



Fort Worth Bonsai Society

FWBS 2011/2012 Club Officers

Elected:

President: Mark Bynum
(mark.bynum@tx.rr.com)
Vice President: Bob Lewis
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:

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)
stevenhendricks@sbcglobal.net (Home)

January Meetings
Thursday, January 13, 7:00 PM

Snacks provided by:
Lance Williamson

Fourth Thursday Meeting
Thursday, January 27, 7:00 PM



January Program Notes *By Bill Weber*

Grafting Demonstration by Se Sohengeh

Ever wanted to know what bonsai grafting means or why would it be useful? Well, Se Sohengeh, long time bonsai professional will demonstrate how to get a branch or root exactly where you need one through grafting techniques. He will explain the tools and wrapping skills needed and explain the differences between several grafting techniques. He will also help the attendees with grafts on their own trees so please bring in a tree or trees for Se to help you with. Almost every tree can be improved by grafting!

"SIFT IT & MIX IT" EVENT**Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011 (rain date: 1/22/2011)**

Scott Rae will tote his new and improved sifting machine over to Mark Bynum's house on Jan. 15. Scott can sift all kinds of soil components including: akadama, pine bark mulch, lava rock, and expanded shale. These components can be sifted into coarse, medium, and small sizes while taking out much of the fine particles.

Now is the time to get your bonsai soil ready for repotting. This is a good opportunity to take advantage of. Probably will start around 9 but call either Scott or Mark to confirm.



Last year's event.

**Glen Rose Dig- Saturday, January 29,
2011, 9 am, gather at the gate
by Mark Bynum**

For those of you that made it to the tagging expedition in December, I am sure you are looking forward to digging the trees you tagged. For the rest of you, come on out and find a great tree to dig for yourself. We had 10 at the tagging trip and I expect a few more people to attend. This will be **our last club organized trip** to this location. We have taken well over 300 trees out of this site over the last 5 years and there may not be enough left to satisfy the hunger of another large group of people. However, I have talked with the land owner and he may let individual members on the property to dig trees in the

future. Please make your own arrangements with Jim Cheatham at email halfrey@hyperusa.com. See you at the Dig! **Rain Date of February 12.**

Directions: The easiest route to follow is to get to Glen Rose any way you wish. Take Hwy 144 south off of Hwy 67 and wind around to the court house. From the Glen Rose Court House square 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 onto CR 2004 south, then three miles southeast to CR 2730 (this road is now marked), turn left and proceed 1.3 miles. On a rise on the right will be visible two houses. Look for the first rock mailbox on your left, across the street take the first driveway. We will meet at the gate by the barns at 9 am.

Several "FWBS" signs with arrows will be along the route starting at county road 2007.

Contact person is Mark Bynum at cell phone 817-437-8936 in case you have a question or car trouble. Remember that cell phones do not always work at this location.

Bring Water, Wear a hat & walking type shoes and here is a tools check list for the dig:

- 2- 5 gal. or larger nursery pots, *nest these together to start with and put all the equipment you can into them.*
- Gloves
- Survey tape- *for marking potential trees to dig as you explore. Make it a bright color!*
- Hand clippers, loppers, and tree saw- *for cutting off branches in the way and large roots as you dig the tree.*
- Kitchen trash bag- *to sit on when the ground is wet; a potential tree ball wrap.*
- Large black trash bag- *same as above; sling for carrying out trees.*
- Knee pad- *very handy for my bony knees!*
- Cellophane roll or burlap- *used to wrap the ball.*
- Twine- *for wrapping around the ball*
- Sharpshooter shovel- *if you do not know what this is for.....stay home!*

- Knife
- Camera
- Lunch or snacks for those staying later.

Bonsai Society of Dallas' Dig at George Straw's on January 16th

Fort Worth club members are invited to the BSD upcoming dig in Van Alstyne. That's about halfway between McKinney and Sherman. There are still a lot of great winged elms on this land ready to be dug and made into nice bonsai in just a few short years. These are very hardy trees, great for beginners or for those who want to add trees with quick refinement potential to their collection. What else you say? Well, how about native companion plants or natural sandstone rock planters. As if that's not enough, this year Howard and Sylvia Smith will be selling off some of their field grown pine trees from George's land. These will be available to dig at a small fee of \$10-\$25 per tree. All of these trees are seedling cuttings that vary in age from 4-8 years. They have the initial work already started and are sure to make great bonsai. The dig begins at 9:00am. For directions to the farm click on the link to his website:

[Http://georgestraw.com/GeorgeStraw/Map_to_the_Farm.html](http://georgestraw.com/GeorgeStraw/Map_to_the_Farm.html)

Calendar of Events

January 13, Thu. – Grafting Program
January 15, Sat. – LSBF Meeting in Wimberley
January 15, Sat – Sift It & Mix It Event at Mark's
January 16, Sun – BSD dig, Fort Worth invited
January 27, Thu. – Club Junipers, Trim & Pot
January 29, Sat. – Glen Rose Dig at 9:00 am

Buying Trip 1/15/2011

The Dallas club has invited our club to its annual buying trip to Dallas Bonsai Garden on January 15 from 9-12 noon. Fred Meyer recommends that members do their shopping off of his website and bring their list with them on Saturday

morning. Fred will offer club members a discount off the prices quoted on-line. (He estimates an average discount of at least 10%.) Stock up now on much needed Bonsai tools and supplies. Visit the website at:

www.dallasbonsai.com



Mark shows off his holiday spirit at last month's club meeting and dinner.

Notes from the President

The new year brings on much work in the bonsai world around here. Trimming deciduous trees and beginning to repot and all the preparation that goes with it takes up many weekends for the next 3 months. Now add to that the "Sift It & Mix It" event, Jan. 15, the Club Juniper Styling and Repotting event, Jan. 27, and the Glen Rose Dig, Jan. 29, and the FWBS will be sure to keep you busy and producing outstanding bonsai art! I promise. Se will be showing us some ways to graft at the January program which is timely, as that activity will be necessary in April/May. Grafting is one of those advanced techniques that is absolutely necessary to produce a good tree out of a lacking one and a better tree out of a good one. I plan to listen intently.

If your January was not busy enough, the Dallas club has invited us to the buying trip at Dallas Bonsai Gardens, Jan. 15, and to the George Straw Dig, Jan. 16 (*See details elsewhere in this newsletter*). FWBS have invited them to the dig

in Glen Rose and to the January meeting program.

This is the beginning of the new term for the newly elected officers of the club and we welcome new officer Bill Weber as Vice-president/Programs. Look for a few new concepts in programs as we progress through 2011. Thanks to Dan Leblanc for his tenure as VP/Programs for the last 2 years. This is undoubtedly the hardest job in the club.

For the only business in the January meeting, we will be voting on the By-Law changes concerning creating a Board of Directors that have been proposed back in October and formalized in the December meeting. These changes have been sent out twice and everyone should be familiar with them by now. Contact me if you have any questions by email or phone. These changes will affect the club for many years to come so please attend and make your thoughts known and vote. Remember that only registered members of the club can vote. Do not forget to bring in your membership fee and renew at the first of the meeting.


We have some money in the treasury that we can use and I foresee some very positive programs and projects coming in the next 2 years that will add excitement to our club as well as upgrade the quality of bonsai trees for each and every member that cares to participate.

A Happy Bonsai Year to All,
Mark A. Bynum, president

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

Bonsai in January

By John Miller

I thought that last month's virtual tour program was one of the best we have offered for beginners to learn some of the things needed to keep the bonsai healthy. My suggestion for you is not to try to copy the ideas completely but to consider them all and adapt them to fit your back yard or apartment balcony. Each location has different needs.

My most unforgettable January calamity in recent years was having two Catlin elms and a trident cut and stripped by a packrat for his nest. The two elms took some time but they recovered. The trident never did. I now keep outdoor rat poison blocks scattered among the trees. I like blocks rather than pellets since they are easier to pick up come spring.

Other outdoor pest problems will depend upon the temperature. If there are many warm days spider mites, scale, and aphids may show up. Use the same controls you did last summer. Indoor plants will have the same pests you had last summer and maybe some more since any eggs will hatch and they usually love the warm indoors. So keep your eyes peeled when you are watering.

Watering tends to be a bonsai growers biggest problem in winter. It is difficult to determine how dry the soil is when they are put close together in winter storage. That could be another argument for having a porous well-draining bonsai soil which is very difficult to over water. Just remember that the water will evaporate quickly when the warm winter sun hit's the pots and more so if there is a little breeze.. Too much water could cause root rot, fungus or other damage.

January is an excellent time to do styling work. Deciduous trees are bare so you see the real tree and are not confused and misled by foliage. Examine the branch structure and decide if you

need to reposition any branches. If the trees have been styled for some time, you may need to reduce the length of some branches by selectively cutting back a larger secondary branch and developing a smaller branch. This also gives you more movement in the branch. Remove vertically growing twigs and branchlets. Do you need to develop more ramification. If so make a note to go on a rigorous tip pruning when growth starts next spring.

Evergreens may be worked on although the best time would have been last fall. Their sap flow is now at a minimum so they will not bleed too much.

Do not do too much work on spring flowering plants like azaleas, their buds were set late last summer or fall and you will be losing some blooms. Most late bloomers (wisteria and crape myrtle) generally have their blooms on new growth so you can style them now.

Greenhouses can be a great source of bonsai enjoyment in January. Of course, there are always the tropicals that stay green the year around and will therefore need a bunch of care. I let my small elms and maples get a month of cold, hopefully they get to 25 a couple of times to be really dormant. Then between Christmas and New Years I bring them into the greenhouse and can do their repotting in January and enjoy the flush of new foliage before the bigger trees need anything.

The cheapest but best way to upgrade your collection is to join on the club digs. You obtain several years work in a morning. Most digs are scheduled in the late winter which gets them at close to the optimum digging stage. If you have doubts about the care after you get home just ask any of your fellow collectors. They all like to share techniques. Collected trees are faster than the other way that I like; grow your own from cuttings. Cuttings do not take any care at all the

first year, just put them under the bench and hit them with water when you do the bonsai on top.

The only way to learn bonsai is to do it. You cannot get the 'why' out of a book. You need to have someone help you with the styling and he should point out not only what he is doing but why she is doing it. All clubs work hard on having good programs but the real learning is by taking advantage of any workshops offered, both by local club personnel and by visiting artists that the club brings in. When you go to your clubs local show spend more time with the trees (go around several times, you will see something different each time) and less time gossiping. I got most of my beginner's knowledge following the two club 'experts' around the room and eavesdropping on their critiques (mostly of their own trees). The LSBF state convention each year offers a concentrated weekend of study. I still like to watch a master work and listen to his comments. There will always be something slightly new or different or a different approach that will be clearer. Wiring or repotting itself might be boring but the presentation is never boring.

So plan on doing Corpus on May 13-15. See you there.

Fourth Thursday Meeting

Your club needs your help on January 27, Fourth Thursday Meeting. This is the meeting when we style and pot 30 junipers for a fund raiser. We have done this for the past 3 years and we always sell out at the Japanese Festivals making about \$300 for the club. All you need to bring is styling tools and maybe some light wire. Junipers, pots, soil, and pot screen will be supplied.

We also need several volunteers to take about 10 junipers each home for care until the April Japanese Festival.

Fort Worth Bonsai Society Membership Form

Please mail to:
Fort Worth Bonsai Society
1912 Ashland Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Or Turn in at Club Meeting

The Fort Worth Bonsai Society meets on the second Thursday of each month.

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Conservatory of the Botanic Gardens

3220 Botanic Garden Blvd

Fort Worth, TX 76107

(817) 871-7686

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Individual Membership: \$25.00

Joint Membership: \$35.00

Student Membership: \$15.00

Please Check Your Membership Selections Below:

___ Individual

___ Joint

___ Student

How would you prefer to receive the newsletter?

___ By Email (.pdf, Adobe Acrobat format)

___ By US mail