



September 2023 Newsletter

2023 Calendar of Events:

(Saturday meetings start at 9 A.M.)

Sept. 9th- Pottery workshops. 8AM-12 & 1PM- 4.

Oct. 14th- LSBF travelling speaker.

Nov. 4-5- Japanese Garden Fall Festival.

Nov. 11th- Bonsai Smith's workshop.

Dec. 9th- Christmas Party.



Dan receiving the Member's Choice Award trophy with his name and winning tree engraved. The prize winner holds the trophy until the following Annual Bonsai Exhibit, when it is passed to the next winner.

President's Message

By Roger Spohn

From the president's desk:

It's still hot!!!

Well according to the weatherman, our average temperature is dropping. However, he also said our actual temperature is above normal and will be for some time. That means you will still have to watch your trees closely. Make sure you water them and keep the pots cool. I can't wait until it starts to get cooler, and it rains. The way things have been going, that should be around November. Keep your fingers crossed.

August Meeting

Our August meeting was back to a normal day and time. We had a great presentation by the Smiths followed by a workshop. Their presentations are always great and the workshops very informative. Everyone enjoyed both.

Member Emeritus

Before the start of the meeting, we had a special presentation to give to one of our longtime members. Mark Bynum was given Member Emeritus for his devotion to the Fort Worth Bonsai Society.

Accomplishments as a Member

Mark has been a club member for over 20 years. He has held every position on the Board of Directors and is presently the club treasurer. He is presently our representative to the Loan Star Bonsai Federation.

In addition to this, he has also conducted several presentations and workshops during our club meetings. He has also conducted several air layering workshops at his home in Arlington. This includes using his own trees as the layering stock.

Accomplishments over and Above Normal Duties

In addition to his normal duties, he has been involved in our Annual Bonsai Show. He designed and built, along with his wife, the backdrops for the exhibit. He purchased and stocked a tool kit with tools and material to be used for the display. He also initiated the "Peoples Choice and Members Choice Awards". This included building the voting box and Bought and Yearly inscribing of the Winners plaque.

Designed and constructed the FWBS sign displayed in the hall for our meetings. He is involved in the Spring and Fall fests. He purchases all the starter junipers for the sales. He conducts a repotting session every January including training our newer members on how to style them as well as overseeing the sales of said Junipers at the fest site.

The Japanese Garden Bonsai Collection

Mark Envisioned the idea of a permanent Bonsai display at the Japanese Garden. He pulled together the necessary people needed to approve it. Established a committee to conduct any and all the necessary items to make it work. Solicited professional help in the design of the initial layout. Worked closely with BRIT to get approval for the TBC. Filled out and submitted all the paperwork necessary to obtain all the documents needed. Including: BRIT, City of Fort Worth and state and federal tax documents. Along with the Smiths he Purchased and maintains the trees presently in the TBC collection at his home.

We all appreciate all the work Mark has done for the club and look forward to a long relationship with Mark.



Mark being awarded the Member Emeritus honor.

Board of Directors Meeting

Following our August meeting we held a Board of Directors meeting. It was open to all members.

The meeting was called by the John Fleming, our Vice President. The subject of the meeting was the remainder of the 2023 and the upcoming 2024 meetings

2023 Schedule

The first subject was the upcoming September meeting with Byron Myric. The board needed to fine

tune all the details of his presentation and workshop on “Build you own Bonsai Pot”. All the details were approved, and the meeting is set for September 9th. All the workshop spaces for both the morning and afternoon workshops are filled. Silent observers are welcome at both workshops.

2024 Schedule

The possibility of a Jennifer Price workshop was discussed. We are looking at a January date as she will be in the state at that time. One of the issues discussed is that she is requiring a minimum of two days. We are trying to work out this requirement with the possibility of other clubs in Texas. Since this would be held during our January meeting time, it was discussed about having a second January meeting to re-pot the Junipers for Spring Fest.

We have contacted Bryan Myers to do a Trident Maple Forest planting in March.

Randy Bennet will conduct a “Bald Cypress” in March. Again the board needed to work out the final details. The workshop will be limited to 8 people. Silent observers are welcome. The cost per person will be \$250.00 which includes the tree provided by Randy. More details to follow at a later date.

The August meeting will be conducted by Estella Flather. It will be on “Wound Healing”.

John has also indicated he is going to ask Joey McCoy about doing a presentation in September on “Native Texas Trees”.

New Signs and Flyers

Mark suggested we purchase a new sign for posting out by University Drive as well as professionally printed club brochures. The board approved and Mark will take point on this.

Web Site Hosting

We need a new web site host. It was decided that we would pursue a professional or individual who will design the web site. It can then be kept UpToDate by one of our club members. There is also a possibility that Simon will finish the work he has started on the site. If so, we will look that over and make any further decisions necessary.

LSBF Representative

Mark Bynum announced that this will be his last year as our LSBF Representative. This is after 15 or so years as the LSBF representative of holding the post. A new representative will need to be found.

The board meeting was then concluded.

September Meeting

The September meeting will be held on Saturday the 9th. Since it is a all day workshop, we would like to start sharply at 9am with any club business followed by Byron's presentation and workshops. The workshops are full but we are welcoming any silent observers who would like to sit in. Hope to see you all here.

Remember to take care of your trees during this hot weather.

Thank you,
Roger Spohn
FWBS President
rwsjohn@yahoo.com

From the Vice President/Program Chairman.

By John Fleming

On September 9th we will have the renowned potter Byron Myrick doing two workshops where the people who have signed up will make their own pots guided by Byron. Sorry but all slots have been filled, however, silent observers will be welcome. The workshops will be from 9am to noon and 1pm to 4pm, with a one-hour break for lunch. He will also have a selection of his pots for sale outside the workshop room. This is a rare opportunity to select a pot that you can evaluate the pot you're going to buy rather than selecting a pot from a website and hoping for the best, I would encourage all who want a show quality pot to get there early before the selection sells out.

For the 10/14 workshop, unfortunately, the scheduled LSFBS presenter Jim Doyle will not be able to attend due to health concerns. We are working on a suitable replacement speaker and will let you know as soon as arrangements are confirmed.

I am still working on trying to get Jennifer Price here in January, she is an outstanding teacher and has studied with renowned bonsai masters. I will keep you up-to-date on the negotiations.

After the August workshop the board met and approved the 2024 schedule, we have some great workshops schedule for you including how to design and build a forest bonsai, and a Bald Cypress workshop conducted by Randy Bennett who has chosen select cypress from the swamps of Mississippi this will be an all-day intensive workshop which will include how to care for your hand selected yamadori cypress and carving it to

make it look like an aged tree out of the swamp. Only 10 openings will be available so keep an eye out for registration information to come in 2024.



Howard and Sylvia Smith presenting their program.

Smith's Bonsai Care Lecture 8/12/23

Notes by John Fleming

Jan 2-3 tablespoons lime-sulfur in winter for insect and fungus prevention

Feb Repotting: Start with Deciduous, when they start to push buds. Maples when buds start to push Pines, when needles start to push

Don't fertilize for 4 weeks after repotting

Osmocote plus, good for three months

Use granular fungicide/insecticide

April Grow Power after Osmocote

Refinement wait until tree hardens off

Blood meal good for refinement

In tea bags Sevin dust under tea bags

Fertilize subtropicals

Every week 50/50 fish & kelp mix, spray

May Work on Deciduous

Trim & wire, aluminum wire

Thicker branches at bottom of tree

Repot tropicals & trim

Work on roots to form better nubarie

June Work on conifers

Styling

Decandeling

Pines withhold fertilizer for 4-6 weeks after decandeling

Detail wire conifers

July Can do heavy cuts on Deciduous

Defoliate trident maple

Can 3-4 times a year if strong

Can do up to August

Put sphagnum moss on top of soil to keep wet

Humidity trays are beneficial

Fall Fertilize heavy, trim too

When Maple leaves turn colors in fall defoliate

Fort Worth Bonsai Society

Meeting Minutes August 2023

By Steven Hendricks, Secretary

President Roger Spohn welcomed everyone to the meeting. Roger reported that:

- After three months of no regular meetings, it is good to be back on schedule.
- We had our yearly show and the Botanic Gardens last month. There was a good turnout of trees. Thanks to everyone who brought trees, helped set-up and take-down, and stayed to help man the show.
- Roger announced the winner of Members' Choice award: Dan LeBlanc with his very large Cedar Elm.
- The Peoples' Choice award was won by Mark Bynum with his Japanese Maple Forest.
- He announced that one of our members, Robert Germann (Doc), had fallen and broken his hip. He reached out for help and Mark Bynum went over to water for him.
- The pot workshop with Byron Myrick still has a few spots. His wife will be traveling with him and will be selling pots outside the meeting room.
- Roger then announced that Board had voted to make Mark Bynum a Member Emeritus for the many years he has been a member of the club and for the many things that he has done for the club over those years.

Steven Hendricks made an announcement that he has willed all of his bonsai and bonsai-related materials to the club. However, now that we have a permanent display opening up, he wants the permanent collection to have first choice of his trees and bonsai materials.

Show & Tell

- Mark Bynum brought in a small, dwarf Crepe Myrtle that had blooms that were a beautiful red with crinkled white fringes. He said that it is extremely slow growing.
- Steven Hendricks brought in a Texas Ebony that is part of the permanent display.

Program

The Smiths began their program talking about pot culture including; pest control, fertilization, and pruning. They finished the program by moving among the members and helping them with designing their trees.

The Bonsai Collection At The Japanese Garden

By Mark Bynum, President

The Bonsai Collection (TBC), is an endeavor to achieve a permanent, year-round, quality bonsai exhibit for public viewing and education in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

The pilot program for TBC continues with 3 trees on exhibit on the east deck of the Treasure Tree Gift Shop in the Japanese Garden. Trees are changed out every 6 weeks to maintain their health and to keep the exhibit fresh. The new trees for the next 6 weeks are a Dwarf Abelia, a Cedar Elm, and a Grey Cotoneaster.



The Bonsai Collection at the Japanese Garden



Steven brought a tree to the meeting that belongs to the Bonsai Collection that he has been caring for.

SEPTEMBER BONSAI

By John Miller

(Sadly, John Miller has passed away. I am reprinting this article from 2014 so his knowledge can continue to inform us all.)

I think plants are more attuned to the varying length of days than to temperature to set their life cycles--dormancy, flowering, etc. For example, the cedar elm sets buds in early August so they are ready to bloom with the first fall rain. That way its seeds have the best chance to get a root down far enough to survive the next summer.

It is probably not late enough for the bonsai to go into their pre-dormancy slow down period. If they are still growing, continue twig pruning and other summer care. If air layers have developed roots they may be separated and potted.

In Sept and Oct there will still be some days with pretty hot temps. So as the sun changes its angle make sure that the pots do not get too hot in the late afternoon sun. Also watering now becomes harder. As trees slow their growth they do not take as much water. Neither will they transpire as much on the cooler days. So check each one separately and water as often and as much as the individual tree requires.

Check the trees you still have wire on. When the cooler days get here some trees will expand their branches and get wire cuts rather quickly. You need to check them periodically over the winter also. Cut the wire off. You can easily break the branches trying to unwrap the wire and it's just not worth trying to save the wire. Work from the outside end of the wire back so that you do not overlook a small piece of wire. If you have trouble seeing each twist of the wire, don't cut just unwrap (with care). If you need to reapply some wire take care to not follow the same path.

Help your trees go into dormancy. The general rule of thumb on fertilizers is to stop giving nitrogen early in September and fertilize with one that has a formulation like 0-10-10 or 0-0-10. They will need less water as they quit active growth but on warm days trees with green foliage will still transpire and will have need of that water. Most tropicals have a dormant season also but it is usually caused by dry conditions rather than cold. These types need to be hardened also by cutting the fertilizer to halt active growth and give them lighter watering. This will enable them to withstand the transfer to the greenhouse better.

Fruiting bonsai spend a lot of energy growing fruit. They should not be allowed to fruit heavily each year. They benefit from a light fertilization at this time. Flowering bonsai need to receive the minor elements a good fertilizer, such as the Espoma -tone fertilizers, includes in its mix for good color development.

There is not too much to be done on deciduous trees at this time. Bugs and other problems are usually not a matter of concern since the foliage will be dropping

soon. Evergreens and tropicals will still need to be watched for their insect problems, especially the spider mite which will be active into fall. Use the organic spray formula to control them. If we should have a stretch of damp weather you should be watching for fungal problems, leaf spot, mildew, etc. Treat fungal with potassium bicarbonate, (baking soda-sodium bicarbonate--will work about as well). I would be okay with using a 1% hydrogen peroxide solution at this time of the year for fungal control.

The organic spray formula is one tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water. Spray top and bottom of leaves and trunk thoroughly on a regular basis (7-10 days).

Pruning and trimming 'can' be done any time that there is not a lot of sap flowing but is usually advisable to do it during dormancy. Sap flow is indicated by the foliar activity of the plant like in the spring. If your tree went into summer dormancy which sometimes occurs during hot weather then the cooler weather might result in a larger sap flow in late summer or early fall. If your plant gets a flush of new growth it would be advisable to postpone large pruning cuts for a while. Basically let you tree tell you when it is ok to operate.

Tips of the leaves turning brown are indications of a water stress problem. Look at the following areas.

a: evaporation--too much sun, too windy,

b: watering--gets too dry between waterings (staying too wet may cause root problems which thus prevent uptake of moisture).

c: soil or pots get too hot

d: water too alkaline

There is probably nothing you can do about the foliage this year. Problems that occur earlier in the year could be corrected by leaf pruning and growing new foliage. If you have these problems, determine the cause and try to correct for next year.

Two other things you can do now. You should prepare your winter quarters and you should study your evergreen trees to determine if you need to do any restyling later on this fall. Bonsai in Texas should be a year around sport, you don't need to cover them completely like up north. Try to put them where you can see some of them. Just remember that they will still need to be watered and evergreens will need some sun. A mulch over the pots on the ground will minimize temperature extremes.

Check on the place you expect to winter your bonsai.

(1) Make sure that it is clean. Debris harbors insects and other plant pathogens. A strong lime-sulfur spray can be used to disinfect the area as well as your growing area after the trees are removed.

(2) Be sure that you will be able to check the water needs of the trees.

(3) It should be somewhat protected from winds but should have some air movement to help prevent molds from developing.

(4) Having it in a location where you can see the trees will allow you to enjoy the winter silhouette, i.e. the branch structure and twiginess, that is a great part of deciduous bonsai.

More Pictures from the August Program by the Smith's



Small pines in different stages of development.



Sylvia gives advice to Steven on his Shimpaku juniper.



Howard talks about various seasonal aspects of bonsai care.



A Chinese elm being grown out to develop the branches.

Meeting information:

The Fort Worth Bonsai Society meets most months on the 2nd Saturday at 9 A.M., at 3220 Botanic Garden Drive, Fort Worth, TX. This is the building where the large conservatory greenhouse is located. For more information see our website at: <https://fortworthbonsai.org>

Club Officers:

President: Roger Spohn

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Members Emeritus: Certain members of the Fort Worth Bonsai Society have given so much of their time and effort to the support of our club that they are recognized with the designation of "Member Emeritus".

Ted Guyger 1987

John Miller 1998

Estella Flather 2006

Joe Andrews 2020

Steven Hendricks 2020

Mark Bynum 2023

