



September 2011 Newsletter

Notes from the President:

On August 10, I took a trip down to the Austin Bonsai Society to give a program on "How to Dig Bonsai". That area had already broken a 100+ degree consecutive day record but all were in good spirits saying that their trees were surviving. I think that is the best way to cope with this oppressive heat. Do everything you can to keep your bonsai alive and they will recover in the fall and next spring. I have even brought some newer cuttings inside to 75 degree air conditioned temperatures to avoid dehydration!

Our Club Exhibit went well last month. Of course, we always wish for more visitors and the Board is considering a schedule change to make that happen. We will also be considering the budgeting of funds to purchase table coverings and additional table skirting. I am happy to report that our PVC backdrops have been repaired and organized with color coding to make them less confusing to set up. I even drew up instructions with pictures and

Calendar of Events:

- Sept. 1: FWBS Board Meeting, 7 pm
- Sept. 8: 2nd Thursday,
Swap Meet & Feature Plant
- Oct. 1: Sat. Dallas Club Auction,
9 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
- Oct. 13: 2nd Thursday
NO REGULAR MEETING!
- Oct. 15: LSBF Board Meeting, Austin
- Oct. 22-23: Japanese Fall Festival
- Oct. 27: 4th Thursday, 7 pm, Class
Bonsai Basics Instructional

- Nov. 3: 1st Thursday, 6:30 pm
3rd Club Artist Workshop
- Nov. 10: 2nd Thursday,
NO REGULAR MEETING!

- Dec. 8: 2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm
Club Christmas Party



*Featured bonsai, Parsley Hawthorne, at the
FWBS Bonsai Exhibit in August.*

Photo by Bill Jacobson

arrows and a paragraph telling what each one was all about! Thanks to Sylvia Smith for an impromptu instructional talk on Sunday afternoon about Bonsai

Exhibition in general. It will help to improve our club skills for the next Exhibition.

Please take a close look at the calendar in this Newsletter for meeting date changes in October and November. Do not miss the Bonsai Society of Dallas Auction, October 1. The LSBF Visiting Artist Tour comes to Fort Worth in October. Please read a feature on this event in this Newsletter.

After 13 years of producing the FWBS Newsletter, Steven Hendricks has decided to hang up the typewriter and give someone else the opportunity. The Board is now actively looking for a member to handle the Newsletter. In addition, the FWBS Webpage is changing Webmasters over to Bill Jacobson. Bill has many ideas which will upgrade and improve our website. Look for a total revamping within the next 30 days. Our thanks go to Steven Hendricks for handling a lion's share of the business end of this organization for the past decade. When I first became vice-president in 2005, it was Steven that guided me along until I became comfortable. He has been my main club advisor ever since. He has been the glue behind the scenes keeping the club moving forward for at least 15 years. Not only that, but I believe he has the best bonsai tree collection in Fort Worth! Steven will still be serving in the capacity of Treasurer and LSBF Representative.

Happy styling, Mark

September Program:

Swap Shop/Flea Market

By Bill Weber

In September, the meeting will be a Swap Shop / Flea Market type meeting. We ask that members bring in items that they no longer use to sell at

garage sale prices or trade with other members. These include plant material, pre-bonsai, companion plants, pots, tools, reading material etc. We will also have a feature plant to discuss in detail. This month is the Fukien tea. Members are asked to bring in a Fukien tea and discuss care and pruning techniques, how they cared for it through the summer months or any item of interest to the club. We also will provide some time for new members to tell us what they have learned over the past year.



*White Pine bonsai at the FWBS Exhibit
Photo by Bill Jacobson*

FWBS Exhibition Review

21 Member's trees were exhibited at the Botanic Garden Center on August 13-14 in the Rose Room. Although the temperature has been over 100 degrees for weeks, the trees were in very good shape. Member vendors Artistic Plants, Estella Flather, and Sanderson Creek Bonsai, Dan & Jerry Hammack, set up sales booths as well. Even with all this, our new room was not near full. We had space for 15 more tree exhibits and 1 more vendor area. Next year we hope to fill all the space. This was the third use of our new backdrops and we have learned of some improvements needed, but overall, the exhibit set up went well.

160 ballots were turned in for the People's Choice contest, so we will

estimate 200+ visitors to the exhibit. The heat kept the numbers down. Next year we will exhibit in a cooler month and earlier in the growing season.

The Member's Choice contest had 20 ballots turned in. The winner of each contest wins a Dos Gringos dinner! In addition, the winner of the Member's Choice has his name placed on a traveling trophy, which he will keep until the next contest. Here are the results:

Member's Choice Contest:

- 1st Place- Parsley Hawthorne
owner: Lance W.
- 2nd Place- Brazilian Raintree
owner: Steven H.
- 3rd Place- White Pine
owner: Sylvia S.

People's Choice Contest:

- 1st Place- Brazilian Raintree
owner: Steven H.
- 2nd Place- Pine on Rock
owner: Dan H.
- 3rd Place- Parsley Hawthorne
owner: Lance W.
- 4th- White Pine, Sylvia S.
- 5th- Bald Cypress, Steven H.
- 6th- Penjing, Bill W.
- 7th- Cedar Elm cascade, Steven H.
- 8th- Chinese Elm 'Thor', Mark B.
- 9th- Ginkgo, Sylvia S.

Congratulations to Lance and Steven.



*Lance W. with Member's Choice winner
Photo by Bill Jacobson*



*Pine on Stone at the Exhibit
Photo by Bill Jacobson*

LSBF Visiting Artist Tour Featuring Erik Wigert

Erik Wigert owns a Bonsai Nursery in Florida and has won many awards for his tropical bonsai including 1st Place at the 1st National Bonsai Exhibition in New York, 2008. He will be supplying trees for one workshop at the Dallas Bonsai Convention in April, 2012. Please check out his outstanding website at www.wigertsbonsai.com

Please note the change of date for this event and mark your calendars for the 1st Thursday, Oct. 6, 7 pm. in our regular meeting room. You will have another opportunity to see Erik in Dallas, Saturday, Oct. 8, 9 am. at North Haven Gardens.

SEPTEMBER BONSAI

By John Miller

This has been a horrific summer for bonsai. I have not lost anything but some really look bad. This year I was forced to really take care of them and consequently I proved to myself something I had kinda surmised but that

does not agree with popular opinion. **Trees do not go into summer dormancy.** All my trees have continued to grow throughout the heat (100+ in daytime and above 80 at night). The elms, Chinese, Catlin, Cedar, and the oaks, (live oak, shumard, post oak), seem to relish the added watering. The only bad thing is that the Japanese maples continue to grow but the new tips get scorched.

The forecasts are indicating some relief soon but there should still be some days with pretty hot temps. Keep after the extra care. And as the sun changes its angle make sure that the pots do not get too much afternoon sun.

A strange item to be talking about with the temp outside now at 103 but the situation may change in a hurry so be ready. Help your trees go into dormancy. Withhold fertilizers from those outdoor trees in mid Sept. They would need less water as they quit active growth but on warm days trees with green foliage will still transpire and need that water. Most tropicals have a dormant season also but it is caused by dry conditions rather than cold. These types need to be hardened also by cutting the fertilizer to halt active growth and lighter watering. This will enable them to withstand the transfer to the greenhouse better.

Check the trees you still have wire on. When the cooler days get here some trees will expand their branches and get wire cuts rather quickly. You need to check them periodically over the winter also. Winter growth will usually be pretty slow but can occur, especially on the evergreens. Cut the wire off. You can easily break the branches trying to unwrap the wire and its just not worth trying to save the wire. If you need to reapply some wire take care.

Two other things you can do now. You should prepare your winter quarters and you should study your evergreen trees to determine if you need to do any restyling later on this fall.

Check on the place you expect to winter your bonsai.

(1) Make sure that it is clean. Debris harbors insects and other plant pathogens. A strong lime-sulfur spray can be used to disinfect the area as well as your growing area after the trees are removed.

(2) Also be sure that you will be able to check the water needs of the trees.

(3) It should be somewhat protected from winds but should have some air movement to help prevent molds from developing.

(4) Having it in a location where you can see the trees will allow you to enjoy the winter silhouette, i.e. the branch structure and twiginess, that is a great part of deciduous bonsai.

There is not too much to be done on deciduous trees at this time. Bugs and other problems are usually not a matter of concern since the foliage will be dropping soon. Scale on the stems must be taken care of. Evergreens and tropicals will still need to be watched for their insect problems, especially the spider mite which will be active into fall. Use the organic spray formula to control them. If we should have a stretch of damp weather you should be watching for fungal problems, leaf spot, mildew, etc. Treat fungal with potassium bicarbonate, (baking soda-sodium bicarbonate- will work about as well). I would be okay with using a 1% hydrogen peroxide solution at this time of the year for fungal control.

The organic spray formula is one tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish

emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water. This can be used as a foliar feed but I only consider it an insecticide.



Brazilian Raintree
Photo by Bill Jacobson

Pruning and trimming 'can' be done any time that there is not a lot of sap flowing but is usually advisable to do it during dormancy. Sap flow is indicated by the foliar activity of the plant like in the spring. If your tree went into summer dormancy, which occurs during hot weather, then the cooler weather might result in a larger sap flow in late summer or early fall. If your plant gets a flush of new growth it would be advisable to postpone large pruning cuts for a while. Basically let your tree tell you when it is ok to operate.

Check nurseries for possible bonsai material. When the season is over they usually put everything on sale to clear it out so they can fill up with Christmas trees.

Dinner before the Meeting

Before the September and October meetings, we will be gathering at Dos Gringos Restaurant, just north of the Botanic Gardens on University, for drinks and Mexican food. Plan to arrive between 5 and 5:30 (come later if you

like) for stimulating bonsai conversation and fellowship.

Fort Worth Bonsai Society

Board of Directors:

President: Mark Bynum

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Vice President, Programs: Bill Weber

..... webwill1@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Steven Hendricks

... stevenhendricks@sbcglobal.com

Secretary: Ladd Kelley

..... kwestmount@aol.com

Immediate Past President:

Mike Prachyl

..... enjoybonsai@tx.rr.com

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 817-437-8936 (cell) or email to mark.bynum@tx.rr.com