



Fort Worth Bonsai Society

Fort Worth Bonsai Society April Program

By Bill Weber

What: Show Preparation Workshop

When: Thursday, April 14, 2011
7:00pm

Where: Fort Worth Botanical Garden
Deborah Beggs Moncrief Garden Center
3220 Botanic Garden Drive North,
Fort Worth, Texas.

During this program we will be preparing our trees to show condition. This program will consist of pot cleaning, oiling, pruning touch ups, stand selection, companion plants and create plant tags. We would also like to do a stand inventory so please bring your stands to the meeting so we get a count and style of the available plant stands the club members have. (Mark, please bring your plant tables too).

The Japanese Spring Festival is held on the following weekend April 16-17. We will have a signup sheet for volunteers at the exhibit table and the sales booth. Please look for items both plant material and any bonsai equipment or books that we can sell. Even if you are not planning to show a tree at the JSF, you are encouraged to bring a tree that needs some sprucing up.

This will be a hands-on interactive workshop that will be socially invigorating as well as informative.

Calendar of Events

April 2, Sat – BSD, Restructuring Your Bonsai with Sylvia Smith

April 14, Thu. – FWBS Program

April 16, Sat – Shohin Society of Texas meeting in Austin at Persimmon Hill Bonsai

April 16, Sat & 17, Sun – FWBS display at Springfest at the Japanese Gardens

April 28, Thu. – Bonsai Basics with Estella Flather at the Conservatory of the Botanic Gardens

May 13, 14 & 15 (Fri, Sat, Sun) – LSBF State Convention in Corpus Christi

May 28, Sat & 29, Sun – FWBS annual Show and Sale at the Botanic Gardens Conservatory

SNACKS PROVIDED BY:

ESTELLA FLATHER

GATEWAY TO BONSAI

By Yvonne Padilla

After working on the convention for close to five years, it is hard to believe there are only two and half months before the big event. The Corpus Christi Club members are excited and I hope you are too. We have put together some things that have not been done on a state level.



EARLY BIRD RECEPTION & EMERGING TALENT

The Early Bird Reception being held Thursday night for those taking a full registration and arriving on Thursday will be able to relax in the Catamaran Room, enjoy visiting with the rest of the “Early Birds” have a drink and snacks while watching the Emerging Talent contestants work on 5 gallon Shimpaku Junipers. I think this is a great way to start the convention. Information on the Emerging Talent should be in the hands of the clubs presidents by the time this article appears in all newsletters. Although the American Bonsai Society held a contest at the convention in San Antonio, this one is a little different. Two sets of Joshua Roth tools plus some beautiful bonsai containers and tools will be awarded as prizes. No contestant will go home empty handed. Contestants will be rewarded at the Saturday night dinner and the trees will be auctioned.

SATURDAY NIGHT AUCTION

Don't forget to bring a tree(s) for the auction. Ft Worth held an auction last year and it was very successful. Trees will be on exhibit in the Kokomos Room where all scheduled meals will be held. Twenty percent (20%) of the auctioned price on each tree will go to the convention.

EXHIBIT

We are hoping each club will enter trees in the exhibit. We would like to have all clubs represented. Linda May is the exhibit chairman Ph. Nos. cell-728-4386 Hm. 361-939-7233. Please call Linda as soon as you can to let her know which trees you are bringing, if not she will be calling the LSBF delegates to get the information.

RAFFLE

As most of you know a raffle can make or break a convention. Each club is supposed to donate an item(s) worth a total of \$100. We are hoping clubs and members of all clubs will be generous.

VENDORS

The vendor room “Bonsai Market” is fast filling up with reservations. We have vendors who have not been to Corpus Christi before and some that have not been to Texas for a few years. I am sure they will have all your bonsai needs and then some. At this time there are only three or four tables left to reserve.

WORKSHOPS AND LECTURE/DEMONSTRATIONS

There are sign ups in each workshop, but more are needed. We do have a great variety of plant material, something for everybody plus the Diaza workshop by Sean Smith. Sean is bringing stones and Black Walnut wood for the workshop. For the two Lecture/demos a tropical and a Texas Native will be designed by two of the visiting artist. Hope to see everyone in May for “Gateway to Bonsai”

Bonsai in April

By John Miller

Rotate, rotate, rotate. Feed, feed, feed. These two things we usually don't do enough or properly, probably because we don't see any result immediately.

In order for your trees to grow equally on all sides, they must receive equal light energy from all sides. Therefore they must be rotated on a regular and consistent basis. The best solution I have heard is from Mark Bynum. He gives each and every plant a 1/4 turn clockwise every Monday.

Most of our bonsai soil is pretty sterile and we water so thoroughly that we leach any small amount there out. If you use commercial chemical fertilizers, you should probably cut the strength of the mixture and apply more often. The same would be true for liquid organic feeds. The best fertilization is to use a solid organic fertilizer. Solid organics break down slowly therefore having a small bit of nutrients available for watering to carry them into the soil. Porous components like pumice will absorb some nutrient filled water and make it available to the plant as needed. There are many solid organic feeds out there and most are good. Just watch for components like chicken manure that will release nutrients too fast and burn the roots. Using mycorrhiza, at least the first time you pot up the tree, should aid the tree.

Most trees will do well in the full sun at this time of year. However, if you have had them in partial shade, be careful about moving them directly to full sun. They should be acclimated gradually. Too much wind will cause the leaves to burn. Some damage may not show up until hot weather.

Repotting for most hardy bonsai has ended. Very late budding species like oaks may still be done, depending on your local climate. I also do dwarf yaupon and olive then. It's still too early for the tropicals, They should usually be held until the night temps are in no danger of going below 60.

There are two things to consider when doing the spring trimming. Are you still in the styling stage or are you ready to do the refinement and develop the twiginess that a mature bonsai needs.

If you are still styling, you will need to develop size and movement in your branches by letting those branches grow vigorously, then cut back to a good node and repeat the process on the new shoot. At the same time you must not let the other branches get too powerful. Keep the foliage there trimmed so the energy goes primarily to the developing branch.



Bald Cypress

If your tree is a mature bonsai or is ready for refinement, Do not let the new growth get large. On elms and other trees with leaves appearing alternately down the shoot, do not let more than 5 new leaves appear. Cut back to 2 or 3 leaves, leaving the last leaf on the side that you want the new growth to appear. On maples and others with leaves coming in pairs on opposite sides of the twig, cut the center shoot as soon as you can determine it. You must get behind the new internode that is emerging. Tweezers work best for this

operation. Since the shoots do not all open at the same time this could be a daily chore for the best results. Sometimes it is easier to grasp the new leaves and bend the tip sharply backward breaking the shoot off.

A good organic program takes care of both the feeding and the insect problems. I recommend the mixture of 1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and 5% apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water. I use the mixture both as a foliar spray and as a soil drench fertilizer. As a weekly foliar spray it keeps aphids and mites under control as well as any other insect I've had. The prime requirement is to cover the entire plant, top and bottom of the leaves with a fine mist sprayer (no hose end stuff). I try to drench soil twice a month partly because I don't think the plant can absorb all the minor elements it needs thru the foliage.

Fungal diseases can show up with damp weather. Leaf spot can be serious on Catlin and Chinese elms and on hollies. Mildew shows up later with warmer weather. There are organic fungicides available, potassium bicarbonate or baking soda (sodium bicarbonate). Check an organics nursery or publications. A 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide (dilute the standard 3% store bought stuff 2 parts water to each part peroxide) is also recommended but it can injure very new foliage.

Be sure to check your soils each day for proper water content. It is easy to assume that the soil has plenty of water when the days are cool or there has been some rain. It is also too easy for a tree with full leaves to shed water outside of the pot or a good sun and low humidity after a front to dry the soil. I suggest that you remove most of the moss so that you can see and feel the soil in order to determine how dry it is. (Moss growing on the trunk or roots will cause the bark to rot also, kill it with isopropyl alcohol) An automatic watering system will be an aid but you should not rely on it to replace hand watering. Hand watering allows you to adjust the watering for each tree individually. Also most automatic systems use a drip system which only waters a small spot in shallow containers.

If you have early blooming azaleas, you should remove some of the buds. Most azaleas have way too many buds to look good when they do not have room to open fully. Later flowering plants usually bloom on new growth so most may be pruned now with no loss of flowers. Pruning after flowering may result in new growth and a re-bloom. My wisteria frutescens (Am. native) has bloomed 4 times into late July.

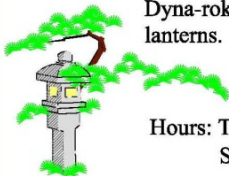


Shimpaku from the National Collection

Sanderson Creek Bonsai

1634 Stella Street, Fort Worth, Texas

Bonsai, collected and pre-bonsai trees, sieved soil, lava, pumice, exp-shale, kanuma, akadama, pots, Dyna-rok, Joshua Roth tools, classes and granite lanterns.



☀ You are welcomed! ☀

Hours: Tuesday thru Friday 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

e-store www.sandersonbonsai.com ph# 817-534-3220

FWBS March Club Artist Workshop Review

By Bill Weber

WOW, what a meeting. This was the 1st of our 2- year *Club Artist* program which is scheduled for 3 events a year. I have received many positive comments like this is the" best meeting I have attended in quite a while."

**FWBS 2011/2012
Club Officers**

Board of Directors

President:

Mark Bynum mark.bynum@tx.rr.com

Vice President:

Bill Weber webwill1@yahoo.com

Secretary/Publicity:

Ladd Kelley kwestmount@aol.com

Treasurer:

Steven Hendricks steve.hendricks@lmco.com

President Emeritus

Mike Prachyl enjoybonsai@tx.rr.com

Appointed Positions:

Newsletter Editor: Steven Hendricks

LSBF Representative: Steven Hendricks

LSBF Alternate: Gail Williams

The society holds its monthly meeting on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Conservatory, 3220 Botanic Garden Drive North, Fort Worth, Texas. A "hands-on, bring a tree on which to work" meeting is held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the same location.

Club Dues: Individual Membership: \$25

Joint Membership (Couples): \$35

Students (Under 21 years of age) \$15

Advertising Rates: Standard Business card (3 1/2" by 2") is \$5/month or \$45/ year. Other sizes by special arrangement. Articles, letters and other matters pertaining to this newsletter should be sent to:

Steven Hendricks
1912 Ashland Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76107
(817) 737-7953 (Home)
(817) 763-2136 (Work)

The meeting started at 6:30pm with a club provided dinner and social gathering. This allowed members to browse all of the trees that will be worked on. Sixteen members participated in the workshop and 22 total members attended. We also had 5 new members join the club.

Mark Bynum set up a photo area where pictures (front and back) were taken of every tree. The hope is to track the progress of the trees throughout the 2 year program. Mark will have printed copies of the pictures at the next Club Artist Workshop.

Sylvia Smith began methodically working through the trees and their owners commenting on the good points and areas that could improve. She spent some quality time with every participant which was much appreciated. There were a wide variety of trees from nursery stock junipers to refined maples and pines that required some tweaking. During the workshop Sylvia also provided some minute vignettes or teaching moments using a bell to acquire everyone's attention. She also brought several interesting books to spark ideas for design and styling.

The next Club Artist Workshop is scheduled for July 14. Remember you need to be a member to participate and is well worth it.

Thank you Sylvia and we look forward to Howard attending the next workshop.

Notes from the President

Last month, FWBS held its first Annual Business Meeting (ABM) in compliance with our new By-Laws. The minutes to this meeting will be distributed within 2 weeks of this newsletter. 11 members were present and everyone had something to add to the many topics that were discussed. Because it was the first, we have now set a few precedents for future ABMs such as:

setting dues for the next year, selecting a LSBF Convention donation, the president's & treasurer's annual report presentations, & ideas and tendencies for future programs. The ABM will also become a time for the members to think about and discuss long-term planning and accomplishing the loftier goals of our group such as furthering public awareness of the bonsai art. Many opinions were put forward. Many people said it was a good meeting. Thanks to all who attended.

With the Annual Business Meeting completed, we have now implemented all the changes called for in the newly revised By-Laws voted in place in January of this year. The transition was almost seamless and I feel that as we move forward along this path the club will become stronger and stronger.

I hope to see many of you and your trees at the Japanese Spring Festival. It is always a lovely time at the Gardens. We are on for Dos Gringos Restaurant before the Thursday meeting at about 5:30

Happy styling,
Mark Bynum, president

Springfest at the Japanese Gardens

The FWBS will set up its annual display at Springfest in the Japanese Gardens on Saturday and Sunday, April 16th and 17th. Set up begins around 9:00-9:30 AM on Saturday.

As before, we will have our own designated tent for sales of materials in the parking lot in front of the Japanese Garden, separate from the bonsai display within the garden.

They will not allow cars into the Botanic Gardens during the festival so parking will be in the lot off of Montgomery St. Drive 0.3 miles north of the intersection of Montgomery and I-30, turn east on Linden Street and drive right into the parking area. Look for the "Vendors and Performers" pedestrian entrance at roughly the NE corner of the parking area. Last year, we were able to drive our cars up to the Japanese Gardens parking lot very early to unload all of our sale materials.

About 4:30 or 5:00 we lock the trees up (at the Gardens). We set the trees out again on Sunday morning around 9:30 and staff the display until 4:30-5:00 when we tear down and head home.

We have been generally blessed with good weather at these displays and it is always a treat to be out in this beautiful location in the spring.

Bring a tree for the display if you can. If not, come and help us staff the display, or help set up and tear down.

Please don't forget to bring plant (or other bonsai) materials to sell. This is one of our major fund raisers each year.

Bonsai Basics, Thursday, April 28th *With Estella Flather*

Learn the secrets of growing bonsai in Texas. The Bonsai Basics class discusses the history of bonsai, tree styles, bonsai care including soils, insect control and starting your own bonsai. Each student will get a plant, pot, soil and everything needed to create their own bonsai to take home. The class fee is \$25.00 (\$5.00 from each class fee goes to the club for the room rent.)