



Fort Worth Bonsai Society

Fort Worth Bonsai Society May Program By Bill Weber

- What:** Fort Worth Bonsai Society Annual Auction and Raffle
- When:** Saturday, May 28, 2011
8:00 am- Doors open, set up
Bring in items
9:30- Raffle tickets on sale
10:00-All items should be in place and ready for viewing
Viewing and paper bidding on auction items
10:30- Raffle begins
Paper bidding on auction items continues
11:00- Auction begins
- Where:** Fort Worth Botanical Garden
Deborah Beggs Moncrief
Garden Center
3220 Botanic Garden Drive N,
Fort Worth, TX

Calendar of Events

May 13, 14 & 15 (Fri, Sat, Sun) – LSBF State Convention in Corpus Christi

May 28, Sat – FWBS annual auction/sale of bonsai related materials

June 9, Thu. – FWBS meeting. Bring a tropical workshop. Free to all club members.

July 14, Thur. – FWBS meeting. Club artist workshop with Howard and Sylvia Smith

August 12, 13, & 14 – Annual FWBS Show and Sale

The Fort Worth Bonsai Club will hold their annual Bonsai auction sale on May 28, 2011. The auction will feature an auction of developed Bonsai trees and material. In addition, there will be a raffle for many pre-bonsai and materials.

This is an interesting and fun event for all price ranges and ages. If anyone is interested in information about the club there will be plenty of club representatives to answer questions.

TO: CORPUS CHRISTI BONSAI CLUB MEMBERS AND CLUBS AROUND THE STATE
 CONVENTION UPDATE by Yvonne Padilla

Time is growing short to register for the convention. The cutoff date for the registration discount is April 23rd. The Registration Fee before April 23rd is \$130 and after is \$150. Included in the registration are:

- Friday night dinner, Saturday lunch, Saturday night dinner and Sunday brunch
- Observation of all workshops, Lecture/Demos., Observation Emerging Talent
- Attendance to the Thursday night Early Bird Reception, Exhibit Critique, the Art of Displaying Bonsai & Suiseki
- A Convention Bag and Logo Pin

We have some great workshop & Lecture/demo material. Don't forget Bill Valavanis, Sean Smith, Ed Trout and Terry Ward will be conducting the workshops & Lecture/Demos. The Corpus Christi Club is making every effort to make this a great convention.

For our local members, this is a great opportunity to attend a convention almost on your doorstep. In order to get the convention rooms at no charge, (ballrooms cost about one thousand a day) we have signed a contract stating we will fill 45 sleeping rooms and have at least 85 full registrants. Therefore we are committed to having 85 Registrations. In other words we are committed for 4 meals for 85 people. At this time, we have about 53. We are a long way from 85. Club members please support your convention by registering.

Also, if you have a tree(s) you would like to have auctioned off Saturday night. Please bring it. Starting bid must be at least \$100. Owner gets 80% and the convention gets 20%.

Trees and Suiseki stones are needed for the Exhibit room. Please let Linda or me know what you are bringing. This also means the rest of the clubs around the state. Our phone numbers are:
 Linda: 361-728-4386

Yvonne: 361-992-0009

OUT OF TOWNERS - car pool and come on down.

Bonsai in May

By John Miller



Last month I forgot one of Mark Bynum's rules when rotating bonsai. Do all the bonsai at one time, and then do your watering. That way you don't forget some. An aid might be to put a marker in the same position in all pots, and then you will immediately see any that got missed.

Three new tasks present themselves this month,

repotting tropicals, leaf pruning and keeping roots cool.

The hot sun shining on the pot, especially the dark colored ones, can raise the temperature to the point of killing the roots. Especially sensitive are the nice growing tips at the edge of the root ball next to the pot. If the pot feels hot to your hand think about how the roots feel, after all they are living things too. These temperatures can be kept lower by shading the pot with any porous material. Putting sphagnum on the surface is good but the sides need to be protected too. Do not use any solid material like newspaper on the surface of the soil as it will cause you watering problems. And speaking of watering problems do not rely on rainfall to water for you, some plants shed the water to the outside. You must check them yourself.

Leaf pruning is the cutting off of many or all of the leaves in order to induce a new flush of growth similar to the growth after breaking dormancy. Sometimes the excuse is made that you get two seasons of growth. However if you do the proper trimming during the growth phase the plant is continuing to produce the division of twigs necessary for ramification and the stress of leaf removal is unnecessary. The real justification for leaf pruning is to replace old or damaged leaves with a newer set that will be prettier in a show or in the fall.

A tree being subjected to leaf pruning **must be healthy** and vigorous. Weak trees will have problems coping with the stress. The pruning must be done while there is still a month of good growing weather left meaning before the end of May in the D-FW area. The tree should be fertilized a few days before pruning. When pruning defoliate strong branches fully while leaving some leaves on weak branches. Usually interior branches will benefit by having their foliage kept on. When the leaves are off you can check the branches for undesirable characteristics. Cut vertical growing, hanging, or crossing branches. Leave any major work for next fall. After this work watch your watering, the tree will not use nearly as much water as when in full leaf so do not overwater. When growth starts get you tweezers out and keep up with the trimming. Do not let the new shoots get long internodes.



When the night temperatures are consistently above 60 degrees you can start thinking about repotting those tropicals. They need the warmth for good root growth. Remember that the warmer temperatures and spring winds will cause the roots to dry quickly so have a spray bottle or some damp cloths handy. Keep them shaded until they recover.

The old methods were to repot azaleas after they finished blooming thinking that the tree needed nutrients from the roots for their blossoms. The newer thoughts are that the plant has all the necessary nutrients available in the bud and to repot the azaleas in the spring while they are still dormant. If you repot after blooming, do not remove as much soil and keep them shaded until they recover and are growing well. I am now recommending that you use Kanuma soil for your azaleas. The first year I bought some I ran an experiment. Using azalea cuttings of the same size age etc I planted some in kanuma and some in my regular mix. They were grown side by

side under shade cloth receiving the same light water fertilizer etc. The ones in the kanuma were much happier and grew nearly twice as much as the others. The only plausible explanation I can come up with is that the kanuma retains a large quantity of water while at the same time has a lot of air in the soil thereby giving a humid medium for the roots without being overly wet.

Insects are waiting for a chance to get hold of some well fed and very tasty snacks. If you give them half a chance they will move into your bonsai almost overnight and are usually hard to spot until damage shows up. The most prevalent ones are aphids, spider mites, and scale. Leaf miners and various caterpillars will sneak in too. I use the organic foliar spray (1 tablespoon each of liquid kelp, fish emulsion, molasses, and apple cider vinegar in one gallon of water) to control all these. Gary Marchal once said that he has changed from the Safer soap insecticides to using horticultural oil spray the year around. Note that the horticultural oil spray is a more refined and lighter version of the old dormant oil spray that could only be used in the dormant season. Do not use oils on those species such as the buttonwood that have a sensitivity to oil. If in doubt please read the label on the product you wish to use.

A problem I had not had until I moved to the country is a leaf gall on elms. The gall is much worse on the native, American elm than the others. Damage is supposed to be cosmetic only. It is caused by a mite. The best control would be to use a horticultural oil during winter dormancy. It seems to only appear on the early growth.



Korean Hornbeam

Treat for fungal problems too. Leaf spot, mildew, and such can be treated by using potassium bicarbonate obtainable from any good nursery. A substitute would be sodium bicarbonate (baking soda). Use one tablespoon per gallon as a spray and be sure to cover both sides of the leaf. The organic people say it is ok to use these products together with the foliar spray but I would just as soon use them separately because the bicarbonate (base) reacts with the vinegar (acid) and only a few (elms and hollies) at my place need the fungicide treatment anyway. An interesting possible treatment for fungus problems by used both organic gardeners and holistic medicine is cornmeal tea. If you know anything about it I would appreciate hearing.

Keep the moss from growing on the trunks where it damages the bark. Spray with a vinegar but keep it off the trees foliage.

Go to the convention in Corpus and enjoy sharing your hobby with like nuts. I would suggest you sit at a table with members of another club, they are really very nice people and sometimes you make some good contacts too.

Notes from the President

Please welcome these new members to our club the next time you see them: Bruce Harris, Bill and Drinda Jacobson, Sam Francis, Carmen Rivera, and Michael & Tammy Duffy. All are new to the bonsai art and have received their starter bonsai tree for joining. We look forward to helping them along in our next few meetings.

The Japanese Festival went well once again. The crowds were a little smaller than usual and the wind was a little higher than usual. Joe Andrews, Exhibit Coordinator, made us all hold down the mats most of Sunday! We thank Ladd Kelley and Ted Tyler for making the Sales area a success. Thanks to all the volunteers who attended. We signed up at least two new members at the Festival and had several other prospects.

Last Thursday, the Bonsai Basics class by Estella Flather had a surge of people attending: 7 taking the class and 1 observer. All walked away with smiles and a little bonsai tree. I believe we signed up a new member at this event as well. Good job!

FWBS will have about 7 representatives to the Bonsai Convention in Corpus Christi this May 12-15. We hope to have more. Look up the convention on the internet under Corpus Christi Bonsai Society if you think you can make it.

Remember that we do not have a May 12, regular 2nd Thursday meeting this month as we will be holding our Auction/Raffle at the end of the month on Saturday, May 28, Memorial Day weekend. Auction details are in another part of this newsletter.

Your Board of Directors met last Thursday and discussed several issues concerning the club for 2 ½ hours. Minutes will be coming to you within a few weeks. Next month expect a report on the Convention. In the meantime,

Happy styling,
Mark Bynum, president



CLUB AUCTION / RAFFLE **FUNDRAISER** **Saturday, May 28** **Memorial Day Weekend**

All members are asked to bring in bonsai related items for the Auction/Raffle as we have done for several years. Trees, pots, slabs, tools, books, magazines, companion plants, artwork are all acceptable things to bring.

We will be expanding our auction this year so that each member may bring in as many bonsai items as you like. Items for the auction must have a minimum value of \$35 and be bonsai related. Items below \$35 will be used for the raffle. Please see elsewhere in this newsletter for specific

guidelines for the Auction. Our auction is in its fourth year, so please have patience as it grows and improves over the next few years. We have advertised in the local media outlets and hope to have some general public attending.

We always have a great time at the Auction/ Raffle. You never know what will show up at this event. You are sure to see something you will want for your collection and much at bargain prices. Hope you can make it.

Here is the schedule at the Botanic Garden Center in our usual room:

8:00 am-	Doors open, set up Bring in items
9:30-	Raffle tickets on sale
10:00-	All items should be in place and ready for viewing Viewing and paper bidding on auction items
10:30-	Raffle begins Paper bidding on auction items continues
11:00-	Auction begins
12 noon-	At the end of the Auction, we must quickly clean and vacate room for another group coming in at 1pm. Final money matters can be conducted in the hallway.

Fort Worth Bonsai Society Auction Guidelines **for May, 2011:**

1. Items for auction must have a value of at least \$35 and must be bonsai related.
2. Final price of the item will be split 80% to the owner, 20% to FWBS. If you are donating an item to the FWBS for the auction, thank you and the club will keep 100% of the final bid.
3. All funds to be collected by FWBS. Owner's share to be distributed by the treasurer within a week of the auction. Please check with the treasurer at the end of the auction for the total sales amount.
4. Upon arrival to the event, please register your auction items with the auctioneer. Have the type of tree or name of item, any other pertinent information that may help sell your item, and your **minimum acceptable bid price**. You will fill out a paper auction form to place by the item. Your cooperation is needed here as this is our only means of keeping records for the auction.
5. At any time during the event the owner may lower the minimum amount by first informing the auctioneer. If there are no bids for an item, the auctioneer may ask for any bids from the floor and sell the item for less than the minimum bid upon the owner's approval.
6. As this is a fund raiser for the bonsai club, please do not sell items outside of the auction/raffle area.
7. Winning bidders are expected to pay for their items at the end of the auction by cash or check.