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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

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Contact: [djfalcon87@gmail.com](mailto:djfalcon87@gmail.com) to submit articles, photos, comments or suggestions,

# Corpus Christi Bonsai Club Newsletter

## Message from the President

*Versie Marks, President*

Spring has sprung. If you haven't started repotting, you are already behind. I used up all the soil I mixed up in December and had to make up more. I have two large plants to repot but they will have to wait till Beverly comes for a play day. The two elms I repotted are looking good.

We need to start gathering material for the forest workshop, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at World Headquarters. Tray, trees, wire, soil and muck if you need it. The workshop is before the meeting and Yvonne and Linda will do the program on forests. I don't see a problem there because we have all done this workshop before.

For those not at the February meeting, I want to go over how the drawing for registration works. Every Club Member registered for the convention will have a chance to have their name drawn and the club reimburse them the \$125.00 registration fee (no workshops). You must be registered by March 15<sup>th</sup>, this is the cut off date for early registration. We will draw 5 tickets. Yep, it's raffle style, only one member per family. Probably the only time I am glad Helen is not family.

Speaking of the convention, the workshop for April 10<sup>th</sup>, does not look to promising. We leave for the convention on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>. Almost everyone going to the workshop is also going to the convention. We all have those last minute things to get done. April will be a very busy month.

At the April meeting, we will have a plant sale, So while you are repotting, you might give some thought to clearing out some of you not so loved "Stuff".

April 27<sup>th</sup>, we have a cascade workshop at World Hdqs. If you don't have cascade material, you might want to work on an established one.

Happy Repotting,

# CCBC February 2013's Meeting Minutes

*Penny Taber, Secretary*

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Versie Marks.

- ✧ Versie thanked Joanne for the night's refreshments.
- ✧ Minutes for the January meeting were approved.
- ✧ Treasurers report was approved as read by Dale Hernandez.
- ✧ Old Business
  - Betty Whitt announced: the Ebony tree she won at the Jan. meeting was Alive and well.
- ✧ New Business;
  - At a board meeting Feb., 10th. Linda May suggested the C.C. Bonsai club, pay for Yvonne's registration to the 2013 Bonsai Convention. This was brought to motion at the meeting and was approved.
  - Also a motion for the Club to pay for five member's registration to the 2013 convention. This was approved. One per family. Club members registered for the convention by March 15th will have they're names put into a drawing to win these (This covers registration cost only! - \$125.00). It does not pay for workshops.)We also learned we have 13 of our club members going to convention so far! Yah!
  - Linda May was chosen and accepted the role of New Talent Contest. Good Luck to Linda! It was also approved for the club to pay the registration fee for the new talent person. Linda also let us know that many of the China and Japanese Potters are discontinuing Bonsai pots, so we will see an increase in cost of our pots! Sounds like Gasoline!
  - Dale Hernandez asked about the status of the latest Corpus Christi Garden Council meeting, Yvonne attended. She told us there was a Great turn out, and they still don't have a date for election of New Officers.

## Upcoming Events:

**March 13<sup>th</sup>**      **Wednesday  
Workshop  
Garden Senior  
Center  
7p.m.-9p.m.**

**March 28<sup>th</sup>,  
Thursday**      **Monthly  
Meeting  
Garden Senior  
Center  
7p.m.-9p.m.**

**Program**              **Forest**

**Speaker**              **Yvonne  
Padilla &  
Linda May**

**Tree  
Display**              **Forest**

### Dates to Remember:

Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> -  
10:00a.m. Council meeting

Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Forest Workshop – World  
Hdqs – Sack Lunch

April 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Texas State Convention

Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Plant Auction for Club Benefit

- ✧ Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 for refreshments and program on "Peirneef style" by Beverly and Penny.
- ✧ The Peirneef style Brazilian raintree was raffled and won by Versie.

## 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

## March 28<sup>th</sup> Lecture/Demonstration

*By Yvonne Padilla*

This month's L/D will on a Chinese Elm Forest by Yvonne and Linda. We purchased several Elms from Sam Ramirez. We are hoping to have a nine tree forest. Forest will be raffled. Sam has a huge selection of Elms. Give him a call and visit his back yard. You won't be sorry. There are several styles to choose from.

# March 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.

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