



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:

Steven Hendricks
1912 Ashland Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76107
(817) 737-7953 (Home)
(817) 763-2136 (Work)
(817) 239-7210 (Cell)
steve.hendricks@lmco.com (Work)
stevhendricks@sbcglobal.net (Home)
Online Newsletter Password: FWBS

December Meetings
Thursday, December 9, 7:00 PM

Snacks provided by:
Everyone

No Fourth Thursday Meeting
Due to Christmas



Tagging Expedition to Glen Rose by Mark Bynum

The **Fort Worth Bonsai Society** and the **Bonsai Society of Dallas** will be taking a tagging trip out to Glen Rose, Texas. This is the same property that we have been to for several years. This will be a good time to enjoy the beauty of the land as you leisurely hunt for your perfect tree free from the worry of digging the tree right away. The plan is to meet at the gate on site at **10 am, Saturday, December 11** (see directions below). As we did last year each member will be given 3 official tags to use to reserve your trees for the **dig in February, 2011**. This does not mean you are limited to 3 trees when the dig date comes, but you will have at least 3 good ones to work on for sure. A GPS device will be a modern tool to

use to locate your trees when we come back to dig.

At about noon, after we tag some trees and tromp around enjoying the scenery, we will regroup at the gate and head over to the Fossil Rim Wildlife Park and eat lunch at the Overlook Restaurant. It is not too far away and will be an exhilarating continuance of our enjoyment of the Glen Rose area. We will treat our hosts, Mel & Jim, to lunch. You may wish to tour the Fossil Rim Wildlife Park after lunch.

Another attraction, just west of Glen Rose, is the Dinosaur Valley State Park. If you have not been there, it is a very interesting 2-3 hour experience, from an indoor information building to dinosaur tracks in the Paluxy River. There is not much walking and many features are easily accessible by car. Even if you do not want to tag any trees, you are welcome to come on out spend an enjoyable day in the country.

Note 1: This is a tagging trip only; however, you may bring tools to test the dig-ability of your chosen trees. Wear proper shoes and bring a water bottle. A hat is wise.

Note 2: 2011 will be the last dig as a club on this property. This will be our 5th year out there and we are running out of trees for a large group of people. Do not miss out on this final opportunity.

Directions: The easiest route to follow is to get to Glen Rose any way you wish. Upon entering Glen Rose, take Hwy 144 around to the Court House. From the Court House, travel south on Hwy 144 six miles to the intersections of county roads 2007, 2008, and 2004. Turning left at their juncture with 144, take an immediate right on CR 2004 (this road becomes CR 2720 within a few hundred feet as it crosses over into another county). These are now gravel roads. Proceed southeast 3 miles to CR 2730 (no sign here), turn left and proceed 1.3 miles. Look for the first rock mailbox on your left; across the street take the first driveway up to the barns and the gate.

LOOK FOR "FWBS" markers with arrows posted at key turns.

Trust me; these directions will get you there even if the internet maps do not show exactly the same road numbers. Watch the road signs closely as you leave Glen Rose.

Mark Bynum is the contact, cell #817-437-8936. Cell phones do not always work at this site.



Carpinus betulus

Bonsai in December

By John Miller

Usually not too much has to be done right now. That is if you prepared last month and you have no tropicals inside to care for. The big thing is to know what temperatures your trees can withstand and to remember that **water** is very important in the winter time. If you did not get your pines and junipers taken care of last month, do it quickly.

Since the trees are not using as much water during dormancy it is easy to overlook checking on them. The low humidity usually found during winter helps dry the soil. Winter sun can be pretty hot and if it shines directly on the pot it will hasten the drying process. Winter will

usually also be windier. Therefore, however you bed down the trees, you need to check the dryness often. The same trees that needed more water last summer will also need to be checked more often during the winter. I think that more trees are lost during the winter to having the soil dry out than from the actual cold.



Trident Maple

Deciduous trees should not be placed where they receive winter sun. After a period of dormancy, the heating of the tree could possibly cause it to break dormancy prematurely. If that happened you would need to keep it above freezing the rest of the winter.

Plants have different degrees of hardiness for their top growth and their roots. The reason being that the ground acts a large reservoir of heat and here in Texas seldom freezes more than an inch or two down. Therefore, plants like the pomegranate and crepe myrtle which is at the northern extent of their range outside will only be hardy to 32 degrees in pots. Any plant that you are unsure of should be protected from freezing. This can be a problem because if they are not kept cool after they go dormant they will break dormancy and start to grow too soon. Growing without sufficient light cause long spindly growth which you cannot control. My best solution for this when I lived in town was to have a long

platform with two wheels that I pulled into the garage on nights where freezing was forecast and kept outside at all other times.

The cold weather will keep any insect problems under control outside. You should use a dormant oil spray to kill over-wintering insets and eggs. A dilute spray of lime-sulfur can be used on deciduous trees if they have no green at all which will also control fungal spores but be sure to follow label directions carefully. A spray of horticultural oil can also be used. You should watch for damage from rodent types, rabbits, squirrel, and rats. They will seriously prune branches and strip bark in short order.

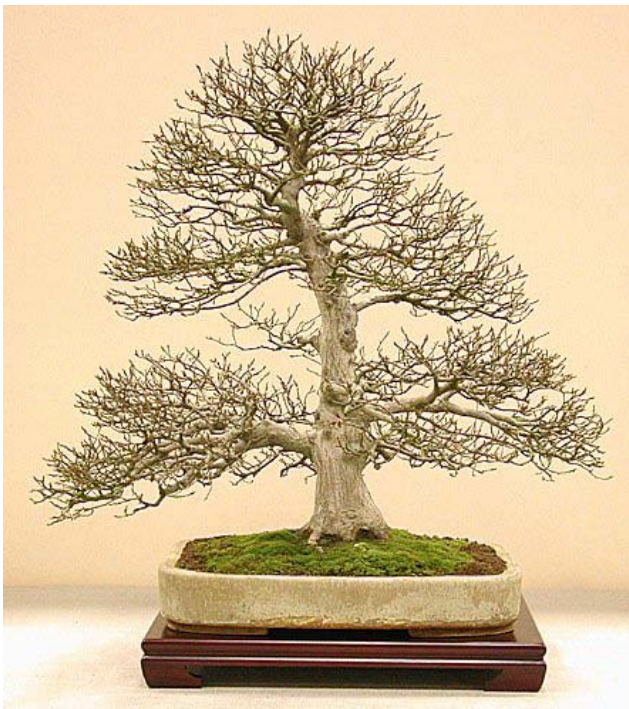
Bonsai in greenhouses or indoor bonsai will need to be watched for the normal indoor problems. Low humidity, spider mites and scales are the biggest problems here. I use the same controls in the greenhouse that I use outside all year Trying to keep the humidity up by placing you trees on a humidity tray can possibly give you some soil problems.

You can take advantage of the winter slowdown by spending your time getting pots ready for spring, clean and sharpen your tools, study what changes you would like to make on your trees and so forth. Making notes about what needs to be done on an individual tree is great but if you are like me the notes and trees are usually a long way apart. If you place a colored stake or ribbon on the tree you will see instantly which one needs what done. For example, use red for needs repotting, purple-needs a new pot, yellow-serious pruning, orange-should be restyled, etc. These can be put on during the year if you make that kind of decision as you are doing general routine work.

Why don't you give bonsai a present this year? The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit is progressing but could go a lot faster with more donations. Send a check to The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, Inc/13450 N. Highway 183m Suite #116/ Austin, TX 78750-3227. Join the Cornerstone Society

with a gift of \$100 or more. Find full details on the web www.ttsbe.org.

Mark your calendars for the 2011 convention in Corpus Christi. It will be titled "Gateway of Bonsai" and will be held on May 13-15. The convention hotel will be the Holiday Inn Emerald Beach and rooms will be \$99/night. The guest artists will be Ed Trout, Bill Valavnis, and Shaun Smith. All plant material is in-hand. It will include a previously unseen species of weeping elm (shohin sized) the workshop for which will be led by Terry Ward. There will be a daiza carving workshop in which the stone and wood are provided. Also included, are an exhibition critique, a slide show on suiseki and bonsai, and an "Emerging Talent" competition. That will take place on Thursday before the convention and will be a sponsored event wherein shimpakus will be provided for styling and each club will be invited to nominate one member to participate. There will be guidelines for who is eligible and the styled trees will be auctioned afterward. Also on Thursday evening there will be an "Early Bird Reception" at which hors d'oeuvres and liquid refreshments will be provided



"SIFT IT & MIX IT" EVENT

Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011 (rain date: 1/22/2011)

January begins the potting season for bonsai enthusiasts in Texas and it is time to get your special mix of bonsai soil ready. Some of us need quite a bit of soil for repotting and the chore of sifting and mixing it can be overwhelming if done by hand. Between 9am and noon at Mark Bynum's house, the members of the Fort Worth Bonsai Society will have an opportunity to have their bonsai soil ingredients sifted and then mixed to your own proportions.

Scott Rae has built a new sifting rig that will separate ingredients into several sizes faster than ever. At the same time the unwanted "fines" are sifted out. His rig works with Landscaper's Mix, akadama, lava rock, pumice, expanded shale, and other bonsai soil ingredients.

Mark Bynum has a concrete mixer that will mix your ingredients together in whatever proportions you prefer for your bonsai soil. You can even throw in some organic fertilizer if you like.

Here is what you need to bring:

Your favorite bonsai mix ingredients: bagged goods such as lava rock, akadama, etc. are fine to bring. Each ingredient will be sifted separately. Purchase ingredients at Sanderson Creek Bonsai, Bent Tree Bonsai, or elsewhere before the event. No ingredients will be available at the event.

5 gal. Buckets or other containers: bring enough containers to get your new soil mix back home. Bags are OK but are not nearly as good as buckets. A few buckets will be available in case you misestimate your needs.

Notes:

-Keep your ingredients DRY. It is hard to sift moist/wet material.

-Scott asks that you use landscapers mix over pine bark mulch. It is much easier to sift because it generally has a finer texture. Also, much more of the material is usable.

-No job is too small. One bag of each ingredient is just fine.

-Course or large ingredients above ¼" are good for large bonsai, 2' ht and above.

-Medium sized ingredients are ¼" and smaller and are used for most bonsai trees.

-Small sized ingredients are 1/8" or less and are used for shohin & mame bonsai trees.

-It is suggested that you purchase medium to small sized aggregates.

-For questions, call Mark or Scott.

You may show up anytime between 9 am and noon. We will work till we are finished. Some donuts and coffee will be available. In case of inclement weather, a rain date of the next Saturday is scheduled.

December Program Notes By Dan LeBlanc

Merry Christmas and Happy Bonsai New Year. It is time for our annual Christmas Party. We will have no formal program or presentation. We will have our usual potluck dinner. If I'm not mistaken the club will donate a main dish possibly brisket or a chicken dish. Please bring a suitable potluck dish. Finger foods and snack foods or drinks would be good. If you can't bring food bring a friend and enjoy the festivities with your fellow bonsai enthusiasts.

Brooke and Autumn are looking forward to the Chinese Christmas we do every year. This is the only FWBS meeting they look forward to all year. I wonder why? If you want to participate, bring something small, not expensive and wrapped. We have had a great time in years past and we should have a wonderful time this year as well.

At this time I would like to thank all the members of the FWBS for allowing me to serve as your vice president and program chair for the last 2 years. I am not going anywhere and I will still be available for the Spring and Fall festival as well as any other activities when the club needs help.

As they say you learn by doing and serving as your program chair has allowed me to learn more about the bonsai world. It has been a pleasure and I should be more available to serve in the future. Brooke is 12 years old and Autumn is 10 so in about 5 to 6 years I will turn into a boring old Bonsai guy with plenty of time on my hands to serve our club.

As always for Show and Tell please bring any trees, to share with the group.

Pinch Pot Making at the November Meeting



Dan LeBlanc displays his patient, methodic method of pinch pot making.



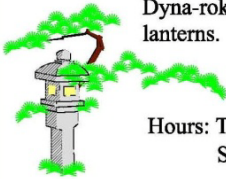
Bob Lewis, on the other hand uses intimidation to form his pinch pots. Estella meanwhile tells about the pot that got away.



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

Notes from the President

In the November meeting, the elections went smoothly thanks to the work of our Nominating Chairman, Scott Rae. Our officers for the 2011-2012 terms are: Mark Bynum, President; Bill Weber, Vice-President/Programs; Steven Hendricks, Treasurer; Ladd Kelley, Secretary. I have discussed programs with Bill Weber, our newest officer, several times and I look forward to some good programs and program concepts that will benefit the club in the future.

At the December meeting, I will hand out a hard copy of the By-Law changes that were sent out by email in October. As required by our By-Laws this will be the official document with full details and corrections of the changes proposed 30 days in advance of the vote at the January meeting. I do not intend to open discussion on the proposal at the Christmas dinner. Discussion

will be opened at the January meeting before the vote

For the December meeting, let's get everyone to bring in a deciduous tree to decorate our dinner tables. It is a delight to study the branch work of bonsai trees and this is a bonsai club! We will start a little earlier at this meeting. Please bring in your food at 6:30pm and check in with Gail Williams, coordinator for our pot-luck dinner. Don't forget to bring a wrapped gift for the Chinese Gift Exchange. Always a lot of fun.

Happy Holidays to One and All,
Mark Bynum, President

Calendar of Events

December 9, Thu. – Christmas potluck

December 11, Sat. – Tagging trip to Glen Rose

January 13, Thu. – Grafting Program

January 15, Sat. – LSBF Meeting in Wimberley

January 15, Sat – Sift It & Mix It Event at Mark's

January 27, Thu. – Club Junipers, Trim & Pot

January 29, Sat. – Digging Trip to Glen Rose

