



The Bonsai News of Houston

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
Houston Bonsai Society, Inc.

Volume 32 Number 1 Internet Edition

January 2003

January Meeting—Convention Debriefing

The next meeting of the Houston Bonsai Society (HBS) will be held Wednesday, January 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park. Refreshments will be served beginning at 7 p.m. Be sure to come as early as you can to visit before the meeting begins.

The January program will be a convention debriefing session. I'm asking all club members who attended the New Braunfels convention to bring their workshop trees. I know many members took several workshops—so bring that special tree—or all of them!

I would like to have a “show and tell” session so all club members can see a cross-section of the high quality trees which were available.

Bring your trees, share your stories . . . give the members your impressions of all you discovered.

For all club members who did not attend the convention—I would like you to bring that special tree. The tree you are most pleased with—the tree you have had the longest, or the tree that has the most meaning to you. Be ready to share some of the history of the tree and why it has become so special to you.

This meeting will be great fun with lots of good stories shared. Please come and start the New Year by renewing your level of participation in our club.

--Ken

officer, Nell. The willingness of these folks to give up their time and energy makes our club possible. They have our appreciation.

Study Group: January 11

Our study group will meet Saturday, January 11, at 9 a.m. at Bayland Center in Bayland Park, Bissonet at Hillcroft (south of 59 and east of Fondren).

--Buddy, Donald

Pete Organizes Dig: January 11

There will be a club dig on January 11 beginning at 9:00 on the west side of Houston, near West Oaks Mall. The primary candidate species on the property are Chinese lace bark elms and crab apples, although there may also be a few cedar elms and other species available.

The property contains high weeds so be sure to wear long, sturdy pants and boots.

Rain date will be January 25.

Officers for 2003

At the December meeting, the HBS elected officers for 2003:

President	Virgil
2 nd Vice President	Donald
Treasurer	Janet
Members at Large	Harvey, Deborah

A big thanks to these people for agreeing to serve--or continue to serve--the HBS. A big thanks also to out going

Dues Are Due

Membership dues for 2003 are due, \$25 for an individual, \$30 for a family. A renewal form appears at the end of this newsletter. The deadline for renewal is February 19. We must *receive* membership applications by that date.

Monthly Bonsai Care

by John Miller

John Miller, who writes a monthly column for the Bonsai Society of Dallas and the Fort Worth Bonsai Society, has agreed to share his column with us. We need to make adjustments for our warmer, damper climate.

What do you do to make your task of watering easier? If you are observant, you know that some of the bonsai will dry out faster than others. By grouping these bonsai in a particular area of your winter storage, you will be more certain to get them watered when they need it and be less apt to over-water the ones that stay moist longer. After being gone for a few days, I found that 3/4 of my bonsai still had sufficient moisture but a few were quite dry. In cases like this, I prefer to hand water with a bucket and dipper so that I take time to do look at each pot.

Indoor trees will be using more water to offset the lower humidity. Soil will also be losing water faster through its surface. Be sure to watch the indoor trees for insect problems. Most plant insects love a controlled atmosphere like the indoors. Spider mites seem to get the most attention here because they do great in a low humidity and the lack of foliage spraying. Scale can be an easily overlooked source of trouble. There are usually more severe problems with plants that have been kept outdoors in summer then brought in without any treatment. Indoor trees need to be fertilized regularly and will require periodic trimming as they continue to grow through the winter.

Greenhouses are much the same as indoors. However, most greenhouses are kept more humid. The higher humidity is to the liking of aphids and fungal diseases. It may also result in your keeping the soil too moist with associated root problems.

After tending to the daily needs of your trees, take time to study one or two thoroughly each day. January is an excellent time to start, and remodeling projects that may be necessary. While the trees are dormant you have better view of the branch structure. Do any need to be moved or removed? Do any coarse branches need to be cut back to a smaller side branch for refinement? Any long straight branches need wiring to give them motion? Does the tree really need a drastic redesign? Also trim the twigs back while you have them there.

Any long warm spells during the month could activate some of the insect problems but as a rule there are no special needs to look for in January. Spraying with a dormant oil spray will kill adults, nymphs, and eggs of any trying to over-winter on your trees. Some dormant sprays can be used on new growth but better results overall will be obtained if you do it before Valentines Day. The weak lime sulfur dormant spray mentioned last month will also get fungal spores and should be done before Feb 1.

If you have your summer display and growing benches cleared, you could use the lime sulfur to disinfect that area, too. The underside of the benches should be sprayed also. Might even eliminate spiders next year.

While you are doing the refinement and/or restyling as mentioned above, you may discover that you need to know more about bonsai. Look at the club calendar and see if there isn't a workshop or seminar that would help you create better bonsai. Most clubs have times that you can get advice or training, such as beginners workshops, Q&A sessions. Local bonsai nurseries in your area may sponsor visiting artist workshops. Magazines, books and the like are great, but they are limited in how well they can cover any particular subject. Having your question answered orally with some give and take will give you a much better understanding of the topic. Also a different artist may explain in such a way that you understand it better.

As far as costs are concerned, I do not subscribe to the excuse that they charge too much. Most workshop fees are about \$25 (no material supplied). That is much less than you pay for any sporting event or even a movie nowadays (popcorn and drink included). And you get something to take home from that workshop. It won't take you very far in your car--72 miles round trip (\$25 divided by 35 cents/mile). So please get out there and learn more about our hobby.

I hate to mention any specific names but to illustrate the availability here are some. In Dallas area are Bent Tree Bonsai and BonsaiSmiths who sponsor Shane Cary each month. Austin has a scheduled beginner session and several nurseries, two of which I am familiar. Persimmon Hill sponsors Kathy Shaner and the Shohin Society meeting. MPB Bonsai Studio has regular events. Houston has study groups and some nurseries. Ft. Worth has their 4th Thursday meeting night at the garden center. All you need to do is look at your newsletter, club web site, or just ask most anybody at the meeting to find out what is coming up.

PERSIMMON HILL BONSAI STUDIO and NURSERY

Your Quality Source

**Bonsai Material, Tools, Soil, Wire,
Supplies, Pots, Bonsai Services,
Instruction, Club Programs & Seminars**

Terry & Sheila Ward

512-280-5575

Austin, Texas

E-Mail: PHBonsai@aol.com

From the President

I would like to thank Terry Dubois for his years as president and all his hard work. I know that the next two years will be interesting and full of opportunities for all of us. There will be the up coming 2004 convention and with that many committee needs. There is a need for all of the Houston Bonsai Society members to share their knowledge, ideas and time in making the up coming convention the best ever. The only thing I can promise is to do my best at all times to serve the needs of the Society. Thanks for letting me serve as your president for the next two years.

--*Virgil, President*

Shohin Society of Texas 2003 Schedule

The Shohin Society of Texas (SSOT) has a great lineup of programs and workshops for next year. . . .

Saturday, February 15 Reduction & Selection Workshop

Bring large material with shohin potential. There will be a brief "how-to" review.

Saturday, April 12 Critique & Refinement Workshop

Bring your potential exhibit trees and rough material for critique followed by a workshop.

Saturday, June 21 Exhibit Trees and Sale & Swap

We'll select our shohin, accent plants and stands for the July LSBF-sponsored state convention. PLUS, we'll have a sale and swap meet.

Saturday, September 20 Carving; Follow Up Workshop

We'll get hands on experience creating jin, shari and uro PLUS a follow up on the trees worked on during the reduction workshop in February.

Complete details will be in our newsletters. Now is a good time to start selecting material for the workshops and bonsai for our exhibit at LSBF Convention '03. Be ready to create, refine and share.

We are looking forward to sharing friendship and bonsai with you in 2003!

--*Terry & Sheila Ward, Austin*

WaterSmart Landscaping Workshop

Imagine a beautiful landscape that requires less water, fertilizers, and pesticides and is low maintenance and better for the environment. Make it a reality this spring by attending the Fourth Annual WaterSmart Landscaping Workshop to learn the techniques that can make your yard and garden "water smart."

The workshop is open to the public and will be held Saturday, March 1, 2003, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the University of Houston-Clear Lake Bayou Building. More than a dozen local experts will present workshops on topics ranging from organic gardening to water gardening to landscape design. Keynote speakers are noted author Malcolm Beck, who will discuss organic gardening methods,

and Heidi Sheesley, owner of Treesearch Farms, speaking on water-smart plant selection.

Attendees will learn water-smart landscape design techniques and how to choose the best plants for our area, reducing the need for significant inputs of fertilizers, pesticides and water. These lush, beautiful water-smart landscapes can stand up to droughts, floods and bugs. Tickets are \$35 when purchased by February 21, or \$45 at the door. Obtain a registration form by calling 281-333-5067 or visiting <http://www.watersmart.cc>. Admission includes continental breakfast, lunch, exhibits, a wide selection of classes, landscape plant sale, and book signing.

Lone Star Bonsai Federation Meeting

The fall meeting of the Lone Star Bonsai Federation (LSBF) was held on October 12, 2002, at the Austin Area Garden Center in Austin. President, Chuck Ware, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting were presented and corrections made. The minutes were then approved.

Pat distributed the September 30, 2002, Standard Trial Balance Sheet. The minutes were approved. Pat then presented a request for \$150 for the 2002 convention budget to replace the broken LSBF credit card machine. The motion was passed.

Pat stated that LSBF had received an inquiry from the North American Bonsai Federation about continuing our membership. After discussion, the Board voted to discontinue membership. Pat said Zilker Garden Center was seeking donations to upgrade the kitchen with new cooking items. The Board voted to donate \$30.00 for the upgrades.

Yvonne gave a report on the 2003 Symposium to be held at the Omni Hotel in Austin July 11-13, speakers to be Ted Matson (California) and Ed Trout (Florida).

Buddy reported Houston will host the 2004 Convention to be held at the Omni Hotel Houston-Westside May 21-23. Guest artists will be Kathy Shaner, Mary Miller and Guy Guidry.

John reported that LSBF couldn't get liability insurance from the Golden State Bonsai Federation in California. Their bylaws will not allow an out-of-state organization insurance coverage under their policy. Some of the Board members will check with their garden clubs to see if insurance is available through their clubs.

Chuck handed out Roy Nagatoshi's fall schedule for 2003. Roy has agreed to charge \$250 per event.

Buddy, chairman of the Bylaw Committee, presented several recommended changes to the bylaws. The revised draft will be presented and voted on at the January 18, 2003, meeting.

Terry, Editor of *Texas Bonsai*, presented the 2003 budget and reviewed the 2002 budget versus expenses. Terry asked for more Texas originated articles. The 2003 Budget was approved.

--*Buddy*

Calendar of Events

2003

- Jan. 8 Monthly meeting of HBS (Note this will be the **second** Wednesday of the month. The first Wednesday will be New Years Day).
- Jan. 11 Saturday Study Group, 9:00, Bayland Park
- Jan. 11 Club dig, west side of Houston
- Feb. 15 Saturday Study Group, 9:00, Bayland Park
- Feb. 15 Shohin Society of Texas, Reduction & Selection
- Mar. 1 WaterSmart Landscaping Workshop, UHCL 281-333-5067 or <http://www.watersmart.cc>.
- Mar. 15 Saturday Study Group, 9:00, Bayland Park
- Mar. 15-16 Kathy Shaner in Austin, *Deciduous Bonsai*
- Apr. 5-6 HBS Spring Show
- Apr. 12 Saturday Study Group, 9:00, Bayland Park
- Apr. 12 Shohin Society of Texas, Critique & Refinement
- May 17 Saturday Study Group, 9:00, Bayland Park
- June 14 Saturday Study Group, 9:00, Bayland Park
- June 21 Shohin Society of Texas, Exhibit Trees; Sale & Swap
- July 11-13 LSBF Symposium, Austin. Ted Matson and Ed Trout. Tex. Talent: Hansen, Holmes, Hubbard, Klajnowski, Padilla, Setter, Ware, Wilken.
- Aug. 16 Saturday Study Group, 9:00, Bayland Park
- Sept. 13 Saturday Study Group, 9:00, Bayland Park
- Sept 20 Shohin Society of Texas, Carving & Follow Up
- Oct. 11-12 HBS Fall Show
- Nov. 15 Saturday Study Group, 9:00, Bayland Park
- ### 2004
- May 21-23 LSBF State Convention, Houston.
Kathy Shaner, Guy Guidry, Mary Miller

Haiku

My friend Mary Alice (not a bonsai addict) sent me sixteen haiku which are purported to be actual computer error messages from Japan. I thought you might enjoy them. Here are the first four:

*The web site you seek
Cannot be located, but
Countless more exist.*

#

*Chaos reigns within.
Reflect, repent, and reboot.
Order shall return.*

#

*Program aborting:
Close all that you have worked on.
You ask far too much.*

#

*Windows NT crashed.
I am the Blue Screen of Death.
No one hears your screams.*

#

Renew your HBS membership now; don't miss a single haiku!

The Bonsai News of Houston is a monthly publication of the Houston Bonsai Society, Inc. Copyright © 2002. The contents of this publication may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the consent of the editor or a member of the board of directors. Exceptions exist, however, for other not-for-profit and non-profit bonsai organizations or associated bonsai and bonsai nursery newsletters. HBS participates fully with reciprocation of contents and materials between other LSBF member organizations and others. Authors who submit articles for this newsletter thereby give permission to such organization to reprint.

For special requests or questions related to *The Bonsai News of Houston*, contact the Editor or the **Houston Bonsai Society, Inc., P. O. Box 540727, Houston, Texas 77254-0727**, www.HoustonBonsai.com.

The deadline for submission of articles is 8:00 p.m. the Wednesday 2 weeks before the monthly meeting. *The Bonsai News of Houston* is available by e-mail. To receive a copy by e-mail instead of regular mail, contact the editor at the address above.

Space for advertising in *The Bonsai News of Houston* can be requested by contacting the editor. Advertising rates for a business-card-sized ad (approx. 3 1/2" x 2") are \$6 per month, \$30 for 6 months and \$50 per year (12 issues). A full-page ad is \$25 per month. Rates are subject to change without notice. 3 1/2" x 2" classified ads are run free of charge for one month once per 12-month period, for noncommercial members.