

Sept. 2013
Volume 3, Issue 9

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,

CCBC August 2013's Meeting Minutes

Penny Taber, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

Versie thanked Beverly and Rick for refreshments.

July meeting minutes were approved as read. No questions.

Treasurers report was approved as read by Dale Hernandez.

Old Business: None

New Business;

- Sadly, Louise Smith died on Aug. 21st. She was a long time member of the Corpus Christi Bonsai club. Louis was only a few weeks away from her 90th birthday. She will be missed by all who knew her.♥
- Yvonne is doing better after her knee surgery on Aug. 14th. We look forward to welcoming her back as soon as she's up to it.
- Cheryl Manning will be here in September. Don't forget, the workshop Sunday 8th 1:00 pm at Betty Whitt's home. We were reminded to sign up for refreshments for this workshop.
- There will be another Cheryl Manning Workshop on Monday Sept.9th at 1:00pm at Garden Senior center. Also Sept. 9th, Cheryl will conduct a lecture demo at 7:00pm.at the Garden Senior center. More info. About Cheryl Manning, Website-www.betterbonsai.com
- We were again asked to sign up for 2014 meeting refreshments and ideas for workshops.
- Kathy Shanner Seminar Oct. 18th-20th 2013 in Buda, Texas in the conference center at Cabela's several topics will be covered: pot repair, wiring difficult trees into pots, branch wiring and soils. For information, call 512-905-9364.
- Botanical Gardens will be having "Art in the Gardens" on September 28th. (Also Dollar Day!).Free to members. 9:00am. To 5:00pm. "A nature flavored fine arts and crafts show".

Upcoming Events:

August 14th **Wednesday**
Workshop
Garden Senior
Center
7p.m.-9p.m.

August 22nd, **Monthly**
Thursday **Meeting**
Garden Senior
Center
7p.m.-9p.m.

Program **Root Over**
Rock

Speaker **Versie Marks**
& Beverly
Kemper

Tree **Root Over**
Display **Rock Trees**

Dates to Remember:

List for Hospitality
Host/Hostess for 2014

Idea List for 2014 Programs

Pay Dues for 2014

CCBC July 2013's Meeting Minutes (Cont)

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm for refreshments and program on Root over Rock presented by Versie and Beverly. The Green Island Ficus turned out beautiful! Rick Smoll was the lucky raffle winner!



Beverly Kemper (left) and Versie Marks (right) Start their Lecture/Demo



The Winner is: Rick Smoll

**. 2013 Kathy Shaner Seminar
October 18th–20th
Buda, TX**

* Seminar *
* Grafting Workshop *
* Bring-your-own-tree Workshop *

Registration available in August. To be notified when registration is open, email ckmurphy2000@gmail.com.

Cheryl Manning – Biography 2014 LSBF Touring Artist

Cheryl Manning has been passionate about the art of bonsai for over thirty years. She was fortunate enough to become a student and close friend of John Naka, the father of American bonsai. She also spent a year in Japan as an apprentice to bonsai master Yasuo Mitsuya, owner of Tokai-en in Toyohashi.

Cheryl has conducted bonsai demonstrations and workshops in the United States, Canada, and Australia. An artist's eye makes design her forte. Her other strengths include carving, refinement, and presentation.

She's written more than fifty articles for major bonsai publications including a quarterly column "Trash to Treasure" for *Bonsai: Journal of the American Bonsai Society*. Cheryl has also edited *John Naka's Sketchbook* (National Bonsai Foundation, 2005) and is contributing "Sketchbook Stories" (anecdotes about the trees featured in *John Naka's Sketchbook*) for the *NBF Bulletin*. She's currently researching and writing a biography of John Naka.

Her artistic philosophy: it doesn't matter whether you're a novice with beginning bonsai or an expert with masterpiece material. All levels of expertise should be appreciated and encouraged to grow. It's the journey one takes that sets the art of bonsai apart from all other arts.

September 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.

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.

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 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.

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. 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 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.

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. Winter growth will usually be pretty slow but can occur, especially on the evergreens. Cut the wire off. You can easily break the branches trying to unwrap the wire and its just not worth trying to save the wire. Work from the outside end back so that you do not overlook a small piece of wire. It would cut into the branch very soon. If you need to reapply some wire take care.

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.

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.

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. This supposedly can be used as a foliar feed but I only consider it an insecticide.

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.

Check nurseries for possible bonsai material. When the planting season is over they usually put everything on sale to clear it out so they can fill up with Christmas trees.

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