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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

Inside this Issue

- 1 • Pres. Message
- 2-3 • January's Meeting Minutes
- 3-5 • John Miller's Article
- 5 • State Convention Update
- 6-8 • Repotting Calendar by Michael McCluskey
- 8 • Ad

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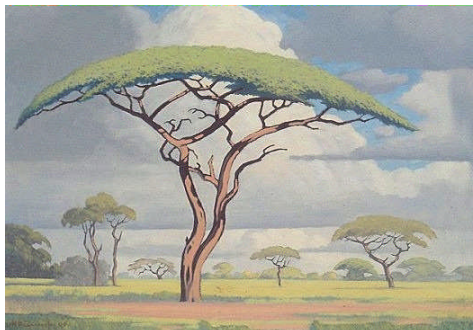
Corpus Christi Bonsai Club Newsletter

Message from the President

Versie Marks, President

Goodness, January and 90 degrees. Now February and it is still wonderful. Maybe winter will skip us all together. We could really use some rain. Ok, 70 degrees and rain - Heaven.

The dig in January turned into a lot of fun. We dug two Mustang Grapes, several Anaqua, a couple Elbow Bushes and maybe a Huisache. Bill and I worked real hard at not finding anything to dig. Beverly tagged every other tree to come back to and dig. Penny found dead wood every where she looked. She was picky about what she actually dug. We had a relaxing picnic and rode around to see where the other trails led. Of 270 acres and several years digging on the property, we had only seen about 70 acres. We walked in an old creek bed and found trees hanging on by just one or two roots. Next time that's where I want to dig.



This month's program will be on the Pierneef Style Bonsai. The style was named for Jacobus Hendrik Pierneef who was a South African Landscape artist. He painted Acacia, Baobab, Seppard trees, Bushwillow and many others. The Pierneef style is defined by the open umbrella

shape. It could be a one crown tree or a tree with pads shaped in the open umbrella. Beverly and Penny will do the program using a Raintree. It will be raffled.

We also need to start getting our registrations in to the 2013 convention. Yvonne and I looked at some of the material while we were in Wimberley and it looks real good.

If you do not have the registration papers check with Yvonne or go online. You can register on line with a credit card.

See you at the meeting, February 28, 2013

CCBC January 2013's Meeting Minutes

Penny Taber, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Versie Marks.

- Versie then introduced Martha Gonzalez, representative of the Corpus Christi Garden Council. Martha discussed the need to keep the Garden council alive. Martha was thanked by Betty Whitt for her informative talk.
- Versie thanked Helen and herself for refreshments.
- Minutes for October meeting were approved.
- The club was informed that the accounts with Bank of America and Navy/Army are being transferred over to Dale Hernandez from our former treasurer, Rick Smoll.
- Treasurer's report was approved as read by Dale Hernandez.
- No old business.
- Yvonne Padilla took the floor and brought up, if anyone has articles for our news letter to please e-mail them to David Falcon within the first week after our monthly meeting.
- Yvonne also reminded us, there will be a dig, Saturday 26th in Woodsboro and relayed all pertinent information.
- Yvonne also discussed the LSBF meeting she attended and informed us,
 - Cheryl Manning will be the 2013 Texas, guest speaker. Coming in Sept. - date to be announced.
 - It has been decided to not to hold a Bonsai State Convention in 2015.
- She discussed the 2013 State Bonsai Convention, sponsored by Austin and San Antonio, being held April 11-14, at the New Braunfels Convention Center, in New Braunfels Texas. We were given our 2013 convention packets.
- Yvonne asked the club to fill out forms for the garden center.

Upcoming Events:

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

February 28th, **Monthly**
Thursday **Meeting**
Garden Senior
Center
7p.m.-9p.m.

Program **Pierneef**

Speaker **Penny Taber**
Beverly
Kemper

Tree **Pierneef**
Display

Dates to Remember:

Sunday February 10th – Work @ Beverly's

Tuesday February 12th - 10:00a.m. Council meeting

Saturday February 16th
 Dig - Location to be announced

April 11th – 14th, 2013
 Texas State Convention

- Yearbook corrections were made with stickers provided by David Falcon.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.
- Refreshments were served.
- The evening's program by Yvonne Padilla was on "Proper dig procedures". She also styled and potted a native ebony tree, won in the raffle by Betty Whitt. Also being raffled, a small Kidneywood "clump" won by Helen Carr.

February in 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.

The big event we are looking forward to is coming up--repotting season. Normally the 'best' time to repot is when the sap starts to flow and buds swell. In the real world we usually need to fudge this a little because of constraints on our time so we need to do it earlier. But never after the buds open. Deciduous trees repotted in Jan will need the new roots protected by setting on the ground and mulching good (think about the nursery trade planting yard trees in early winter).

Preparing a group of basic soil mixes can save time at the actual repotting. Mix your favorite recipes in 3 sizes, for small medium and large pots, and then modify them by adding some extra of one material or other to suit the particular tree you are repotting. There is no perfect mix, you must decide based on your backyard.

The basics of good mixes:

- Permit free drainage. Use granular material--decomposed granite, lava gravel, pumice, Haydite, Turface, etc.
- Provide water retention material--akadama, ground or decomposed bark (organic, should not break down too quickly).
- Provide air space--Use appropriately sized particles.

Moisture retention is controlled by the type of material (e.g. akadama (good) vs. granite (poor) and by particle size (finer particles retain more residual water).

A good general mix for this part of the world is equal parts of akadama, lava gravel, and pumice.

Akadama is not magic. It is merely a soil native to Japan which is a volcanic island. After lava has broke down they dig it and low fire it to dry it, break it up and sieve it into uniform sizes to use as one part of their bonsai soil. We do not

have anything native comparable on the market in the USA. The advantage of akadama is that it holds water uniformly throughout the particle and is soft enough for roots to penetrate easily. Having this source of moisture close to the trunk results in short fibrous roots. So I have started using it on my bonsai. I feel the pinch of dollars too much to utilize it on the growing stuff even tho I am sure it would speed up their development.

Check wire applied last year. During dormancy the woody portions tend to lignify and swell. Severe wire marks can occur. Remove any tight wire.

Early February is the end of the season for major pruning. You may be able to continue for a while on some late sprouting species such as the oaks. After the onset of sap flow you should not try to make big cuts, cut paste or pruning sealer cannot withstand the hydraulic pressure created by the urge to grow.

If there is a significant warm streak, you could get some activity from overwintering pests. A dormant spray (horticultural oil or a very weak lime sulphur) should be used on outside plants. The lime sulphur should not be used on any green growth or after buds begin to swell. The lime sulphur will also serve to kill fungal spores and help control any bacterial diseases. For the greenhouse use the original organic spray mixture. I get good control of mites, aphids, and even scale with it when used on a weekly basis.

My original organic spray is 1 tablespoon each of Fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water.

Using organic fertilizer cakes on top of the soil is a better way to fertilize. You may make your own or buy one of the commercial versions from your local bonsai vendor.

I would suggest that you also repot azaleas at this time. The roots will be reestablished by blooming time. This is much easier on the tree than waiting until after bloom when the temperature will be hot. (An aside note: later on, before blooming starts, you will be removing a lot of excess buds anyway which will reduce the stress on the tree at that time).

If new growth appears, keep it pinched so you keep the internodes short and develop a compact set of twigs on the branches. On alternate leaved species (e.g. elms) pinch when the shoot gets 4 or 5 leaves. Fingernails or shears can be used. If the twig gets too long it will be tough and you have to use shears. On opposite leaved trees (maples) pinch the central shoot as soon as it can be distinguished from the two leaves. To do this really right you need to use pointed tweezers.

Spring flowering plants will have their buds set on last years growth so pruning them will remove some flowers. Those that bloom later in the year will generally bloom on this year's growth. Pruning them will reduce the amount of flowers. In some cases such as crape myrtle, tip pruning of the branch will result in no

flowers at all. In these cases you must decide which is most important, ramification or flowers. A compromise would be to prune the branch shorter than you normally would and then let it bloom on new growth which will at the proper length.

When the growth starts the tree will need fertilizer. However, use one that has only a small amount of nitrogen (the first number). The tree is naturally programmed to grow rapidly at this time so you don't need to encourage it further. Feed lightly to maintain a healthy green foliage. Trace minerals should be added to help with both the foliage color and the color of blooms.

TREE RING CIRCUS

APRIL 11-14, 2013

New Braunfels Convention Center

New Braunfels, Tx.

By Yvonne Padilla

This year the Austin, San Antonio Clubs plus the Lone Star Bonsai Federation will be hosting the convention at the New Braunfels Convention Center. They hosted a convention in 2002 at the same location and it was a great success. It looks like there will be a big selection of items the vendors will be bringing plus lots of raffle items to spend money on, as a matter of fact I suggest you take inventory of your wire, containers and other bonsai supplies so you can stock up. It is so much more convenient than ordering off the Internet. Three well known artists, Walter Pall from Germany, Colin Lewis from Maine and Erik Wigert from Florida will be the headliners.

Also eight Texas artists will be conducting various workshops for your pleasure. The registration fee before March 15th is \$125. It includes 4 meals, Thursday night reception, observe workshops, exhibit, vendors, artists critique and of course a convention bag and logo pin.

There are several ways to learn the art of bonsai. I have been at it for over 30 years and my suggestions are; to take hands on workshops from various artists, attend lecture/ demos, attend exhibits and visit your fellow bonsaist collections. Of course attend conventions. You also can learn to some extent from the Internet, but it is not like the hands and eyes on experience.

So come on get that registration fee in and let's go learn more about bonsai and have a great time.

BONSAI TREE REPOTTING CALENDAR HOUSTON/GULF COAST AREA

By Michael McCluskey

A major repot involves lifting the tree from its container, removing roots and soil then planting the tree back into a container. This is typically done during the time of year when the tree is dormant or is least active. Repotting during this time reduces stress and aids in root development and the tree's ability to recover.

There are three very broad general categories of tree typically used in bonsai evergreens, deciduous & topical/sub tropical.

Evergreens trees retain their growth of leaves, scales or needles. The optimum time to repot them is the winter months during slow growth or resting period. These are best reported from November to January (there are a few exceptions).

Deciduous trees lose their leaves as part of an annual cycle. The optimum time to repot them is shortly before the emerging of new leafbuds (bud break). These are best reported from January to March.

Tropical & Sub Tropical are trees that can actively grow all year long. The optimum time to repot them is when the low temperature is above 60 degrees and some types when the low temperature is above 70 degrees. These are best reported from April to August.

There are various methods used in repotting from up potting, to partial and full repotting. The chart below was developed for partial of full repotting, where the roots system is being reduced and all or part of the soil is being removed.

The chart is in the form of a calendar starting in November and ending in August. This format walks through the repotting cycle listing trees by type and the optimum time for repotting. Please keep in mind that each tree is an individual so the right time to repot has to be determined by evaluating the needs of the tree.

The listing was developed for use in the Houston/Gulf Coast area. Changes in annual weather patterns could alter the indicated month(s) either earlier or later and not all trees used in Bonsai are listed. Repotting concerns such as the reason for repotting, repotting consideration, methods of repotting, after repotting care, how often to repot, repotting affects on flowering of fruiting trees, etc are topics for future articles and discussions.

I hope that this information creates great success and enjoyment for your Bonsai experience.

Enjoy-Learn-Share

Michael McCluskey

REPOTTING CALENDAR

Prepared by Michael McCluskey 1-26-05 Revised 1-14-08/12-3-08/11-10-09

TYPE TREE	REPOT TARGET
Junipers	November- December
Quince Key - before flowering	Early December
Pines Key- needs cold weather after repotting	December -January
Azaleas (before flowering) Key - Suggest removing the unopened buds at time of repot, this is optional.	Early January
Yesterday Today Tomorrow Key-before new growth	January
* Wisterias	January
Fruit & Cumquats Key-after fruiting	January
*Chinese Elms, *Chinese Hackberry	Mid January- Mid February
*Crape Myrtles Key-when the tree is leafless	January-February
*Japanese Maples, *Elms *Trident Maples	January- February
Harland Boxwood	Mid February - March 1
Bald Cypress	February
Gardenia, Lantana, Rassel Dazzle	February -March
Ginkgo	Early March

Boxwoods (various)	March
* Sumerian Cherry Key-before new buds appear	Mid March to April!
Oaks	March - April
Azaleas (after flowering) Key-Repot after blooming before the month of June	March - May
Camellia	April
Jasmine Key-After blooming	April-May
Tropical (general) Key-night temperatures should be above 60 degrees	May thru August
Bald Cypress	June - July (Second opportunity)
Crape Myrtle	July - August (Second opportunity)
Bougainvillea, Buttonwood, Ebony, Fukien Tea, Jaboticaba, Black Olive, Power puff	July - August (heat of summer)

(*) Trees are typically repotted before bud break and leafless.

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