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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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1912 Ashland Ave.  
Fort Worth, TX 76107  
(817) 737-7953 (Home)  
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stevendricks@sbcglobal.net (Home)  
Online Newsletter Password: FWBS

## September Meetings Please Note Date & Time Changes

Snacks on Sunday provided by:  
**Gail Williams**

**Fourth Thursday Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 23, 7:00 PM**



***LSBF Visiting Artist - Roy Nagatoshi***

I was born in the United States, but spent my early years in Japan - through junior high school - and returned in 1957.

My first encounter with bonsai was in 1959, working side-by-side with my father, Shigeru, learning the techniques of making bonsai. I watched him work with many different kinds of trees, pruning, wiring, shaping and potting. I was homesick, and the bonsai reminded me of the trees in the mountains, hills and shorelines of Japan. I thoroughly fell in love with bonsai. My

education in bonsai also included attending classes under John Naka.

In 1965, with the encouragement of Mr. Iura, my fathers' bonsai master, my parents opened the Fuji Bonsai Nursery in Sylmar, California, where my father and I conduct bonsai classes.

In 1975, I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Ornamental Horticulture from the Cal Poly University in Pomona, California. Also in 1975, I received my State Landscape Contractors' License, and started a landscape contracting business.

In 1976, I gave my first lecture/demonstration to a local bonsai club. Since then, I have toured and conducted workshops and lecture/demonstrations in numerous states in the continental United States. Major events in which I have been featured include the following:

- California Bonsai Society Anniversary Conventions
- Golden State Bonsai Federation Conventions
- Potomac Bonsai Federation Conventions
- Pacific Northwest Bonsai Federation Conventions
- Texas, Lone Star Bonsai Federation Lecture Tour and Annual Convention
- Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Festivals
- ABS Convention
- IBC Convention
- Florida Bonsai Societies Convention
- Brussell's Nursery Spring Rendezvous
- International Bonsai Arboretum, Bonsai Symposium
- International Tours include:
- South Africa, 1991, 1993 IBC '95, Australia, 1995
- Toronto, Canada, 1993 Latin America Bonsai Conference, Rio de Janeiro
- Victoria, B.C., Canada, 1993 Mexico City, Mexico, 1998

I taught beginner and advanced bonsai for four years at the Community College in Santa Barbara, Ca.

I was credited for creating bonsai for a major motion picture, Karate Kid III, in 1990, and was also involved in a bonsai educational video professionally produced by Puget Sound Bonsai Association, with funding provided by Weyerhaeuser Company of Tacoma, Washington. I am the President of the California Bonsai Society, and was Chairman of the 40th Anniversary Convention, held in the Spring of 1997.

I have attended numerous bonsai conventions, including the first World Bonsai Federation Convention, in April, 1989, in Omiya, Japan.



Root-Over-Rock Chinese Elm Clump

***Fourth Thursday Class***  
***September 23, 2010***  
***Botany for Bonsai Growers***

Bonsai is part art and part horticulture. A general understanding of how plants grow is very helpful in keeping your bonsai healthy and predicting how your plant will develop in the future.

Knowing about botany will help you produce the artistic effect that you want for your bonsai.

Estella Flather will teach a class about Botany for Bonsai Growers at the 4th Thursday class on September 23rd. The class fee is \$10.00 (\$5.00 from each class fee goes to the club for the room rent.)

As usual, if you don't want to participate in the class, you may bring a tree to work on and get help from other club members without paying any fee.



*Japanese Black Pine –National Collection*

### ***Program Notes***

*By Dan Leblanc*

As most of you know due to the LSBF visiting artist we will not be having our normal second Thursday FWBS meeting in September.

Our LSBF visiting artist for this year is Roy Nagatoshi. Roy is from a family of Bonsai artists and is well known in his home State of California. Roy supplied some of the bonsai trees for the "Karate Kid" movie series in the 80's which vaulted the number of bonsai enthusiasts in the USA. You will have 3 opportunities to see Roy:

1. BSD meeting, Saturday, September 4, 9 am. at Northhaven Gardens.
2. Joint Workshop, Saturday, September 4, 1 pm at Northhaven Gardens.
3. FWBS meeting, Sunday, September 5, 1 pm. Fort Worth Botanical Garden

The Dallas meeting will be a lecture/demo with a juniper tree to be raffled off at the end of the meeting. The FWBS is invited to come. Car pools can be arranged.

The workshop is a joint workshop with the Dallas club held in Dallas this year. We have 5 spots available at \$45 per participant. Bring your own tree or you may purchase a nice Dwarf Podocarpus left over from the Convention for \$20. A sample will be shown at our next meeting. You may also come to the workshop just to watch for free. We do ask that observers stay quiet during the workshop as a courtesy to those paying members. The deadline for signup is Saturday, August 21, when our spots will be turned over to the BSD waiting list.

Please contact me at [dan@callgensis.com](mailto:dan@callgensis.com)

I can also be reached at 817-907-1398. Please leave a message.

The FWBS Program (BSD invited) will be a lecture/demo style meeting as well. We will still be asking for Show & Tell trees from your collection that Roy may have some comment on before the demo. No club business will be held at this meeting. The demo tree will be raffled off at the end of the meeting.

All are invited to have dinner with Roy at the Hoffbrau Steak House on University across from the Zoo immediately following the program.

The Fort Worth Bonsai Society meets at:

Fort Worth Botanic Garden Conservatory  
3220 Botanic Garden Drive North,  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

### *Notes from the President*

The September meeting with guest artist Roy Nagatoshi will be a good one. I have had a workshop with Roy and some social time as well and I can tell you he loves to teach and talk! It will be well worth your effort to see him all 3 available times the first weekend in September. Remember our special meeting date and time of 1 pm Sunday. Social time dinner/drinks at the Hoffbrau Restaurant with Roy will follow the demonstration.

Elections of Officers are coming up in November and, following the procedure in the FWBS By-laws, I will appoint Scott Rae as the Nominating Committee Chairman. This will be the only order of official business at the September meeting. If you have a desire to run for the office of president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer, please contact Scott Rae at orclin@sbcglobal.net after the September meeting. Formal nominations will be announced by the committee at the October meeting.

I have mentioned Peter Tea in past newsletters as an up and coming artist in the USA. Take a look at his website and particularly his gallery of trees for some great before and after shots.

<http://web.me.com/petertea/PeterTeaBonsai/Welcome.html>

Or simply *Google* Peter Tea and follow the link.

Happy styling, Mark

### *Bonsai in September*

*By John Miller*

September, football, and back to school makes us think summer and the heat is over. That is usually not a good assumption. There will usually be very hot days with us from time to time through October. Don't let your trees get caught unawares.

The following is copied from a nursery bulletin re organic sprays. You can apply them to bonsai, chinch bugs are beetles, Bt for any worm type larva, Liquid seaweed is the basis for my foliar spray for insect control. Also look in the organics section for fungal controls.

“In terms of pest control, chinch bugs are a major lawn pest of St. Augustine in the heat of the summer. If patches look brown and dry even though turf is getting enough water, check for chinch bugs. Treat for chinch bugs with Spinosad, insecticidal soap or other insecticides recommended by your garden center. Treat your lawn for white grubs early in the month. Spray Bt (Thuricide) for tent caterpillars and webworms. Apply horticultural oils or other recommended insecticides for thrips, scale, spider mites, mealy bugs and lace bugs, which can all be a problem in the heat. Spray liquid seaweed on tomato plants to control spider mites.”

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 especially at the junction with the trunk. You need to check them periodically over the winter also. Winter growth will usually be pretty slow but can occur, especially on the evergreens. To remove the wire I usually cut the wire off. You can easily break the branches trying to unwrap the wire and it's just not worth trying to save the wire. Sylvia and Kathy Shaner says to unwrap it so that you do not overlook a coil and ruin that branch. Whichever way you go take care to **do it methodically and to do it right**. If you need to reapply some wire take care. Remember that the branches will be more brittle when the sap is not flowing.

Watering now becomes harder. As trees slow their growth they do not take as much water. Neither will they transpire as much on the cooler days but on hot days you better check twice. So check each one separately and water as often and as much as the individual tree requires. It is easy

to keep the soil too wet and develop root problems.

Tips of the leaves turning brown are indications of a water stress problem. Look at the following areas.

- a: evaporation--too much sun, too windy,
- b: watering--gets too dry between watering (the soil staying too wet may cause root problems which thus prevent uptake of moisture).
- c: soil or pots get too hot
- d: water too alkaline

There is probably nothing you can do about the foliage this time of year. Problems that occur earlier in the year could be corrected by leaf pruning and growing new foliage. If you have these problems, determine the cause and try to correct for next year.

You should help the plant slow down and get ready for winter by not applying nitrogen fertilizer about 90 days before the first freeze. This would be the first part of September in the Dallas-Ft Worth area. The reason is that nitrogen causes new growth to occur and it will not have time to mature before a freeze occurs. You may fertilize with one with a formulation like 0-10-10. The other two, phosphorous and potassium help the general hardiness of the plant and can be applied now. Evergreens, both needled and broadleaf, and tropical species that will be kept growing thru the winter will benefit from a low nitrogen fertilizer.

Make sure that your tropicals are in good health and growing vigorously. That will help them withstand the change of climate when you bring them indoors.

Two 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. Make sure that it is **clean** and that you will be able to check the water needs of the trees. It should be somewhat protected from winds but

should have some air movement to help prevent molds from developing. Having it in a location where you can see the trees would allow you to enjoy the winter silhouette, i.e. the branch structure and twiginess, that is a great part of deciduous bonsai. Treat the greenhouse to kill any lingering bugs, eggs, or fungi.

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. 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. Horticultural oil spray may also be used. If we should have a stretch of damp weather you should be watching for fungal problems, leaf spot, mildew, etc. Treat fungal diseases 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. (Organic spray: 1 tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, molasses, and 5% apple cider vinegar in one gallon of water)

Pruning and trimming can be done any time that there is not a lot of sap flowing. 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. Pruning spring blooming plants (azalea) may remove buds that have already formed.

### *Japanese Fall Festival Notes*

The Fall Festival is October 23-24. The hours of the Festival have been extended for Saturday only 10-7 pm. We have the option of staying open that long or closing at the regular time of 5 pm. We will have to decide this as we get closer to the

event. Sunday hours will remain the same, 11-5 pm.

Joe Andrews has been appointed head of the exhibit portion of the Fall Festival. Ladd Kelley has bowed out as head of the retail sales portion for this fall. We are in need of someone to handle this position. With the new \$100 budget allowance to purchase items for sale, it is important to get someone soon in this position. Please contact Mark Bynum.

### ***Future FWBS Business***

*By Mark Bynum, president*

It is clear from the lengthy discussion at the August meeting that we need to examine some of the policies and the structure of our Society to make it stronger.

We will form an Education Committee to come up with various suggestions and details of educating the public about the bonsai art. If you would like to be on this committee, please contact me.

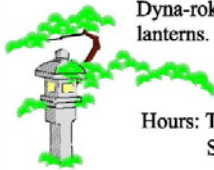
We will also begin the process of changing the club over to a Board of Directors run organization. With a BOD in place, the business of the club will change from the monthly meetings to BOD meetings. Policies, programs, and procedures can then be more quickly decided and implemented. This will take a FWBS By-Laws change. Procedures for changing the By-Laws are stated in the By-Laws which you can read on the FWBS webpage at [fwbonsai.com](http://fwbonsai.com). Some members are not at ease with this proposal and I feel that proper composing of the By-Law change is a key to the health of the Society; therefore, we will take this process slowly and strive for wording that is suitable and beneficial for our members. If you have ideas for the structure of a BOD and how it should operate, please contact me before the October meeting. I see this process taking several months with many draft versions going out to the members by email. Please understand that the membership votes on the decision of going to a Board of Directors or

remaining a member-run organization by passing or defeating these By-Law changes. I foresee the vote coming in January or February, 2011.

***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

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Sanderson Creek has 1/8" black lava that is just marvelous for shohin size bonsai. The bags are from 39 to 40 lbs and retail for \$16.00; that's \$14.40 for members.



1/8"

### ***Bon Voyage to Member***

Zak Cureton is on his way to Russia for his sophomore year of college. He will be spending 9 months in school and come home for a visit at Christmas time. He will surely have some good stories to share when he returns next May. Wonder if there are any bonsai enthusiasts in Russia? Our wishes for a safe trip go with him.