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Corpus Christi Bonsai Club Newsletter

The Corpus Christi Bonsai Club, Inc was organized in 1976 and is a member of the Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Bonsai Clubs International and The Corpus Christi Area Garden Council Inc. Individual Membership is \$15.00 per year (students \$5. 00). Membership for couples is \$20 per year. Method of Dues Proration for new members is detailed in the Bonsai Club Yearbook. Early payment of dues is appreciated and allows your name to be included in the club yearbook available in January. Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month, January through October, at the Garden Senior Center, 5325 Greely Dr, Corpus Christi TX

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Contact: djfalcon87@gmail.com to submit articles, photos, comments or suggestions,

Message from the President

Versie Marks, President

Time sure is zipping by fast; I can not believe it is April. The hummingbirds are here, it must be spring. I started fertilizing a couple of weeks ago and everything is starting to green up very nicely, even the weeds have a little extra perk to them. I'm loving the nice days and cool nights. We are still sleeping with the windows open. Guess that won't last much longer. Forecast for tonight is RAIN.

The program this month is on Cascades - my personal favorite. While I was repotting I kept losing track of which cascade I had repotted, I only have 17 cascades and still collecting. We have a wonderful Ficus, Juniper (Beverly's favorite) and a cute Natal Plum. Beverly and I will do this program. Please come out and support us.

We have a plant sale scheduled for the April meeting. Money from the sale will go to the club, but if you want to sell a plant or plants we will have extra tables. Put a price on it with your name.

Don't forget the Cascade workshop April 27th at World Hdqs. Starts at 9 am. Fast forward to May, yes May, time is really flying. Hurley will be here for a wiring workshop. Oh yea, I'm gonna be the first one to sign up for this workshop. I don't have a lot of information on this workshop. I'm sure we will need to bring at least one plant and plenty of wire. Hurley is always entertaining. He is a great teacher and loves his bonsai. We might even get him to bring a few plants from his nursery to sell. This all takes place May 18.

Happy Repotting.

CCBC March 2013's Meeting Minutes

Dale Hernandez for Penny Taber, Secretary

Versie Marks brought the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Thanks to Bob Gordon and Sam and Yolanda Ramirez for the refreshments. February's meeting minutes were approved as

Upcoming Events:

March 13th Wednesday
Workshop
Garden Senior
Center
7p.m.-9p.m.

April 25th, Monthly
Thursday Meeting
Garden Senior
Center
7p.m.-9p.m.

Program Cascade

Speaker Versie Marks
& Beverly
Kemper

Tree Cascade
Display

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday April 9th - 10:00a.m.
Council meeting

April 11th – 14th, 2013
Texas State Convention

Thursday April 25th, 2013
Plant Auction for Club Benefit

Sunday April 27th, 2013
Cascade Workshop – World
Hdqs

printed. The treasurer's report was approved as read by Dale Hernandez.

- The April 10th workshop has been cancelled.
- Members whose names were drawn to have Registration to Convention paid were: Beverly Kemper, Dale Hernandez, Rick Smoll, Helen Carr and Versie Marks. Congratulations to all and Have fun at the convention this month!
- Do not forget the For Sale Table at our regular meetings. If you would like to bring any garden related items to sell please feel free. Make sure to have your items marked and make arrangements to have all unsold items removed as soon as the meeting is over. Keep in mind that 10% of your total sales are donated to the club.
- A Silent Auction will be held at the April meeting to benefit the club. Your donations are appreciated.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:53pm for refreshments. Yvonne Padilla and Linda May gave the evening's program on Forest.

TREE RING CIRCUS

April 11-14, 2013

New Braunfels Convention Center

New Braunfels, TX.

Guest Artists: Colin Lewis - Dan Robinson - Erik Wigert

Events include: 22 workshops Demonstrations – Vendor Area - Emerging Talent Competition - Raffle Drawings and Auction

If you want to learn more about Bonsai this is the convention to attend. The convention Center is very large and is easy to get from one event to another. Take a full registration or sign up for the day. Only full registrants can take workshops. Sign up for separate events such as observing workshops or L/D's. You can sign up for the separate meals. Check you registration form and sign up for something. Hope to see you there.

Yvonne

April Bonsai

By John Miller

John Miller, who writes a monthly column for the Bonsai Society of Dallas and Fort Worth Bonsai Society, 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 fall and erratic winters.

April is a good time to enjoy your bonsai. The mad season of repotting is over, the new flush of growth has slowed a bit and the weather is not so hot yet (usually).

Most trees will do good in the fully sun at this time of year. However, if you have had them in partial shade be careful about giving them full sun. They probably should be acclimated gradually.

So in April repotting for the hardy bonsai has ended and it's still too early for the tropicals. So what is left to do? Just pruning, feeding, pruning, check for insects, pruning, shows, pruning. You get the idea.

Remember when pruning that there is no one-size-fits-all, even on the same species. First of all, formation pruning is when you are doing the initial styling of the tree. In most cases you are trying to grow new branches requiring you to have the branches grow long. After the tree has been styled, you then need to do ramification pruning to develop twiginess and a patina of old age. To properly prune you need to know how they grow and to remember that new twigs, even in the far future, break from the internodes so keep the short.

Basically, on deciduous trees, there are two types of growth. On elms and other trees with leaves appearing alternately down the shoot, the first leaves are smaller and internodes shorter. As the shoot grows, it gets larger (all along it) and the internodes get wider. On maples and others with leaves coming in pairs on opposite sides of the twig, the bud send out a stalk with two leaves on the end. The length of this stalk is the first internode. As the leaves enlarge a new growing tip emerges and this process continues. As the new tip elongates the first stalk keeps elongating also until the third new tip breaks. This creates long internodes on the developing branch. If the second tip is removed as soon as it emerges the first stalk stops growing and two new twigs will develop from the first set of leaves.

On alternate growing species, formation pruning is easy. Since the first internodes do not lengthen, you let the branch grow rampant until it gets to the diameter you want. Then cut it back wherever the design dictates and let a new branch grow and repeat the process. For ramification pruning you do not want to let the twig thicken. After 4 or 5 new leaves appear. Cut back to 2 or 3 leaves, leaving the last leaf on the side that you want the new shoot to grow toward. Secondary shoots will also appear.

For formation pruning on opposite leaved species, you must work to get short internodes near the trunk then later let the branch grow for thickening. After the first set of leaves emerges, pinch the tip of the next set of leaves before they actually become leaves. Pointed tweezers are the best tool for this job as you want to get the growth when it just starts to emerge. Use this same technique through three sets of leaves, after which you can let the newly created branches grow to thicken. Each pinch results in two new leaf sets, creating shorter nodes to generate future branches. When the desired primary and secondary branches have been grown, the ramification is achieved by pinching the tip from each set of leaves as it

grows thereby doubling the number of twigs each time. This can be a big job on a large maple, but is necessary to get the desired result.

Feeding needs to be done judicially. A lot of nitrogen will push the new flush of growth too much but with no fertilizer you will get foliage with poor color that lasts all year. The organic fertilizer balls are the best solution. You can add a few at the start and increase them as the foliage matures. If you use chemicals be sure to follow directions and too use them lightly at first. Also be sure to get a brand with the minor elements listed. Commercial water soluble fertilizers wash out with the next watering and result in poorly fed pale bonsai.

A good organic program takes care of both the feeding and the insect problems. I recommend the mixture of 1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water. I use the mixture both as a weekly foliar spray and as a soil drench fertilizer. As a weekly foliar spray it keeps aphids and mites under control. I try to drench twice a month partly because I don't think the plant can absorb all the minor elements it needs thru the foliage.

Whether you use the organic or chemical spray, the trick is to be sure to thoroughly cover the plant including all the leaf axils. Use a hand or pump up sprayer to get a fine spray to cover all, a hose end sprayer does not cover good enough.

Fungal diseases develop during warm humid weather. Too much foliage misting can do it also if the leaves stay damp very long. One of the most prevalent fungus is leaf spot which will hit several kinds of plants especially elms, hollies, and roses. Control consists of spraying with baking soda. A 1% solution of Hydrogen Peroxide can be used except on very young foliage which may be sensitive to it.

Be sure to check your soils each day for proper water content. It is easy to assume that the soil has plenty of water when the days are cool or there has been some rain. It's too easy for a tree with full leaves to shed water outside of the pot or a good sun and low humidity after a front to dry the soil. I suggest that you remove most of the moss so that you can see and feel the soil in order to determine how dry it is. (Moss growing on the trunk or roots will cause the bark to rot also) An automatic watering system will be an aid but you should not rely on it to replace hand watering. Hand watering allows you to adjust the watering for each tree individually.

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