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# The Bonsai News of Houston

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**Houston Bonsai Society, Inc.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

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## **Naka Pine To Be Repotted, Sun., Feb. 27**

Alex, a long-time member of the Houston Bonsai Society (HBS), will lead the repotting of a 40-year-old black pine originally styled by John Naka in 1978. The tree, which has been seen from time to time at HBS bonsai shows, will be repotted Sunday at 2:00, February 27, at Cabrera Farm Nursery, 3914 Cabrera Drive. Donation of \$5 for anyone over the age of 25. For information, call 281-313-2000. See map and directions below, p. 16.

## **Monthly HBS Meeting, Mar. 2**

The next meeting of the Houston Bonsai Society will be held Wednesday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, which is located at 1500 Hermann Drive. Be sure to come early so you can visit with other members and have refreshments before the meeting begins.

**March Meeting.** At the March meeting, Buddy and Earl will give a presentation on grafting and air layering. Bring your candidates for grafting or air layering as well as some of your successes. We will all benefit from the exchange.

**Guy Guidry Series.** You may remember Guy Guidry from his work at the LSBF convention here in Houston last May or from seeing his creations at Bonsai Northshore in Louisiana or at the National Arboretum. As mentioned at our February meeting, HBS has arranged for Guy to visit Houston for four full weekends over the next 11 months. Guy's workshops have been set up to allow you to participate in some or all of a weekend with him and include two workshops on bald cypress, a year long series on black pines, and several open workshops. Our schedule is:

*Con'd p. 15.*

## **Saturday Study Group, Mar. 19, Cabrera Farm Nursery**

Our study group will meet Saturday, March 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. Directions to the nursery can be found at [www.orchidsandbonsai.com](http://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. For directions and a map, see p. 16, below.

## **Last Call! Membership Fees Due March 23**

Your 2004 membership has expired. Renew now to be sure you do not miss a single newsletter or any information about up-coming events. The deadline for renewal is 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 23. Dues must be in our hands by then. An individual membership is \$25.00; a family membership, \$30.00. A membership form appears at the end of this newsletter.

## **New Club Internet ListServ**

Have you ever needed to ask someone a question about bonsai, but didn't know who to ask? Most of us have been in that situation before. On the other hand, we've probably already discovered the answers to questions posed by others. The biggest problem becomes getting the right people in touch with each other. With that concern in mind, the Houston Bonsai Society has started a discussion email group on the Internet. This is a place where you can ask a question of all participating members, and receive responses via your desired email account. You also have the opportunity to share photos, chat, poll participants, and converse in a relaxed and timely manner...all from the comfort of your computer.

If you would like to be a member of the electronic group, send an email to [hbs-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:hbs-subscribe@yahogroups.com) Your membership will be activated within a few hours, and you can begin participating in conversations at that time. You can also visit the start page at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hbs/>

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## 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.*

March will see you working to control new growth, continuing your repotting, disbudding azaleas, and working (i.e., enjoying) spring bonsai exhibits. You just may have time problems if other members of the family want to get out of the house to go Easter shopping or whatever and you have to go with them.

You may continue repotting on deciduous species until you see a tiny bit of green on the tips of the swelling leaf bud. Be sure to keep the newly repotted tree out of the wind and late morning or afternoon sun. Evergreen species will generally be okay to repot later on. Yaupon do better if you wait until it warms a bit more. Even though its gets quite warm now, we can expect a freeze in March so you may have to protect trees that have started growth and those that have been repotted this winter.

Bonsai will start growing in late February or March in this area depending on your wintering techniques and on the species. After growth starts, some species can take a couple degrees of frost, but, unless you know what your particular tree can take, you should keep it from freezing. Also, newly growing roots are more tender. In this area you should keep the new foliage out of the strong winds; however, they should have some breeze to help harden the new foliage and to help keep insects and fungal diseases at bay.

Keep your shears handy so you can keep the new growth on your trees pruned. The shoots of species with alternate leaf growth (like elms) should grow only to 5-6 leaves and be pinched back to 2 or 3 (depending on which direction you wish the new growth to take). Shoots of trees with opposite leaf growth (maples) should have the new tip pinched (tweezers work better than scissors for this) as soon as you can see it. Doing this regularly is the only way to keep the leaves small and give you nice twiginess (also known as ramification).

Anytime there is new tender growth, the spring bugs like aphids will show up. If you have been doing a good organic program, the ladybugs will keep the aphids and other soft bodied insects in check. The praying mantis come along later on when the weather is warmer. I am seeing a lot of mantis eggs since I don't use chemical sprays.

Warm humid days favor the development of fungal diseases such as leaf spot on elms and yaupons. Again the organic program will work on them as well.

Fertilizing is necessary one the trees start to grow. Too many trees exhibited do not have a good dark green foliage. Since we are using soilless mixes for the most part, a different technique is required than used for most potted plants. Water soluble chemical fertilizers should be used at half strength and more often than given to regular plants,

since they will wash out with the next watering. The same is more or less true with liquid organic fertilizers. The best technique is to use solid organic fertilizers. Fertilizer cakes on the surface is the best way. They break down slowly and a small amount is carried into the root zone each time you water. Pelletized organic material can be spread on the surface also but they tend to crumble and create an undesirable surface. Be sure that the material you use has a balanced formula and not high in nitrogen.

The local foliar feed formula given by Howard Garrett is one tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water. Chelated iron and Epsom salts can be added at 1 tablespoon per gallon. A commercial mixture is sold under the name of 'Garrett Juice' which you should be able to find at organic nurseries, but it doesn't seem to have the insect control capability that the original formula does. It is fine as a fertilizer though.

**Hydrogen Peroxide as Fungicide.** It is suggested to use a 1% solution sprayed on top and bottom leaves to control fungi (leaf spot, powdery mildew, etc). The normal medical solution as purchased is a 3% solution so dilute that with 2 parts water to 1 part peroxide. One article cited TA&M studies which showed that a strength greater than 1.7% produced some leaf burning on tender test foliage. A 0.1% solution aided in rooting cuttings and in controlling Botrytis. It can be added to drip systems and foliar feeds. The peroxide degenerates into water and oxygen fairly rapidly so is no threat to the environment. Personally, I have used 1% peroxide on elms and yaupons later in the season spraying once a week. It got rid of the black spot with no damage. However, when I sprayed tender new foliage with it, I caused considerable burn. Therefore anytime I use peroxide, it will be on mature foliage and at a 0.5% solution.

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### Spring Bonsai Show Joins Japan Festival—April 3-4

The planners of the Japan Festival have again extended an invitation to HBS requesting our participation in the Japan Festival. Both events, the Bonsai Show and the Japan Festival, are scheduled for the same weekend, April 3-4, 2004. We accepted the invitation and will hold our Bonsai Show in conjunction with the Japan Festival, in the Japanese Gardens in Hermann Park.

Several members have volunteered to display trees and/or to work the show. If you have not signed up and would like to display trees or work, you may sign up at the March meeting.

We need volunteers to help set up the tent on Friday afternoon. Setup and delivery of trees will be Saturday morning, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, between 8:00 AM--9:30 AM.

It is very exciting to present the bonsai show as a part to the Japan Festival. We will be able to more broadly share our trees and our love of the bonsai art with the Houston community. --Anthony

### Club Internet, *con'd from p. 13*

and request a list membership from that web site. For more information, or to request a membership, send an email to Gary. A signup list will be available at the March meeting if you want to request membership at that time.

The Board hopes you will use this format to share ideas, concerns and answers with each other, all in making bonsai the greatest hobby in Houston! --Gary

### Guy Guidry Series, *con'd from p. 13.*

**April 9** – Herman Park Garden Center Rose Room  
9:00 – 12:00: Developing taper in bald cypress. You can bring your own tree or work on one that Guy brings with him and you'll have an option to buy it at the end of the day.

1:00 – 4:00: Black Pines. First of the four part series.

Guy will cover black pine theory. We will repot trees that need it and begin styling trees.

**April 10** – Garden Center Rose Room

9:00 – 4:00: Open workshop – All trees except tropicals.

*Con'd p. 17.*

### Calendar of Events

Feb. 27	Re-Potting Naka Black Pine, 2 p.m. Cabrera Farm Nursery
Mar. 2	Monthly Meeting of HBS, 7:30, Hermann Park Grafting; Air Layering.
Mar. 19	Study Group, 9:00 a.m., Cabrera Farm Nursery
Apr. 2-3	Spring Bonsai Show, Japanese Garden, Hermann Park
Apr. 6	Monthly HBS meeting, 7:30, Hermann Park Kick off, shohin yaupon, Ray
Apr. 9-10	Guy Guidry
Apr. 15	Dana Quattlebaum lecture demo - 7:00 Hermann Park
Apr. 16	Dana Quattlebaum workshops
Apr. 16	Study Group, Bayland Park
Apr. 23	SSOT: Convention Display; Sale & Swap
May 4	Monthly HBS meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hermann Park Texas Natives by Chuck Ware
May 13-15	State Convention, Fort Worth Walter Pall (Germany); Mary Madison (Florida)
May 21	Study Group, Bayland Park
May 27-29	Brussels Rendezvous in Memphis
May 28-31	World Bonsai Congress in Washington, D. C.
June 1	Monthly HBS meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hermann Park Wrap up of shohin yaupon with Ray
June 4-5	Guy Guidry
June 6	Monthly HBS meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hermann Park Open workshop; ugly tree swap
June 18	Study Group, Cabrera Farm Nursery
June 25	SSOT. Tropical Show & Tell ; Workshop
July 16	Study Group, Bayland Park
Aug 3	Monthly HBS meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hermann Park TBA. Phillip Drilling and Alex Leong
Aug. 20	Study Group, Bayland Park
Aug. 27-28	Guy Guidry

Sept. 7	Monthly HBS meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hermann Park Club Auction
Sept. 17	Study Group, Bayland Park
Sept. 17	SSOT. Critique; Business Meeting.
Oct. 5	Monthly HBS meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hermann Park Open workshop
Oct. 8-9	Fall Bonsai Show
Oct. 15	Study Group, Bayland Park
Nov. 2	Monthly HBS meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hermann Park TBA; nominations to the HBS board.
Nov. 19	Study Group, Cabrera Farm Nursery
Dec. 7	Monthly HBS meeting, 7:30, Hermann Park Elections to the HBS board; holiday party.
Dec. 17	Study Group, Bayland Park
<b>2005</b>	
Jan 14-15	Guy Guidry
<b>2008</b>	Bonsai Clubs International convention, San Antonio

### Directions to Cabrera Farm Nursery

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 2.5 miles. When Oilfield Road make a sharp turn to the right, continue straight. You will then be on Cabrera Drive. Follow Cabrera into the nursery.

**Guy Guidry Schedule**, *con'd from page 15.***June 4** – Garden Center Azalea Room

9:00 – 12:00: Black Pines Part 2 – Candle Pruning

1:00 – 4:00: Styling bald cypress – Guy will also be able to provide trees to work for this workshop.

**June 5** – Garden Center Azalea Room

9:00 – 4:00: Open workshop – All trees.

**August 27** – Garden Center Main Room

9:00 – 12:00: Black Pines Part 3

1:00 – 4:00: Open workshop – All trees, but emphasis on tropicals.

**August 28** – Garden Center Main Room

9:00 – 4:00: Open workshop – All trees, but emphasis on tropicals.

**January 14** – Location TBD

9:00 – 12:00: Black Pines Part 4

1:00 – 4:00: Open Workshop – Emphasis on junipers and pines

**January 15** – Location TBD

9:00 – 4:00: Open Workshop – Emphasis on junipers and pines.

Pricing for the workshops is \$50 for ½ day, \$90 for a full day, and \$165 for two full days. We're also allowing you to count segments of different weekends as part of this, so you can, for example, sign up for the full Black Pine series for \$165. Silent observers can join the group for \$10/day.

Please see Pete at the March meeting to sign up or give him a call at 281-693-1470 or 832-656-0208 if you have questions.

–Pete

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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 address above.

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