

TEXAS BONSAI



A Publication Of

The Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Inc.

Fall - 2010

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Buddy Allen

As I look back on last the nine months of the year 2010, I wonder where the time has went. I would like to give a big Thank You to Mark and the Fort Worth and Dallas clubs for a great convention, to those that missed it, you don't know you missed. The convention was well planned, the speakers, workshop material, raffles, programs and most of all the food was excellent. The Saturday steak dinner was the best I have ever had at a convention and it was served by white gloved waiters. Mark, Thank You. By the time that you read this newsletter, Roy Natagoshi will have made his way around Texas on the Texas Tour. It is very hard to find a Bonsai Teacher that can leave his or her business for two weeks or more, to travel to the seven Texas clubs to teach the Art of Bonsai. Roy always leaves you with more knowledge that you stated with. There is always something new to learn, I do. Roy, I Thank You.

I would like for you to start planning to attend the 2011 convention in Corpus Christi, on 13th thru 15th of May. Make the convention part of your vacation plans, there are a lot of things to do during the convention and the hotel is on the waterfront. Yvonne and the Corpus Christi club have a lot of activities planned that you will like. To those club members that are early arrivals on 12th of May, you will be in-store for a big surprise, more about that later. Please support the Corpus Christi club by attending their convention; they have supported the other clubs in the past.



TM L.S.B.F.

Buddy Allen
President L.S.B.F.



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The opinions expressed in articles and editorial materials in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Texas Bonsai, its publishers, editors or the Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Inc. or its Executive Board.

Readers are invited to submit articles and photographs on bonsai culture and related subjects for possible publication to the Editor. If requested, all materials will be returned if accompanied by a self addressed, stamped envelope. Authors are requested not to simultaneously submit the same article(s) to other publications.

Texas Bonsai reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. Articles needing extensive editing will be returned to the author with suggestions from the editorial staff.

Outside L.S.B.F. Subscriptions: In U.S. \$6.00 per year for three issues; winter, summer and fall. Subscriptions begin with the winter issue. Any current year back copies will be sent with the latest issue. Make check payable to Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Inc. Mail to Pat Ware, L.S.B.F. Treasurer, 12404 Ranch Road 12, Wimberley, TX 78676.



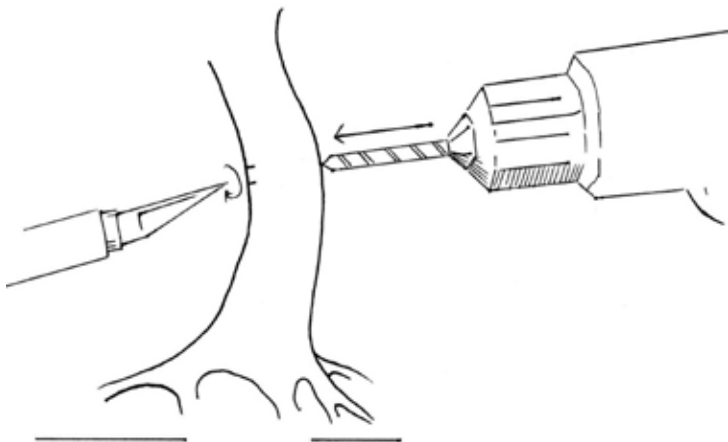
Threadgrafting Boxwoods

Text and illustrations by Joey McCoy, Austin Bonsai Society

We've all had that Bonsai which needed another or a better branch placement. Also, newly collected Boxwoods, common all over Texas from urban digs can take a very long time to break bud low enough to have them at proper Bonsai proportions. Like a lot of others I used to just wait for a bud to grow in the right place. Learning advanced techniques, however, gives us the option of grafting. Almost all woody plants can be threadgrafted, utilizing the natural buildup of tissue due to the flow of nutrients in the Phloem traveling from leaf to root. Tissues link and become one, all while being safely attached to a rootstock. It's nearly a foolproof way to add branches to your Bonsai.

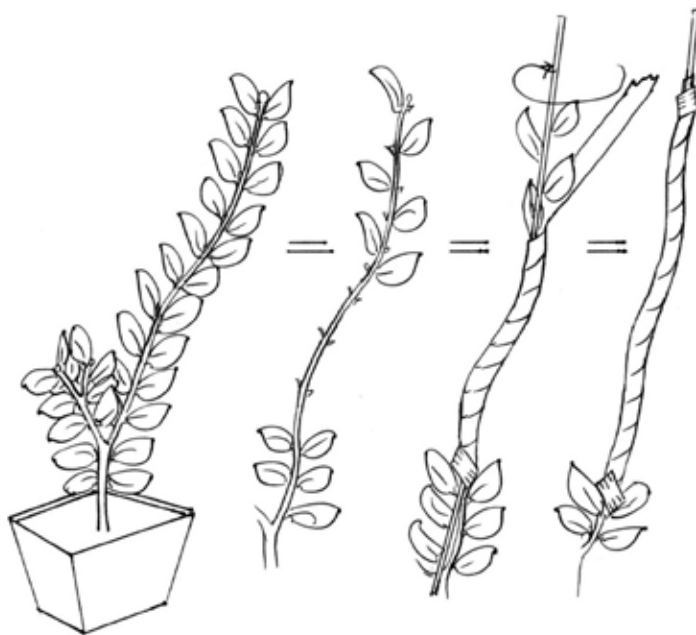
Some plants are difficult to threadgraft though. Boxwoods are evergreen and do not tolerate defoliation, which can lead to the branch dying. They must retain some leaves to draw moisture from the roots. Other evergreens that need a similar solution in threadgrafting: Pine, Juniper, Indian Hawthorn, etc. The solution: bundle the leaves and push them through.

Drilling the hole: Choose a natural point for the new branch to exit, such as the outside of a bend. Best to use a wood drill-bit, and a 1/4" auger or spade works best. Metal bits will work, but will clog in green wood.

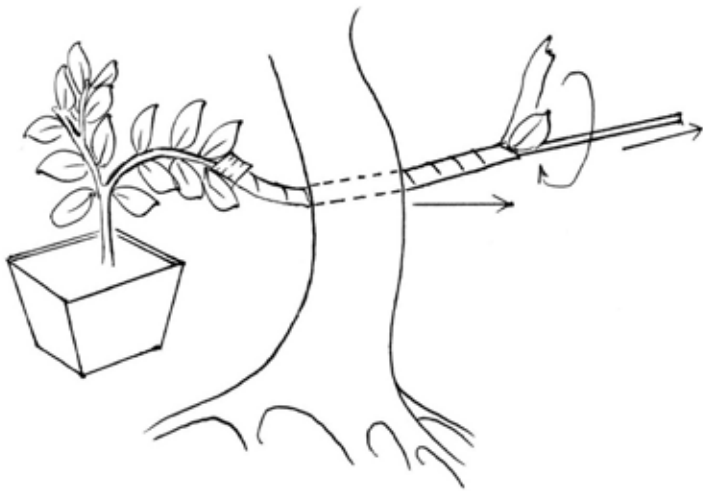


Drill slowly, starting at the exit point-side. Don't let it overheat or it will kill living cells well into the wood. Clean both ends up with a blade: grafting knife or exacto to help speed callous later.

Choose a donor whip from 1-2 year old cuttings, or use a long flexible branch from the tree itself. To thread a donor whip through a tree, some leaves must be retained. Remove all leaves in the area to be inside the hole and every other leaf in the section to be exposed on the other side. Stretchy plastic, nonstick, green plant tape (the type used to tie tomatoes) is best. Secure the end with scotch tape to prevent it from unraveling. Be sure to have a length of fine wire wrapped inside with the branch to use to pull the new branch through the hole. As the leaves are wrapped, carefully fold each leaf in the same direction of the tape, being careful not to break them off. Another small piece of scotch tape on the end holds the "cocoon" in place.



Carefully pull the bundle through the hole by the wire. Unwrap the bundled leaves after it's through, twisting the green tape to unfurl in the hole and carefully pull it out.



Use a piece of toothpick or chopstick to wedge the whip in place from the bottom side on both ends. Seal both ends with cut-paste (the clay type works best here) to prevent desiccation and then if you want, carefully wire the new branch for direction, anchoring the wire on the parent branch.



the new whip and the parent branch grow wild until the exit point of the whip is twice the diameter of the entry point and you can see that the tissues have clearly merged, sometimes a year. These new branches are more fragile than one grown from a bud for the first few years and should be carefully handled and wired.



Here is a 30 year old Boxwood after collection in 2006 with green buds only at the far end of each of the 4-5 foot long branches.



The same tree this year with a height of 14 inches. All these lower branches were grafted on this tree over a 4 year period.



GATEWAY TO BONSAI
Texas State Convention 2011
By Yvonne Padilla

How time flies when it comes to hosting a state convention. The Corpus Christi Bonsai Club has hosted five and now number six is coming next year. A convention committee was formed three years ago and they have been working hard for next year's event. We hope to make this the best convention we have hosted. We have selected a wide variety of plant material for the workshops, small, medium and large. Prices for the workshops will vary, several under \$100. The schedule will include some freebies, so sign up and come see what we have to offer.

Dates for the convention are May 13th thru 15th, 2011. "Gateway to Bonsai" will be at the Holiday Inn Emerald Beach Hotel, 1102 South Shoreline Blvd., the only beach front hotel in Corpus Christi. The dining area is located on the water side with a beautiful view of the beach and bay. All convention rooms have an easy access side entrance for vendors and those bringing trees for the exhibit.

We are lucky to have three great bonsai artist scheduled to conduct workshops and lecture/demonstrations. Bill Valvanis from Rochester, New York, Bill has been doing bonsai for well over thirty years and has traveled the world promoting the artistic and horticultural expression of classical bonsai art. Sean Smith, Marysville Pennsylvania will also be one of the artist. Sean is an expert in Suiseki and Diaza carving and will be conducting workshops, one which will include a stone and wood for carving a Diaza (stone & wood included). Of course Corpus Christi would not have a convention without inviting Ed Trout, Pembroke Pines, Florida, a great bonsai artist and tropical expert. He will be conducting workshops and a lecture/demonstration.

Four scheduled meals will be provided for full registrants, Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner and Sunday brunch. Something new has been added this year, an Early Bird Reception is schedule for full registrants arriving Thursday 12th. Be sure to

check the line on the registration form with a "yes". Drinks and Hors d'oeuvres will be served in the Catamaran Room. While you are relaxing and visiting with members from around the state, an Emerging Talent Competition will also be in the same room. A member from each club should be represented in this event. A pre-bonsai will be available for each club representative to style. Afterwards the trees will be placed in an area where everyone can vote on their favorite. Winners will be announced Saturday night at dinner and prizes will be awarded. Trees will be auctioned to benefit the convention.

Also Corpus Christi will include a Tree Auction Saturday night. Something new the Ft. Worth club scheduled and it was a success. A percentage will go to the convention and the remaining amount to the owner of the tree. Trees will be on display in the Kokomo dining room throughout the convention until auction time.

It is the desire of the Corpus Christi Bonsai Club to have a successful convention. All clubs benefit from a successful convention. Not only bonsai education for all who attend, but half of the profits go to LSBF which pays for insurance for all clubs, a touring artist's airfare is paid for by LSBF once a year.. When the profit is good LSBF can pay for some of the workshops or lecture/demonstrations conducted by the touring artist. Also each year LSBF reimburses each club for a one time fee of their choice of a Texas Artist.





2010 Fort Worth/LSBF Convention
Photographs by Joey McCoy



Ashe Juniper - *Juniperus ashe*



Ashe Juniper - *Juniperus ashe*



Burt Davy Fig - *Juniperus procumbens*



Buttonwood - *Conocarpus erectus*



Parsley Hawthorn - *Crataegus mar-*



Cedar Elm - *Ulmus crassifolia*



Pfizer Juniper - *Juniperus X media pfizerana*



Cedar Elm - *Ulmus crassifolia*



Catlin Elm - *Ulmus parvifolia* 'Catlin'



Cedar Elm - *Ulmus crassifolia*



Trident Maple - *Acer buergerianum*



Chinese Elm - *Ulmus parvifolia*



Texas Ebony - *Pithecellobium flexicaule*



Prostrate Juniper - *Juniperus prostrata*



Cork Bark Elm - *Ulmus parvifolia* 'Cortcosa'



Loblolly Pine - *Pinus taeda*



Plant Design

Father Paul's comments as told to Brother Gerard

The first thing he emphasized in training me was that bonsai is an art. As art it creates an illusion of an old tree in nature. The trunk and roots are perhaps the key to great bonsai. The trunk should have a very significant taper from the base to the apex. This taper should be gradual. The first branch, the lowest to the left or right, should be about 1/3 of the way up the trunk. This branch should be definitely the thickest. In most styles of bonsai the trunk and branches should have a graceful curve. Most branches will curve up, then down, and the foliage at the tip of branches should curve up slightly. The trunk of the informal upright should curve in all directions, but a perfect S should be avoided. Ideally major branches should be attached to the trunk at the outer most part of a bend in the trunk. Unavoidable defects can sometimes be hidden by foliage. Sometimes a reverse taper in the trunk can be de-emphasized by carefully placing a rock behind the trunk at the right angle.

The foliage at the back of the tree should be thicker than in the front. The denser foliage in the back gives the tree the illusion of depth. The same is true of a forest. The biggest trees in the front with the smaller ones with thicker foliage in the back give the illusion of a deep forest.

Usually there should be a slight opening to the front exposing the trunk line. The apex should bow to the front slightly. The opening and bowing serves to invite the viewer into the tree to be at home there.

To transform nursery stock into a bonsai, check the roots first. This involves using a chopstick to move the soil away from the roots near the surface around the base of the trunk. If one side has particularly good looking roots, you may want to choose that side as the front even if you may need to work harder to train the foliage on that side. A great root structure at the base makes for great bonsai.

Next study the branch structure of the tree by cleaning out the inner foliage that you will surely not want. Rotate the tree as you work to get a good view of each side. Then continue to rotate the tree eliminating defective branches that move in the wrong direction. If you have

reservations about removing a branch wait and continue to trim what surely must go. Continue to rotate the tree as you work, all the while seeking to choose one side as the front if it's not already clear. Then if you are still in doubt about a particular branch, you might try carefully bending it out of view (if it's flexible enough to not break) or put a white cloth or paper over the branch to help you see what the tree will look like without it. Remember you cannot glue it back on! Even if a branch breaks the rules of bonsai you may need to keep it to avoid creating an awkward hole in the tree's foliage, or leaving the appearance of the tree off balance.

When the tree is ready for a finished pot, usually you will put it a little left or right of center and slightly back of the center as viewed from the side. Be careful to have the precise front position you want. You may need to move the roots a bit to achieve this position. Slight differences can greatly enhance or detract from the beauty of the finished tree. Rotate the tree to see that it looks good from all sides too.

If you use a rock, be sure to have it relate well to the tree. It may mimic or echo the tree in some way. Sometimes the tree may lack foliage in some area. A rock can help compensate for this, giving the tree a look of balance it lacks on its own.

When you apply the finished landscaping it is helpful to carefully put moss between the roots and next to the rock. Also, if the moss touches the back of the pot, it will give a look of depth and spaciousness to the background. The tree then looks as if it stands on a lawn or in a field or meadow.

Finally, look carefully at your finished tree for small defects, for little foliage out of place, dead twigs, or foliage that could be wired to a slightly better position. These tiny things can transform a mediocre bonsai into a masterpiece!

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bonsaimonk.com*

*Bonsai by the Monastery
2625 Hwy. 212 SW
Conyers, GA*



Pond for The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit (TTSBE)

TTSBE recently purchased a 12.2 acre parcel southeast of Austin in Mustang Ridge. The property is approximately 400 by 1400 feet with the southern 400 foot boundary along Old Lockhart Highway. The property goes downhill from the highway and then uphill at the very back of the property. The property was recently fenced and is in the process of being developed into the permanent bonsai display. The center part of the property is in the 100 year flood plain with approximately 190 acres of watershed flowing through the property. TTSBE is going to take advantage of this water source and construct a retention pond that will provide water for irrigation, water for heat pumps, water for livestock and for use as an architectural feature for the land. TTSBE has been working with the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in Austin to design and construct the pond. NRCS will also provide a list of native fish to use in stocking the pond. Due to the pond being designed with a spillway, Koi and other non native fish specie will not be stocked in this pond to prevent accidental release to nearby streams.

The pond will start on the western edge of the property approximately 450 feet back from the road. This is the lowest area on the western boundary with two additional low spots further back from the road. The water flows to the eastern boundary where it exits the property approximately 1050 feet back from the road. There is a 4 foot drop in elevation as the water flows west to east. The center line of the pond will be approximately 600 feet in length. The surface area of the pond will be slightly over one acre. The pond will be approximately 12 feet deep along the center line with one area (approximately 6 by 100 feet) being excavated to 16 feet to serve as an emergency refuge for the fish in case of an extreme drought.

The estimated 20,000 cubic yards of spoil material that is excavated from the pond will be used to level the display area and to make sure all the buildings and display area are well above the flood plain. Some of the spoil material will be used to construct an earthen dam and spillway along the eastern edge of the property. When filled, the pond will not impinge on the property to the west of the TTSBE. Room will be left between

the western fence line and the start of the pond and between the dam and eastern fence line to allow vehicle access to the back of the property.

TTSBE News

Dear Friends of Bonsai,

We wanted to update you briefly on the progress made at the TTSBE 12 acre site. Our donors receive a personal copy of our biannual newsletter and convention attendees receive one in their goody bags. We hope the rest of you will be inspired by our hard work to donate and help open this exhibit!

This year we fenced and topped with barbed wire, the entire 12 acres, with the intent of possibly using a few goats to keep the land cleared.

Next project: Bill Boytin

Pond for the Texas State Bonsai Exhibit



Photos of Alisan Clarke and Elaine White measuring elevations

There are two new ways you can help. Use www.GoodSearch.com (powered by Yahoo) as your search engine. List TTSBE as your nonprofit so every time you search we get a donation. Do you shop on line? Go to www.givingjoe.com enter The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit. Over 400 big name merchants participate. Keep those donations coming and Thank You So Much!



Lone Star Bonsai Federation

Meeting Minutes

June 10th, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 PM by President, Buddy Allen.

Minutes

Buddy Allen called for any changes to the minutes of the last meeting. There being no changes, a motion was made by Mike Morgan and seconded by Yvonne Padilla to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Pat Ware was not present. A copy of the Treasurer's Report was handed out by Buddy Allen. The balance as of May 31, 2010 was \$5,561.05. Expenses for this period included \$855.05 in air fare for the LSBF visiting artist and \$247.00 for LSBF Newsletter Expenses.

Mike Morgan made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Jay Nolan. The motion carried.

Old Business

Conventions

2010 – Steven Hendricks reported that registrations for the convention totaled 85 at that time and that there were still a number of workshop spots available.

2011 – Yvonne Padilla discussed the 2011 convention in Corpus Christi. It will be titled "Gateway of Bonsai" and will be held on May 13-15. The convention hotel will be the Holiday Inn Emerald Beach and rooms will be \$99 per night. The guest artists will be Ed Trout, Bill Valvanis, and Shawn Smith. All plant material is in-hand. It will include a previously unseen species of weeping elm (shohin sized) the workshop for which will be led by Terry Ward. There will be a daiza

carving workshop in which the stone and wood are provided. Also included, are an exhibition critique, a slide show on suiseki and bonsai, and an "Emerging Talent" competition. That will take place on Thursday before the convention and will be a sponsored event wherein shimpakus will be provided for styling and each club will be invited to nominate one member to participate. There will be guidelines for who is eligible and the styled trees will be auctioned afterward. Also on Thursday evening there will be an "Early Bird Reception" at which hors d'oeuvres and liquid refreshments will be provided.

2012 – John Miller indicated that Dallas would be hosting in 2012 but specifics were not yet available.

LSBF Speaker Tour

2010 – Carl Quisenberry reported on the 2010 tour by Roy Nagatoshi. The plane tickets are paid for and Roy appears to be happy with the itinerary which has no idle days. A question was asked about tools. Carl indicated that he would contact Roy and determine if tools needed to be provided.

2011 – Carl Quisenberry asked for the delegates to submit names for consideration. Cheryl Manning was again mentioned as a possibility.

Form 990-N Electronic Notice (e-Postcard)

Buddy Allen handed out a copy of the notice confirming that the LSBF has filed the form for the year 2009. Buddy emphasized that all clubs are required to file the form yearly.

New Business

Guidelines For Hosting a State Convention

– Yvonne Padilla stated that she had 4 pages of recommendations but welcomed suggestions from the other delegates. The guidelines will be discussed at the next meeting. It was suggested that she e-mail the guidelines to the delegates prior to the



next meeting.

Beaumont Bonsai Club

John Miller reported that there is still a Southeast Texas Bonsai Club but that it only has 4-5 members and does not meet regularly. The President of the club is Mark Lee.

LSBF Newsletter

Carl Quisenberry passed out copies of the Summer 2010 newsletter to the delegates for distribution to their respective clubs. He requested that delegates send him photos from their own club shows and any original articles for inclusion in the newsletter. He stressed that any photos must have the photographer's consent in writing before he can use them. He also suggested that no flashes be used when photographing the trees because of the shadows they leave on the background.

A motion was made by Jay Nolan and seconded by Mike Morgan to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.



LONE STAR BONSAI FEDERATION MEETING

Saturday October 9th 2010 at 1:00 PM

Jade Gardens
Wimberley, Texas

AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Old Business
4. Convention Reports
 - a. Steven Hendricks 2010
 - b. Yvonne Padilla 2011
 - c. John Miller 2012
5. LSBF Touring Artist
 - a. Carl Quisenberry 2010 Club reports for Roy Nagatoshi
 - b. Carl Quisenberry 2011 Visiting artist suggestions
Cheryl Manning - Pat Ware's Choice
Guy Guidry - Corpus Christi's Choice
Others
6. New Business
Suggestions for the future



Bronze Longhorn sculpture by Donna Dobberfuhr



Jade Gardens Home of



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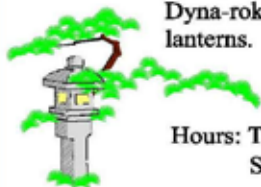
E-mail: bonsaijg@gmail.com

web page: <http://www.bonsaiexibittexas@yahoo.com>

Sanderson Creek Bonsai

1634 Stella Street, Fort Worth, Texas

Bonsai, collected and pre-bonsai trees, sieved soil,
lava, pumice, exp-shale, kanuma, akadama, pots,
Dyna-rok, Joshua Roth tools, classes and granite
lanterns.

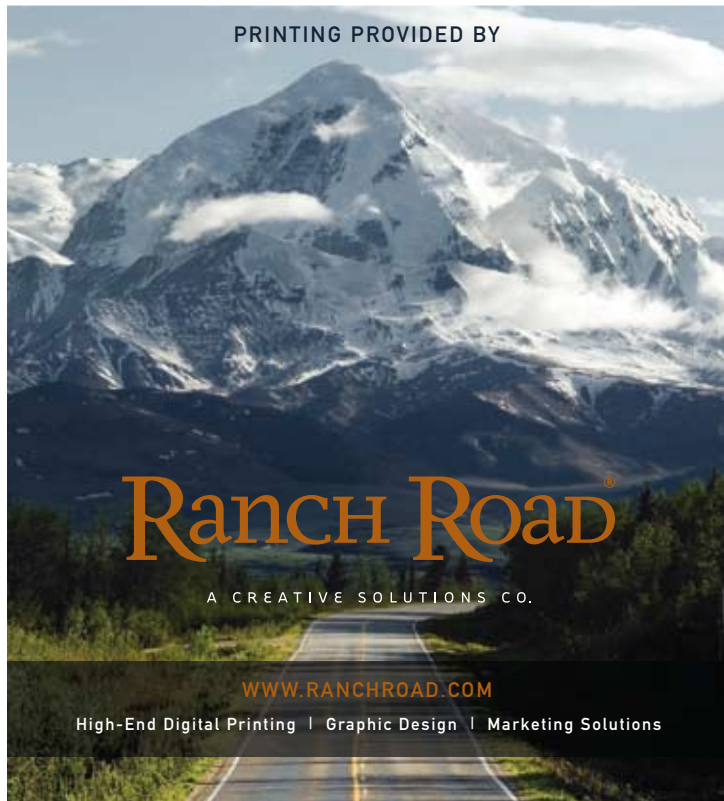


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