



Nourish the roots, build a sanctuary of living art...

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Mustang Ridge Development by Bill Boytim, Chairman

Dec 4, 2013

The physical development of the property has been delayed by a myriad of events. We had high hopes of getting the pond dug through the volunteer work of the *Earthmoving Contractors Association of Texas* with some equipment loaned by *Holt Cat* of San Antonio. In preparation of this event we hired a bulldozer and operator to clear the pond site and to build a small dam on the low side of the property. We met several times with *ECAT* over a year and had them visit the property. We explained that we were a non-profit 501 (c)3 organization during our **meetings** with them. We estimated that 20,000 cubic yards of earth needed to be removed for the pond and they estimated 4,000 cubic yards. As the day approached to start work, more and more issues came up with *ECAT*, first they wanted us to defray the volunteers living expenses while they worked on the pond. Next they wanted to know about our Workers Compensation policy that would cover the volunteers as they worked, and the Friday before they were to start they wanted us to have a mega-million dollar liability policy to cover the equipment while it was onsite. Basically they were treating us as large contractor doing site development. None of these major issues were mentioned in the approximately one year we were working with them.

Over the last two years we have had three major rain events in Mustang Ridge. The first was a January rain that produced over 10-13 inches of rain in a few hours. There was an estimated 150 acre feet or more of water that went through the property. This rain fall not only topped the dam but went around the dam. In total the water was about 200 feet wide going through the property. We have since had two rain events with approximately 6 inches in a few hours with the same flooding issues. This has altered the pond design to be built without a dam to reduce the possibility of a dam failure in the future.

We next tried offering the excavated soil through the *Associated General Contractors of Texas*. We offered the soil free if they would excavate the pond; to date we have had no takers. One of our neighbors, mentioned that in the 60's there were two major floods in the area, the footprint of the floods, indicated that all of the property below an elevation of 645 feet could possibly be flooded in the future.

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Based on the 60's flood information it was decided that the soil from the pond would be needed to raise the exhibit area well above the possible flood level.

When the property was first purchased, certain conditions were specified in the agreement with the *City of Mustang Ridge*; mainly no commercial sales and no residence on the property. We have approached the City Council on building on the property. They referred our request to an engineering firm in *Buda* and sent us their many paged ordinance and lists of requirements. Basically we have to build under commercial building regulations since the public will be on the land and have a complete building plan for the entire property submitted prior to starting any construction. We hope to have all the plans completed to submit at the January 2014 City Council meeting.

Our building plan will start with two pavilions that will later be enclosed in 2014. Once a building is on the property, we can plan on workshops, classes and teaching clinic for the region, etc. and this will make us more eligible for grants. We are hoping that we can delay the construction of a septic system by using a composting toilet facilities and the use of a generator for any electrical requirements. Water on site is still an issue, estimated water meter hookup is in the \$3500 range and once that is done there will be a minimum monthly service charge.

In the meantime we have been contacting organizations in the area about having the TTSBE trees exhibited at their facilities. The meeting with the *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center* was positive; they are interested in the trees that are classified as Texas natives for display. We are awaiting their approval.

We ask ourselves if we are having fun yet? But really it has been an interesting ride. We will push forward knowing that we have the support of the Bonsai community in the State and that vision of walking through the grounds of the exhibit enjoying the space and the beautiful gardens that we all have established.

REMEMBER THIS FROM THE LAST NEWSLETTER.....?

....A challenge has been made...\$10,000 is being put up by an anonymous donor that in effect must be matched by the bonsai community. The money will go exclusively to build the first structure on the site!!

The challenge is good for the next few months, the deadline is the.....

LAST DAY OF APRIL, 2013

Will you help?

The results of that campaign was most rewarding.....all the clubs in the state contributed toward the challenge along with some very special bonsai people. How rewarding that was that during the state convention by LSBF and the hosting clubs; San Antonio Bonsai Society & Austin Bonsai Society in New Braunfels, Texas we had nearly realized our goal. Didn't know it at the time but the tally was soon complete and additional clubs made the plunge: Corpus Christi, Houston & Fort Worth. We exceeded our goal!!

THANK YOU ALL—LETS MAKE 2014 REALLY SUCCESSFUL!!!



THE FOUR SISTERS OF BONSAI, 5TH SISTER WAS TEACHER AND THERE WAS A BROTHER IN THERE
SOMEWHERE

Alisan Clark, Nan Jenkins, Connie King and Timmi Kuykendal—Donna Dobberfuhl, teacher & Joey McCoy,
brother & photographer

Bonsai on the International Scene for 2013-14 courtesy of Alan Walker of LCBS

9-12 January 2014 from 09:30-16:30: 39th Gafu-ten at Miyakomesse in Kyoto Japan (京都市勧業

館みやこめっせ). 8 minute walk from Higashiyama Sta. on subway Tozai Line or 15 min. by bus

from JR Kyoto Station to Kyoto Kaikan-mae Bus Stop. Vendors. Admission: ¥800.

Monday, 13 January 2014 from 7-10 pm: Ben Oki returns to LCBS for the start of his farewell BSF
tour. Details TBA.

February 2014 from 09:00-17:30: 88th Kokofu-Ten at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum at Ueno
Park. Admission: ¥1000. Bonsai market is open at the Ueno Green Club near the museum. Japan
Bonsai Association phone +81-3-3821-3059.

February 2014 from 09:00-16:30: 3rd Tokai-Miyabi-Ten at Shonai-Ryokuchi Green Plaza in
Nagoya, Japan. Hosted by the All Japan Shohin Bonsai Association. Admission is free. Hosted by
the All Japan Shohin Bonsai Association.

20-22 March 2014: Lake Charles Bonsai Society's 25th Annual Bonsai Exhibit at Burton
Coliseum in Lake Charles, LA, USA. Details at <http://www.gardenfest.org> or <http://LCBSBonsai.org>.

21-23 March 2014 from 09:30-16:30: 22nd Shunga-Ten at Hanamizuki Hall (Mizu-no-Yakata) in
Tsurumi-Ryokuchi Park in Osaka, Japan. Admission is free. Hosted by the All Japan Shohin Bonsai
Association.

6-8 June 2014: 3rd edition of Jolis Matins at Jardin Exotique de Monaco. Featuring Master
Kawabe, mame and shohin specialist, Tomihiro Masumi, Maria Teresa Volonterio, José Maria
Miguel, and Jean Bernard Gallais. Details at contact@parlonsbonsai.com or
<http://www.parlonsbonsai.com/forums/index.php/topic/55324-annonce>



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



Dear Santa,

It has been an interesting year for the Board and the exhibit site in Mustang Ridge. I know you are resting right now so I wanted to send this now, it is the wish list for the Bonsai Exhibit for 2014...

These things are not to glamorous but it will make the start-up a bit smoother...

1. The excavation of A LOT of dirt for the pond (someone to do it for free?)
2. The enclosure of the two pavilions planned for next year (\$35,000+)
3. Composting toilet facility...\$1500 to \$2000
4. Electrical hook-up....\$3500 OR
5. A generator for special events...\$2,100+.

I wish there were little things to ask for but ...THANK YOU so much for listening.

Its really crazy asking for such things, but where will we go to the bathroom? We want and need to teach all generations about Bonsai, those two structures will be so special. All the clubs in the state have put there faith in this happening. HELP US

THE TTSBE BOARD



Not real fancy, nor bonsai perfect—but here is our tree and it will be waiting for you.

Thank you and see you soon.

TTSBE volunteer "Foster Care" days happen at least once a year, under the guidance of Kathy Shaner. Our donated trees require care, maintenance and styling and ***we always need extra hands to work on the Bonsai*** (and to learn valuable techniques from Kathy in the process). Contact a TTSBE board member or your local club representative for more information about joining in this and other free events!

Here are some photos from the latest Foster Care day in October 2013.



New faces at the Shaner foster days workshop! May Lau, Jonathan Wood, and then we also had Garrett Larson from Dallas joining us.





Donors of The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit

October 31, 2013

ANGEL \$10,000 & up

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Elizabeth & J.R. Cody, M.D.
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YOUR LOCAL TTSBE REPRESENTATIVES

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THANK YOU GAIL
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 OF THE EXHIBIT

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The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, Inc.



Make checks payable to:/send donation to:

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, Inc., / 13450 N. Highway 183, Suite #116 / Austin, TX 78750-3227

Nourish the roots, build a sanctuary of living art...

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I wish to pledge

**TO
THE BUILDING FUND
AT
The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit
in Mustang Ridge, TX**

★ **GO TO: www.ttsbe.org**
**The exhibit website is under construction
but we have a temporary front page
with the ability to donate to the exhibit.**

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT