



Fort Worth Bonsai Society

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:

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)

March Meetings
Thursday, March 10, 6:30 PM

**Sandwiches and drinks
provided by
the club**

No Fourth Thursday Meeting



Ume

RULE OF 20's *By Mark Bynum*

Horticultural maintenance of our precious bonsai trees can be an overwhelming burden. The difference in maintaining patio plants in large pots such as a hibiscus or a poodle wax leaf ligustrum compared to maintaining a trident maple bonsai in a small pot is profound. Watering a plant in a large clay pot is simple due

to the large root zone. The large volume of soil does not dry so quickly, so you do not have to water as frequently. The root zone is more insulated against the rigors of the hot and cold seasons, so you do not have to protect them as much. The smaller the root zone, the higher your watchfulness must be.

When I began my journey into the bonsai art world, I was always hearing "do this in March" and "do this in August", etc. The problem here is that our seasons do not start and stop at the same time every year. It seemed to me that using the average ambient temperature to trigger an essential action was a smarter route to follow. I managed a wholesale landscape nursery for a time with acres of plants to care for. At 28° F. we covered all the tender plants. If we did not, we knew it within a week. At 95 we made sure the shade clothes were already up and the sprinkler system was operational. In the bonsai world this temperature regulated maintenance system works too. In an article I wrote on bonsai pot temperatures several years ago I found that it was time to begin protecting the root zone at 90 ambient temperature. Also at 70 horticultural maintenance items need to be considered. Again at 50 for tropical bonsai, and, as mentioned above, 28 (let's just round this up to 30° to be safe) are key temperatures to initiate some kind of action with our bonsai trees. So now we must take some kind of action at 90°, 50°, and 30°F. concerning the root zone of bonsai trees. You will quickly notice that these are 20 apart, and thus the very simple memory aid I call the **Rule of 20's.**

As the temperature rises (↑), there is a certain set of maintenance tasks to perform. As the temperature falls (↓) the opposite action is needed. Keep in mind that these actions are to be taken when the temperatures are consistently reached. For examples, when the temperature consistently reaches 90 then it is time to water twice a day. When the temperature consistently dips below 50, tropical plants need protection. The exception to this is the 30° mark.

- 90° ↑ -set up shade cloth for sun protection or move trees to a shadier location
 -implement other pot temperature controls such as skirting, misting, humidity trays, etc.
 -begin consideration of watering twice a day
- ↓ -remove shade cloth, skirting, etc.
 -ease up on the watering
- 70° ↑ -consider watering once a day
 -step up fertilization practices
 -all tropical trees can be moved outside when night temperatures are consistently above 70°, water twice per day
- ↓ -ease up on watering
 -cut back on fertilization practices
 -begin moving tropical trees into greenhouse or protected area
 -night temperatures below 70°, cut back on watering
- 50° ↑ -most tropical trees and sub-tropicals can begin to be moved outside
 -remove mulch from around winterized pots and set on benches
- ↓ -all tropical trees and sub-tropicals should be in greenhouse or protected area
 -begin winterization techniques such as setting pots on ground and mulching
- 30° (Take these actions every time)
 ↑ -remove protective coverings
- ↓ -cover tender trees
 -water

Of course, use common sense when implementing any guide such as this. What is "consistently" where temperatures are involved? Watch out for warm snaps in winter and cold snaps in the fall. Just because it reaches 70 one or two days in a row does not necessarily mean to start watering every day. Temper your decisions

to fit your environment, however, I think that 70 in Fort Worth will be much the same as 70 around the country! For my feeble mind a memory aid such as the **Rule of 20's** is a great help in this complex world of bonsai. I hope it will be a great help to you too.

Happy styling,
Mark Bynum



Ume

"Club Artist Workshop" Program

Over the past 6 months, the officers of FWBS have been developing a new program for the members. The program is designed to improve the quality of bonsai art in FWBS through a comprehensive, regular, and long term engagement of a "Club Artist". The thought is that seasonal work on the same tree over a period of two years with the same teacher is a better bonsai education than

occasional visiting artists and expensive workshops.

Here is the Program:

- In March, July, and October, for 2011-2012, for a total of 6 programs, we will hold the Club Artist Workshop as our regular monthly meeting on the second Thursday. We will still meet in the regular room.
- Every member is invited to bring in 1 or 2 trees that they would like to work on for the next 2 years with the 'Club Artists'***. Though not a fast rule, the idea is to bring in the same trees for all 6 workshops, improving each tree at every meeting.
- Photos of your trees will be taken when you arrive and when you leave the workshops. Your photos will be printed and brought back to the next meeting for you and the Club Artist to use to document improvement. The photos are yours to take home. After 2 years, it should be interesting to view the first photo again!
- During the workshop, "Minute Lessons" will pop up for everyone to listen to. These will be timely tidbits of bonsai information with an example right there for learning.
- The workshop will begin at 6:30pm and end around 9:30 or earlier. A snack type dinner, such as Subway sandwiches, chips, and beverages, will be available at the kitchen area.
- This program is **FREE TO FWBS MEMBERS** including the snack dinner.

***The Club Artists:

The Club Artists are Howard & Sylvia Smith, both members of FWBS. They are officially #1(Howard) and #2(Sylvia) graduates of Boon Manakitivipart's, a well-known US Bonsai Artist, intensive workshops in San Francisco a decade ago. Their bonsai trees have been featured in many publications and on internet sites in this

country and beyond. They both displayed trees in the 1st USA National Exhibition in 2008. Howard has a tree currently featured in the gallery area of the Jan-Feb, 2011, issue of *Bonsai Focus* magazine.

Well-known in the local area, FWBS has awarded Sylvia the "Members Choice Award" in 2009, and Howard was awarded "Best of Show" at the 2010 Cowtown Bonsai Convention. Owners of Bonsai Smiths bonsai sales and services company, they have conducted workshops for many years. They are skilled in deciduous trees, tropicals, conifers, and pines, as well as bonsai display. We are fortunate they accepted the position of "Club Artists" for FWBS.

Benefits of the 'Club Artist Workshop':

- Every member now has an opportunity to take a tree and develop it with professional help into a nice bonsai. There is no question that you will have a nice tree after 2 years.
- Any type of tree or bonsai style is acceptable material.
- Your confidence in your bonsai skills will improve. Your new found confidence will translate over to your entire bonsai collection.
- This program should appeal to all members of FWBS, beginners as well as more experienced bonsai enthusiasts.
- The workshop setting allows you to learn from the other participants with a large variety of trees and styles. Watch everyone's trees develop over 2 years and you will advance beyond your own collection.
- This is an entirely free program to FWBS members.
- Free photos of your trees will track the improvement over 2 years. "Before & After" shots will be quite enlightening.
- A free meal and great bonsai fellowship 3 times a year!
- The bonsai art in Fort Worth should improve dramatically.

- Our public shows will improve as our trees improve.
- We should increase our membership with this program.

Updates:

- The club has raw trees for sale if you need a tree to work on for this program.
- You can start this program at anytime through the year.



Ume

Bonsai in March

By John Miller

Some tasks being performed this month are repotting, trimming new growth, and watching for the spring flush of insects. Usually you will be going back and forth between all three. An article like this can only tell you what to do not give much in the way of when to do it. Those in the south and even across the Metroplex will have a different timetable but the sequence will usually be similar.

The optimum time to repot most outdoor trees is when they are just beginning to grow again as evidenced by the buds starting to swell. As a rule, the elms will be first, maples next, and oaks

later. There will always be those exceptions. Cedar elm will hang back and open in the middle of maples. My tridents are usually late. Other species will depend a lot on your own backyard environment. Pines will usually show candles before you can see juniper growth. Things like pomegranate and crape myrtle really depend upon your care. If you are able to take them in and out depending on the weather you may be able to make the start growth early and beat the rush as I do my shohin. I try to do the broadleaf evergreens, yaupons and other hollies, a little later maybe into April.

After repotting you must protect the new roots from freezing. Setting them on the ground with some mulch over the pot will offer several degrees of freeze protection, especially if the late freeze doesn't last more than 1-2 days. A light weight row cover (do not use plastic sheeting) will help protect from a light freeze or a frost that you might get especially on a clear night.

Do not fertilize after repotting until the new growth show some hardening. Then you may apply some organic balls, sparingly at first and then go to a full schedule as the tree slows down.

You should work on your pines accordingly to the method your own teacher taught you. The different techniques all work but you should not mix two techniques, it confuses the plant.

For bonsai that have the required branches and you are developing twigs or maintaining ramification, whether repotted or not, when the new growth starts you should grab your tweezers or scissors. Ones with a rounded point work best. The technique is different for alternate leafed species (als) (elm) than for opposite leafed species (ols) (maple).

On als let the growth go to 5 new leaves. Then pinch (with the tweezers) back to 2 or 3 leaves depending on the desired direction of the new growth. This controls the length of the internodes and diameter of the twig and could give you up to

64 twigs in a year. More twigs divide up the energy flow and mean smaller leaves.



The procedure on ols is more critical. When the two new leaves open you will see the new growing tip between them. If this tip is allowed to grow, the first internode (from the old twig to the new leaves) will also continue to elongate. You must pluck the new tip immediately. On some trees you may have to manually open the new pair of leaves to get the new tip in time. This procedure makes you work on maples every day in order to have good short internodes and perfect ramification. I also sometimes need to manually open the oak leaf (an als) also.

On bonsai that you are still developing the branches, you will need to let them elongate to develop thickness. Then cut them back to 2 nodes. When they re-sprout they will have a direction change and be developing taper.

The worst spring insect seems to be the aphids. The best control is the ladybug which also shows up early. But when they finish their job they have no food so they fly off. I use my organic spray for all insects all summer long. It controls mites, scale, bagworms, anything. Spider mites will also be showing up with warm weather. There can be some caterpillars or small worms also. You must keep a sharp eye while you are watering.

My organic spray is 1 tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, molasses, and 5% apple cider vinegar in one gallon water. Spray both top and bottom of the leaves and also the trunk.

When using on the tender first growth, cut the vinegar in half. This spray is most effective when used on a regular basis. I try to spray weekly since the life cycle of mites can be as short as 5 days. If you use something else read the label and follow it. Any insecticide should be applied with a sprayer that makes a fine spray which will coat the leaf evenly. **Hose end sprayers are not appropriate for bonsai.**

Azaleas should be repotted now also. Do not prune if you want the flowers. If there are a lot of buds on the plant you should pluck some of the so that the remaining buds have space to open fully. Flowering plants that flower on new growth (wisteria and crape myrtle) should be selectively pruned before growth starts to help control the size of the flowering plant.

On those that have not been repotted, apply fertilizer somewhat sparingly at first. You must balance the plants need for fertilizer for healthy growth with its desire to produce a rampant spring growth. After the initial flush slows apply more fertilizer until you get the proper amount for good healthy growth. Again, organic fertilizers feed the plant at a more constant rate.

With all this going on don't forget to plan for obtaining more knowledge about bonsai. Make plans to do hands on things like workshops. Watching the demos and workshops will give you some knowledge but it is the 'hands on effort' that instills it in your head so that it will be there when your little tree calls for you.

A real good place to go is the LSBF convention in Corpus Christi May 13-15. Go to www.corpuschristibonsaiclub.org for info. Also be sure to take advantage of the hard work your officers have done to provide many opportunities locally.

Notes from the President

The new Board of Directors held a meeting on February 17 for 2½ hours and discussed many items. The minutes will go out to you soon, if not

already. We discussed several items that will be brought up before the membership at the Annual Business Meeting. This meeting is for the membership to bring up any items of discussion and while in session, it is the membership that governs the Society. The notice for this meeting has gone out by email and is again announced in this newsletter. We have a couple of long range planning items to bring up and we have a large treasury that we can now use. Your input is welcome. Please attend on March 24.

We are kicking off a new promotion for a membership drive this year: A free bonsai starter tree with a new (first time) membership. We need more members and this may help get a few. Pass this along to anyone that may be interested even slightly in bonsai and certainly at the Japanese Festivals this year.

The biggest change in the club in years begins with this month's Club Artist Workshop program. This continuing program will be a large asset to the club for at least the next 2 years. I hope you will take advantage of it. I expect this program to help us attract new membership as well as bring back some old members.

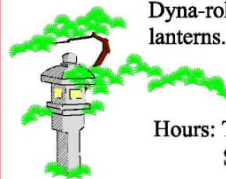
Since dinner is available at the meeting this month and we start at 6:30pm, there is no planned Dos Gringos dinner. See you at the meeting. Doors open at 6:00pm.

Happy styling,
Mark 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

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE FORT WORTH BONSAI SOCIETY

In compliance with the By-Laws of the Fort Worth Bonsai Society, the Board of Directors hereby calls for the Annual Business Meeting of the membership to be held on Thursday, March 24, at 7:00 pm, at the Botanic Garden Center in the regular meeting room.

Topics of discussion will include, but are not limited to:

- Report of condition of the Society - President's report
- Financial condition of the Society - Treasurer's report
- Other reports
- Programs
- Dues for 2012
- Long term planning

Any member that is in good standing with the FWBS is invited to attend and vote.

Mark A. Bynum, President
Fort Worth Bonsai Society



John and Mark double team on the program

Last Month's Program

On February 10, Mark Bynum and John Miller presented a program on the after care of the Ashe Junipers we have collected over the years.

The meeting format was free flowing with each presenter bounced ideas and information throughout the program.

John handed out a written 5 year plan for the care and maintenance of the trees.

- Year 1 & 2 Do not let the plant dry, mist foliage every day, Feed sparingly (organic is best).
- Year 3 Some pruning may be done. Repot if strong growth is present. Start removing caliche soil 1/3 at a time.
- Year 4 Re-pot if strong. Remove caliche soil 1/3 at a time.
- Year 5 Normal Bonsai Development and design work can be done.

Overall the program moved at a good pace and interest level remained throughout.

Thank you Mark and John. Well done.

Calendar of Events

March 5, Sat. – BSD, Finding the Bonsai Within with John Miller

March 5&6, Sat. & Sun. - BSD annual show at the Dallas Arboretum, Saturday and Sunday, 9am – 4pm

March 10, Thu. – FWBS, Club Artist program with Howard and Sylvia Smith

April 2, Sat – BSD, Restructuring Your Bonsai with Sylvia Smith

April 14, Thu. – FWBS Program

April 23 & 24 – Springfest at the Jap. Gardens

April 28, Thu. – Bonsai Basics with Estella Flather

March Program Notes
By Bill Weber

Announcing the FWBS Club Artist Workshop

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- Photos of your trees will be taken when you arrive and when you leave the workshops. Your photos will be printed and brought back to the next meeting for you and the Club Artist to use to document improvement. The photos are yours to take home. After 2 years, it should be interesting to view the first photo again!
- During the workshop, "Minute Lessons" will pop up for everyone to listen to. These will be timely tidbits of bonsai information with an example right there for learning.
- The workshop will begin at 6:30pm and end around 9:30 or earlier. A snack type dinner, chips, and beverages, will be available at the kitchen area.
- This program is **FREE TO FWBS MEMBERS** including the snack dinner.

Gateway to Bonsai
Texas State Bonsai Convention

Where: Holiday Inn Emerald Beach, Corpus Christi, Texas
When: May 13, 14 and 15

Go to the Corpus Christi Bonsai Club website to see a registration form.

www.corpuschristibonsaiclub.org

Forms will also be available at our club meetings. Register before April 23rd for a discount. Registrants arriving on Thursday will be invited to a free reception for the artists and vendors. Snacks will be provided.

Try to attend the Bonsai Society of Dallas' show at the Dallas Arboretum, Saturday & Sunday, March 5-6, from 9 am to 5 pm. This is Dallas' only show of the year so don't miss it.



Here are our "Club Artists" for the next two years, Howard and Sylvia Smith. They are so dedicated to bonsai that they always take one with them on vacation. Here they are on a recent outing with one of their favorite bonsai.

Membership Renewals

Remember to renew your membership for 2011! Individual memberships are \$25/year; couples for \$35. Please fill out the attached form and return along with your dues. This helps us keep track of who has paid. Forms will also be available at the meetings. If you would like to mail in your form, send to:

Ladd Kelley
914 Westmount Ave.
Dallas, TX 75211-2584

Fort Worth Bonsai Society

Membership Form

Please mail to:
Ladd Kelley
914 Westmount Ave.
Dallas, TX 75211-2584
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)
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