



The Bonsai News of Houston

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
Houston Bonsai Society, Inc.

Volume 35 Number 11 Internet edition

November 2006

Monthly Meeting

The next meeting of the Houston Bonsai Society (HBS) will be held Wednesday, November 1, 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.

Pete will give a presentation on "Growing Bonsai from Seed and Cuttings." If you have any show-and-tell to share, be sure to bring it or them.

Nomination of Officers, Delegates

At the November meeting of the HBS, the board will accept nominations for the positions of president, second vice president, treasurer, and two members at large. The qualifications and duties are set out in full on pages 55-56, 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 slate of nominees recommended by the nominating committee are: Donald for president, Anthony for 2nd vice president, Joanne for treasurer, and David and Hurley for members at large.

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 at the regular December meeting, and the new officers will assume their duties in January.

LSBF Texas Tour Speaker, Sheryl Manning

I would like to thank everyone who came and supported the LSBF Texas Tour Speaker, Sheryl Manning. Sheryl took a nice juniper from Sam's collection to the next level. It took all of the lecture/demo's time and several hours later to finish the tree, well into the night. When the tree is repotted in a couple of years; it will be an outstanding bonsai.

Nineteen people took the Saturday workshops, ten in the morning and nine in the afternoon. Some brought starter bonsai but there were large number of trees that Sheryl helped refine. She brought a new dimension to several of the ones that she restyled. It is important that each bonsai

continues to develop and be refined. Someone like Sheryl can help immensely.

We had six observers in the morning workshop and one in the afternoon workshop. I think everyone enjoyed the weekend.

I would like to thank Rosanna Cromwell for being a good host and keeping Sheryl in her home. I hope Rosanna knows that we appreciate what she did.

I thank you all again for your support. We look forward to next year's LSBF speaker.

--Buddy, LSBF Delegate

Saturday Study Group

Our study group will meet Saturday, November 11, 9:00 a.m. at Cabrera Farm Nursery, 3914 Cabrera Drive, Sugar Land 77479. See map and directions at the end of this newsletter. Web site <http://www.orchidsandbonsai.com/>.

New Public Relations Chairs

Eldon, Phillip have agreed to server as the HBS Public Relations chairmen. Thank you, Eldon and Phillip, for giving your time.

Watch Out for Stinging Caterpillars

I want to warn our member about stinging caterpillars. They can land you in the Emergency Room. An asp stung one of my husband's workers. I went outside to check my trees, and there were two asps on my Chinese elm. The asp is short, thick, white or beige and hairy. I almost put my hand on the asp and I also found another stinging caterpillars. I guess it's the right time of year, and they like our Chinese Elms.

For information and excellent photographs, search for Stinging Caterpillars-Bexar County Extension on the Internet. The exact site is <http://bexar.tx.tamu.edu/IPM/Landscape/F1/nStingingCaterpillars.htm>.

-- Rosanna

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.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the LSBF convention in April next year. It will be held in Dallas on April 20-22 at the Holiday Inn Select on Mockingbird Lane across from Love Field. Registration forms and info will be available in late October and also on the club website (www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com). Headliners will be Marco Inverizzi, Boon Manakivisipart, Suthin Sukosolvisit, and Shane Cary. Michael Hagedorn, Howard and Sylvia Smith and I will also be participating.

Not too much has to be done right now--that is, if you prepared last month and you have no tropicals inside to care for. The big thing is to know what temperatures your trees can withstand and to remember that water is important in the wintertime.

Since the trees are not using as much water during dormancy, it is easy to overlook checking on them. The low humidity usually found during winter helps dry the soil. Winter sun can be pretty hot. If it shines directly on the pot, it will hasten the drying process. Winter will usually also be windier. Therefore, however you bed down the trees, you need to check the dryness often. The same trees that needed more water last summer will also need to be checked more often during the winter. I think that more trees are lost during the winter to having the soil dry out than from the actual cold.

Deciduous trees should not be placed where they receive winter sun. After a period of dormancy, the heating of the tree could possibly cause it to break dormancy prematurely. If that happened you would need to keep it above freezing the rest of the winter. After they go dormant, they have no need for any sunshine.

Evergreen types especially and deciduous to a lesser extent should not have the root ball subjected to alternate freezing and thawing. That process tends to tear and damage the roots. Placing the trees on the ground and using mulch will minimize this problem.

Plants have different degrees of hardiness for their top growth and their roots. The reason being that the ground acts as large reservoir of heat and here in Texas seldom freezes more than an inch or two down. Therefore, plants like the pomegranate and crepe myrtle which are at the northern extent of their range outside will not be hardy to freezing in pots. Any plant that you are unsure of should be protected from freezing. This can be a problem because if they are not kept cool after they go dormant, they will break dormancy and start to grow too soon. Growing without sufficient light cause long spindly growth which you cannot control. My best solution for this when I lived in town was to have a long platform with two wheels that I pulled into

the garage on nights where freezing was forecast and kept outside at all other times.

The cold weather will keep any insect problems under control outside. In winter you should use a dormant oil spray to kill over wintering insects and their eggs. You can also use lime-sulfur in a dormant spray solution which will also help with fungal problems. Be sure to follow the label directions when mixing and using the lime sulfur. It can be dangerous stuff if misused. You should watch for damage from rodent types, rabbits, squirrel, and rats. They will prune branches and strip bark rather quickly.

Bonsai in greenhouses or indoor bonsai need to be watched for normal indoor problems. Low humidity, spider mites and scales are the biggest problems here. Aphids can also show up. Trying to keep the humidity up by placing you trees on a humidity tray can possibly give you some soil problems, root rot or some other fungal disease. I use the same controls in the greenhouse that I use outside all year.

You can take advantage of the winter slowdown by spending your time getting pots ready for spring, clean and sharpen your tools, study what changes you would like to make on your trees and so forth.

On 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: Go on club digs, scour nurseries (you got to really dig there, too), look for material from growers.

2. Styling to realize the tree's full potential: To learn, you must do lots of workshops and participate in round robin discussions. Understand the why as well as the what of styling.

3. Development of branches: Keep shears with you when watering, keep after branches when they are actively growing. Do not let new shoots get long. Lots of twigs mean smaller leaves.

4. Maintaining that development: This entails learning to do rejuvenation pruning and proper fertilization.

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.

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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.

- Oct. 28-29 Kathy Shaner in Austin, Persimmon Hill. Terry or Sheila, 512-280-5575 or phbonsai@sbcglobal.net
- Nov. 1 Monthly meeting of HBS— 7:30 Pete Parker, Growing Bonsai from Seed & Cuttings. Nominations of officers.
- Nov. 11 Saturday Study Group, Cabrera Farm Nursery
- Dec. 16 Saturday Study Group, Bayland Park
- Apr. 20-22 25th LSBF State Bonsai Convention, Dallas. Holiday Inn Select, 3300 W. Mockingbird. Marco Invernizzi, Boon Manakitivipart, Suthin Sukosolvisit, Shane Cary, Mike Hagedorn, Howard and Sylvia Smith, John Miller.

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. 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 address above.