



The Bonsai News of Houston

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
Houston Bonsai Society, Inc.

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October 2009

Monthly Meeting – Chuck Ware, Saikei

The next meeting of the Houston Bonsai Society (HBS) will be Wednesday, October 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, 1500 Hermann Drive. Refreshments served at 7 p.m.

Chuck Ware, co-proprietor of Jade Gardens bonsai nursery in Wimberley, will give a program on saikei. See page 54, below, for information about Chuck and Jade Gardens.

On January 22 and 23, Roy Nagatoshi will be here for a lecture-demonstration and workshops. Details will be announced later.

Board and Committee Opportunities

The HBS is looking for members interested in serving on its board or working on or leading a committee in 2010. It isn't too early to start thinking about how you might participate.

We will be nominating the first vice president, secretary, two members at large and the LSBF delegate and alternate. If you are interested in serving, please make your interest known to this year's Nominating Committee.

The duties and job responsibilities for the positions will be listed in the November newsletter. If you need information before then, please contact our president, Alan Raymond. *Con'd page 54*

Saturday Study Group

The HBS study group will meet Saturday, October 17, at Cabrera Farm Nursery, 3910 Cabrera Dr., Sugar Land. The phone number is 281-313-2000. We'll get started at 9:00 a.m. and work til noon and beyond. This is a great time for show and

tell and to bring those trees that were purchased at the HBS October show and sale. So come with your tools, wire and trees in any stage of development.

If you need bonsai supplies, soil, pots, wire or more trees, Cabrera Farm has it for sale. All are welcome the novice and advance bonsaist so come and enjoy and share with others the art of bonsai.

Enjoy – Learn - Share *--Michael*

HBS Fall Show and Sale

The HBS fall show and sale will be held October 10 and 11 at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

We are looking for volunteers to help place trees in the exhibit on Friday, October 9, starting at 6 p.m. and take down the exhibit on Sunday starting at 4 p.m. We also need volunteers to work during the open hours of the exhibit either a.m. or p.m. or all day if you like. For those who took the introduction classes in 2009, this is an opportunity to share your trees, knowledge and enthusiasm about the art of bonsai. Sign-up sheets will be passed around at the October meeting.

We ask that the trees to be in the exhibit be dropped off Friday during the set up (at 6 p.m.) and left on exhibit til 4 p.m. on Sunday.

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Free Workshop with Kathy Shaner

On Monday, October 19, in Austin, Kathy Shaner will give a free workshop for anyone who is a foster parent for trees being styled for The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit. Trees are still available. For information, contact Elaine with the Austin Bonsai Society.

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.

How hot does your tree get? The following data was taken by Mark Bynum on a calm sunny day with the ambient temp at 95 degrees F. with unglazed ceramic pots. For the full range of his measurements see the September newsletter (Ft Worth or Dallas).

In the sun	123 degrees
After watering	109 degrees
Under shade cloth	105 degrees
In dappled shade	98 degrees
On ground in dapple shade	85-90 degrees
In a black plastic nursery pot	143 degrees

Use this information to plan your bonsai area for next year. Remember that most trees need the full sun exposure except for the hottest time so you need to cover the pots with something.

If you have not checked your wiring yet this fall, you had better look at it. The fall growth can make the tree swell up and get bad wire marks in a hurry. If the tree/limbs do not stay where you want them, rewire it placing the new wire in a slightly different path or possibly wrap in the opposite direction.

Watch your watering now that the temperature is a little lower. Cut back on the watering but do not allow the trees to dry out. Trees require less water during the shorter days and lower temperatures. However you need to remember that the wind can still stress the trees and dry out the soil. Water by checking the soil and not just on a given schedule.

Insects will continue to be present. Cooler (but not cold) days mean a resurgence of aphids. Mites will also still be around. Scale also can be a problem. Treat with a light horticultural oil which will kill the adults and also wipe out the eggs and over-wintering pupae. Be sure to cover all the cracks in the bark to get to the eggs. The organic spray (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water) will work on evergreens and will also give them some nutrients. The dead scale will probably have to be removed physically. A soft toothbrush works for me. I sometimes need to wet the branch to loosen the scale.

Feeding of deciduous trees should be discontinued for the winter. Evergreens and conifers will benefit from a low nitrogen feeding. Organic fertilizers are better as they will breakdown into

nutrients more slowly as the season gets cooler and the trees activity slows also. Be sure to use one that supplies the 13 micro nutrients needed. The organic spray given above can be used as a soil drench but dilute it a little more. Kelp is an excellent source of the essential minor elements needed by plants.

As the trees lose their foliage, you can study their trunk lines and branch structure. Any faulty styling and the general design features can be observed more easily and corrections planned. Look for crossing branches. Cut vertical-growing twigs both those growing up and those growing down. Reduce long internodes by cutting back and growing new extensions. Clean out heavy branch clusters that make the tree look too dense. Be particularly attentive to prevent the formation of heavy branches in the top part of the tree where faster growth often occurs. Work can be done now or later during the winter at your leisure but it is too easy to forget about it when the tree is in winter storage.

Some may repot in the fall but I feel that it is counter-productive to do so. New roots are more prone to freeze damage if we get a bad winter. Repot at the proper time next spring which is when the buds swell and new growth is imminent.

Creating shohin bonsai can lead to some winter enjoyment. Since they do not take much room you can find a space in the house or a small greenhouse. Let them go dormant for a short period. Then you can take them in and have new growth in a very short time. Small elms are especially good for this. Then sit back and enjoy your little fellows in the house while the winter wears on.

Kathy Shaner (and Sylvia, too) recommends that, in the fall, you remove the top 1/4 to 1/2 inch of soil and replace it with fresh soil. This will help eliminate weed seed that has blown in and may make watering easier.

Winter quarters: Here in Texas more trees are lost in the winter due to drying out than to freezing. That doesn't mean for you to leave tropicals out or to let the roots freeze on southern trees like the crape myrtle. Even in a greenhouse or sunny window, soil can dry out amazingly fast. Wind in winter has amazing drying powers. So while protecting roots, be sure to give the tree a wind screen but be sure you can check soil for watering. If you know which plants dry out faster, situate them together. Winter kill usually comes because soil has frozen and the sun and/or wind is removing water from the tops. The roots cannot obtain water to replenish the loss and the top desiccates to the point of death.

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. 7 Monthly meeting of the HBS, 7:30.
Chuck Ware --Saikei
- Oct. 9 Set-up for fall bonsai show, 6 p.m.
- Oct. 10-11 Fall bonsai show and sale, 9 - 5 Sat., 10 - 4 Sun.
Houston Garden Center, Hermann Park.
- Oct. 17 Saturday Study Group, 9 a.m., Cabrera Farm
- Oct. 17-18 Kathy Shaner in Austin. For info, Terry or Sheila
- Oct. 19 Free Kathy Shaner workshop in Austin for anyone working with TTSBE trees. For info, Elaine (Austin).
- Nov. 4 Monthly meeting of the HBS. Nominations for board and officers.
- Nov. 21 Saturday Study Group, 9 a.m., Bayland Park.
- Dec. 2 Monthly meeting of the HBS. Elections of board and officers. Holiday pot luck supper and gift exchange.
- Dec. 19 Saturday Study Group, 9 a.m., Bayland Park
- 2010**
- Jan 22-23 Roy Nagatoshi, lecture-demo, workshops.
Details tba.
- Feb. 5-7 Biennial California Shohin Society seminar,
Ramada Inn, Santa Nella, CA. Call 209-826-4444
for hotel reservations ASAP.

Membership Growth Committee Needs Your Brainstorming Help

A meeting of the Membership Growth Committee will be held on Oct 24 at 10 a.m. at JoAnn and David's home. We will be brainstorming, sharing thoughts and ideas. Attending this gathering is **not** a commitment to serve on the committee. Please come by, we want as much brainstorming creativity as possible. If you are unable to attend, you can send ideas to my e-mail address and I will share them at the gathering.

Some examples of items to be explored:

- design and print a new HBS brochure for 2010.
- look for new ways to inform people about the HBS.
- getting the word out about the art of bonsai.
- learn why some former members do not renew their membership.
- better communication methods with members.
- easier methods for renewing membership dues and handling records.

This activity builds on other recent exciting developments in the club.

Rosanna has done an excellent job chairing the outreach program, which was developed to respond to requests from local organization to talk about bonsai. As part of the outreach program, Alan, Buddy, Christi, Rosanna, Alex and Michael have given several lecture-demonstrations at nurseries, churches, and garden clubs with very positive responses.

Hurley and Michael have also done a wonderful job heading up the "Introduction to Bonsai" educational classes with help from Clyde, Nancy, Seda and Ken. The club has acquired several new members from both of these new activities.

Thank you for your help in enhancing the Houston bonsai club experience.

JoAnn & David

Roberto Martinez, 2009 LSBF Texas Tour Speaker

For those who didn't brave the rain, you missed a good opportunity to see what Roberto did with a large tiger bark ficus with a 14-inch root base. Roberto decided to make a single trunk rather than double trunk bonsai and with a good saw and help, it became a large slanting bonsai. He wired the branches in slanting style and repotted it. Kerry Rose won the tree in the raffle.

On Saturday, Roberto worked with the trees in the workshops, helping to develop some very nice trees. Everyone went away with some new ideas such as the new tape that Roberto introduced to keep the branches from splitting when wiring. I hope that everyone enjoyed Roberto as much as I did.

A big thanks to Mary and Sam for the *Bonsai* magazines they donated. Magazines were given to each person who took a workshop. They all want to thank you, Sam and Mary.

--Buddy, LSBF Representative

Lecture-Demonstration, Mercer Arboretum

The lecture-demo that Buddy and I did at Mercer Arboretum was well received. Twenty-nine people attended, two of them already HBS members, and two more people showed up just as we finished. Buddy styled and potted a *Ficus subulata* (which we gave to one of the attendees via a drawing at the end) and I bloviated about bonsai as best I could. I had prepared a PowerPoint presentation that seemed to work OK -- lots of good questions and apparent interest. No one left early and two ladies joined HBS on the spot. Greg Harmison, the Education Director at Mercer, would like us to hold our next six-week *Introduction to Bonsai* series there whenever we can schedule it with them.

--Alan, president, HBS

New Bonsai Nursery in Houston Area

As most of you know, on September 5, Hurley opened a new bonsai nursery in Rosenberg called Timeless Trees. Hurley has acquired over 500 trees -- both starter trees and specimen trees including buttonwoods, ficus, casuarinas, bougainvillea, sea grapes, schefflera, sweet plum, *Bucida spinosa* (black olive), Texas ebony, Brazilian rain, and tamarinds.

Timeless Trees carries a broad line of supplies including Chinese and Japanese tools, pots, wire, screen/mesh, and several types of fertilizer.

Timeless Trees is open Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Soon Hurley hopes to open on Fridays, also.



PERSIMMON HILL BONSAI STUDIO & NURSERY

Terry & Sheila Ward Austin, Texas
512-280-5575 - phbonsai@sbcglobal.net - By Appointment

Chuck Ware

Chuck and Pat Ware are the proprietors of Jade Gardens in Wimberley, Texas. Chuck came to Texas as a flight navigation instructor at the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi during the 1960s. After leaving the Navy, he taught school in Wimberley for 25 years.

Chuck works with all the traditional bonsai material, but he also works tropicals and native Texas trees. He is active in the Austin and San Antonio clubs and the LSBF, is a Master Gardener, and gives lectures and demonstrations to gardening and bonsai clubs all over Texas.

In 1995, he and his wife, Pat, opened The Central Texas Bonsai Exhibit as part of the nursery. This exhibit is an assortment of a great variety of trees, different styles, and some trees done by major artists. The exhibit contains a large number of native Texas trees. The exhibit is open to the public in an effort to educate Texans to the world of bonsai.

For information and photographs, go to the Jade Gardens web site, <http://www.wimberley-tx.com/~bonsaij/>.

Board and Committee Opportunities (Con'd)

How can you help? Where should you start? We are a volunteer organization so you might start by asking a few questions to determine the responsibilities, activities and what is involved. This will help you to determine if you are interested in serving on the board or as a committee member. If interested, the next step is to communicate your interest.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for preparing a slate of candidates for the vacant board positions, which will be presented at the November monthly meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted during this meeting. The voting and election of officers will be at the December monthly meeting/seasonal party.

We always need members with energy and new ideals who want to improve the organization by either working on or leading a committee. This could be the membership, public relations, education, or external presentation (outreach) committee to name a few. If interested in working or being on a committee(s), communicate this to the board. Another way to assist is to present new concepts or ideas to the board for consideration, at the monthly

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www.HoustonBonsai.com

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For special requests or questions related to *The Bonsai News of Houston*, contact the editor at bonsainewshouston@yahoo.com 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 at the address above or at www.HoustonBonsai.com. 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.

Fall Show (Con'd)

This year we will have an area for new members and novice bonsaist to display completed trees or trees in progress. Along with finished trees, we encourage members to bring trees in different stages of development. It would be great to be able to show and share the process with others, demonstrating how we get to a specimen bonsai.

This is always a fun event with plenty of conversation and questions from the public and vendors offering trees, pots, tools, etc. for sale.

--Michael

Board, Committee (Con'd)

meeting. If you have an ideas and believe they will assist in improving our organization, please communicate them. Board meetings are open and all members are invited to sit in on the process of running the HBS.

Improvement of our organization does not happen by accident. It requires participation of members who are willing to devote some of their time and to be involved in our organization and in the art of bonsai. Be a part of new directions including new programs, education opportunities, membership activities, external and internal workshops and shows. We will improve as you become involved. Simply put, if everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot to make our organization the best for our members and ourselves. So don't wait to be asked, volunteer and get involved, why not start today!

Enjoy – Learn – Share.

--Michael