



December 2011 Newsletter

Notes from the President:

Last month the FWBS was invited out to Larry Leone's bonsai nursery located near Grapevine Mills Mall. The stone work and water falls around the office were spectacular and worth the price of admission alone, but then we visited the greenhouses and were bowled over by the 1000+ year old Utah Junipers. They took your bonsai breath away! Pictures are included in this newsletter and more are on the webpage. Thanks again to Sandra & Mike Prachyl for setting up this exclusive club expedition. This was just another one of the member benefits of belonging to the club. Several of us walked away with some prize bonsai to train.

Speaking of the FWBS webpage, be sure and look at it often. It is improving month by month. If you ever need to know the date of an upcoming club event and do not have this Newsletter handy, it is on the webpage. Put it on your "Favorites" list.

Calendar of Events:

Dec. 8: 2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm
Club Christmas Party & Potluck Dinner, regular meeting room.

Jan. 12: 2nd Thursday, 7 pm
Club Juniper styling workshop,
Mark Bynum

Jan. 21: Saturday, 9 am-12 noon
"Sift It & Mix It" Event

Jan. 26: 4th Thursday, 7 pm
Club Juniper styling workshop,
Leftovers wrap-up

Feb. 9: 2nd Thursday, 7 pm
4th Club Artist Workshop,
emphasis on Repotting,
Howard & Sylvia Smith

Feb. 23: 4th Thursday, 7 pm
FWBS Annual Business Meeting

Mar. 8: 2nd Thursday, 7 pm
Deciduous Tree Trimming,
Steven Hendricks

April 12: 2nd Thursday, 7 pm
About Maples,
John Miller

April 27-29: LSBF/BSD Convention
Dallas, Texas

We currently do not have a dig scheduled for the club. If anyone has a possible site, please let me know.

2012 Membership fees are due on January 1st. You can pay at the next meeting to Ladd Kelley or, in his absence, Steven Hendricks. Membership forms will be sent by separate email before the December meeting.

Our Christmas Pot Luck Dinner and Chinese Gift Exchange is this month's program. More information is in the next article, but I would like to ask everyone to bring in a deciduous bonsai tree for table center pieces.

There is nothing like exposed branch work to show off the beauty of a nice bonsai.

Finally, from my family to yours,
Happy Holidays and, of course,
Happy Styling!

Mark Bynum, president



Spectacular Utah Junipers at Larry Leone's Nursery



Bruce, fr. Center; Sandra bk. Center; Larry Leone bk. Right. Procumbens juniper all around.

DECEMBER PROGRAM: Annual Christmas Party and Potluck Dinner

Thursday, December 8, is our annual Christmas Party and Potluck Dinner. We will start a little earlier than normal, so bring in your food by 6:30 pm. Be sure and bring your own serving utensils. The club (and several selected people) will provide meat so bring in vegetable dishes, salad dishes, and desert dishes. The club will

also provide drinks, paper goods, and plastic utensils.

After we eat, we have a Chinese Gift Exchange that is a load of fun. Bring a wrapped or sacked gift around the \$10 range. It does not have to be bonsai related, but many are. We will draw numbers to begin the event and the fun begins. You do not have to bring a gift, but you certainly can stay and watch.



L-R: Dan, Bill, Bill, Larry, Steven, Mike. Heavy discussion of bonsai and Larry's future projects.

Last Month's Program: Club Artists' Workshop



Sylvia Smith and Sandra Prachyl at workshop.



Bill Weber, Howard Smith, Bruce Harris at the workshop working on junipers.

December Bonsai Tips

By John Miller

This article may look strange to some since it is strictly from my head. I do not have access to my files right now.

And that may be good since this past summer and continuing into fall has not been a good experience for most. I did not lose any trees to the heat per se. I missed getting water in one pot for some reason and lost that one. I believe that our greatest problem this summer was not the 100+ degree daytime temperature. I feel that the biggest stress on the trees was that the night temperatures stayed above 80 degrees. The trees had no time to recover.

For the first time in 40 years, I managed to work on my planned schedule. Some days when I would have been forced off I was saved by my 10 year old grand-daughter Raven who stayed with us the entire summer. I trust her to do it more than any adult available out here in the boonies. She also turned into a very good and efficient leaf pruner this year.

My desired schedule which is based upon observations by myself, articles and experiments researched by Dr. Bill Cody, and some discussions with Mark Bynum is

to water at 2pm and then again at sundown. Foliage was usually misted also especially the junipers. The 2pm watering resulted in the trees roots being cooled to water main temperature and the tree being thoroughly refreshed at the start of peak afternoon stress. Evaporative cooling of the soil and the pot covering helped also. The sundown watering then was able to recool the roots and the evaporative cooling helped counteract the lack of nighttime cooling.

Note: the watering does not negate the need for protecting the plants from full mid-summer sun or the need to cover the pots loosely to minimize soil heat buildup. There is nothing magical about the above schedule. It just recognizes the plants needs and tries to fill them. Work schedules seldom allow for perfect horticulture practices. You just have to work hard to minimize the stress. A soaker hose drip watering system would help. I used to go out before going to work and do a 15 min spray over all the bonsai using a very fine droplet spray. Other things might be devised to help.

The nice thing about December bonsai is that, outside of watching the watering, there is nothing that just has to be done. Anything that could be done in December could also be done in November or put off to the new year.

Some of the mundane chores that could be considered result in you having an easier time next year. They result in cleanliness and pathogen control and being ready for repotting. Cleanliness and pathogen control sometimes go hand in hand.

Remove the top half inch of soil (more or less depending on size) from your pots and replace it with fresh soil. You will remove last years weed seeds and spent or decayed fertilizer. That will allow for better and easier water penetration. This is especially important if you are not repotting that tree in the spring.

Many pathogens over-winter on the trees. A dormant spray can go far to help control them next summer. For deciduous trees a dormant spray strength of lime-sulphur will get into the bark crannies and kill insects, eggs, larvae, mites and fungal spores. Just be sure that you protect the soil from the caustic spray drips. A dormant oil spray may be used and will handle insects and eggs fairly well but it does not have the "see all-kill all" effect of the I-s.

A good many commercial bonsai nurseries will strip the entire area clean and use a stronger lime-sulphur spray on the benches and any hard surfaces. Maybe even on the ground under the benches especially if they have too much fungal type problems.

For evergreens, do not use the lime-sulphur. Use the dormant oil spray. Any summer oil spray may be used, it is merely a lighter version oil spray that does not (usually) damage foliage in warm weather. Be sure to observe your evergreens closely for any problems that may be lurking quietly but doing their dirty work.

Now is the time to check your supply of akadama, pumice, lava, or any other potting materials you need. If you mix different sized soils using equal parts APL, you will be ready for all to come. Just add a handful of something if you need to alter for some special plant, e.g. I usually add a bit more akadama for Chinese elms.

"SIFT IT & MIX IT" EVENT

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012

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 a sifting rig that will separate ingredients into several sizes (course, medium, and small) faster than you can do it by hand. 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 mis-estimate 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.

-We suggest that you purchase medium to small sized aggregates.

- You can show up at anytime between 9 and noon.
- We will stay till the work is done.
- Coffee and donuts will be available.
- We always have a good time.

Fort Worth Bonsai Society

Board of Directors:

President: Mark Bynum

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Vice President, Programs: Bill Weber

..... webwill1@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Steven Hendricks

... stevenhendricks@sbcglobal.com

Secretary: Ladd Kelley

..... kwestmount@aol.com

Immediate Past President:

Mike Prachyl

..... enjoybonsai@tx.rr.com

Other Positions:

LSBF Representative: Steven Hendricks

Alternate: Gail Williams

Webmaster: Bill Jacobson

The **Fort Worth Bonsai Society** meets most months on the 2nd Thursday at 7 pm. at the Deborah Beggs Moncrief Garden Center, 3220 Botanic Garden Drive, Fort Worth, TX. This is the building where the large conservatory greenhouse is located. Please check our website at www.fwbonsai.com for meeting dates and special events.

To join or ask questions, contact:

Mark Bynum, president, at 817-436-8936 (cell)
or email to mark.bynum12@att.net