



## The Texas state Bonsai Exhibit, Inc

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Joseph McCoy

### WHAT IF? AH BUT WHAT IT IS..

WHAT if we build a permanent bonsai exhibit centrally located in the middle of the state? We would have an exhibit that could compare to California, New York and maybe to the National Exhibit in Washington.

We, who love the art of bonsai, would share the dream...In 2000 the prospect of building an exhibit began. Plans to make it a part of Zilker Gardens moved forward, an agreement was forged, volunteers were clearing the land...The plans changed direction and the dream took its first hit.

The next opportunity was with a major corporation in Austin. They had land that could be leased...this moved forward and definite plans were put in place...but again due to circumstances beyond our control that opportunity evaporated.

The board hired a small company that handles fundraising for non-profits. There was little reward and much pay-out. With some thorough checking the board hired a "Grant Seeker". 15 prospect foundations and grantors were selected. *The seeker closed shop.* Members of the board attempted to outreach to these foundations. One member of the board volunteered to write, learn and seek the first grants. During this time the board was urged to select a goal for the year. The goal was a lofty one. **find land**, a site for the building of the exhibit AND do it with-in a specific time frame.

FIRST major success!! Land was purchased, 12.2 acres, more than enough to build a first class exhibit. During the last few years more positives happened...the board sought matching funds from the LCRA, Lower Colorado River Authority, for the building of a pond. LCRA discontinued the program, back to square one. With the potential for drought always looming and the need for flood control it was essential to regulate the water source. Ah, but there is always a way...Out reach to a major corporation in San Antonio, *Holt Cat* received a positive response and that lead to the group *ECAT, Earthmovers Contractors Association of Texas.*

They accepted the challenge of building the pond. In exchange we sought out publicity, developed advertising and prepared to receive them with all necessities in place; temporary toilets, tents, food, compensation for the individual members cost in time and travel.

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Two board members in the know handled the logistics. The actual “day-before-the-event” *ECAT* pulled out. Our insurance was not enough, we had to have “Workers Compensation”. *ECAT* had never completed volunteer work for a non-profit and they would not or could not tell us. So with all the expenses put out for this event to happen—with the two board members literally standing on the property received word that *ECAT* was not going to join them.

OK, what's the phrase?: “you may be pushing me down BUT inside I am standing up”.

Never seen a board member cry but... what next?

Maybe only a week or two went by and a new opportunity presented itself. There was a contract out there for bidders to seek that involves the need for fill dirt. WOW...we have fill dirt, so we waited for the contract to be let.

It did not result in the ability for the exhibit to get the first built component, that pond.

We have 8 benches, given by a generous donor, with no where to go. We have a substantial collection of Bonsai, again given by generous donors with not where to go.

The board had a real positive to cling to though—a gift had been presented that gave the land, free & clear, *NO MORTGAGE!!*

NOW, fast forward to the end of 2012. The board has determined that the fight for the pond is not over and the pond will happen and be in place in 2013.

But a new goal must be set for 2013—the board passed the resolution that the first structure—A BUILDING—is to be completed—the beginnings of the Reception/Docent house must be started, first a shell, then the complete enclosure.

As this article is being completed, *literally* the last paragraph was being crafted and word was received that 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!!

Imagine, no see...the first structure for the exhibit. The challenge is good for the next few months, the deadline is the.....

LAST DAY OF APRIL, 2013  
Will you help?

Will you put your faith in the Exhibit?

We Texans don't complain about distance!

What's a a few hundred miles compared to a thousand or more to NY or LA?

This exhibit is for every person who has dreamed of, or seen, or created this precious and inspiring living art form.

**DONATE & SEND TO:**

**Mark your donation → building fund**

**The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, Inc., / 13450 N. Highway 183, Suite #116 / Austin, TX 78750-3227 OR go to [www.ttsbe.org](http://www.ttsbe.org)**

## Bonsai on the International Scene for 2013

**21-22 January 2013: 14th Noelanders Trophy** at the Centrum voor Duurzaam Bouwen, Marktplein 1 in Heusden-Zolder, Belgium. <http://www.bonsaiassociation.be/en/trophy.php>.

**29-31 March 2013: European Bonsai & Suiseki Convention** hosted by Fédération Française de Bonsaï at Audincourt, France. Details at <http://www.ffb-bonsai.org/>.

**11-14 April 2013: Tree Ring Circus: LSBF 2013** hosted by the San Antonio and Austin Bonsai Societies at the New Braunfels Convention Center [jvmccoy@gmail.com](mailto:jvmccoy@gmail.com).

**17-21 April 2013: BCI 2013** will be hosted by the Chinese Society of Landscape Architecture, Flower Bonsai & Artistic Stone Branch at Yangzhou City Slender West Lake Scenic Area, No. 28 Great Rainbow Road, Yangzhou, China.  
<http://bonsai-bci.com>

**19-21 April 2013: 30th Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies Convention** at the Harrisburg/Hershey Holiday Inn at Grantville, PA.  
<http://www.midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com>.

**17-20 May 2013: 26th AABC Bonsai Convention: The Australian Journey** hosted by the Canberra Bonsai Society. [webmaster@cbs.org.au](mailto:webmaster@cbs.org.au)

**19 April 2013: XVII Congresso Nazionale UBI** Foggia, Italy.

**7-9 June 2013: International Bonsai Colloquium** sponsored by International Bonsai at Rochester, NY, USA <http://www.internationalbonsai.com/index.html>.

**12-15 September 2013: For the Love of Bonsai: ABS Learning Seminars** hosted by the Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, NY.  
<http://www.loveofbonsai.com>

**25-27 September 2013: WBC 2013** at Jintan, China. Details at <http://www.wbff-2013.org/indexaction!pbviewbyid.action?pbclid=213>.

**4-6 October 2013: American Bonsai: Re-forged & Refined** hosted by Ryan Neil at the Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR. Details at <http://www.artisanscupofportland.com>.

**24-27 October 2013: 2013 Biennial South African Bonsai Association Convention** hosted by the Eastern Bonsai Society at Johannesburg, South Africa.  
[bonsai@pixie.co.za](mailto:bonsai@pixie.co.za).

**November 2013: Shuga-ten** exhibition held at Ueno Green Club in Tokyo  
Tel: 03-5685-5656)

**November 2013: 34th Taikan-ten** bonsai exposition in the Kansai (west Japan) area held at Miyako-Messe in Kyoto

Calendar courtesy of Alan Walker





TTSBE is fortunate to have Kathy Shaner as an advisor. She worked with those of us who have adopted trees at Elaine White's on 10/22/2012. Here she is discussing the care of a Cedar Elm with Nan Jenkins. Kathy's expertise is a valuable help in the care of these trees. There is so very much one can learn from her.

Kathy explains the necessity of doing a thorough cleaning of damage to the trunk and the use of first; wood hardener, wood filler and then rock hard water putty.



On 10/23/2012 at Terry & Sheila Ward's home Kathy is working with Collin Murphy on an Ashe Juniper. She discusses adding mycorrhizal fungi to the soil as an enhancement and explained how we might collect it, especially under Native Ashe Junipers which happen to be available to all of us since they grow locally.

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 in the process). Contact a TTSBE board member for more information about joining in these free events!

Here are some photos and text from the latest Foster Care day in October 2012.

This is an example of mycorrhiza found that day.



## WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY

In the first few weeks of next year plans will be completed to have a workshop about the technique of creating Tanuki or as we westerners call it a *Phoenix Graft*.

Shimpaku whips have been acquired and are being cared for at Elaine Whites'. The workshop will probably be held at her home or possibly at the Wards'.

All the deadwood needed for this workshop will be available and hands on help will be available.

More information will be forthcoming or contact your representative or one of the TTSBE board members for more information.

## Donors of The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit



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



# *The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, Inc.*

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