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# Fort Worth Bonsai Society

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## FWBS 2011/2012 Club Officers

### Elected:

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

### Appointed:

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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steve.hendricks@lmco.com (Work)  
stevenhendricks@sbcglobal.net (Home)

February Meetings  
Thursday, February 10, 7:00 PM

Snacks provided by:  
**Mark Bynum**

Fourth Thursday Meeting  
Thursday, February 24, 7:00 PM



*Cork bark Chinese maple*

## ***Bonsai in February*** *By John Miller*

The weather mostly determines what tasks you have to do in February and when to do them. Keep in mind that even if a mild Feb causes the trees to break dormancy and you must repot early there may be a cold time later on when you must

protect them. The average date of the last freeze is just that-an average-there will be some years when the last freeze is later.

Usually the first part of the month requires you to continue the winter care. Check the watering, make sure no varmints are stripping the trees, and watch for signs of new growth. The sun gets pretty hot on some February days. Do not let your trees get too much heat and break their dormancy. If they do you will need to get their repotting do fast. New foliage will require some wind protection also.

The optimum time to do repotting on cold hardy plants is when the buds are just beginning to swell. It should be finished by the time the new green is starting to show. One exception is the dwarf yaupon holly. It may be held and repotted a little later as it grows best when the temperature is nice and warm. Juniper may be done a little later also; it is hard to determine when growth starts. Do the pines when the buds begin to elongate. As a rule this will put your repotting from the middle of February to the end of March. If your schedule is uncertain it is better to repot early. Note: When repotting do not handle trees by their trunks; that will damage the bark and make it look like reverse taper.

Aphids will show up about as soon as new foliage. The new foliage can be tender so be careful of sprays. Spider mites and scale will be in any warm locale on evergreens and in the greenhouse. The organic spray (one tablespoon each of liquid kelp, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon water) works well for me. Use a sprayer that produces a fine mist and be sure to cover the bottoms of the leaf too. If you use chemical sprays be sure to read the label closely. Some trees, especially buttonwoods, are sensitive to oil based chemical sprays. If you get moss on the bark of your trees, try isopropyl alcohol. After the moss is killed pick it off carefully so as to not pull the bark away.

When pruning for development, that is growing

the branches you need and developing the secondary branches you will allow the new growth to elongate and thicken the base of the branch. Be sure to wire it in order to have the proper angle where it originates. When it is thick enough you will cut it back really short and grow another tip. This develops taper and motion in your branch. It helps develop secondary branching also.

The critical thing to have excellent bonsai is to do the trimming of the new growth correctly. This is what develops the ramification, twiginess and small leaves you desire. This trimming is where the real work of keeping your bonsai as bonsai is. Basically there are three types of growth on your trees, opposite leaves, alternate leaves, and the adult juniper growth. The best example of opposite growth is the maples; of alternate would be the elms and oak.



*Cedar elm*

After the tree is styled you will prune to develop the twigs and small leaves which give the tree the look of age. Not done correctly, the twigs will be too fat and heavy and the leaves larger than they need be.

On alternate growing type of plants, let the new growth grow to 4-5 leaves. Then cut it back to 2 or 3 leaves. Decide on which direction you wish the new leader to go and cut to the leaf on that side. A new shoot is also emerging from the leaves behind that one. Keep this up as long as the tree is putting out new shoots.

Watch the new growth of alternately leafed tree closely. You will see the bud opening with two new leaves spreading apart. Between the two new leaves a new growing tip will be seen. The sooner this tip is removed, the shorter will be the internodes. If it not removed, the stalk behind the leaves will continue to grow. This stalk becomes the internode when the twig continues to grow. On maples especially, the proper tool to use is tweezers that have a fairly sharp point. You must clip the tip behind its leaf node. Sometimes you will need to gently open the new leaves to get the tip in time. This is also true for doing oaks.

Everyone uses the term pinch when describing how to trim junipers however, that is not a good term. When working on scale foliage you do not want to use scissors because they will cut across the scale and create brown tips on your branches. The proper technique is to pluck the tips by holding the new foliage between the fleshy parts of your thumb and finger. Never use the nails which would bruise the scale foliage. I do this also on the bald cypress although it is possible to cut with scissors without cutting their needles.

On the subject of pruning, you can still do styling work. It can be done until the sap begins as evidenced by the buds swelling. Check last year's wiring especially at the base of the branch. Remove it if necessary. Branches will swell when growth begins. Spring flowering plants have their buds set.

Wiring and other work could damage them. It would be best to leave them until after they bloom. If the azaleas have too many buds you should remove some. The flowers should have enough room to open without being unduly crowded. Wisteria blooms on new growth. The new growth should be left to get long enough to have flowers. (American wisteria, *Wisteria frutescens*, will bloom on very young plants and will re-bloom several times if new growth is pruned after it blooms.)

While you get your trees out of winter storage, look for candidates for showing in your club events. Put them up front where you will give them more TLC. Keep their grooming right up to snuff from the beginning, don't wait and try to do a last minute trim. If the pots are clean a light coating of Leaf-Shine will help keep them that way and make any last minute touchup easy.

Take advantage of any collecting trips you can go on. They make it possible to have a 50 or 100 yr old tree within your life time.



*Western juniper at the FWBS Show & Sale*

### *Calendar of Events*

**February 10, Thu.** – FWBS Program

**February 24, Thu.** – Fourth Thursday Meeting

**March 10, Thu.** – FWBS Program

**March 24, Thu.** – Fourth Thursday Meeting

*Shohin Society of Texas*  
*Saturday, Feb. 19<sup>TH</sup>, 10:30 A.M.*  
*Persimmon Hill Bonsai*

#### CREATING BUNJIN STYLE SHOHIN

February's meeting will focus on creating bunjin shohin. In the morning Collin Murphy will lead a discussion about the rules and guidelines for creating bunjin. We'll have some sketches and pictures of bunjin to discuss also. The afternoon will be a workshop creating shohin bunjin. Participants should bring their own materials and tools, including a tree and wire. When selecting material for the workshop, keep in mind the following guidelines:

1. There should be little or no taper in the trunk. This guideline is unique to the bunjin style, as opposed to other styles. Also, the trunk should not be too thick.
2. Slow-growing evergreens are usually better than fast-growing deciduous trees.
3. The trunk and branches should not be too thick in order to do a lot of bending.

Initial potting or repotting is an option at this time of the year, but is not necessary. If you do plan on potting or repotting be sure to bring soil, screens and a pot.

Meetings are at Persimmon Hill Bonsai, 12001 Red Hawk Cove in Austin. Questions? Contact Terry or Sheila at 512-280-5575 or [texshohin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:texshohin@sbcglobal.net).

#### *Last Month's Program*

We were fortunate to have Se Sohengeh come to our January meeting and show us the fine art of grafting. Se brought along a Trident maple that had a large wound that needed to heal as well as needing lower limbs. He accomplished both at the same time by bending around a thin lower limb on the same tree and thread-grafting it across the cut and into the sides of the tree. Not only will this provide new lower limbs, but their

presence will quicken the healing of the large wound.



***All Things Bonsai Sale***  
***February 12, 9 AM – Noon***  
***Joe Andrews' Home in Crowley***

When Vito Megna closed his bonsai store Gail Williams and Steven Hendricks bought out his pot inventory. Now they are ready to get rid of most of them. The pots will be 20% off retail price. There will also be a few bonsai/pre-bonsai for sale.

Along with this, there will be pots, tools and books that belonged to Suzanne Scott, a former club member who has agreed to split the proceeds with the club.

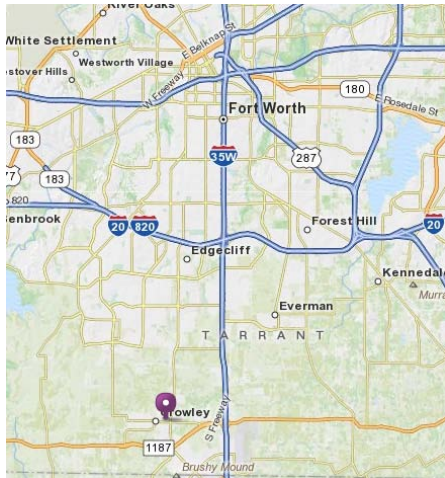
Joe's address is: 300 East Mustang, Crowley, TX, 76036 Joe's phone number is: 817-297-3413 Gather a couple of friends and car pool down!



Pots



And More Pots



Suzanne's Tools



Pots



One of 2 display stands



Suzanne's pots

### *February Program Notes*

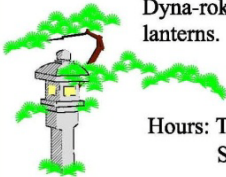
*By Bill Weber*

Over the last couple of years several members have collected Ashe junipers from Glen Rose and managed to keep some of them alive. Many are now asking the question, Now What!!! On Thursday February 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm the Fort Worth club meeting will try to answer this question. John Miller & Mark Bynum will lead a discussion and workshop on repotting, and beginning design work.

### *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](http://www.sandersonbonsai.com) ph# 817-534-3220

### *Glen Rose Dig Highlights*

*By Mark Bynum*

Thirty two Ashe Juniper are on their way to new homes from the Glen Rose Dig this last Saturday, 1/29/11. The weather was very nice, bordering on too hot, and 10 diggers from the Bonsai Society of Dallas along with 4 diggers from the

Fort Worth Bonsai Society found easy digging. The soil had just the right moisture content for good tree balls and most people stayed all day. Some pretty nice junipers were dug.

Our two guests, Donna Dobberfuhl, president of the San Antonio club, and Joey McCoy, president of the Austin club, caught juniper fever when they saw the digging field. So feverish in fact that they dug 10 junipers and filled their SUV to take their new prizes southward. Although through much sniffing due to the strong cedar smell/pollen in the air (what did they expect?), they thanked the FWBS for inviting them. Even though they would have a lot of work to do on Sunday to pot their new trees, they were all smiles and quite impressed with our system of collecting.

A special thanks to Lance Williamson for his unselfish use of his 4 wheeler. I believe Lance sacrificed much of his own time to dig in order to help everyone else carry their trees back to their cars. He must have carried 20 large trees, 2 at a time, on the front and back of his 4 wheeler. This was a great help to all whose appetites were bigger than their muscles. He stayed till dark. We were fortunate to have him and his machine there.

A big FWBS/BSD SALUTE to Lance Williamson.



*Garret from the Dallas club, Joey from the Austin club and Donna from the San Antonio club.*



*Garret, Lance and Eduardo from the Dallas club along with our own Bill Weber.*



*Eduardo and his girlfriend. This is Eduardo's first collected Ashe juniper.*

### ***Fourth Thursday Repotting/Styling***

At the last Thursday meeting on Jan. 27, Ladd, Lance, Steven, Bill, Ted, and Mark potted up 15 junipers for the club to sell. We have 50 of them to do, but only got a few potted because they were so big! We also could have used a few more people!

The raw Procumbens junipers were the largest we have ever bought (see the picture below) and they cost us 25 cents less per plant! It was almost a shame to cut them down so far. However, it did make for many more jin opportunities and they are styling out pretty nicely. Several of us will take some of the unfinished junipers home to pot

and some of the finished junipers to maintain until they are sold. We need more baby sitters!



*Before and after.*



*Lance and Ladd help with styling.*

### ***Notes from the President***

At the January meeting, the club made a major decision by voting in the proposed By-Law changes. The club will now be run by a Board of Directors except during the newly added Annual Business Meeting when the members will vote on major issues. So how does this affect the club right now? The most visible benefit to the membership will be the lack of business at the monthly meetings: no reading of the minutes, no treasurer's report, no old or new business. This will knock off at least 15 minutes from every meeting and give us more time for pure bonsai program. Our new order of meetings will be:

Welcome, Visitors, Announcements, Seasonal Bonsai discussion, Show & Tell, Program, Raffle/Door Prizes. That's it!

With this Board system, programs should improve because there will be more heads working on them. In fact, all areas of the club will improve because of increased meetings of the officers. The first BOD meeting is this week and our first Annual Business Meeting will be in March. Give the system a year to get cranking and I see a much stronger club emerging to accomplish our objectives of promoting interest and enjoyment of Bonsai.

Happy styling,  
Mark A. Bynum, president

this one. Six people should not have to carry the club on this project!



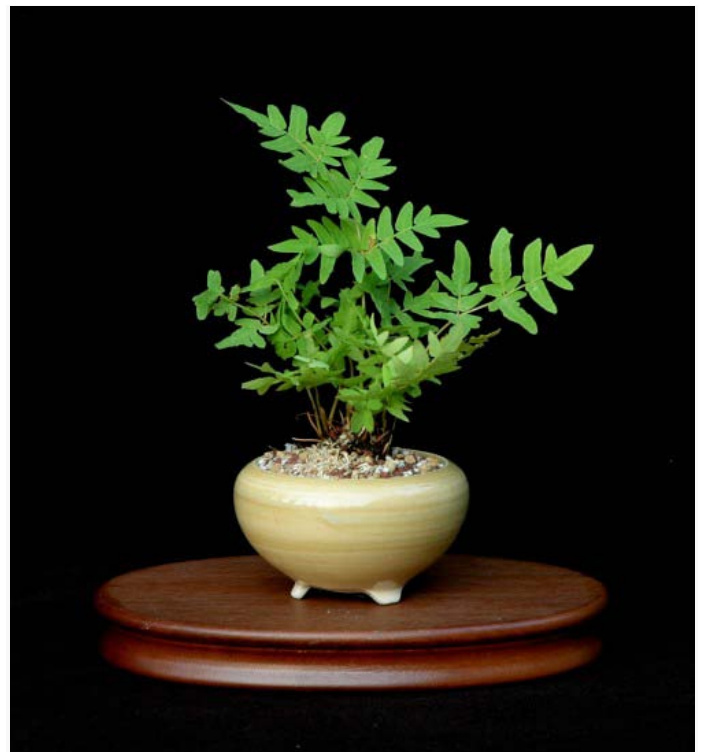
*Maple group planting.*



*Root-Over-Rock Maple*

***Next Fourth Thursday Repotting/Styling***

Because we did not have enough people last month to work on all the little junipers, we will be having another repotting/styling meeting at the upcoming Fourth Thursday meeting. We will also put together some repotting kits to sell. If you couldn't make it last month, please try to come to



*Fern accent plant.*