



Fort Worth Bonsai Society

FWBS 2009/2010 Club Officers

Elected:

President: Mark Bynum
(mark.bynum@tx.rr.com)
Vice President: Dan Leblanc
Secretary/Publicity: Ladd Kelley
Treasurer: Steven Hendricks

Appointed:

Librarian: Harry Ryan
Newsletter: Steven Hendricks
FW Botanical Soc. Liaison: Estella Flather
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:

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Online Newsletter Password: FWBS

August Meeting
Thursday, August 12, 7:00 PM

Snacks provided by:
Bill Weber

Fourth Thursday Meeting
Thursday, August 26, 7:00 PM



Native Grape and Chinese Elm

Fourth Thursday Class August 26th, 2010 Bonsai Soil with Estella Flather

Learn about bonsai soil at the 4th Thursday meeting August 26th. Items discussed will be various types of ingredients and how these affect performance of the soil. Sources for soil materials and the interaction of water, soil, and various soil amendments. Estella Flather will bring examples of plants potted in good soil and bad soil to show how water interacts with different soils. Students will sieve and mix their own soil to take home.

The class fee is \$25.00 (\$5.00 from each class fee goes to the club for the room rent.)

As usual, if you don't want to participate in the class, you may bring a tree to work on and get help from other club members without paying any fee.



Podocarpus or yew and Cork Bark Chinese Elm

Bonsai in August

By John Miller

You have only two main jobs in August: (1) keep your bonsai alive and (2) keep them healthy. Regardless of where you live in Texas you can expect 90+ temperatures and the direct sun will be merciless. The sun on the pots raises the temperature of the soil high enough to kill the roots. It also speeds up the drying of the soil. Many pathogens (e.g. spider mites) thrive in higher temperatures and the stressed plants cannot cope with added problems.

Two things can be done to cope with the sun. You can supply partial shade and you may provide a cover over the pots. The shade, whether from a natural source (tree cover) or a shade cloth material, should provide greater protection from the afternoon sun. Late afternoon sun can be a problem because the temperature is highest and the soil is usually drier at that time. A cover over the pot should not touch the pot. A non-porous cover may create an oven. There should be good air flow around the pot for cooling. Ideally watering should be done at 2pm

or so. That would lower the soil temp to around 70 and would provide for some evaporative cooling the rest of the afternoon.

Keeping the plants healthy means taking care of insects and diseases promptly, keeping them out of water stress, and feeding properly. A good many species could take full sun (on the tops) if they are healthy. A 30% shade cloth over them during this time would be better. Japanese maples and others with thin leaves would need more shade.

During these extremely hot periods take care when using chemicals. This is true whether you are using organic chemicals or the other kind. I do not use my organic spray unless it can have a few hours before it gets to 90. Heat makes chemicals more active and they can damage your plants. Be sure to read the fine print on the label re temperature use. You may need to use them early in the morning or very late evening. Most commercial chemicals are sold in an oil based mixture which can damage some like buttonwood at any temperature.

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; 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.

Good fertilizer techniques will help you maintain healthy bonsai. The best technique is to use organic fertilizer balls on the surface. They will supply a very low dose of nutrients every time you water. Time release fertilizer will work but you do not have much control, it releases a lot when you first put it on and you do not know when it peters out. Water soluble fertilizers are concentrated chemicals that may be too active for high temp use. They also quickly wash out of the soil as you water and you are doing that more often now. Check to see that your fertilizer

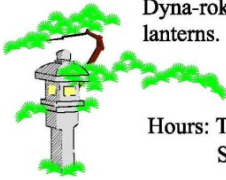
supplies the many micronutrients that plants need.

Azaleas set their buds in July. Other spring flowering plants also set buds in the fall. They should not be pruned after bud set if you desire the blooms. If you are in a developmental stage you can still prune them. Other flowering plants should have the dead blooms and seed pods removed. That may encourage more flowering. Some tropicals like the bougainvillea flower after a dry period which is their natural dormancy. Check growth habits for your species.

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

Check your trees for moss growing on trunks. Bark seems to hold moisture pretty good and the extra watering may cause moss to grow. Kill it with 90% isopropyl alcohol. Let it die before picking off gently with tweezers. Too much moss on the soil interferes with proper watering.

More on water practices. I prefer to water heavily in the evening (in normal weather). That gives the plant all night to renew itself without losing most of its water to evaporation. Then in the early morning, they get a quick foliage spray and wetting the surface of the soil which may have dried out overnight. Very porous soil may need more morning water. This was what I did while working since the morning task only took 10 minutes or so. Now I still prefer to water heavily in the evening but the morning watering is more done more slowly and trees given a little more individual attention as some of them will not need water in the soil. Be sure to do the

double watering bit--water thoroughly and then after a few minutes water again so that the dry soil particles will get moistened.

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. Preventative medicine is best. By the time you see signs, the damage is already done, especially 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) 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 or other sensitive species.** 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.

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



Ficus showing aerial roots.

Take Photos of Your Trees

By Steven Hendricks

Have you ever thought that you just aren't making any progress with your trees? Right. Who hasn't? Well you just may be wrong. There is a distinct advantage to taking pictures of your trees. Not only does it help you see design flaws but it gives you a record of where you started and how far your tree has come.

Below are a couple of my trees for which I was fortunate to have some early pictures to use for comparison with the trees today.

Ficus Retusa – Won in “Stars Over Texas” raffle at a LSBF State Convention. Originally designed by the late Fran Bruchmiller of Corpus Christi. Here is the tree about 3 years after I won it, taken at our Show and Sale in 1997.



A few years later it is in a nice Sarah Rayner pot. But the tree is lanky with little interior branching.



Since then, I took it to a workshop with Pedro Morales (maybe 3 years ago?) where we cut it back severely to encourage interior branching. The picture below is after wiring and leaf pruning in May. You can see how bringing the foliage back in improves the look of the tree. It is now about 1/3 smaller. But with a better proportion of foliage to trunk it appears more massive. Sadly, it is now too small for the Sarah Rayner pot.



Cork Bark Chinese Elm – Acquired from Andy Rutledge approximately 6? years ago.



Two years after acquiring the tree I repotted it into a Michael Haegedorn pot. (above)



The same tree today. There has been a marked improvement in the refinement of the tree.

Cedar Elm – Dug at Suzanne’s Scott’s ranch out Jacksboro way around 199? An odd creature but it appealed to me.



Here it is, newly dug and repotted. The top appears to have been broken over at about 3 feet off of the ground. I initially thought I might try for a literati look by decided against it.

I eventually air layered the top to get a cascade to mimic those cliff-side cascade cedar elms we see around here (ha, ha).



The bottom was left to its own devices and eventually grew a new top and will someday be a decent tree itself.

Calendar of Events

September 15 - LSBF visiting artist, Roy Nagatoshi. This means that we will not have a meeting on September 9.

October 23 & 24 - Japanese Fall Festival

Nov. Meeting - Pottery with Sandi McFarland & election of club officers for 2011-2013

Dec. Meeting - Christmas dinner

Jan. Meeting - Grafting

Program Notes

By Dan Leblanc

This month’s program will focus on your individual Bonsai Trees. We will be having a panel of local experienced club members available for critique and advice on any and all Bonsai you wish to bring. This is more of a group work session rather than a formal program or lecture. Two of our more experienced club members; Steve Hendricks and John Miller will

be on hand to answer questions and give advice. We will set up 3 tables in the front of the room to display and work on your trees.

Bring as many trees as you like along with your tools, wire and any questions. Which branch do I cut? Where do I cut it? And why? What style should I use? This is a great chance to learn by doing. With guidance from others and at the same time learn by observing a variety of different material from other club members. I am sure we will have a wide variety of material and fun will be had by all. If you were at the convention and listened to the visiting artists critique some of the trees on exhibit you know how valuable the experience of having others make suggestions for your trees can be. I will never forget the advice John Miller gave me during one of my first meetings. It doesn't matter how advanced your trees are the more you work on them the better you become. It's all "soul food" So bring in some trees or just come enjoy some fellowship and some hands on learning.

As always for Show and Tell please bring any trees to share with the club. We will try to have a small raffle item and or a door prize.



Root-Over-Rock Maple

Notes from the President
By Mark Bynum

I would like to share just a little more feedback for the Cowtown Convention. This time it comes

from Peter Warren, guest artist. He sent me an email stating "your convention was one of, if not the best convention I have done. It was fun and enjoyable and not one single problem." This is high praise coming from a man that has been around the world attending bonsai conventions. To see more, Peter has posted an article on his website that mentions our convention. Go to www.saruyama.co.uk, then click on "Articles", then "2nd National Exhibition". Cruise through the rest of his website for videos and intelligent commentary.

We have a little business to attend to at the August meeting concerning the 2nd meetings of the month for 2011, and the club show. Now that our treasury is full again, there may be a project or activity the members may like to pursue. Bring along any ideas that you may have.

Do not forget to bring in an interesting tree for "Show & Tell" and I will see you at Dos Gringos Restaurant before the meeting.

Happy styling, Mark Bynum



Ficus showing aerial roots.



WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

How can the number 25,000 be brought down to size? It does seem to be a lofty goal. But what if there were 2,500 interested people, all willing to strive for a single goal? Each of them chose to not eat lunch one day and instead give the \$10 dollars to that single goal. That equals \$25,000.

Now maybe there are not that many who are striving for that goal, maybe there are only 1250 people. That would mean a \$20 dinner would be lost and the \$20 x 1250 equals \$25,000.

This is really interesting now, there are only 625 people to depend on and the goal would be reached when one really nice dinner that year was canceled. Take that \$40 and again do the math, 625 people give \$40 and the tally is again \$25,000.

I could do that!!! That is how we could build the pond. The pond is the foundation of the exhibit. It would give us tremendous freedom. Not only the care of the exhibit trees would be much easier but all of the beautiful landscape around and in the exhibit area would not ever be in jeopardy. The flora and fauna would flourish and the vista would be for all to enjoy.

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Make check payable to/send donation to:

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I would like to support the building of The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit with a gift of:

\$2500 Life-time \$1000 Patron \$500 Sponsor
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I wish to pledge \$100 to the *Corner Stone Society* to help build the pond feature at *The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit* home in Mustang Ridge, TX
 \$25 annual membership (Supporter)

I am pledging \$500 or more and divide my donation into 12 monthly payments
 I am pledging \$100 or more and please divide my donation into 4 quarterly payments

Signature _____ Date _____



The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, Inc

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE!

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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When the land was selected for the establishment of the permanent exhibit little did we realize how important the flood plain was that ran across the property. Eddie Garcia, Conservation Program Manager of the NRCS, made a study of the property and has guided us in the conservation of the site. The goal of the TTSBE board is to use conservation to our advantage and develop the property with **GREEN GUIDELINES**.

There is a plan in development that is twofold. **FIRST:** preserve the four native grasses that are present and will be outside of the immediate exhibit area. This plan can include educational opportunities in the Mustang Ridge community and beyond. A hopeful partnership with the Master Gardeners will allow for the propagation of the grasses and other native plant species for sale on a regular basis. Management of renewal for the grasses is to place a 6-member goat herd on the property, **AUTOMATIC MOWERS!**

SECOND: And the most exciting news — A POND. Yes, a pond and not just any little pond. We have a "very nice 6-8-10% slope on the site". The area is vegetative—that means there is little silt. In other words — **PURE WATER**. With over 12 acres of land, the pond will be no small feature. First estimates puts the size around 10-12 feet deep and 100 feet wide and close to 400 feet long. **1.8 acres of storage!** That means the exhibit and all the landscape would be serviced by that pond and it could easily get us through drought conditions. The demand for purchased water would be significantly reduced. It would attract wildlife, another educational opportunity.

Grants are being sought with those three themes in mind — conservation, wildlife and native vegetation. Now, we cannot do this alone. \$25,000 is needed to build the pond. **Yes**, that is where you come in. When built, the pond would bring back **1/2** of those funds into the treasury. Eddie Garcia will make an application to the *Creekside Conservation Program* (LCRA). They return up to 1/2 of the cost of the built project. **Sooo...**would you consider a donation and becoming a member too? **LET'S BUILD A BEAUTIFUL POND!!!**

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