



# Green Country Bonsai

## March 2009 Newsletter

Volume 29, Issue 3

### February Meeting Notes

Pres. Justin Lovelace called the meeting to order, and welcomed guest Mike Crumley.

#### Old Business:

The "Refreshments List" was passed around. If you did not get a chance to sign up, please contact Justin.

Justin is still looking at the possibility of a Bonsai Display at the Jenks Aquarium.

#### New Business:

After some discussion, it was decided that there would be no Master Workshop this Fall. We will plan on one for Spring 2010, and Andre Chenault will pursue candidates.

Since our next meeting program will involve our annual soil mixing and sale, we discussed alternate sources for the ingredients. We usually obtained *Haydite* from Chandler Materials, and from Stringer Nursery we bought their *Stringer Mix*. It was brought to our attention that Southwood Nursery now mixes and sells their own version of this mix. Apparently, they have come to recognize that what is good for bonsai, is also good in their nursery trade for other potted plants.

So... 1) this option will be less costly; 2) it will be premixed; 3) there will be more material (minimum order), so we may have to store the material not sold at the meeting; 4) we will require some heavy plastic bags for storage of the excess.

[At the meeting of the Executive Board on 2/17, plans were made to obtain the Southwood mix, and to find a source for the plastic bags.]

Plan to bring your own containers to the March meeting, and purchase all of the soil you will need for potting/re-potting in the coming season.

#### Show and Tell:

Mike Flanagan brought a book on Viewing Stones.

Justin brought some Scotch Pine seedlings which were available to members for \$2.

#### Raffle:

Some magazines and books compliments of Chuck Cockman.

A Juniper and an Azalea from Mike Flanagan.

#### **Officers:**

Justin Lovelace, President

Mike Flanagan, Vice Pres.

Donna Hardin, Treasurer

Lisa Martin, Secretary

#### **Board Members:**

Ken Cole, 3 year

Tom Howard, 2 year

David Parham, 1 year

Marcus Bush, Ex Officio

Mike Blake, Webmaster

Frank Kohn, Newsletter Ed.

#### **March Meeting:**

Monday March 2, 2009,

7:00 pm,

Tulsa Garden Center,

2435 S. Peoria

#### **March Program:**

Bonsai soil bagging & sale

*A bargain at \$1 /gal.*

**Bring your own containers.**

**Program:**

Mike Flanagan discussed the various methods of propagating plant materials for use as bonsai.

Air layering is a technique that involves girdling a branch or trunk, and removing all bark and cambium down to the sapwood. The width of the removed strip should be 1 - 1-1/2 times the diameter of the branch. Wire is then twisted tightly around the upper end of the exposed wood. Finally, wet peat moss is packed around the cut area and secured with a wrap that will keep it in place... plastic wrap or a small plastic pot that is cut to fit will hold in the peat moss.

Cuttings taken from a parent tree, dipped in rooting hormone, and stuck in a planting medium can result in usable starter plants.

And finally, seeds from many plants/trees can be a source for new material. Seed germination may be as simple as placing it in the ground and watering it. Some seeds may require a cold/warm cycle prior to germinating. Some may even require some type of acid bath (to simulate a trip through a bird's gut) before they sprout. Many hard-coated seeds need to be nicked or cracked to get them started. So the trick may be... *experiment*.

Thanks Mike.

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**For-what-it's-worth Dept.**

The Oklahoma Master Gardeners publish their annual picks of "Oklahoma Proven" trees/shrubs/flowers. Listed below are their *Tree* picks for the past few years. There may be bonsai candidates in this list.

Persian Parrotia  
Parrotia persica

'Prairifire' Crabapple  
Malus 'Prairifire'

Bur Oak  
Quercus macrocarpa

Arizona Cypress  
Cupressus arizonica

Cedar Elm  
Ulmus crassifolia

Shumard Oak  
Quercus shumardii

Bosnian Pine  
Pinus heldreichii

Shantung Maple  
Acer truncatum

Bald Cypress  
Taxodium distichum

Oklahoma Redbud  
Cercis canadensis  
var.texensis'Oklahoma'

Kentucky Coffee Tree  
Gymnocladus dioica

Chinese Pistache  
Pistacia chinensis

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ANNUAL DUES PAYMENTS ARE OVER-DUE