11/4/2023	Saturday 9 - 12	TBD & Elections	TBD & Board Elections	NHG
Confirmed	Dec	12/2/2023	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>

### **BOOST YOUR BONSAI BUSINESS BY PLACING AN AD HERE!**

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- **Half Page Size:** \$25.00 per month or \$250 per year if paid in full in advance.
- **Full Page Size:** \$40.00 or \$400 per year if paid in full in advance.

## MARCH MEETING

The March meeting is our big repotting extravaganza! Spring has sprung early and you probably already have some (maybe a lot) of trees budding out like crazy.

Repotting trees before they bud out is not always a hard/fast rule. After care is the main key and this will give us an opportunity to focus on that important aspect. Be sure to bring a tree or two with all your tools, soil, pots, wire and other supplies and be ready to learn and get things done for your trees. Also, this event is primarily for deciduous and conifer trees

## BonsaiMinh

Premium (APL) Bonsai Soil premix 1-1-1 Particle size 3/16" All sifted clean little to no dust and ready to use. Other bonsai supplies are also available - See list and price below. Please text or call Mike at 469 422 2523 and I am local in Carrollton.

5 Gal bucket - 68.00

3.5 Gal Box - 48.00

Japanese Ruysen Akadama 14 Liter bag size Small - 48.00

Japanese Grand Akadama 14 Liter bag size Small - 45.00

Japanese Hirota Kanuma 14 Liter bag size Small - 46.00

Black Lava (3/16") 30 lbs bag - 35.00

US Pumice (3/16") 4 Gal bag - 30.00

Biogold Fertilizer (NPK 4-5-4) 5kg/11 lbs bag - 95.00 or 1.0 lbs bag 12.00

Tamahi Fertilizer Cake (NPK 5-4-1) - 1.0 lbs bag - 10.00



## LSBF Report Part 1 of 2

This is an abbreviated report on the last quarterly LSBF meeting. Abbreviated because the LSBF Secretary has not yet sent the meeting minutes. I do know some details which are important to include for this month's newsletter.

### LSBF Convention Committee (definition and process):

AT LONG LAST Mark Bynum and I were finally able to push through/get ratified a verifiable process for LSBF's Convention selection processes, support, and reporting. This took well over a year in the development/debate/compromise process but it's finally done and approved by a 9-1 vote. San Antonio dissented because "old ways worked fine."

### 2023 LSBF Convention (Seminar/mini-convention) in Fort Worth:

You'll find an advertisement in this month's newsletter.

The online registration and hard copy registration packets will be coming soon.

We (BSD) have ownership of some key elements of this event and look for more information to come by mail soon.

~LSBF Representative – Brian Myers

## 2023 LSBF Seminar in Fort Worth in June '23

This year's LSBF Convention will actually be a seminar in Fort Worth this coming June. Registration information will be coming soon...



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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,

*BSD strongly suggests face masks be worn, and properly fitted,  
by all members when inside the meeting room.*

If you don't have a mask, and want one, please ask at the Member Check-in Desk and one will be provided for you. We will do our best to maintain some degree of social distancing, depending upon seating arrangements & table space availability. If you prefer greater distance than exists, please let us know and we will accommodate you.

## March Bonsai Tips & Advice

by John Miller



Regardless of where you live in Texas, there are probably three things calling for your immediate attention. Repotting is still being needed; new growth is running rampant and needs to be controlled; and you must keep any tree to be exhibited at the spring shows well groomed. Throw on top of that an aphid invasion or some scales and you should be plenty busy.

After growth starts some species can take a couple degrees of frost but unless you know what your particular tree can take you should keep it from freezing. Keep the new foliage out of the strong winds. However, they should have some breeze to help harden the new foliage and to help prevent insects and fungal diseases.

By this time most of you have finished repotting the early breaking species, late starting species like the yaupons and most oaks might still be candidates for repotting this year.

In order to develop the ramification and fine twigs you want, you must be pruning the new growth as it develops. Waiting until the shoots are three or four inches or longer results in coarse twigs with long internodes. These will have to be cut off and new ones developed if you are to have a good bonsai.

Essentially there are two kinds of growing habits, those with leaves growing alternately on the twigs, e.g. elms, oak, and hawthorn, and those with opposite growing leaves, e.g. maple. The alternate growing leaves start out with small leaves and each succeeding leaf will be larger and the internodes longer. Also each leaf will have a latent bud in each leaf axial. If you let the shoot grow to 4 or 5 new leaves and cut it back to 2 or 3, you will be keeping smaller leaves and also getting twice as many growing tips on each branch and each will be a finer twig. Keep this up and you will soon have nice development on the branches of your bonsai. In determining whether to cut to two or three, note the direction that you wish the end of the branch to take and cut to the leaf which has the bud on that side of the branch. **Note:** If last year's twig has been let grow long it should be cut back to the first 2-3 buds and start over.

Tweezers are almost a necessity in refinement working on maples. The opposite growing leaves clasp the new growing tip and will be extending from the old bud but on a lengthening stem. If the new tip is taken off as soon as the leaves separate, the result is that the leaves will be smaller and the stem will stop lengthening. Then two new tips will pop from the new leaf axials and you will repeat the tip plucking. Tweezers work much better for this job. I will sometimes separate the new pair of leaves from the new tip with tweezers but be careful not to bruise them.

As the weather warms up, the insects will surely make their appearance. Use the foliar spray (1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and 5% apple cider vinegar per gallon of water) as often as necessary to control aphid, mites, caterpillars, etc. Spring usually means wet weather so watch for fungal problems such as blackspot. I usually only get it on hollies and elms. You can use a 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide or baking soda spray for fungal problems. Do not mix baking soda with the foliar spray or any acid.

Fertilizing is necessary once the trees start to grow. Too many trees exhibited do not have a good dark green foliage. Since we are using soilless mixes for the most part, a different technique is required than used for most potted plants. Water soluble chemical fertilizers should be used at half strength and more often since they will wash out with the next watering. The same is more or less true with liquid organic fertilizers. The best technique is to use solid organic fertilizers. Fertilizer cakes on the surface is the best way. They break down slowly and a small amount is carried into the root zone each time you water. Pelletized organic material can be spread on the surface also but they tend to crumble and create an undesirable surface. Be sure that the material you use has a balanced formula and not high in nitrogen.