



The Bonsai News of Houston

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
Houston Bonsai Society, Inc.

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November 2005

November Meeting—Mike Hanson

The next meeting of the Houston Bonsai Society (HBS) will be held Wednesday, November 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, which is 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.

The November program will be a presentation by Mike Hanson on horticulture and styling of black pines. Thought it would be a good lead in into the workshop series.

--Pete

Nomination of Officers, Delegates

At the November meeting of the HBS, the board will accept nomination for the positions of first vice president, secretary, two members at large and two delegates to the Lone Star Bonsai Federation (LSBF). The qualifications and duties are set out in full on pages 54 –56, below. The board of the HBS is made up of the officers of the club; so the new officers will automatically be board members.

The board will present a slate of nominees chosen by the nominating committee, which consists of Buddy, Anthony and Donald. So far, the nominations will be Secretary--Rosanna and members-at-Large -- Michael and Ken.

The nominating committee has not yet found a candidate for first vice president. If you are willing to serve, please contact a member of the nominating committee.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the November meeting. The HBS bylaws provide that nominations from the floor can ONLY be made at the November meeting—no nominations in December.

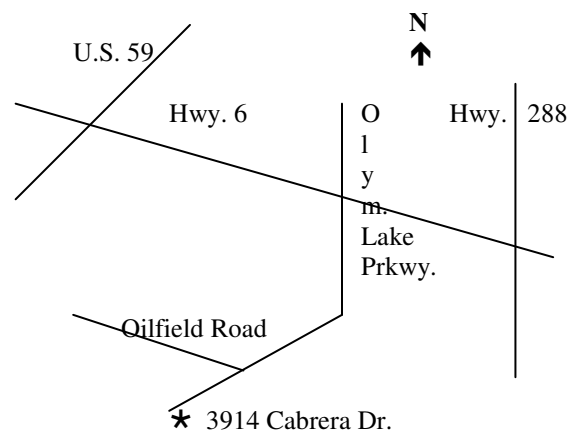
Elections will be held in December, and the new officers will assume their duties in January.

Saturday Study Group, Nov. 19

Our study group will meet Saturday, Nov. 19, 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. Everyone is welcome. You will enjoy the quiet, tranquil, and beautiful atmosphere at 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 or call 281-313-2000.

A Big Thanks to Alex

The HBS website is progressing, and I am proud to announce that HBS member Alex sketched the drawings which are posted in the Styles of Bonsai section. I am very thankful for Alex's fantastic contribution to not only our website but our club members as well.

--Janel

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.

Do you know that your bonsai soil hides a world of scientific mystique? My new issue of *Bonsai Today* has an illustration in a book review that shows four different types of water in your soil, hygroscopic water, capillary water, gravitational water, and drainage water. For the healthiest plants, you need to understand all four types and provide for them in your soil. The book being reviewed was one I bought years ago when it first came out and I think it still is one of the best: *Bonsai, Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy* by Deborah R. Koreshoff.

Do you need to change the pot? Making notes at this time while getting the trees ready for winter will give you 3-4 months to find the proper pot.

It's been too hot to move the bonsai out so that I can spray the benches with lime-sulfur. I want to spray them to kill insect eggs and mold spores before putting the trees under them for the winter. I want to have enough cold to stop the insect activity on the trees so I will not re-infest the area when the trees go back to await cold weather. The long-range forecast I heard was for a warmer and wetter winter than average. That really doesn't change what you do with your bonsai. It may rain every day for three weeks and then go dry for ten. If you are not watching the soil in their pots, you may either get root rot fungus or it dries out, either way--finished (for you beginners that reads "dead") bonsai. It is easier to care for them if you have them under roof, that way you know you need to tend to watering.

BIG NOTE: The unusual weather we had this fall, a fairly long cool spell between several 100+ degree days, has stressed many trees. 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 just adds to its stress and problems.

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.

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 can use a small amount of low nitrogen fertilizer.

Most important in 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 rather than to low temperatures. Mulch helps keep the roots warm and retards evaporation 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.

A horticultural oil spray should be applied during the winter to control scale. It will also get any over wintering insects or eggs that may be trying to get through the winter on your plant. This purpose is what lime-sulphur was first used for, and some Japanese still use it, but the oil is safer on bonsai and may be used on evergreens where the lime-sulphur should not.

By this time, any tropical you have should be under cover. Most do not like the temperatures below 50 degrees. All tropicals should be checked and treated for any insect problems since any insects will multiply fast when they get into warmer quarters. Spider mites and scale 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. Temperatures somewhere between 25 and 30 degrees will kill them. 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.

Plan your spring repotting tasks so you will have the necessary pots and other supplies. Take advantage of low prices when nurseries are clearing out space for Christmas tree sales. You can sometimes find some bargains there especially if you remember that a tree with broken/dead tops can make nice bonsai starter material.

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By appointment, please.

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.

Nov. 2	Monthly HBS meeting, 7:30. Mike Hanson; nominations to the HBS board.
Nov. 5	Mike Hanson: Beginning series, black pines.
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	
Jan. 14	Mike Hanson: Styling
Feb. 18	SSOT. Trident maple Workshop--fused trunk style and/or stone clasping. Terry Ward, Austin, 512-280-5575, texshohin@sbcglobal.net
Feb. 25	Mike Hanson: Styling continued, special topics
Mar. 11	Mike Hanson: Springtime care
Apr. 22	SSOT. Workshop, raft style by John Miller.
June 17	Mike Hanson: Candle pruning and series wrap-up
June 17	SSOT. Workshop, Steven Hendricks, 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.

Mike Hanson Black Pine Series

Mike Hanson will give a five-workshop series on black pines beginning Saturday, November 5. Each workshop will be in the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, begin at 9:00 a.m. on a Saturday and last approximately 6 hours. Cost for the series is \$350 and can be paid to Pete Parker at the November meeting. Dates and places for the workshops are as follows:

November 5-- Garden Center Rose Room--Introduction to the series and beginning of working on the trees.

January 14-- Garden Center Auditorium—Styling.

February 25-- Garden Center Azalea Room—Styling

continued and special topics.

March 11--Garden Center Azalea Room—Spring care.

June 17--Garden Center Azalea Room--Candle pruning and series wrap-up. --Pete

San Antonio Bonsai Tree Care Book

For those of you who may not be aware of it, the San Antonio Bonsai Society has an excellent tree care book. Revised and updated in 2002, it has care information on 80 tree species. Bound in sturdy 3-ring, approximately 5" by 8" binder, it provides space for your notes, includes potting and repotting guidelines, susceptibility chart to root rot fungus and soil recipes. The cost is \$12 + \$3 for shipping and handling. For 10 books or more, the cost is \$10 each + \$5 shipping and handling.

Send order and check or money order to San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc., P.O. Box 39161, San Antonio, TX 78218. Emails: medixon@satx.rr.com.

Duties of HBS Officers

First Vice President

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

First Vice President shall assume all of the duties of the President if the President is unable to preside. This officer shall be responsible for any committees appointed by the President, will schedule the programs for the monthly meetings and oversee the functions of the library.

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 an active member of HBS or an organized Bonsai club.

JOB QUALIFICATION

1. Must be willing and able to speak in front of an audience.
2. Must be organized and reliable.
3. Needs to be creative in planning programs that will be of interest to the broad spectrum of club members' experience. Needs to be able to solicit suggestions from members of HBS and other clubs in the United States.
4. Must be willing and able to devote the time to the preparation of meeting programs or organizing and follow up of others in the preparation of meeting programs.
5. Must be able to attend almost all meetings.

JOB DESCRIPTION

1. Assume all the duties of the President if the President is unable to preside.
2. Plan, schedule, organize, and present the monthly meeting program.
3. Oversee the function of the library and VCR library.
4. Oversee the Sales Committee.
5. Such other assignments as requested by the President or Executive Board.

Secretary

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

The Secretary shall record the minutes of the society's meetings, maintain on file all records of the Society, report the minutes of the meetings in writing at the regular monthly meetings and shall be responsible for publishing a Newsletter.

TERM OF OFFICE

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

BONSAI EXPERIENCE

At least one year active experience with HBS.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Must be able to take notes of meetings.
2. Shorthand is helpful but not required. Must have access to a computer, word processor or typewriter. Helpful to have access to a photocopy machine but not required.
3. Needs to have reasonable proficiency at spelling and English.

JOB DESCRIPTION

1. Keep the minutes of the monthly meetings and Executive Board meetings when called. Type the minutes by the following meeting and keep a copy in the permanent records of HBS.
2. Give a summary report of all meetings of the membership and Executive Board, occurring since the last Newsletter was published to the Newsletter Editor to be published in the next issue of the newsletter.
3. Make sure that all members of HBS fill out a membership application when they pay their dues for the current year in order to keep the membership roster current at all times.
4. Keep a current roster showing the name, address and phone number of all paid members of HBS. Make available to the membership a telephone list upon request. Make sure that those members who do not wish their address published to the general membership are excluded from the Telephone List. Provide the Executive Board a complete list with current membership changes as necessary. Check the roster for duplication of names.
5. Oversee the publication of the Newsletter. Proof for spelling, English, and accuracy before the Newsletter is mailed.
6. Oversee the function of the telephone committee.
7. Make reservations for the monthly meeting location.
8. Send all new members a letter of welcome, a list of HBS Officers and the Officers' telephone numbers, a list of HBS Committees (only committees anyone can volunteer for), the HBS Committee Chairman and the Chairman telephone numbers. Encourage each new member to volunteer and take an active part.
9. Send a letter to all guests asking them to join HBS, a sheet about HBS with an application for membership.

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.

LSBF Voting delegate

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

None

TERM OF OFFICE

Two years with no limitation on the number of times a person can serve.

BONSAI EXPERIENCE

At least two years active experience with HBS.

JOB QUALIFICATIONS

1. Willing to travel to the location of the LSBF meeting three times a year, and the delegate must make the meetings at least twice a year.
2. Willing to attend Executive Board meetings.

JOB DESCRIPTION

1. Attend all LSBF meetings to let the attendees know what is happening at HBS and represent the wishes of HBS Executive Board and membership.
2. Attend all Executive Board meetings to remain involved and informed on all the activities of HBS and keep the HBS Executive Board informed on the activities and issues of LSBF.
3. Provide a written report of LSBF activities and issues to the membership of HBS.

LSBF Delegate Alternate

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

None

TERM OF OFFICE

Two years with no limitation on the number of terms a person can serve.

BONSAI EXPERIENCE

At least two years active experience with HBS.

JOB QUALIFICATIONS

1. Willing to travel to the location of the LSBP meeting.

2. Helpful but not required if Alternate would attend all the LSBF meetings in order to remain up to date on the current issues before LSBF.

3.
JOB DESCRIPTION

1. Attend all LSBF meetings and stand in for the LSBF Voting Delegate if the Voting Delegate is unable to attend.

2. Attend all Executive Board meetings to remain involved and keep informed as to the activities of HBS and to keep the HBS Executive Board informed on the activities and issues of LSBF if the LSBF Voting Delegate is unable to attend. Report LSBF duties and issues to the membership of HBS if the Voting Delegate is unable to attend.

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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 address above.

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