



Fort Worth Bonsai Society

Fort Worth Bonsai Society June Program *By Bill Weber*

- What:** Fort Worth Bonsai Society “Bring a Tree” Summer Workshop
- When:** Thursday, June 9, 2011
Time: 7:00 pm
- Where:** Fort Worth Botanical Garden
Deborah Beggs Moncrief
Garden Center
3220 Botanic Garden Drive N,
Fort Worth, TX

It is time to prepare our Tropical Trees for the upcoming long hot summer months. Several experienced members will discuss specific care on their plants along with pot temperature, ways to manage our tropical plants, and watering / fertilizing requirements, and re-potting requirements. Time will be spent pruning our tropical's. If you do not have a tropical tree you can bring another variety and get some help with them too.

The club will also be collecting cuttings to be used as stock for the spring and fall festivals. Please give liberally. Please bring your tools. The room will be set up in a workshop configuration. Hope to see you there.

Calendar of Events

- June 9, Thursday – FWBS Meeting*
June 18, Saturday – Shohin Society of Texas Meeting
July 2, Saturday – BSD Meeting
July 14, Thursday – FWBS Meeting



Suiseki displayed at the LSBF
Convention in Corpus Christi

Bonsai in June

By John Miller

Normally I would consider Memorial Day the last day to leaf prune, since the tree needs to have enough growing temperature to get the new foliage matured. If your spring has been like mine, you should still be able to leaf prune if you need to but be careful, it could turn hot in a hurry. Remember do it only on healthy vigorous trees. Put the tree in a semi-shaded location out of the wind until new foliage appears. And be careful to not overwater, nude trees don't need as much. Again never leaf prune the atropurpureum varieties of Japanese maples, they do not re-bud very well. However, they would probably come out again next the spring.



When night temperatures stay above 60 degrees you can think about repotting some of the tropicals. I would wait another month though for the buttonwood. Some tropicals can be leaf pruned all summer. The *Ficus nerifolia* especially benefits by leaf pruning and can be done more than once each summer. That will develop the heavy twiggyness you see in the *Ficus* bonsai from the Far East. I leaf prune my *Eleagnus* six weeks or so before a show if it looks ratty.

It is important to continue the twig pruning of your trees on a regular basis. While doing this chore look at the tree to see if there is a need to do some refinement pruning. Refinement pruning is a deeper pruning to replace a branch that has grown too long or too big with a smaller one. This is usually done with the secondary or tertiary branches not the primary branch coming from the trunk. I prefer to do this refinement pruning on deciduous trees in the winter when I can see the branch structure. But on bonsai like the yaupon hollies I like to do it at this time when the tree is actively growing so that any winter dieback is apparent. Trees that weep a lot from cuts such as maples or pines should not be done at this time.

The extended cool and damp weather is good for fungal diseases like black leaf spot. Treat with potassium bicarbonate or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda). After the foliage is hardened a bit you can treat with 1% hydrogen peroxide (1 part 3% peroxide to 2 parts water) weekly. Warm damp weather will bring its own fungal problems like mildew. Same treatment.

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. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and cider vinegar per gallon water) to control all these. It also gets any caterpillars and even bagworms. You can use some of the other organic controls like horticultural oil or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully and **DO NOT** apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods.

It does not do much good to spray if you do not do it correctly. Hose end sprayers have too coarse a spray and usually do not cover very well. All pathogen controls must be sprayed with a sprayer that has a nozzle which produces a fine spray in order to cover the entire leaf surface, top and bottom. You **GOTS** to get all them bugs or they come right back. And you **GOTS** to spray on a regular basis. Any bugs or spores hiding in cracks will repeat the infestation.

Ants are a different problem. Some ants are after the honeydew exuded by aphids feeding on the leaves and will leave when you get rid of the aphids. However, if they are building nests in the soil, like my fire ants, the tunnels and cavities will prevent proper watering and result in loss of roots. After you get rid of the ants, be sure to grab your chopsticks and work the soil down and eliminate any holes. Add more soil on top if needed.

Even if the days are relatively cool the sun can still get the pots pretty hot. Not only does this dry out the soil very fast but the tree roots cannot live in a hot soil. A temperature I have heard given is that 120 degrees will kill roots on most plants. I cannot give you a precise to-do list since your backyard is different from mine but you should be sure that the sun does not hit the pots directly. If you use a cover of any kind be sure that the side of the pot is protected also. A loose weave cover is preferable to solid paper or foil. Leave an air space between the cover and pot and soil.

Most plants in pots will not enjoy a full day of 90 plus sun. Partial shade should be provided. A shade cloth awning is the best as it will protect in the middle of the day. A shade cloth on the west side will protect from the late afternoon sun. This is the worst sun as the temperature is already high and the drier air makes the rays more intense.

Get to know you trees like your children. Which ones use more water and which ones stay moist between waterings. If some are difficult to keep happy you can try moving those to a cooler location (but be sure they get their sunlight). Another trick is to group problem trees together so that you can hit them with a shot of water twice a day and not have to spend the time going thru all your trees.

Keep on rotating those bonsai on a regular basis, as you learned two months ago.



Corpus Christi "Gateway to Bonsai" Convention Report:

By Mark Bynum

Stormy weather and a strong wind off the Gulf of Mexico greeted John Miller and I as we approached Corpus Christi on Thursday, May 12. We made it in all right, but one of the guest artists had to drive instead of fly the last leg to the convention some 200 miles from Houston.

All the artists arrived in time for the workshops that began on Friday morning. I took a diaza carving workshop by Sean Smith that was very informative about the art of *suiseki* (*viewing stones*) as well as revealing the tricks of creating a *diaza* (*a form fitting stand for a viewing stone*). Sean also conducted a critique of the exhibit trees and conducted workshops on *Ficus retusa* and Blue Vase Juniper. All of the workshop materials were outstanding and most of the workshops were

filled. Artist Ed Trout did workshops on Bahama Black Olive, Brazilian Raintree, and Jade

Plant, as well as a demonstration on a large Ficus. Artist Bill Valavanis, organizer of two National Exhibitions and who was in Fort Worth/Dallas 3 years ago, did workshops on Montezuma Cypress, and Natal plum. Bill also showed power point presentations on the art of displaying bonsai. He did a demonstration on a smaller Ficus tree as well. Both the demo trees were raffled off on Sunday morning. Terry Ward conducted a workshop on Weeping Elm.

The Vendor Area was good and the Exhibit Area was full of trees! The Corpus club did an outstanding job of creating a "Gateway" into the Exhibit area. A nice touch was the view of the Gulf from the dining room for all of the meals. After the events of the day, many of us socialized in the convenient lobby bar. Certainly John and I did Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights! We had such a good time at the bar that I believe the bartender will be joining the Corpus Christi Bonsai Club very soon. She went bananas over the raffles and won many items.

The Saturday night auction carried over from the Fort Worth Convention last year was another success, raising over \$4,000 gross sales! The Dallas Convention in 2012 will also have an auction, so be prepared to auction off some of your higher end bonsai trees.

The strengths of the Corpus Christi Club are their goodie bags and their raffles. Each raffle had over 70 items and all were nice. Lots of trees and starter plants, books, pots, and tools brought in many dollars. Many of us were broke by the end of the \$5 Grand Raffle on Sunday morning.

All in all, 85 registrants enjoyed an entertaining and educational bonsai experience. The Bonsai Society of Dallas/LSBF Convention is less than 11 months away in April, 2012. I recommend that anyone that has more than one bonsai tree take the opportunity to attend a convention for an exhilarating bonsai experience. No excuses since Dallas is so close.

Thanks to the Corpus Christi Club for a good convention.

Notes from the President

As promised in my last "Notes....", a convention report can be found in this newsletter. From



FWBS, John Miller, Steven Hendricks, Gail Williams, Bill Jacobson, and I attended the Corpus Christi Bonsai Convention. It was a very pleasant Bonsai experience made particularly nice because we were not running it! Next year in Dallas, all of you should make plans to attend. It will enhance your bonsai art awareness and you will have better trees for it.

Also in May, the club just held the traditional Raffle, now combined with an Auction. Several people from outside the club were in attendance and bid in the auction as well as picking up a few items from the raffle. We had more than 35 items in the auction and most all were sold. The club raised a lot of funds and had a fun time in the process. Thanks go out to all the members that brought in items for the event. A special thanks to: Joe Andrews for coordinating the raffle materials and cash box: Ladd Kelley for administrating the auction; Bill Weber for refreshments.

Heads up for the Club Bonsai Show coming up on August 12-14. This is a time for you to show off your best trees in a formal bonsai exhibition. Now is the time to select and prepare your tree. Select a stand and be sure to get your companion plants potted up. You may choose to bring in a tree to spruce up for the exhibition to the Club Artist Workshop in July. This will be the second workshop in the 2 year series. Don't miss it.

The club is doing well and I look forward to the summer activities coming up. See you at Dos Gringos before the next meeting at about 5:30.

Happy styling,
Mark Bynum

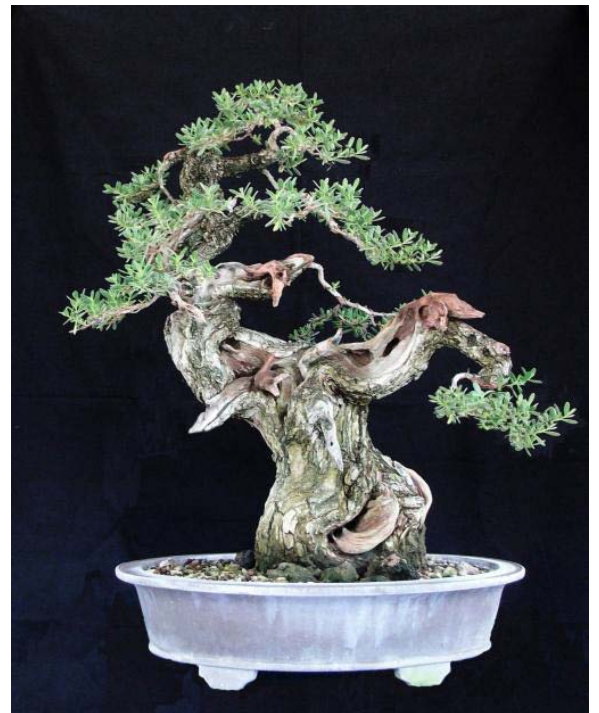
Shohin Society of Texas
Saturday, June 18, 10:30 AM

CREATING SUISEKI DIAZA

Sheila Ward and Mike Watson will give an introduction to creating diaza, the wooden base, for suiseki. The duo will then lead a hands-on workshop in making a custom diaza for your stone. This is a workshop for all skill levels. It's going to be exciting!

WHAT TO BRING

- Safety glasses (mandatory), dust mask & ear protection
- Several flat base stones with potential to become suiseki
- Variable speed Dremel® or similar rotary tool
- Wood carving cutters and sanding bands
- Hardwood board to 1" thick X 4" or 6" wide
- Fine and coarse sheet sandpaper
- #2 black pencil



If you have another shohin related project or shohin bonsai you had rather work on than to create a diaza bring it along. You are always welcome to do so at our meetings. Meetings are at Persimmon Hill Bonsai, 12001 Red Hawk Cove in Austin. Questions? Contact Terry or Sheila attexshohin@sbcglobal.net or 512-280-5575.