



THE BONSAI NEWS OF HOUSTON

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE HOUSTON BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 39 Number 4, Internet Edition

April 2010

Monthly Meeting

The next meeting of the Houston Bonsai Society (HBS) will be Wednesday, April 7, at 7:30 pm at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, 1500 Hermann Drive. Refreshments and Curbside Consultation at 7:00pm.

This month's program is a "**Show and Tell**", so bring your favorite tree, or an unusual tree you want to talk about. Since it is the season to "pinch the candles" of Japanese Black Pines, bring yours and we'll share what to do at this time of year.

Upcoming Events

Japan Fest will be held on April 10 and 11, at Hermann Park, next to the Japanese Garden. Due to many changes made by the organizing committee, we'll decide on HBS participation with a Bonsai exhibit at the April meeting.

Houston Chinese Bonsai Society will hold their 2010 Annual Exhibit on May 1 and 2, 2010 at The Houston Chinese Cultural Center - 10303 Westoffice Dr., Houston, TX 77042

Saturday May 1, 2010 from 10am - 5pm

Bonsai Demonstration : 2 - 3pm

Sunday May 2, 2010 from 10am - 3pm

HBS Board Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2010 Houston Garden Center

Call to order

Alan Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Alan Raymond, Michael McCluskey, JoAnn Batey, Seda Dawson, Phillip Drilling, Dean Laumen, Donald Green, Buddy Allen and Carmen Lupascu.

Quorum present? : Yes

Read and Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve February 3, 2010 Board meeting minutes with the change of giving magazines as door prizes to all members instead of only new members, seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report

JoAnn submitted March 3, 2010 Treasurer's Report. Operating bank balance as of 03-02-2010 \$30,929.28
Checks written since last meeting:
#1716 replacement to Buddy (see c. #1709) \$192.99
1709 stop payment

Motion was made to accept treasurer's report, seconded and passed.

Expenditures

Expenses made by others:
\$95.31 Dolores for copies and stamps
\$49.10 Buddy for gas
\$64.00 Timeless Trees for wire
\$57.99 JoAnn for ink cartridges

Motion was made to pay for them, seconded and passed.

Approve future expenditures

Motion was made to reimburse 9 HBS members' early registration fees to LSBF State Convention which will be (\$125.00 x 9) \$1,125, seconded, voted and passed with all eyes.

Unfinished Business

Approve transition of Newsletter Editor to Shawn Nguyen

Board approved Shawn as the new editor for HBS newsletter.

Board thanked Dolores for publishing the newsletter for 12 years.

Approve 2010 Budget – JoAnn Batey

Approval of proposed budget for 2010 was deferred to the April meeting.

Approve special election of two additional Board Members at Large and decide on terms for all four Board Members at Large

Motion was made to extend terms of existing Members-At-Large until the end of 2011, and to assign two more Members-At-Large until the end of 2012 (two and a half year term) with a special election pending approval of related Bylaws revision by membership, seconded and passed.

For the special election which will be held at April or May meeting, Executive Committee (Alan, Hurley and JoAnn) will serve as the Nominating Committee. This election and opportunity to serve on the HBS Board will be announced to the general membership and an application form will be published in the April newsletter.

Plans for Japan Festival - Michael McCluskey

Japan Festival is on April 10 and 11. A sign up sheet will be passed around during April meeting for volunteers to serve at the festival.

Routine Business*Lecture/Demos to outside organizations*

Alan will be presenting at Warrens Southern Garden on May 1st. After discussing the struggle of finding volunteers, Alan suggested to work with Rosanna to create a list of members who are willing to volunteer, engage more people in outreach program, and schedule a training date for those who are willing to present.

Motion was made to request \$50 honorarium for lecture/demos at outside organization in 2010 to cover the cost of the demo tree and gas expenses of the presenter, seconded and passed.

New Business*Policy for providing trees for workshops*

According to the proposed policy, instead of HBS buying trees from vendors and selling to members, vendors or individuals will be able to sell trees to members directly. Club will collect 10% of all the sales to pay the city tax to Houston Garden Center. Members will have a choice to bring and work their own trees as well. Motion was made to accept the new policy of providing trees for workshops as proposed, seconded and passed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Notes from the Meeting

Alan called the general membership meeting to order at 7:32.

After introducing guests, new members and agenda for the meeting, Alan explained the voting process for the proposed bylaws revisions. If there were objections to any specific revision that revision would be voted on separately. The remaining revisions without objections would be voted as a whole.

After brief explanation and discussion of amendments to bylaws, the floor was opened for objections to any of the revisions.

An objection was made regarding Article 8.3 Representation addressing LSBF Delegate and Alternate terms.

Having heard no other objections the membership voted on all other revisions by show of hands and passed by 33 ayes.

The revision in Article 8.3 regarding “The LSBF representatives must be members of HBS” voted by show of hands and passed unanimously.

The revision in Article 8.3 regarding “Each will serve a two-year term and may not serve more than three consecutive terms.” voted by ballots and passed by 22 ayes and 18 nays.

Minutes submitted by Seda Dawson

April Monthly Tips

By David Whitaker

You can sure tell that the growing season is here. I've had to do a lot of pruning and pinching, and it's a challenge to up keep with it. Everything is awake and growing! If you haven't already started semi-tropicals (Ficus), you might want to wait a couple of more weeks. It's been an unusually long winter this year and we want to wait until ALL the cold fronts come through our area. A safe rule to remember, when root pruning/repotting South Texas natives, is to wait until the lowest temperature of the night stays above 65 to 70 degrees. I and others have had success repotting at earlier dates in the season. When we do it, we have to give it all the things it needs like the correct high and low temperatures every 24 hours, as well as the correct light and humidity. It's the same way you treat an “indoor bonsai” during the winter.... Well on second thought we might as well wait until that “70 degrees” to be safe. I try not to take too many risks. I really don't like to lose a loved tree. We just need to be patient.

It's too early in the season to repot your tropicals. They need to be repotted in mid-summer (Fukien tea, Pride of

Barbados, Black Olive, Buttonwood...). When repotting, be sure to wire the trees securely to the pots to give them good stability against the winds. Putting rocks on top of the soil for a few days can also help brace the tree against the seasonal winds.

It's NOT recommended to repot any deciduous trees that you need to root prune. If you must repot due to problems with a tree, change the pot or repot it in larger container with fresh soil. DO NOT prune the roots. Deciduous trees have very tender roots during the growing season.

April is usually a very windy month for us as well as the first part of May. Watch the soils every day so they do not dry out. As the heat increases, so will the water needs. Inspect the bonsai from top to bottom, also inspect the drain holes. Inspect for ANY and all insects and treat accordingly. If you discover an infestation, treat according to the label of the pesticide and/or fungicide. I try to spray with insecticide and fungicide at least once every 4 weeks.

Pretty much everybody's backyards are growing pretty rigorously by now, so do not forget to prune, pinch and also fertilize. When pinching back on most trees (except junipers), you want to pinch back to the second or third node of leaves to reduce leaf size and node length.

Elm trees have alternating leaves and should be pinched down to the 2nd or 3rd leaf, so it will grow back in the direction you'd want the branch to grow. Be sure to alternate the direction you pinch on different branches so all the branches don't end up growing into each other.

Maples have opposing leaves and should be pinched to the second node. As the two buds emerge, pinch back the one growing in the wrong direction, which you don't want. The sooner you pinch the tender emerging leaves, the shorter the nodes will be. I use tweezers to get the very tiny leaves. I read that the Japanese also use a magnifying glass to see the emerging leaves.

Flowering trees are either setting buds or are already starting to bloom. Feed them regularly with a good blooming fertilizer that has a high phosphorus (like Super Bloom). Feed others with 20-20-20 or a good time released fertilizer. Fertilize all others with their appropriate type. Fertilizers can be mixed with fungicide to be applied together.

Please note that the information and repotting schedules are suggested guidelines for the Coastal Bend and South Texas area.

This article is reprinted from Corpus Christi Bonsai Club April 2010.

HBS Membership List 2010

The Houston Bonsai Society Membership list for 2010 has been completed. If you choose the newsletter via e-mail, you will be receiving the new list by April first. If you wish to receive a hard copy of the new membership list through the mail, please contact me. I can be reached at 713-914-9180.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, we encourage you to do so. The deadline for renewing your HBS membership is April 15. An individual membership is \$25.00, a family membership, \$30.00. There are many benefits in being a member of HBS. Don't wait. Renew now.

Thank you,
JoAnn Batey
Treasurer



Neea Buxifolia

PERSIMMON HILL BONSAI

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DISCOUNTS ON NURSERY & STUDIO STOCK
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Terry & Sheila Ward Austin, Texas
512-280-5575 phbonsai@sbcglobal.net By Appointment

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. Refreshments and Curbside Consultation at 7:00 p.m.

April 10 – 11. HBS spring show & Japan festival, Hermann Park, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

April 15 Photo deadline for National Bonsai Exhibition. For information, 585-334-2595 or <http://www.internationalbonsai.com/>

May 1- 2 Chinese Bonsai Society show, Chinese Cultural Center, 10303 Westoffice Dr. 10 -5 Saturday and 10- 3 Sunday

May 7,8,9 Open 3 days only, Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection 33663 Weyerhaeuser Way S., Federal Way, WA 98003, www.weyerhaeuser.com/bonsai or call 253-924-5206

May 22-24 Rendezvous, Brussel's Bonsai Nursery, Olive Branch, MS, Memorial weekend, May 22, 23, 24. For information, http://www.brusselsbonsai.com/about_us/rendezvous09.shtml or call 1-800-582-2593

Jun 2 Monthly meeting: Alan Raymond will show photos of bonsai in Japan and from the Weyerhaeuser exhibit in Washington State. Possible work on tropicals.

Jun 11-13 LSBF Convention, Fort Worth. Peter Warren, Guy Guidry, Matt Ouwinga, Estella Flather and Alisan Clarke, www.fwbonsai.com

Jun 12-13 2nd US National Bonsai Exhibition, Rochester, NY. contact Bill Valavanis at 585-334-2595 or WNV@internationalbonsai.com or visit <http://www.internationalbonsai.com/>

Jul 7 Monthly meeting: Yvonne Padilla will create an Emerald Green Ficus in Cascade style.

Aug 4 Monthly meeting: Dr. Hoe will show photos of bonsai in China. Possible work on tropicals.

Sep 1 Monthly meeting: Annual Auction

Oct 6 Monthly meeting: Seda Dawson on Bonsai Horticulture



Regal Chinese Box

Chinese Elm-on-the-Rock



Refreshing piece of Wilderness in a handmade pot



Undeniably, these most artistic masterpieces had brought the viewers and their creators sublime moments in our common quest for beauty in the art of bonsai.

Thanks to all our contributors for sharing your enthusiasm, expertise and talents to the Club.

Shawn Nguyen, *impending new editor*

Houston Bonsai Society, Inc.

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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 hbs.news@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.

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