



THE BONSAI NEWS OF HOUSTON

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE HOUSTON BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 40 Number 12, Member Edition

December 2011

Monthly Meeting

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

This month, we will have our annual Houston Bonsai Society Christmas Party. Meat, plates and drinks will be provided by the Club. Please bring a vegetable side dish, salad or dessert to share. There will be a "Chinese Gift" exchange afterwards. Please bring a gift of at least \$25 to participate. We always have a lot of fun.



Erik Wigert and the Buttonwood

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 10th, Saturday Study Group at Timeless Trees from 9am till about noon. Ken Credeur will report a large Hornbeam. Most of the discussion will be about repotting techniques, choices of soil and pots. Refreshments and snacks will be provided.

April 27- 29, 2012, The Roots of Bonsai, Texas State Bonsai Convention 2012 will be presented by the Bonsai Society of Dallas at the Sheraton Dallas North. Featured bonsai artists are Kathy Shaner, Michael Hagedorn and Ryan Neal. Each apprenticed in Japan under bonsai masters Yasuo Mitsuya, Shinji Suzuki and Masahiko Kimura respectively.

HBS Society Board Meeting Minutes November 2nd, 2011 Houston Garden Center

I. Call to order

Alan called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

II. Roll Call

Present: Alan Raymond, Buddy Allen, Eldon Branham, Donald Green, Anthony Cutola, Phillip Drilling, Seda Dawson

Quorum present? Yes

III. Read and Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Donald to approve October 5th, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Phillip and passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Anthony presented November, 2011 Treasurer's report

*Balance as of October 31, 2011 \$30,924.59

Outstanding Items:

Deposits, membership check for \$12.50

and club Auction check \$55.00

Tax paid to City of Houston for Club Auction \$200.00

Motion was made by Phillip to accept Treasurer's report, seconded by Eldon and passed.

V. Expenditures

Expenses Paid by others

Buddy (Travel expenses to LSBF) \$57.70

C.J. (November meeting refreshments)

A motion was made by Phillip to pay expenses paid by others including tonight's refreshments, seconded by Eldon and passed.

VI. Unfinished Business

Election Nominations

Donald announced the nominations of *Nominating Committee*.

First Vice President: Raymond Gonzalez

Secretary: open for nomination

Member at large: Sandra Knight (nominated as Secretary later)

Member at Large: Andrew Sankowski, Keith McKnight (unconfirmed)

LSBF Delegate: Pete Parker

LSBF Alternates: Terry Dubois

Fall Show Report: It was reported that turnout was good on Saturday but slow on Sunday because of weather.

VII. Routine Business

Publicity Strategy Update: Eldon reported that the website is almost complete. Eldon will get Michael and Gary together to talk about maintenance of the website

once it is ready.

Lecture Demos to Outside Organizations

Alan will talk to Dean about the request from American Herb Society.

LSBF Activities – Buddy reported LSBF Board Officers.

President - Jay Nolan (San Antonio Bonsai Society)

Vice President – Versie Marks (Corpus Christi Bonsai Club)

Treasurer – Steven Hendricks (Fort Worth Bonsai Society)

State Convention in Houston 2014

General Chairman Donald reported that he would like to confirm a venue this month. He will talk to Omni Hotel, Marriott WestChase and Sugar Land Convention Center. He also mentioned that we need to decide on a date, preferably not too close to Memorial Day Weekend.



Alex Leong helping Lee with a spectacular *Ficus Nerifolia*



HBS Rosemary bonsai workshop for the American Herb Society

Donald will ask members to volunteer to serve or chair a committee during tonight's meeting.

VIII. New Business

Budget Proposals for 2012 - Alan mentioned that respective chairpersons will need to review 2011 budget and make a proposal for 2012.

Issue Discussion – Time with the artist in workshops: Due to a complaint from a participant about not having sufficient time with the artist, Board members decided to encourage the artist to spend equal amount of time with each participant.

IX. Adjournment

Anthony made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Phillip seconded. The motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Seda Dawson.

This draft has not been approved by HBS Board.

**Any member who would like additional information is welcome to contact Treasurer.*

acutola@gmail.com

December Bonsai Care

by John Miller

John Miller who writes a monthly column for the Bonsai Society of Dallas and Fort Worth Bonsai Societies, has agreed to share his column with us. We need to make adjustments for our warmer and damper climate, with earlier springs, longer summers, late falls and erratic winters.

This article may look strange to some since it is strictly from my head. I do not have access to my files right now.

And that may be good since this past summer and continuing into fall has not been a good experience for most. I did not lose any trees to the heat per se. I missed getting water in one pot for some reason and lost that one. I believe that our greatest problem this summer was not the 100+ degree daytime temperature. I feel that the



Mr. & Mrs. Smith with their trees at Guy Guidry's Workshop



biggest stress on the trees was that the night temperatures stayed above 80 degrees. The trees had no time to recover.

For the first time in 40 years, I managed to work on my planned schedule. Some days when I would have been forced off I was saved by my 10 year old grand-daughter Raven who stayed with us the entire summer. I trust her to do it more than any adult available out here in the boonies. She also turned into a very good and efficient leaf pruner this year.

My desired schedule which is based upon observations by myself, articles and experiments researched by Dr. Bill Cody, and some discussions with Mark Bynum is to water at 2 pm and then again at sundown. Foliage was usually misted, especially the junipers. The 2 pm watering resulted in the trees roots being cooled to water main temperature and the tree being thoroughly refreshed at the start of peak afternoon stress. Evaporative cooling of the soil and the pot covering helped also. The sundown watering then was able to re-cool the roots and the

evaporative cooling helped counteract the lack of night time cooling.

Note: the watering does not negate the need for protecting the plants from full mid-summer sun or the need to cover the pots loosely to minimize soil heat buildup. There is nothing magical about the above schedule. It's a matter of recognizing the plants needs and filling them. Work schedules seldom allow for perfect horticulture practices. You just have to work hard to minimize the stress. A soaker hose drip watering system would help. I used to go out before going to work and do a 15-minute spray over all the bonsai, using a very fine droplet spray.

The nice thing about December is that, outside of watching the watering, there is nothing that just has to be done. Anything that could be done in December could also be done in November or put off to the new year.

Some of the mundane chores that could be done now will result in an easier time next year, such as cleanliness and pathogen control. Cleanliness and pathogen control sometimes go hand in hand.

Remove the top half inch of soil (more or less depending on size) from your pots and replace it with fresh soil. You will remove last year's weed seeds and spent or decayed fertilizer. That will allow for better and easier water penetration. This is especially important on trees you don't plan to repot next year.

Many pathogens over-winter on the trees. A dormant spray can go far to help control them next summer. For deciduous trees, dormant spray strength of lime sulphur will get into the bark crannies and kill insects, eggs, larvae, mites and fungal spores. Just be sure that you protect the soil from the caustic spray drips. A dormant oil spray may be used and will handle insects and eggs fairly well but it does not have the see all-kill all effect of the lime sulphur.



A happy Guy Guidry at work on a bald cypress demo tree

A good many commercial bonsai nurseries will strip the entire area clean and use a stronger lime sulphur spray on the benches and any hard surfaces. Maybe even on the ground under the benches especially if they have too much fungal type problems.

For evergreens, do not use the lime sulphur but a dormant oil spray. Any summer oil spray may be used, it is merely a lighter version oil spray that does not (usually) damage foliage in warm weather. Be sure to observe your evergreens closely for any problems that doing their dirty work quietly.

Now is the time to check your supply of akadama, pumice, lava or any other potting materials you need. If you mix different sized soils using equal parts APL, you will be ready for all to come. Just add a handful of something if you need to alter for some special plant. I usually add a bit more akadama for Chinese Elms.



An HBS workshop with the Houston Chinese Bonsai Society

Election of Officers and Representatives

At the December meeting, we will elect officers for 2012.

The nominees are:

First Vice President: Raymond Gonzalez

Secretary: Sandra Knight

Members at Large: Andrew Sankowski and Craig Boone

LSBF Delegate: Pete Parker

LSBF Alternate: Terry Dubois.

At the November meeting, Craig Boone was nominated for Member at Large and he later accepted. Under our bylaws, nominations cannot be accepted at the December meeting.

Officers also serve as directors and will begin their duties in January 2012.

Overwintering Chart

Here is a chart of most of the common bonsai trees that thrive and survive in our zone. Be mindful of their unique needs in winter. Most still need water, sunlight and air circulation. Although some plants can take freezing

temperatures, their shallow roots in bonsai pots may freeze. To keep them safe, put the plants in pots on dry ground in corners protected from cold winds, cover the pots and soil with a thick layer of mulch or move the plants to a cold frame with heat lamp.

Most evergreen bonsai need the cold for dormancy or for blooms. If kept too warm, they may break dormancy and start producing shoots. In the next freeze, those tender leaves will die and weaken the bonsai.

Tender	Semi-Hardy	
Arelia - all	Azalea	Honeysuckle
Barbados Cherry	Bamboo - in pot	Jasmines - Winter & Confederate
Bougainvillea	Blood Grass	Junipers - most
Brush Cherry	Camellia (don't let buds freeze)	Ligustrum/Privet
Burcera Fagaroides	Hokkaido & Seiju & Catlin elms	Maples - all
Bucida Spinosa (Black Olive)	Gardenia	Myrtles - all
Bucida Burcera (Black Olive)	Japanese Magnolia	Nandina
Buttonwood	Olive - Olea Europis	Oaks
Calliandra (Powder Puff)	Pyracantha - never below 25 F.	Osmanthus
Carissa Natal African Plum	Yaupon Holly - never below 25 F.	Okinawa Holly (indoors)
Cardboard Palm	Need 6-8 Week Cold Period	Peach
Ficus - all varieties	Abelia	Persimmon
Fukien Tea (never below 45 F.)	Althea	Pines
Ivies - all varieties	Apple/Crabapple	Pyrus Kawakami/Calley
Jacaranda	Arbovitae	Pittosporum
Indoor Oak (Nicodemia)	Azalea - Satsuki may be indoors	Plum
Ixora	Bald Cypress	Podocarpus (indoors)
Jasmine - Duke	Barberry	Pistachio
Jaboticaba	Camellia	Quince
Malphighias - Cocigera & Glabra	Chamaecyparis	Raphiolepis: Redbud
Orange - all citrus	Cotoneaster	Rosemary
Papyrus	Cryptomeria	Spirea
Satinwood	Cypress	Spruce
Sea Grape	Elms - Chinese & American	Sweet Gum
Sageretia	Forsythia	Tallow
Serissa (Snow Rose)	Ginkgo	Viburnum
Texas Ebony	Grape	Willow
Zamia Floridana	Holly - most	Wisteria
		Zelkova

The above list was compiled by the late Edith Sorge of *The Bonsai Farm* as printed in *Austin Bonsai* in October, 1996.

Don't forget to spray the plants frequently if fans and heaters are being used in greenhouses or shelters. The air needs to be humid and free flowing. Plants kept in cold frames or under plastic covers outdoors should not be sprayed to avoid fungal diseases.

Small Shohin or Mame of any kind, as well as semi-hardy bonsai, or even hardy but young plants can be kept with the frost sensitive species to be on the safe side.

Prior planning is necessary for the bonsai you plan to leave outside in winter. Defoliate them early, the latest at the end of summer, so their leaves would have time to harden before the North wind blows.

Hope your bonsai and you be healthy and happy throughout this winter.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you and your loved ones!

Shawn Nguyen

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.

- Dec 7 Christmas party
 Dec 10 Saturday Study Group at Timeless Trees
 Jan 1 Happy New Year to all!

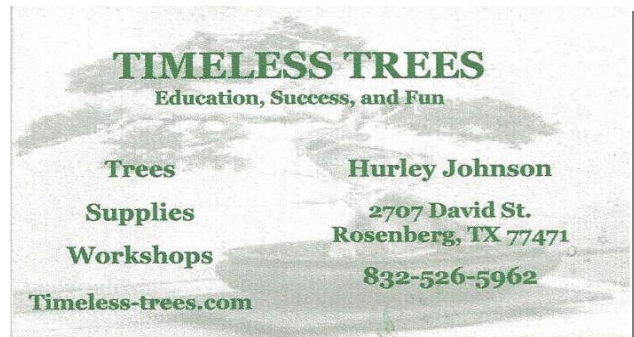
A Note from the Editor

On behalf of the HBS family, I would like to thank all supporters and advertisers for your generous contributions in 2011 to all the activities for our Club. Without you and your big help in small packages, HBS would not have the chance to share our passion with so many bonsai lovers.

You have made learning the Art of Bonsai fun and fascinating. And for that, HBS is grateful.

May your New Year be filled with prosperity, good health and happiness.

Shawn Nguyen



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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 Membership at address above.

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