



# The Bonsai News of Houston

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**Houston Bonsai Society, Inc.**

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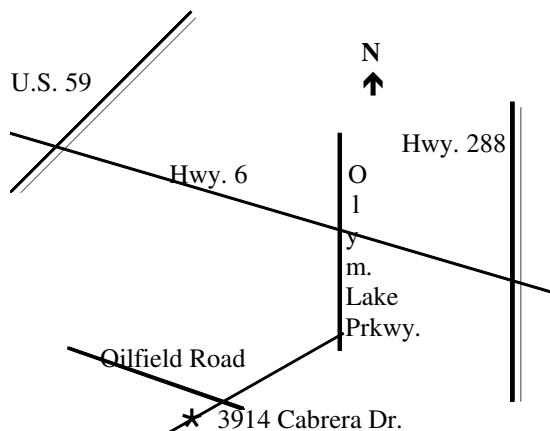
June 2004

## Saturday Study Group at Cabrera Farm Nursery

The HBS study group will meet Saturday June 12, 9:00 a.m. at the Cabrera Farm Nursery. Phillip and Pat Drilling are owners/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 display stands or greenhouses at the nursery.

Everyone is welcomed—beginners and seasoned veterans alike. You will enjoy the quiet, tranquil, and beautiful atmosphere at the Cabrera Farm Nursery.

**Directions.** From Houston take Hwy. 59 south towards Sugar Land. Exit at Hwy. 6 and go under the freeway. Go several miles to Lake Olympia Parkway and turn right. The street name changes to Oilfield Road. Proceed approximately 0.9 miles. Oilfield Road will make a sharp turn to the left (a 90 degree turn). Continue on Oilfield Road another 1.6 miles. When Oilfield Road makes a sharp turn to the right, continue straight. You will then be on Cabrera Drive. Follow Cabrera into the nursery.



For another map, see [www.orchidsandbonsai.com](http://www.orchidsandbonsai.com) or call 281-313-2000.

## June Meeting

The next meeting of the Houston Bonsai Society (HBS) will be held Wednesday, June 2, 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 other members before the meeting begins.

Ron Smith has arranged for Corey Newsome of Plant Health Care to speak with us about fertilizers, principles of fertilization, and the use of mycorrhiza, including mycorrhiza for tropical plants. His discussion of mycorrhiza will include promoting, rejuvenating and colonizing mycorrhiza.

It promises to be an informing discussion that will help us better care for our trees.

Also, convention participants, please BRING YOUR CONVENTION TREES to the meeting. We would all like to have a chance to get a good look at them.

--Pete Parker

## Comments from the State Convention

If you missed the state convention here in Houston this past weekend, you missed a great convention and a really good time. Huge thanks to our convention committee, Buddy, Wanda, Virgil, Janel, Donald, Janet, John, Paula and Yvonne and her troops from Corpus Christi. Their planning and tireless efforts made the convention the success it was.

Here are some comments from convention attendees. Because the convention ended well after the deadline for this newsletter, there was time to get only a few comments. The rest will be printed in July. Please send me your comments, too.

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GREAT convention! Can we give a medal to Janel for some awesome goody bags??

--Anthony  
Con'd next page.

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

This may be a bit brief since I just got back from a great convention in Houston and it is already past due.

A few words on the use of Garret Juice. One of the members has been having some problems with cotton cushion scale. He used Garret Juice and said that it did not get rid of his problem. I did not think to ask him if he sprayed once or on some sort of a schedule. I have had some problems this year with the cotton cushion scale also and have used the Garret Juice successfully. When using any insecticide, either organic or poisonous, you must use repeated sprays to get complete control. You will always miss some insects and maybe the eggs will not be damaged. Therefore you need to find out what kind of a repeat cycle is needed for that particular insect. For instance, to control the spider mite you should spray four times at 5-day intervals.

Looks like the weather is ripe for doing the repotting of tropicals. I generally like to defoliate the tropical (at least partially, before doing the root work. I think this relieves the moisture stress when the tree has no roots to supply the top with water.

Speaking of defoliating, it is too late to leaf prune deciduous trees. This should be done before the hot weather makes them stop growing. If you have a tree that develops a few large, out-of-scale leaves, you can do a partial leaf pruning. That is, just cut off the offending leaves. Ray says he even does this on the atropurpeum type of Japanese maples like the Bloodgood variety. I do not leaf prune the atropurpeum at all ever. They do not put on a full crop of new leaves.

Watering needs careful attention now. The trees should be watered twice. Water once and let it break the surface tension on each soil particle. Then a few minutes later water thoroughly so the soil particles absorb the water and hold more of it. That will keep your trees happy longer.

Trees will need to be fed on a regular basis. Organic fertilizers like the pellets or cakes will release their nutrients slowly each time you water, thereby giving a more constant feeding to your tree.

Keep a eye out for insects. Most can be spotted before they cause much damage and you can control them. The spider mite will be one of the hardest to see. That is why I

use the Garret Juice foliar spray every two weeks or so even though I put cakes on the soil. When the humidity is high during warm weather, look for fungal symptoms. My personal one is the black leaf spot on hollies and especially new growth on elms. Mildew will attack some trees. Baking soda is an old reliable solution used by rose growers for ages.

## Comments from the Convention, *con'd*

The convention was great....informative and lots of fun. Bonsai people are so supportive, pleasant and did I mention....fun? The displays were amazing, impressive, beautiful and inspiring. Thanks so much for all of those who went to the trouble to bring those valuable displays.

--Nan

\* \* \*

As a new member I just want to say what a pleasure it was to meet some of you. You were all so kind to me. The classes were fun and the teachers made it easy to relax and learn. The goody buckets were A+, the raffle was good fun. Thank you for a wonderful time.

--Melanie

\* \* \*

Had a great time again. Great material, great presenters, and great host clubs. I have always enjoyed the Houston-hosted convention immensely, the best part being able to visit with old friends and make new ones down there. --John Miller, LSBF, Dallas-Fort Worth

\* \* \*

It was my first convention, and I thought it was wonderful. I learned a lot and made many new friends. Had a great time. Can't think of anything to improve things. The raffle was terrific.

--Hurley

\* \* \*

Of course I enjoyed the convention; indeed, this was the best convention I've ever attended! I was even more pleased when I got home and received a call from an old associate who had been in bonsai many years ago and had visited the show because of the Chronicle's article. He was most impressed and spent several minutes telling me how much he enjoyed seeing the trees in the exhibit and auction.

This comment is for the Board: It would be really nice to drop a note to the editor who wrote the article, telling her that we had many visitors because of it.

--Margaret

\* \* \*

Nothing to say at this point except to say it's over. . .

THANK GOODNESS!!! I heard a lot of positive comments from attendees about the quality of the convention and of all the raffle items they had to select from. I believe generally everyone enjoyed themselves. We all owe a VERY BIG THANKS to Buddy and Wanda Allen for their hard work getting this all coordinated and putting the right people in the right jobs.

I have to say that I was very impressed with the hard work that the Corpus club put into this. I worked with Versie and Al Marks and their "crew" on the raffle and, even though they are not a large club, they were very enthusiastic and worked like Turks. I was so glad to have their help and it really make everything run a lot smoother.

The raffle was successful thanks, in a large part, to several of our club members and the Corpus club's contributions. We owe a special thanks to members like Sam Yeager, Alan Perry, Richard Reiger and Terry Dubois for their contributions of LOTS of high quality trees and pots. . . .

There were other items that were very nice too, but these guys really "raised the bar" on raffle/auction donations--and allowed us to make over \$8,000--thanks, fellas and thanks to everyone who contributed items and time!!!

I believe we all received a really great endorsement at Saturday night's dinner when Kathy Shaner got up, unscheduled, and complimented Buddy and everyone for the high quality workshop trees and said that's what made the artists look really good....she also thanked us all for a very well-organized and smoothly-run convention.

Well. . . I wasn't going to say much, was I? But that's kind of difficult for me to do....so I'll stop now and just say, again, a very BIG thank you to all who helped in both the Houston and the Corpus clubs...we can all pat ourselves on the back and take a nice long rest ..... until next time.

--Paula LSBF 2004 Convention Raffle Chairman

\* \* \*

Overall my expectations were exceeded. The greatest part of the entire weekend was seeing so many folks from the public come and enjoy our exhibit and vendor area. I attribute this to the excellent job Donald Green did getting the word out in both posters and the article in the Chronicle. I hope to see many of those folks at our next HBS meeting. I want to thank everyone who came out and especially those who volunteered to help in some capacity.

--Janel, LSBF 2004 Convention Registration Chairman

\* \* \*

This was the best of the three conventions I have attended. The material in my two workshops was top notch, clearly the best that I've had to work with at conventions.

I particularly enjoyed working with Kathy Shaner,

with her dry sense of humor and down to earth advice on technique and design. --Pete

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I will print additional comments in the July newsletter. Send me your reactions, too. --ed.

### Calendar of Events

- June 2 Monthly meeting of HBS, Mycorrhiza; fertilizers
- June 12 Study Group, Cabrera Farm
- June 26 Shohin Society Of Texas (SSOT). Bougainvilleas.
- July 17 Study Group, Bayland Community Center
- Aug. 21 Study Group, Bayland Community Center
- Sept. 18 Shohin Society Of Texas (SSOT). Business and panel critique.
- Sept 18 Study Group, Bayland Community Center
- Oct. 9-10 HBS Fall Bonsai Show
- Nov. 13 Study Group, Cabrera Farm

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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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