



The Bonsai News of Houston

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
Houston Bonsai Society, Inc.

Volume 34 Number 10 Internet Edition

October 2005

Monthly HBS Meeting

The next meeting of the Houston Bonsai Society (HBS) will be Wednesday, October 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, which is located at 1500 Hermann Drive. Come early so you can visit with other members and have refreshments before the meeting.

At the October meeting, we will have an open workshop, so bring a bonsai project, be it a tree that needs styling or trimming, or tools that need maintenance, or whatever. And if you need last minute help for your tree for the Fall Bonsai Show, that will be the time and place to get it.

Mike Hanson Series. We have arranged for Mike Hanson to lead a series of workshops on black pines beginning later this year. We'll have additional information and a sign up sheet at the monthly meeting.

--Pete

Fall Bonsai Show October 8-9

The HBS fall show will be October 8 and 9 in the Houston Garden Center of Hermann Park. Show times will be 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00 am. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

We need members to place more trees in the exhibit. The sign-up sheets will be circulated again at our regular October club meeting.

Set-up time for the show will be Friday, October 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Members may bring their trees on Friday night or early Saturday morning. We would like to ask all members to please leave their trees on exhibit until at least 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

--Anthony

Saturday Study Group, Oct. 15

Our study group will meet Saturday, October 15, 9:00 A.M. at the Bayland Center in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet (Bissonnet at Hillcroft--south of I-59 and east of Fondren). Everyone is welcome--beginners and seasoned veterans alike. We all have a good time.

--Anthony, Buddy

Marc Noelander

I was overwhelmed the response from everyone that came to Marc Noelander's lecture/demo and workshops. Marc is one of the best. He did something for the HBS that he doesn't do at each club and that was to sketch each tree that was in each workshop and the demo-tree which Earl won. John donated the demo tree to the club.

--Buddy, LSBF Representative

Meeting Schedule, 2006, SSOT

The Shohin Society of Texas has a challenging and exciting series of hands-on workshops and programs on tap for our '06 meetings. Members did themselves proud at the 9/17 meeting. You will be able to refine trees done in past workshops and create new quality shohin for your collection. We'll work on upgrading shohin bonsai and shohin exhibit displays plus revisit our favorite program.

Workshop details will be in our newsletters. You'll have complete information on what's happening and what to bring. All meetings are at Persimmon Hill on a Saturday starting at 10:30 a.m.

February 18.....Workshop

Trident maple fused trunk style and/or stone clasping trident maple. You can bring any you have done in past workshops or create new ones.

April 22.....Workshop

Raft style led by John Miller. This is a follow up workshop and you can also create a new one from scratch.

Con'd page 50, below.

Thanks to Rita

You can thank Hurricane Rita for this truncated newsletter. Hope all of you and your loved ones are safe and sound.

--ed.

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. The following article is reprinted from the October 2004 issue of The Bonsai News of Houston.

Some people want to repot their bonsai in the fall, especially if they have just done a workshop to create the new bonsai. This is not a good idea generally. Repotting can stimulate new growth which is bad just before going into winter. Also the new roots will be tender and thus require that you give the bonsai protection from freezing. If temperatures do not get that cold, the tree may decide to break dormancy on the first warm day that will surely come here in Texas. So if you must repot for any reason, be ready to give a bit more protection to the tree than you normally would.

On trees that you have been training, be sure to check the wiring. The fall growth can make the trunks and branches swell up and get bad wire marks in a hurry. If the trunk or limbs do not stay where you want them, then rewire, placing the new wire in a slightly different path.

To keep from over stimulating growth on your bonsai, go with fertilizers with little or no nitrogen. At the last meeting, I checked the organic gardening section at North Haven. Probably the best that they carry is the commercial version of Garrett juice put out by Gardenville. Since it is a very low concentration as well as being organic, you can use it as a soil drench and not worry about burning roots. Another one might possibly be Sul-po-mag. My problem with it would be that there may be too much magnesium for repeated use. Some bonsai nurseries have a Dyna-Gro product called Pro-tekt with a formula of 0-0-3 but it also contains a silicon supplement that is said to give stronger plant cells making them hardier and more insect resistant.

Watering can be a problem now. With the temperature is a little lower, the trees require less water. Also trees going into dormancy will not use much, but the evergreen types will still be using quite a bit. And you need to remember that the wind can still dry and stress the trees. So water by checking the soil and not just on a given schedule.

As the trees go dormant, it is important to check for, and treat if necessary, any insect or fungal problems before you put the trees into winter storage. Some of the Japanese growers disinfect their benches and the soil underneath with a strong solution of lime sulfur. Coat the bottoms of the benches and the posts as well as the tops to get all the spores.

I heard a gal from *The Old Farmers Almanac* on the radio today. She is saying that we should be looking for a colder winter than normal. I don't exactly believe all their predictions but. . . we have been having cold fronts come all the way into Texas this summer which is very unusual. The reason for this has been the strong and almost straight north to south flow of the upper air currents. If this continues into November, we could see an early freeze. I for one will be watching for that—watching, but I still expect I will be out there covering up late one night.

Letter to the Editor

I just wanted to comment on the excellent workshops given by Marc Noelander!

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend Marc Noelander's Friday demo and then to observe and participate in his workshops. I just can't say enough positive things about Marc. I was totally impressed with his knowledge, skills, and abilities. He freely shared his perspective on each tree, giving options, and then letting you do the work. He made drawings of the trees, which gave his insight on the completed trees and provided a visual aid for future styling. It was a rewarding and educational experience with lots of fun thrown in. IT WAS GREAT!!! I would jump at the chance to observe or work with Marc again. I hope he returns to the Houston area soon.

--Michael

Calendar of Events

The HBS meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, 1500 Hermann Drive, next to the rose garden.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Oct. 5 | Monthly HBS meeting, 7:30.
Open workshop |
| Oct. 8-9 | Fall Bonsai Show |
| Oct. 8-9 | Kathy Shaner in Austin
"It's All About Horticulture"
12001 Red Hawk Cove, Austin.
For information, Terry or Sheila |
| Oct. 15 | Study Group, Bayland Park |
| Oct. 27 | Garage Sale, Texas State Bonsai Exhibit |
| Nov. 2 | Monthly HBS meeting, 7:30.
TBA; nominations to the HBS board. |
| Nov. 9 | Drawing for cruise, Texas State Bonsai Exhibit |
| Nov. 19 | Study Group, Cabrera Farm Nursery |
| Dec. 7 | Monthly HBS meeting, 7:30.
Elections to the HBS board;
Holiday party. |
| Dec. 17 | Study Group, Bayland Park |
| 2006 | |
| Feb. 18 | SSOT. Trident maple Workshop--fused trunk style and/or stone clasping. |
| Apr. 22 | SSOT. Workshop, raft style by John Miller. |
| June 17 | SSOT. Workshop, Steven, tropical shohin refinement and air layering. Shohin display for the CCBC/LSBF convention.. Annual sale & swap meet. |
| July 14- 16 | State Bonsai Convention, Corpus Christi |
| Sept. 16 | Panel critique. Annual business meeting. Workshop, Alisan, Japanese style scroll. |

SSOT 2006 Schedule (con'd)

June 17.....Workshop

Select our shohin bonsai display for the CCBC/LSBF convention. PLUS, Steven Hendricks will lead a workshop on tropical shohin bonsai refinement and air layering. If that's not enough for you, our annual sale & swap meet will be going on.

September 16.....Workshop

This is going to be a busy and super fun get together. It kicks off with our annual business meeting followed by our favorite program the 3 person panel critique and then- yes there's more- a workshop. Alisan Clarke will lead a workshop where you will create your own Japanese style scroll that can be used to upgrade your shohin bonsai exhibit and proudly display at home.

Please bring a tree to work on to every one of our meetings. If you prefer to work on something other than the program that's fine. What is important is to work on something. Your trees will not improve and neither will your skills without your hands-on.

Looking forward to sharing shohin bonsai and camaraderie in 2006,

Terry, Austin, texshohin@sbcglobal.net

The Bonsai News of Houston is a monthly publication of the Houston Bonsai Society, Inc. Copyright © 2005. 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, unless they expressly reserve all rights.

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 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.