



# Fort Worth Bonsai Society

## 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)  
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Online Newsletter Password: FWBS

October Meetings  
Thursday, October 14, 7:00 PM

Snacks provided by:  
**Joe Andrews**

Fourth Thursday Meeting  
Thursday, October 28, 7:00 PM



*Trident maple root-over-rock*

## *Program Notes* By Dan Leblanc

This month's program we will first discuss the upcoming programs and the Program Suggestions Survey sent out last month. This is your club and we are trying to get any and all members to participate.

We have several exciting and new programs coming up in November and early next year. In November we will have a Kasamono Pot Workshop presented by Sandi McFarland.

This month we will be viewing a DVD on the "Bonsai Masters" if you have not seen these videos it will be well worth your time.

As always for Show and Tell please bring any trees to share with the club. We will also try to have a small raffle item and/or a door prize.

### *Roy Nagatoshi Demo and Workshop*



*Roy Nagatoshi begins styling a collected Japanese Boxwood.*



*Well into the styling, the tree is starting to take shape.*



*The finished tree with winner Joe Andrews*



*The workshop was full.*



*Bill Webb works on his ponderosa pine.*



*Ladd and Mark watch Roy work his magic on a collected Ashe juniper.*

### *Bonsai in October*

*By John Miller*

Take a good look at your bonsai before you put them away for the winter. Is the foliage pretty

ragged looking after our hot summer? Something you may get to try next year is a product with silicon in it which is supposed to make for stronger and thicker cell walls. Stronger cells in the leaves will help them withstand more heat and wind. There are probably several brands--one that I know about is Dyna-Gro Pro-tek. It has a 0-0-3 formula with silicon so you could use it for a fall fertilizer if you desire. Check website [www.dyna-gro.com](http://www.dyna-gro.com).

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. However, as 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.



Any wonder we hate squirrels? Michael Haegdorn custom pot.

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.

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.

While you are looking at the wires look also at the lower trunks. If there is any moss growing on the bark spray it with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. Moss may look aged but it rots the bark quickly.

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 over-wintering pupae. Be sure to cover all the cracks in the bark to get to the eggs. The organic spray that I use for all insects (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, 5% 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.

After the trees lose 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 that 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.

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 tropicals 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 are removing water from the tops. The roots cannot obtain water to replenish the loss and the top desiccates to the point of death.

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.

And finally, look for some good potensai at nurseries who are clearing out their area to make room for the Xmas trees. Remember that stuff half dead may be great--you are only interested in the lower trunk so don't look at the green bushy top (after all it is merely junk to us).

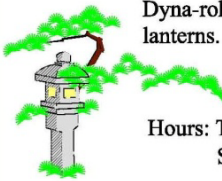
***Bonsai Basics with Estella Flather***  
***Thursday, October 28, 2010, 7:00 PM***  
***Fort Worth Botanic Gardens***

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 (\$5.00 from each class fee goes to the club for the room rent.)

***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

### ***Notes from the President***

Business for the October meeting includes only 2 items. One item will be the nominations for officers from the Nominating Committee. The other item will be the approval of funds to purchase 1 gal. junipers for future club sales. We plan to up the # from 30 to 50.

To save time, I do not plan on discussing the Board of Directors proposal formally at this meeting. If someone wants to bring the subject up for discussion from the floor, then that request will be recognized for a short period of time, say, no more than 10 minutes. I think that a little more time can be spent on exchange of ideas by email. The formal presentation of the By-Law changes will be made in November or December when a final draft is ready. Due to our programs for the next 2 months, pot-making in November and the Christmas Pot Luck Dinner/Chinese Gift Exchange in December, the proposed changes will only be presented and not discussed. I do not want to take time away from our programs. Formal discussion will be reserved until the vote time and that looks like January. I will be

available before and after the October meeting if any member should have a question or comment concerning the proposal.

Be sure and get a tree ready for showing at the Fall Japanese Festival, October 23-24. We still need a member to handle the retail sales booth. Please contact me if you think you can help.

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

Happy styling,  
Mark Bynum

### *Japanese Fall Festival*

The FWBS will 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>. Set up begins around 9:00-9:30 AM on Saturday.

The hours for Saturday have been extended to 7 pm due to a special event on the Moon Deck beginning at 5 pm. The later hour means that our storage area will not be available at 5 pm, so we cannot quit early. Please plan accordingly. 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.

Joe Andrews is head of the exhibit area and asks that members bring in trees, companion plants and stands early on Saturday. Set up help is needed.

Please bring in small plant donations for the retail sales area and do not forget to bring in the club Ficus trees that were distributed in July. Help will be needed at the Sales booth throughout the Festival. We still need a Retail Sales Chairman to head up the booth for this Festival only. Please contact Mark Bynum, president, if you can handle this task.

They will not allow ANY 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.

We have been generally blessed with good weather at these displays and it is always a treat to be out in this beautiful location in the spring. Bring a tree for the display if you can. If not, come and help us staff the display, or help set up and tear down.



Cedar Elm

### *Calendar of Events*

**October 2** - BSD Club Auction

**October 9** - LSBF Meeting in Austin

**October 15<sup>th</sup> thru 17<sup>th</sup>** - Kathy Shaner 15th Annual Seminar, Persimmon Hill Bonsai

**October 23 & 24** - Japanese Fall Festival

**October 28** - Bonsai Basics with Estella Flather

**Nov. Meeting** - Pottery with Sandi McFarland & election of club officers for 2011-2013

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

**Dec. Meeting** - Christmas dinner

**Jan. Meeting** - Grafting