



## The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, Inc

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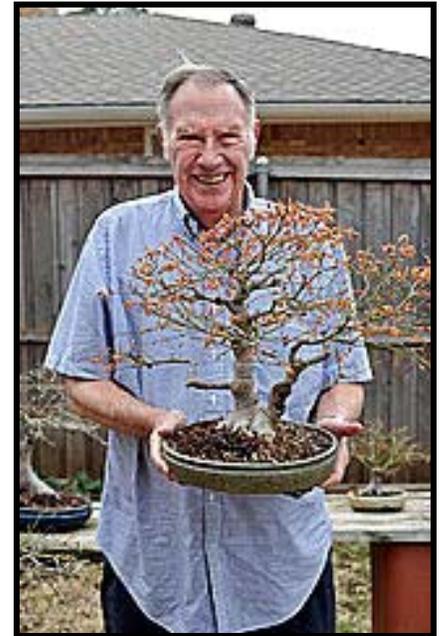
Editor: D. L. Dobberfuhl

Staff Photographer:  
Joseph McCoy

### 1st CONTACT

In early February a call came in from Sheila Setter, a Bonsai artist. Elaine answered and Sheila explained that there would be a rather important call from Neal Hern, a Dallas Bonsai member, concerning his collection.

After Neal's call Elaine went about the task of notifying the board of directors of TTSBE that a collection of bonsai and all of the accompanying items are to be donated to the exhibit and the move had to happen quickly.



### Neal Hern of Dallas

Neal was downsizing from a spacious home to a condo and sadly there would be little room for his collection. His first thought was to give the collection to TTSBE because he had donated his favorite Maple Bonsai several years ago to the exhibit. This Maple used to be owned by George Gray, a founding member of the Dallas Club.

A flurry of emails and phone calls ensued with four volunteers stepping forward and three appropriately sized vehicles selected. On February 27 in Austin at the crack of dawn, the adventure began. Donna had driven up the night before and stayed with Elaine. She drove Elaine's van to meet Joey (left early enough so they could get a Starbucks for the road). Met Nan and Timmi 15 minutes later at a gas station. Joey was driving a Suburban and Nan & Timmi a SUV. We didn't know for sure if three vehicles would be enough to return with everything. But we had a backup plan—Collin would drive up a few days later if necessary.

The drive went without incident and we arrived early enough to have the luxury to plan out the pecking, I mean, the packing order.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



Continued: **1st CONTACT**

Neal gave us a tour of the house and gardens and, of course, where everything was kept. First, the garden with the bonsai, then upstairs to the library where a large number of bonsai books and pots were lying on the floor ready for packing. In the first bedroom were bonsai stands and large petrified wood slabs. In the office were more bonsai books and magazines and finally in the garage were tools and several bags of bonsai soil.

Donna was sidetracked long enough to admire the beautiful life-size female torso that Neal had carved from marble. There were many other beautiful sculpture pieces in different media placed around the living area-- But back to the reason for the trip -- bonsai.

Joey co-coordinated the effort; Donna made climbing the stairs her task (nice to stretch your legs after the 3-hour journey). Nan and Timmi separated, packed and organized the books, pots and stands. The garage became the staging area and there was plenty of room for all three vehicles to be parked side by side at the entrance of the garage. Tailgates up and open, we were ready to go.

It was funny—when we realized how many items there were, we had a duh! Moment. We needed boxes and packing paper and did not think to bring them along. We did bring packing blankets though, but luckily Neal had boxes and with the recycle bin out back all the newspapers we could use were at our fingertips, well, almost, a little dumpster diving was in order.

Neal made only two requests, 1<sup>st</sup> when the trees were removed from their bonsai benches, take the old and nearly rotted planks to the curb and 2<sup>nd</sup> gather together at his dining table.

The first task Neal made sure we didn't forget: the planks. Boy, those things were heavy! The second task was rather special. Neal proceeded to tell us his story about his introduction to Bonsai.



Timmi and Nan packing away and the dumpster diver handling a dive with grace.

The dream team? Joey McCoy, Nan Jenkins, Timmi Kuykendall and Donna Dobberfuhr sharing the task at hand.



## Conclusion: **1st CONTACT**

(Neal)—“I was an alcoholic about 25 years ago and I had just completed my 90 meetings in 90 days. The next thing that was necessary was to find something to keep my hands busy.” He and his wife made a trip to California. During their visit they came across a little shop that was selling bonsai. Neal was intrigued and decided that bonsai was what he wanted to do. His wife reminded him that he had a friend that practiced the art of bonsai—who?—none other than George Gray of the *Bonsai Society of Dallas*. “I was totally unaware of George’s passion, but as soon as I returned I sought him out and my wonderful journey began. The sculpture was another way of keeping my hands busy. I really felt that donating my collection in this manner rather than letting the possibility of some mishap or circumstance dictate the future of my trees. I had lost my wife and I live alone so donating the bonsai was the right thing for me to do.”

We all were impressed with Neal and his story and are very grateful for his generosity. The Maple that Neal donated several years ago is on display in this year’s LSBF/Corpus Christi Bonsai convention exhibit hall. Please stop by.

## **A BEAUTIFUL RENDERING OF NEAL’S DONATION OF THE GEORGE GRAY MAPLE BONSAI**



**A SPECIAL STORY.....**



**ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY**





**Nan Jenkins, Alisan Clarke and Hattie Preston returning from the first round of collecting stones.**

## EXPLORATION

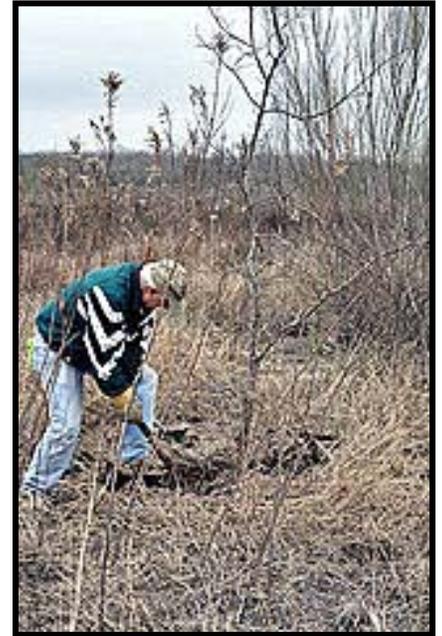
On a quiet day in February (NO WIND) a little event was held at the site of the future *Texas State Bonsai Exhibit*.

The site has an ancient river bed running through it and the river rock were in abundance, including petrified wood and some future viewing stones free for the claiming.

Primarily, members of the area bonsai societies participated. It is hoped in the future that opportunities such as this will be taken advantage of by additional bonsai society members from around the state.

Even with several car loads full of stones there are an abundance of stones still to be claimed. Maybe when the dirt for the pond is rearranged there will be another opportunity.

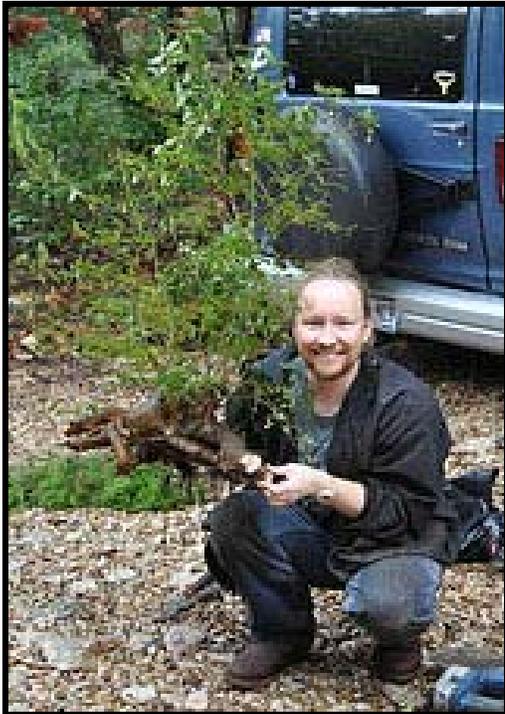
Several Yamadori were also taken—John Muller of the Austin society found a very nice Cedar Elm. Jay Nolen of the San Antonio society was very selective and found some very nice viewing stones. Jay also carves his own stands—so will we see one of these specimens at the convention this year?



**John Muller above and Jay Nolen with success in the bag—or is that a Starbucks break?**



Joey with one of his acquisitions—detail photo of the little leaf ligustrum Joey is holding.



Before the "Exploration" event—a little dig at the home of Alisan Clarke. Joey is very convincing when it comes to trying new material. I took home Japanese and Chinese Ligustrum—one with very small leaves and Condalia and Agarita—both native—Joey has the most information on these two species.



What every serious yamadori collector is wearing

## INTRODUCING THE NEWEST 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Timmi Kuykendall received her Bachelor of Arts with majors in history, English, and Education from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. After marrying and moving to Dallas, she taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts in the DISD. Eighth graders taught her to develop courage, a quality that has served her well.

Ms. Kuykendall earned her Master's Degree in English Language and Literature at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She taught at SMU for six years before teaching at the Greenhill School, a college preparatory school, in Dallas. She studied sculpture at SMU with Texas artist James Surls. Moving to Austin, Texas in 1985 served as a pivotal point in her career. She taught at St. Edward's University, Houston-Tillotson University, Park College of the USAF, and Austin Community College, where she is in her twenty-sixth year. She has taken Ceramics, Photography, and Creative Writing; however, teaching has been her creative forte and her livelihood.

The desire to have art in her life, and the frustration of doing without it made her ready to take up bonsai in 2007. She became a member of the Austin Bonsai Society that year and presently serves as an at-large member of the club. She is also a member of *The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit*.



Nan Jenkins received her BA degree from Baylor University with majors in English and History. She has a Masters of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary. She has earned her living as a middle school teacher, as a salesperson, hospital chaplain and as a parish minister. Her roving life which has taken her to all parts of the United States has taught her about gardening in varying climates and soils.



Art has always been a fascination for her. She has learned art appreciation from oil painting, watercolor and wood carving classes. She loved working with stained glass, but the opportunity to combine art and her love of gardening came together when she discovered bonsai in 2007. She also finds that bonsai is a meditative activity which feeds the spiritual side of her life. She has served as a board member and secretary of the Austin Bonsai Society. She is the recording secretary for *The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit*.



Kevin Preston was raised in San Antonio, Texas. He attended Texas A & M where he graduated from the College of Architecture with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Design.

While in private practice for 20 years, he principally designed residences and office and medical clinics. At present, he is employed by *Canyon Creek Pools* and has been with them for the past 13 years.

After his wife, Hattie took some bonsai classes and later joined the *San Antonio Bonsai Society*, Kevin became interested in the art form and also joined in 2003. He has held the position of Treasurer and is now the current President.

He is an avid reader of historical novels, enjoys black and white movies, and is a supporter of local artists

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13450 N. Highway 183, Suite #116  
Austin, TX 78750-3227



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I wish to pledge \$100 to the *Corner Stone Society* to help build the pond feature at *The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit* home in Mustang Ridge, TX

I am pledging \$500 or more to be divided into 4 quarterly payments.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

