Green Country Bonsai

September 2010 Newsletter
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Officers:
Justin Lovelace, President
Neil Dellinger, Vice Pres.
Donna Hardin, Treasurer
Sara Kilpatrick, Secretary

Board Members:
Marcus Bush, 3 year
Ken Cole, 2 year
Tom Howard, 1 year
Mike Blake, Webmaster
Frank Kohn, Newsletter Ed.

September Meeting:
Monday September 13, 2010,
7:00 pm,
Tulsa Garden Center,
2435 S. Peoria

September Program:
Application of Lime Sulphur
to dead wood
by: Frank Kohn

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The original program on over-wintering has been cancelled in favor of an informal group discussion for those who need information / assistance. We can gather after the business meeting and share ideas.

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August Meeting Notes

In the absence of Pres. Lovelace, V.-Pres. Neil Dellinger called the meeting to order. Business meeting will follow the program.

Show and Tell:

Mike Flanagan brought his Crepe Myrtles and an Elm.
Neil Dellinger brought a collected Elm and some Shohin Elms as well as stones collected below Ft. Gibson Dam, which is a good location to collect some dark stones.
Steve Sanders brought an accent plant and a stone.
Tom Howard and Frank Kohn also brought stones.

Raffle:

Neil brought some pots and tools.
Mike Flanagan contributed some collected stones.

Program: SUISEKI / VIEWING STONES by: Pat Coen

Pat brought a variety of stones he has acquired / collected over the years.
He discussed the differences in the oriental styles of stones… from the open free-form Chinese temple stones to the Japanese style suiseki.
Pat feels that the stones that are prized by each culture are those that are available in that country's natural environment.

In the various Stone Conferences in which Pat has participated, he has attempted to raise the awareness of the attendees to the beauty and collectiblity of American stones.
Many of the stones in Pat's collection have been found in parts of the U.S…. from Florida to Arizona to Osage Co., Oklahoma
Pat also showed and discussed various ways to display the stones.
Thanks for an informative program, Pat.

Business Meeting:

Justin opened the brief business meeting and welcomed guests George & Sandy Welliver.
After some discussion, it was decided that Jim Doyle should be contacted regarding his availability for our Spring Master's Workshop.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH DEPT.

Toward the end of the growing season, it is recommended that Nitrogen (**N**) fertilizer be withheld to preclude new growth that may not have time to harden before freezing temperatures set in.
It is also suggested that applications of Phosphorus and Potassium (Potash) be applied to aid in root development.
In checking around I have found that while there are sources for Phosphorus (**P**), it is hard to find Potassium supplements that do not have percentages of Nitrogen. Wood Ash is a source of a high concentration of Potassium (**K**), but wood ash can change the PH factor to highly alkaline. This may not be in the best interest of your evergreens / azaleas.
I found that a fertilizer named *Greensand* may be just what the doctor ordered.
The following is excerpted from the www.organicgardeninfo.com/greensand.html Internet site:

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Potassium (**K**)
While potassium is not a component of any part of the plant compounds, it plays an important role in many aspects of plant life.
For example, potassium is needed to sustain plant growth and reproduction. It also increases root growth and improves drought tolerance.
Greensand (**GS**) organic fertilizer is a one of the best sources of potassium (iron-potassium silicate). It comes from sandy rock or sediment containing a high percentage of the mineral glauconite (greenish-black to blue-green). Glauconite is used in water treatment as a water softener.
It has been marketed for over 100 years as an organic fertilizer and soil conditioner. The slow release rate of plant nutrients minimizes plant damage by fertilizer "burn" while the GS's moisture retention helps soil conditioning. It is non water soluble so it would not make a great liquid fertilizer. It is odorless and can be applied anytime of the year.

GS Use:

- •Used to improve a plants overall health
- •Used to increased root growth
- •Enhances soil structure - loosens heavy clay soil
- •Can be added to the surface or blended into the soil
- •Softens the effects of hard water
- •Improves drought tolerance

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There are sources on-line to purchase *Greensand* in various percentages from 0-0-7 to 0-0-3, and some even have a percentage of **P** in the mix… e.g.: 0-1-6.
I stopped at Stringer's and found some, but it was primarily Iron with only 1% **K**.
I called other local nurseries and only found Southwood as a source of *Greensand*, but they were out of stock.
I will check back over the next week or so to see if they have restocked. I'll report at the Sept. meeting.

Frank