



The Bonsai News of Houston

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
Houston Bonsai Society, Inc.

Volume 33 Number 11 Internet Edition

November 2004

Monthly Meeting

The next meeting of the Houston Bonsai Society (HBS) will be held Wednesday, November 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, located at 1500 Hermann Drive. Refreshments will be served at 7 p.m. Be sure to come early so you can visit with members before the meeting begins. Guests are always welcome.

Photographing Bonsai. The program will be on how to photograph your bonsai. Whether you photograph them to keep a record of your progress, to show to friends or instructors, to use as screen savers or to use as an aid in styling, this program will be of use to you.

Nominations of Officers and Board. At the November meeting of the HBS, the board will accept nomination for the positions of president, second vice president, and two members at large. The qualifications and duties are set out in full below.

The board will present a slate of nominees chosen by the nominating committee. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. The HBS bylaws provide that nominations from the floor can ONLY be made at the November meeting. These officers also service on HBS's board of directors.

Elections will be held in December, and the new officers will assume their duties in January.

--Pete, Virgil

Help Needed

Your editor needs help. You probably noticed that last year, I was not able to prepare an index for the 2003 newsletters. This year is shaping up to be even worse. If anybody would be willing and able to prepare indexes for 2003 and 2004, I would appreciate it. I can provide you with a floppy disc with (or email you) the existing index to start from.

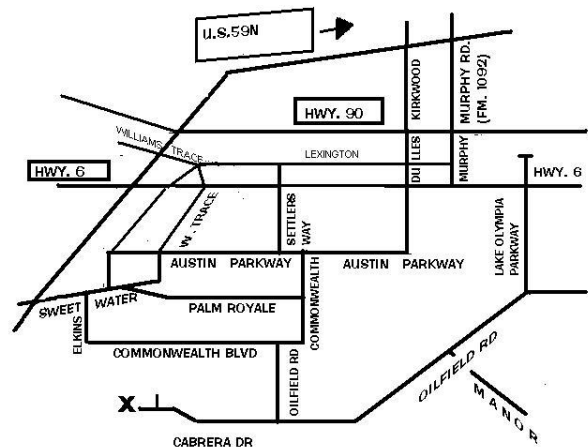
Contact the editor. Thank you.

Saturday Study Group to Cabrera Farm Nursery

Our study group will meet Saturday, November 13, 9:00 A.M. at the Cabrera Farm Nursery. Phillip and Pat are the owners and operators of the nursery that specializes in orchids, bonsai, roses, landscape plants, pottery, soils, etc. You may bring your own tree(s) to work on, or you may select something from the greenhouses at the nursery. Below is a map. Directions to the nursery can be found at

www.orchidsandbonsai.com or they can be obtained from 281-313-2000. Everyone is welcome. You will enjoy the quiet, tranquil, and beautiful atmosphere at Cabrera Farm Nursery.

--Donald, Buddy



CABRERA FARM NURSERY 3914 CABRERA DR. SUGAR LAND TX 77479
281-313-2000

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, with its early springs, long summers, late falls and erratic winters.

Peggy Lee and Rosemary Clooney

I was watching the PBS programs on these two singers and it struck me that there has been a big change in TV not necessarily for the better. In those days tv was primarily a source of information and entertainment. Newscasts gave events not close-ups of people in their distress. And the programs were entertainment, music and clean comedy, not trying for shock values of sex and violence.

In the same way it seems our bonsai clubs have changed. Then we had 50% or more in attendance and all the workshops were fully subscribed with a lot of paid observers hoping for someone not to show up. It was a pleasure to arrange club digs because there would be a large number of people showing up. Backyard Saturdays would be well attended.

At the last Saturday morning event I did we had two instructors and two workers with one observer. **Sumpin's wrong.** As I write this we are awaiting the LSBF sponsored artist Marco Ivernizzi, an artist good enough to be the featured headliner at the Golden State Bonsai Federation convention in California. The 'bring your own tree' workshop was \$115 plus \$300 registration while ours is offered to you at \$30 total. There are still two openings in the Dallas workshop and even more in the Ft Worth workshop. This artist should have been sold out long ago. Tell your officers what you want them to do. Also get involved in the club doings.

Back to bonsai basics. Other than going to Bonsaismiths and buying a good bonsai, there are four steps to getting something to be proud of.

1. Obtaining good raw material
2. Styling to realize the trees full potential.
3. Development of the branches.
4. Maintaining that development.

Of these four I consider the last one the most important. Not maintaining the tree properly is akin to obtaining a masters painting and then letting a two year old use crayons to 'improve' it. It grows out of shape fast.

Winter is the best time to observe your trees with a critical eye to decide if they have been properly styled and maintained. They have stopped growing for the most part and you can take time to really look at each one from top to bottom. Without the leaves you can see any faults and/or bad branches. When trees go dormant which indicates a reduced sap flow they may be pruned, that is have major limbs removed. Trimming may also be done while the leaves are off the trees and you can see what you are doing. Evergreen types will probably still be active. Pruning them should be held until later.

BIG NOTE: If you have a tree that is weak and unhealthy, you should not attempt to style it in any way, just get it happy by adjusting its soil, feeding, and getting rid of any parasites. Styling adds to its stress and problems.

Maintenance also includes work to reduce the length of branches and increase the taper from the trunk out. If the branch is getting too long, select a good secondary branch to be the terminal and cut the longer, larger branch above it. Some wiring will usually be required.

November is when I consider the start of the fiscal year for two needle pines which include the Japanese black pine, Scots pine, and others. This process is needed to develop the twiginess and to get the needles short and keep them that way. I believe the November program will be on pines. Come and get visual input on what and how to do it.

The general wisdom is that dormant trees need no fertilizer. However, as long as the soil is not frozen there will be some root activity. I do not add any fertilizer to dormant trees but I will leave the organic fertilizer cakes on until spring in case they happen to get some good out of them. The organics will not break down much in cold weather anyway. Evergreen types (e.g. pines junipers yaupons and live oaks) however continue some activity and therefore I give them a small amount of a very low nitrogen fertilizer.

Most important is winter is to keep the soil moisture at a proper level. This sometimes is hard to do because the trees do not use as much water as when they are growing. However the cold winds will dry out the tops quickly. I believe that most winter damage in Texas is due to lack of water than to low temperatures. Mulch helps keep the roots warm but it makes for difficulty in seeing if the soil is damp enough. Most soils with enough organic material to keep the tree happy in the summer will be too wet if watered daily in the winter and wet cold means root rot.

Cont'd next page.

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281-798-0004

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BONSAI SPOKEN HERE!

By appointment.

Bonsai Care *(cont'd)*

A horticultural oil spray should be applied during the winter to control scale. It will also get any over winter insects or eggs that may be trying to get thru the winter on your plant.

By this time any tropical you have should be under cover. Most do not like the temp below 50 degrees. All tropicals should be checked and treated for any insect problems before being taken inside since any insects will multiply fast when they get into warmer quarters. Spider mites can be especially damaging if the plant is moved in the house where the humidity is low.

The semi-tropical plants like crape myrtle pomegranate and pyracantha need to go dormant to stay healthy over a long time but they cannot take much cold on the roots. They will be killed by temps somewhere between 25 and 30 degrees. These I set down on the ground and mulch for light freezes and then bring into a protected area for the colder winter. Sometimes I will let them go dormant for a month and then take into the greenhouse to start early and I can enjoy their new foliage in January.

Repotting should not be done at this time. The outside trees need to be repotted just before growth starts in the spring and the tropicals only get repotted in hot weather.

LSBF Board Meeting for October

The Lone Star Bonsai Federation (LSBF) board met on October 9, 2004 at Zilker Park in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order by President Steven.

The minutes were submitted and approved. The Treasurer's Report was given by Pat. Due to some increase in expenses the Budget was over in a couple of areas. The Board approved the overages. Pat reminded everyone that LSBF dues should be submitted from each club around the first of each year. The membership dues are \$2.00 per person on the club membership list as of December 31st.

Terry presented the budget for the *Texas Bonsai* for the year 2005. The budget was approved.

Buddy submitted the final report of the 2004 State Convention.

Steve gave a brief report for the 2005 State Convention which will be held in Fort Worth. Each club is *(cont'd next page.)*

Calendar of Events

Nov. 3	Monthly meeting of HBS: Nominations 7:30 p.m., Garden Center, Hermann Park
Nov. 13	Study Group, Cabrera Farm Nursery
Dec. 1	Monthly meeting of HBS: Elections, pot luck dinner, gift exchange.
2005	
Jan. 15	Study Group, Bayland Park
Feb. 19	Study Group, Bayland Park
Mar. 19	Study Group, Cabrera Farm Nursery
Apr. 16	Study Group, Bayland Park
May 21	Study Group, Bayland Park
June 18	Study Group, Cabrera Farm Nursery
July 16	Study Group, Bayland Park
Aug. 20	Study Group, Bayland Park
Sept. 17	Study Group, Bayland Park
Oct. 15	Study Group, Bayland Park
Nov. 19	Study Group, Cabrera Farm Nursery
Dec. 17	Study Group, Bayland Park
May 13-15	State Convention, Fort Worth Walter Pall (Germany); Mary Madison (Florida)
2008	Bonsai Clubs International convention, San Antonio

LSBF Meeting (con'd)

being asked to have a table which will exhibit trees from their individual clubs. Each club has been asked to donate a tree which has a \$100 value.

John reported that Marco Inverness was well received throughout the State. Dennis will coordinate the 2005 Texas Tour speaker.

Mark from the Fort Worth Club won the cruise which was sponsored by the Texas Bonsai State Exhibit.

Pat reminded that each club, **for the year 2005 only**, will be able to have two Texas Speakers which will be paid for by LSBF. One will be reimbursed at the \$75.00 charge and the other one will be reimbursed \$75.00 for the speaker and \$0.31 mileage.

Meeting adjourned.

Buddy, LSBF Representative

Duties of HBS Officers

At the November meeting we will be nominating candidates for the offices of president, second vice president, and treasurer and for two members-at-large. Following are the duties of each position.

PRESIDENT

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

The President shall preside at all meetings, appoint committees and perform all other duties pertaining to the Chief Executive of an organization.

TERM OF OFFICE

Two years. No Officer may serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

BONSAI EXPERIENCE

Must have a minimum of three years experience with Bonsai, and at least one year as active member of HBS or an organized Bonsai club.

JOB QUALIFICATIONS

1. Must be organized and thorough.
2. Must be willing and able to speak in front of an audience.
3. Needs to be creative in the planning for the future of the HBS.
4. Must be able to build consensus, delegate duties, pick the proper persons for the right positions. Needs general knowledge of parliamentary procedures.

JOB DESCRIPTION

1. Preside at all meetings of HBS and the HBS Executive Board.
2. Create committees as needed by picking a chairman and committee members, or by picking a chairman and the chairman picking or asking for volunteers to serve as members of the committee. The number of committee members shall be commensurate with the job to be accomplished and agreement between the committee chairman and the President of HBS.
3. To build membership in HBS by providing interesting programs, education, and increasing awareness of Bonsai and HBS in the Houston community. Attracting new members adds vitality and enthusiasm to HBS while retaining old members provides a foundation of experience, artistry, and education for HBS to build on.
4. To build the quality of Bonsai in HBS and the notoriety of HBS members as leaders and Bonsai artists both in the State of Texas and nationally.
5. Provide long range goals and plans for the future of HBS.
6. Identify and promote HBS members as future officers of HBS.
7. Provide leadership to involve as many HBS members as possible to contribute time, effort, knowledge and experience to the betterment of HBS.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY**

The Second Vice President shall assume the duties of the First Vice President if the latter is unable to preside and shall have the responsibility of Chairman for any exhibit in which the Society may participate. This officer also shall be responsible for planning, set-up, and arrangements for speaker, whether local or from other cities and all other educational activities.

TERM OF OFFICE

Two years. No Officer may serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

BONSAI EXPERIENCE

Must have a minimum of three years of Bonsai experience, and at least one year as active member of HBS or an organized Bonsai club.

JOB QUALIFICATIONS

1. Assume the duties of the First Vice President if the First Vice President is unable to preside.
2. Must be organized and reliable.
3. Chair any exhibit in which HBS participates.
4. Plan, set-up, and arrange for speakers or Bonsai artists. This includes making or having others make arrangements for the dates the speaker will be available. Make arrangements for the speaker to get to Houston, for transportation while in town, if necessary; for transportation to their next destination; arrangements for payment of fees and reimbursement for transportation and accommodations; publicity for the event; registration for the event; a location for the event to be held; provide supplies required for set-up and workers for the event. Dates, times, location and speaker are approved by the Executive Board.
5. Keep an inventory of all club owned equipment used for events and where it is stored. Make sure that all club equipment is in presentable condition for its intended purpose and that it is properly stored so that it will not be damaged.

6. Keep an up-to-date list of names, addresses and telephone numbers and a short biography, if available, of Bonsai artists used either by HBS in the past for lectures and/or demonstrations, or by other Bonsai clubs. Add new artists as they progress in talent and experience.
7. Keep an Event Book that has the name of the event, the location, approximate time of year the event is held, what the show sponsor provides, usual schedule for the event the HBS setup and the number of working staff required (see attached example).

MEMBER-AT-LARGE**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY**

It shall be the duty of the two Members-at-Large to attend meeting and bring forth any pertinent information from the members. They are charged with the responsibility of greeting guests and new members at each of the Society's functions

TERM OF OFFICE

One year. No member-at-large may serve two consecutive terms.

BONSAI EXPERIENCE

At least one year active experience with HBS.

JOB QUALIFICATIONS

1. Attend monthly meetings.
2. Attend Executive Board Meetings.

JOB DESCRIPTION

1. Meet members and guests at the door and welcome them to the meeting.
2. Receive ideas concerning the meetings or activities of HBS and present them at the Executive Board meetings.

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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.

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