



October 2011 Newsletter

Notes from the President:

With the cooling weather our little trees are making a comeback with new growth and general vigor. If you have cuttings growing for the Japanese Festival in October, they should be in good shape by the time the event comes around 3 weeks from now.

The swap meet at our September meeting was an interesting affair. Many members brought in items to swap with others and very few left with their own merchandise. Thanks to Bill Weber for organizing this event.

Remember that the meetings for October and November will be on the first Thursday of the month. Please pay close attention to the Calendar in this Newsletter. Do not miss the Bonsai Society of Dallas Auction, October 1, 9:30 am, at North Haven Gardens. The LSBF Visiting Artist Tour comes to Fort Worth and Dallas in October. Please read a feature on this event in this Newsletter. The Fall Japanese Festival is at the end of the month. Please read a

Calendar of Events:

- Oct. 1: Sat. Dallas Club Auction, 9:30 am, North Haven Gardens
- Oct. 6: 1st Thursday, 7 pm.
LSBF Visiting Artist
Eric Wigert
- Oct. 8: Sat., 9 am.
LSBF Visiting Artist at
Bonsai Society of Dallas,
Sat., 1:30 pm.
Erik Wigert Workshop, silent
observation, North Haven
Gardens, Dallas
- Oct. 15: LSBF Board Meeting, Austin
- Oct. 22-23: Japanese Fall Festival
- Oct. 27: 4th Thursday, 7 pm, Class
Bonsai Basics Instructional,
w/ Estella Flather
- Nov. 3: 1st Thursday, 6:30 pm
3rd Club Artist Workshop
- Dec. 8: 2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm
Club Christmas Party

feature on this event also in this newsletter.

Have dinner this month with Erik Wigert at Dos Gringos Restaurant. We will reserve a table in the dining room starting at 5-5:30 pm for 15 people. Come if you can and chat with Erik before the meeting.

Lots of Bonsai fun this month!
Happy styling, Mark

OCTOBER PROGRAM

LSBF Visiting Artist Tour in Fort Worth and Dallas:

The Lone Star Bonsai Federation visiting artist for 2011 is Erik Wigert of Wigert's Bonsai in Ft. Meyers, Florida.

Erik has become an accomplished bonsai artist in the past ten years, having won several awards including: 2nd place winner of BCI Bonsai magazine photo contest 2011, Best Tropical Bonsai at the 1st US National Bonsai Exhibit 2008, Second Place winner of Florida Bonsai Societies Scholarship competition in 2007, Second place ABS Joshua Roth New Talent Competition 2006, as well as having his trees on display at Epcot Center, Walt Disney World from 2005 - 2011. He primarily works with tropical bonsai trees. Learn more about Erik on his website at wigertsbonsai.com



*Erik Wigert giving a lecture in Florida
Photo by Andrea Wigert*

Thursday, Oct. 6, at 7 pm in our usual meeting room, Erik will be giving a slide presentation on Bougainvillea including several case studies. The lecture will not be over an hour long and we invite anyone with a bougainvillea to bring it along for a quick critique by Erik. At the end of the evening we will raffle off 2 Bougainvillea 'Helen Johnson' from Erik's bonsai nursery. This will be a quick preview of the same variety of bougainvillea that will be offered in a workshop at the Dallas Bonsai Convention in April, 2012.

We invite all members to dinner and drinks with Erik at Dos Gringos Restaurant before the meeting. Arrive between 5-5:30 pm, or later if you have

to, and look for us at a reserved table in the main dining room.

On Saturday, October 8th, Erik will be with the Dallas club and FWBS members are welcome to attend both the morning program from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon as well as the afternoon workshop. The morning program will feature a presentation and demonstration on the Campeche tree, also known as Bloodwood. This tree is a tropical variety with very hard wood that "bleeds", hence the name. It lends itself well to carving so come see Erik in action doing extensive carving.

The afternoon workshop is \$49, which includes the tree, and will be held at North Haven Gardens from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The material is the 'gmelina philippensis', a tropical tree from Asia that is also known as Parrot's Beak. There are 2 remaining spots for the workshop so if anyone is interested contact Diane Lowe at diane_lowe@live.com to sign up.

Don't miss the bonsai experience:

Visiting Artist Schedule at a Glance:

Thursday, Oct. 6-

5:30pm- Dinner with Erik at Dos Gringos.

7pm- Bougainvillea lecture and critique, regular meeting room.

Saturday, Oct. 8-

9:00am- Campechi demo in Dallas.

1:30pm- Workshop with silent observation, Dallas.

FWBS at the Japanese Fall Festival

The FWBS will set up for display at the Japanese Fall Festival in the Japanese Gardens on Saturday and Sunday, October 22-23rd. Set up begins around 9:00-9:30 AM on Saturday. We have several active members that will not be there due to the Kathy Shaner seminar in Austin on the same weekend, therefore, we will need some extra trees from the other members to make a good showing at the exhibit. We will also need more volunteers to man the exhibit and the sales area, set up and take down. A sign-up sheet will be distributed when the event gets closer.

This time the sales area has moved into the treed area just west of the parking lot at the main entrance to the Japanese Gardens. We will have a tent setup as before. Ladd Kelley will not be able to coordinate the sales area this fall, so we are looking for someone else to fill in. Please contact Mark Bynum if you are interested in helping the club. We still need everyone to bring in some plants to sell at our booth. This is a very good fund raising time for FWBS. Sales plants need to be at the booth by 9:30am on Saturday.

They will not allow cars into the Botanic Gardens during the festival so parking will be in the lot off of Montgomery St. Drive 0.3 miles north of the intersection of Montgomery and I-30, turn east on Linden Street and drive right into the parking area. Look for the "Vendors and Performers" pedestrian entrance at roughly the NE corner of the parking area. Sign in at the booth there and pick up your admittance wrist band.

About 4:30 or 5:00 pm on Saturday we lock the exhibit trees up in a booth on the deck area. We set the trees out again on Sunday morning around 9:30 and staff the display until 4:30-5:00 when we tear down and head home.

Plan to come and enjoy the great weather and the camaraderie with your fellow club members as we show the public what Bonsai Art is all about.

Bonsai Basics, Thursday, October 27 *with Estella Flather*

Learn the secrets of growing bonsai in Texas. The Bonsai Basics class discusses the history of bonsai, tree styles, bonsai care including soils, insect control and starting your own bonsai. Each student will get a plant, pot, soil and everything needed to create their own bonsai to take home. The class fee is \$25.00.

OCTOBER BONSAI TIPS *By John Miller*

If you have not checked your wiring yet this fall, you had better look at it. The fall growth can make the tree swell up and get bad wire marks in a hurry. If the tree/limbs do not stay where you want them, then rewire it placing the new wire in a slightly different path or possible wrap in the opposite direction.

Watch your watering now that the temperature is a little lower. Cut back on the watering but do not allow the trees to dry out. Trees require less water during the shorter days and lower temperatures. However you need to remember that the wind can still stress the trees and dry out the soil so you should water by checking the soil and not just on a given schedule.

Insects will continue to be present. Cooler (but not cold) days mean a resurgence of the aphids. Mites

will also still be around. Scale also can be a problem. Treat with a light horticultural oil which will kill the adults and also wipe out the eggs and overwintering pupae. Be sure to cover all the cracks in the bark to get to the eggs. The organic spray (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water) will work on evergreens and will also give them some nutrients. The dead scale will probably have to be removed physically. A soft toothbrush works for me (I sometimes need to wet the branch to loosen the scale).

Feeding of deciduous trees should be discontinued for the winter. Evergreens and conifers will benefit from a low nitrogen feeding. Organic fertilizers are better as they will breakdown into nutrients more slowly as the season gets cooler and the trees activity slows also. Be sure to use one that supplies the 13 micronutrients needed. The organic spray given above can be used as a soil drench but dilute it a little more. Kelp is an excellent source of the essential minor elements needed by plants.

As the trees loose their foliage, you can study their trunk lines and branch structure. Any faulty styling and the general design features can be observed more easily and corrections planned. Look for crossing branches. Cut vertical growing twigs both growing up and those growing down. Reduce long internodes by cutting back and growing new extensions. Clean out heavy branch clusters the make the tree look too dense. Be particularly attentive to prevent the formation of heavy branches in the top part of the tree where faster growth often occurs. Work can be done now or later during the winter at your leisure but it is too easy to forget about it when the tree is in winter storage.

Some may repot in the fall but I feel that it is counter-productive to do so. New roots are more prone to freeze damage if we get a bad winter Repot at the proper time next spring which is when the buds swell and new growth is imminent.

Creating some shohin bonsai can lead to some winter enjoyment. Since they do not take much room you can find a space in the house or a small greenhouse. Let them go dormant for a short period and you can take them in and have new growth in a very short time. Small elms are especially good for this. Then set back and enjoy your little fellows in the house while the winter wears on.

Kathy Shaner (and Sylvia has said it too) has recommended that you remove the top 1/4 to 1/2 inch of soil and replace it with fresh soil. This will help eliminate weed seed that has blown in and may make watering easier.

Winter quarters: Here in Texas more trees are lost in the winter due to drying out than to the cold. Of course that doesn't mean for you to leave the tropics out or to let the roots freeze on southern trees like the crape myrtle. Even in a greenhouse or sunny window the soil can dry out amazingly fast. The wind in winter has amazing drying powers too. So while protecting the roots be sure to give it a wind screen but make sure that you can check the soil for watering needs. (it helps here if you know which particular plants dry out faster and situate them together. Winter kill usually comes because the soil has frozen and the sun and/or wind is removing water from the tops. The roots cannot obtain water to replenish the loss and the top dessicates to the point of death.

Fort Worth Bonsai Society

Board of Directors:

President: Mark Bynum

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Vice President, Programs: Bill Weber

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Treasurer: Steven Hendricks

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Secretary: Ladd Kelley

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Immediate Past President:

Mike Prachyl

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Other Positions:

LSBF Representative: Steven Hendricks

Alternate: Gail Williams

Webmaster: Bill Jacobson

The **Fort Worth Bonsai Society** meets most months on the 2nd Thursday at 7 pm. at the Deborah Beggs Moncrief Garden Center, 3220 Botanic Garden Drive, Fort Worth, TX. This is the building where the large conservatory greenhouse is located. Please check our website at www.fwbonsai.com for meeting dates and special events.

To join or ask questions, contact:

Mark Bynum, president, at 817-436-8936 (cell) or email to mark.bynum@tx.rr.com