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# Fort Worth Bonsai Society

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## FWBS 2009/2010 Club Officers

### Elected:

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

### Appointed:

Librarian: Harry Ryan  
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

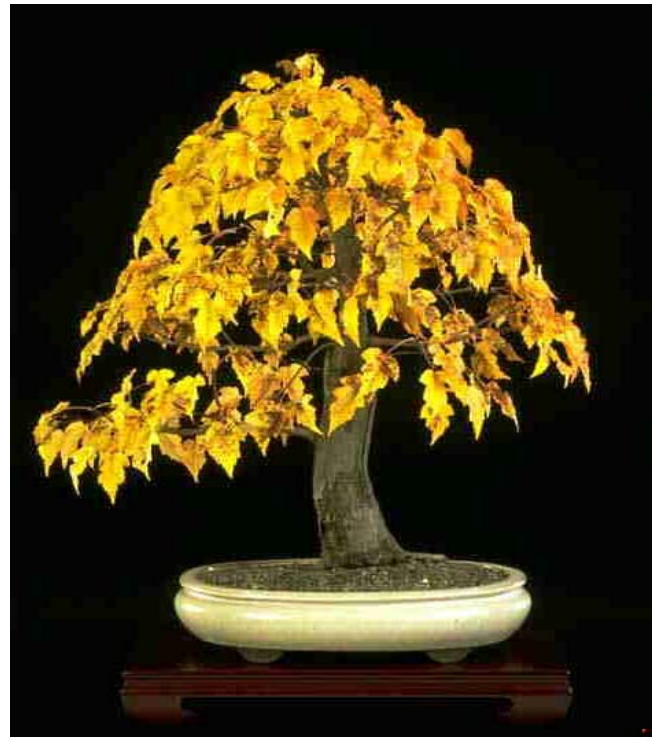
Advertising Rates: Standard Business card (3 1/2" by 2") is \$5/month or \$45/ year. Other sizes by special arrangement. Articles, letters and other matters pertaining to this newsletter should be sent to:

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steve.hendricks@lmco.com (Work)  
stevenhendricks@sbcglobal.net (Home)  
Online Newsletter Password: FWBS

November Meetings  
Thursday, November 11, 7:00 PM

Snacks provided by:  
**Mark Bynum**

No Fourth Thursday Meeting  
Due to Thanksgiving



*Hornbeam*

## ***Bonsai in November***

*By John Miller*

One of my favorite quips is if your trees are not growing **smaller**, you are not doing something right. Generally when we start bonsai, we are afraid to cut a lot off and thus we have not realized the full possibilities of the material.

Now that our trees are going into their slow period we can step back and take some critical second looks and see if we can't improve them a bit. This is especially true for deciduous trees as you can really see what you have while they are bare.

**BIG NOTE:** If you have a tree that is weak and unhealthy you should not attempt to style it in any way, just get it happy by adjusting its soil, feeding, and getting rid of any parasites. Styling just adds to its stress and problems.

Fall and winter is the proper time to do wiring, styling, and plucking work on pines. Repotting is saved until growth starts in the spring and candle pruning in summer. Other conifers may also be worked on.

Watch the weather so you can protect tender and semi-hardy plants. I prefer to keep them outside as long as possible but you should remember that frost, which can damage tender leaves, can occur at temps in the upper thirties. I watch the dew point temp which is when the moisture condenses out of the air. Also clear nights with no wind along with that low dew point really spell trouble.

Have your winter quarters clean and ready so that you can put your trees there quickly in the event a freeze is forecast. But don't put them there too soon as they are easier to care for up on the bench. Some use an unheated garage. I prefer to set the pots on a gravel area on the ground. This utilizes the ground heat to keep the roots from freezing as hard. The pots can then be covered with a loose mulch for insulation. Do not cover the ground with plastic; it will hold puddles of water.

Most important is winter is to keep the soil moisture at a proper level. This sometimes is hard to do because the trees do not use as much water as when they are growing. However the cold winds will dry out the tops quickly. I believe that most winter damage in Texas is due to lack of water rather than to low temperatures. Mulch helps keep the roots warm and retards

evaporation but it makes for difficulty in seeing if the soil is damp enough. Most soils with enough organic material to keep the tree happy in the summer will be too wet if watered daily in the winter and wet cold means root rot. Try to position them so you can check the soil. If you are not watching the soil in their pots you may either get root rot fungus or it dries out, either way--you have a finished (for you beginners that reads dead) bonsai. It is easier to care for if you have them under roof, that way you know you need to tend to watering.



Trident Maple

The general wisdom is that dormant trees need no fertilizer. However, as long as the soil is not frozen there will be some root activity. I do not add any fertilizer to dormant trees but I will leave the organic fertilizer cakes on until spring in case they happen to get some good out of them. The organics will not break down much in cold weather anyway. Evergreen types (e.g. pines junipers yaupons and live oaks) however continue some activity and therefore can use a small amount of low nitrogen fertilizer.

A horticultural oil spray should be applied (but not on buttonwoods) during the winter to control scale. It will also get any overwintering insects or eggs that may be trying to get thru the winter

on your plant. This purpose is what lime-sulfur was first used for, and some Japanese still use it, but the oil is safer on bonsai and may be used on evergreens where the lime-sulfur should not be used. Again, do not use oil based spray on buttonwoods.

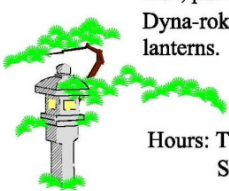
By this time any tropicals you have should be under cover. Most do not like the temp below 50 degrees. All tropicals should be checked and treated for any insect problems since any insects will multiply fast when they get into warmer quarters. Spider mites and scale can be especially damaging if the plant is moved in the house where the humidity is low.

The semi-tropical plants like crape myrtle pomegranate and pyracantha need to go dormant to stay healthy over a long time but they cannot take much cold on the roots. They will be killed by temps somewhere between 25 and 30 degrees. These I set down on the ground and mulch for light freezes and then bring into a protected area for the colder winter. Sometimes I will let them go dormant for a month and then take into the greenhouse to start early and I can enjoy their new foliage in January.

***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

### ***Program Notes***

*By Dan Leblanc*

This month's program will be hands on Make your own Kusamono Pot Workshop.

Sandi McFarland of the Dallas Bonsai club will be conducting the workshop.

Sandi McFarland began making pottery in 1980 under the tutelage of Marty Ray at Northlake College in Irving. After a long hiatus between 1982 and 1997, started taking classes again at Northlake with Rebecca Boatman and Marty Ray, eventually opening her own studio called Pegasus Pottery in 2000. She joined the Bonsai Society of Dallas in 2003 and then began to make bonsai pots, eventually earning a spot in the book "Bonsai Potters" in 2006.

Come join us to "play in the clay!" You will be using Laguna's B-3 "black" clay to make your own Kusamono (or bonsai) pots, using hand building techniques. This clay is wonderful left unglazed! B-3 clay is very high in iron oxide (rust!) so it will stain clothing - be sure to wear something that you don't mind it getting stained! This clay can also stain hands just a little, so please also consider bringing latex (or similar) gloves if you would like - although it does wash off in a day or so. Class presenter, Sandi McFarland, will bring the clay and an assortment of tools, however, please look around for items that can texture your clay that you can bring! Rocks, forks, stiff brushes, pine cones, etc. are all great for texture!

After the workshop, your creations will be fired by Sandi and brought back the following club meeting, so please make plans to attend that meeting as well or ask someone to pick up your pot for you. If you have any questions about this workshop, you can contact Sandi at [sandim@rdikids.org](mailto:sandim@rdikids.org).

We will have a small fee to cover the cost of clay and materials.

As always for Show and Tell please bring any trees.



### *Japanese Garden Fall Festival*

The FWBS set up its annual display at Fallfest in the Japanese Gardens on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. We weren't so lucky this year with the weather. We were anticipating rain so we didn't set out our wooden stands. At noon on Saturday it came a flood and the Japanese Gardens canceled the festival for the day and locked up the gardens. We moved our trees into storage and took the afternoon off. Sunday, however, was beautiful and by mid-morning the crowds had returned. We received many compliments and, hopefully, will gain a new member or two.



John draws interest as he styles some junipers.

### *Notes from the President*

The rain storm knocked us out of the first day of the Japanese Fall Festival, but with clever

planning by our exhibit coordinator, Joe Andrews, not a tree was damaged, not even a table mat got wet! Thanks Joe! The second day was picture perfect and we had a good crowd come through our booth. Our sales booth did well on Sunday as well.

This month's meeting will feature making your own pinch pots, which should be fun. We will also hold officer elections for the 2011-12 terms. We will ask for further nominations from the floor and proceed with the election. I do not anticipate that this will take much time away from the program. We will hold off on the vote on the proposed By-Law changes until January, 2011.

Gail Williams will be our coordinator for the December Christmas Pot Luck Dinner and Chinese Gift Exchange. See her for any contribution you may have. We also have a tagging expedition to Glen Rose, Dec. 11. February, 2011, is most likely the last time we will dig at this location as a club so plan accordingly.

Go ahead and bring in any tree that may be interesting for Show & Tell, or maybe some little accent plant that you have in a pinch pot as an example of our program.

I will see many of you at Dos Gringos Restaurant before the meeting at 5:30.

Happy styling, Mark Bynum

### *Calendar of Events*

**November 11** - Pottery with Sandi McFarland & election of club officers for 2011-2013

**December 9** - Christmas dinner

**December 11** - Tagging trip to Glen Rose

**January 13** - Grafting

**January 15** - LSBF Meeting, Wimberley, TX