

Our 2019

Distinguished Guest Presenters



Enrique Castaño de la Serna literally wrote the book on the botany of bonsai. Born in Mexico City, Enrique is the son of Yolanda de la Serna, and Guillermo Castaño, a well-known sculptor and bonsai artist. Enrique's exposure to and passion for bonsai and the visual arts began at an early age. His love for bonsai and nature led to his studies in biology, and he subsequently received a PhD in Biochemistry and Biophysics from the University of Rochester, NY, in 1997. He continued post-doctoral work at

Harvard and the Marie Curie Research Institute in Oxted, England. Enrique resides in southern Mexico where he collects, grows and trains numerous tropical bonsai species. Enrique founded Bonsái Tropical de México to promote bonsai in the US and Latin America, and has presented lectures and demos around the world, including China, Cuba, Germany, Taiwan, Mexico, USA, England, Czech Republic and Lithuania. His book *Botany for Bonsai, the Science Behind the Art*, has been well received, and is in its second edition. In addition to his book, Enrique teaches and gives demonstrations around the world and has written numerous articles for various bonsai publications. His trees have been featured by The World Bonsai Friendship Federation and BCI over the years. He has earned numerous awards including WBFF, Chase Rosade distinction award, John Naka award, Bonsai Olympics gold and silver awards, and FEMEXBO award. He currently serves as professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at the Center Investigacion Cientifica, Merida, Mexico and is the Chief Executive Officer Viviero Internacional Dedicado Arte.



Boonyarat Manakitivipart has been recognized around the world for his bonsai artistry, and his garden contains magnificent trees in all stages of development. In Japan, as the only non-Japanese entrant in the competition in the Kindai Bonsai Styling Contest, Boon won the Grand Prize. His professional growth started after hosting Akio Kondo as a first-year professional in the US. Through this experience, Boon decided to begin

serious study as an apprentice. In 1995, he traveled to Japan and studied bonsai for his first year as an apprentice with Yasuo Mitsuya. Boon also worked and studied at the family Japanese bonsai nursery Kihachi-En, and was an apprentice to Kihachiro Kamiya, one of Japan's leading bonsai professionals of the time. Kihachi-En became Boon's "bonsai home," and he said of Master Kamiya, "He showed me bonsai standards through his amazing talent and deep personal integrity." Boon returned to Japan for study repeatedly until his master's passing in 2004. Today, Boon continues his dedicated effort to advance the

art of bonsai. His passion for teaching led him to establish one of the first bonsai schools in the US at his nursery in Northern California. Students from around the world undergo a “mini-apprenticeship” of intensive work on a range of species and styles, and over the course of three years, students are exposed to virtually every level of bonsai work, culminating in the Bay Island Bonsai show - one of the best exhibitions of fine bonsai in the US. Website:

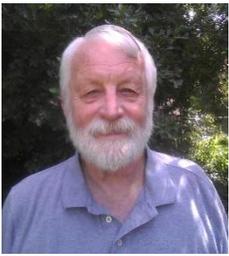
<http://bonsaiboon.com>



Ryan Neil is a visionary American bonsai professional, artist, and entrepreneur, who is redefining the world’s understanding of bonsai as a technical hobby and fine art medium. Ryan’s character was carved by the harsh climate of the US Rocky Mountains, and his bonsai expertise was established after a 6-year apprenticeship in Japan with world-renowned bonsai master, Masahiko Kimura. In 2010, Ryan returned from his apprenticeship to Portland, OR, and founded *Bonsai Mirai* which is becoming an epicenter for bonsai and a place where people could come and see the highest quality bonsai works in the world. Ryan’s philosophy brings together the interdependent relationships between nature, culture, and the individual. He has built a community of ceramicists, woodworkers, artists, and scientists working together to advance and further develop the bonsai art form. What started as Ryan’s ambition has become known as an “American Bonsai Movement,” with a mission to establish a new era in bonsai culture. Ryan’s exhibits have ignited controversy, expanded the understanding of bonsai, and inspired many to take up the living art form. Ryan pushes the limits of bonsai design, and through the collaborative nature of his work, he and his team challenge creative bonsai visionaries around the world to develop a community-oriented approach to bonsai. Website: <https://bonsaimirai.com>



Will Baddeley earned a well-deserved reputation over the years as an entertaining and engaging educator of bonsai cultivation and bonsai carving techniques. Will is a self-taught carving expert with years of in-depth study, careful observation and methods application. His main influences have been Colin Lewis and Kevin Wilson who are passionate about native material and deadwood carving with power and hand tools. In 2001, Will represented the UK in the European competition in Trevarez, France where he placed third, has exhibited trees at the Ginkgo Awards, Noelanders Trophy, and the Best of British and Joy of Bonsai exhibitions. Two of his trees are on the register of Important British Bonsai. Will runs regular workshops and a school at his bonsai nursery, has conducted numerous demonstrations including the Bonsai Association Belgium, Nordic Bonsai in Denmark, the Best of British exhibition, and has conducted demonstrations for local bonsai organizations and at local and regional shows across Europe and North America.



Bill Boytim is a member of the Austin Bonsai Society and currently lives in Willis, Texas. Bill first learned how to sharpen and maintain wood working tools (planes, knives, chisels, scrapers, etc.) to improve his carpentry skills almost 30 years ago. He took classes from Jerry Polmateer, a master wood worker and tool maker, and learned from Jerry the importance of having well maintained sharpening equipment and how to tune up sharpening stones. Bill later took courses with Kathy Shaner on sharpening and maintaining Bonsai tools, and Kathy reinforced the need to maintain your sharpening equipment to achieve good sharpening results. Bill has conducted workshops and lectures on sharpening to the Austin Bonsai Society, Dallas Bonsai Society, Houston Bonsai Society, 2013 LSBF Convention, several Master Gardener Associations and Garden Clubs. In the last two years he has worked with almost two hundred gardeners in the Conroe/Houston area teaching them how to maintain and sharpen their gardening tools.



Mark Bynum has been interested in the bonsai art since he was 15 years old when he saw a boxwood bonsai tree in a magazine. Unable to put much energy into the hobby until he was 51, he joined the Fort Worth Bonsai Society in 2003 and now maintains more than 200 bonsai trees. Mark's trees have won 2 Lone Star Bonsai Federation awards and he has entered one tree in the USA National Bonsai Exhibit. Mark has been a licensed irrigator in the State of Texas for 41 years and installed drip irrigation systems in large multi-acre vineyards and small apartment patios. He gained a lot of insight on irrigating his own bonsai collection after observing systems all around Texas. Bonsai trees present a unique demand for proper irrigation, far different than a commercial plant nursery or a backyard landscape garden. Mark's program will cover basic set-up, timers, best types of emitters to use, micro-sprinklers, soaker hoses, etc. Examples of each will be on hand. Watering schedules, maintenance, and troubleshooting also will be discussed.



Angela Chandler is a lifelong gardener and bonsai enthusiast with a passion for learning and teaching. She and her husband Fred tend a ½ acre organic micro-homestead in Highlands, Texas. They raise vegetables, fruits, chickens, goats, bees, and a pair of rescued dogs. She has numerous publications in local and national print media. She and her husband Fred tend a ½ acre organic micro-homestead in Highlands, Texas. They raise vegetables, fruits, chickens, goats, bees, a few select bonsai trees, and a pair of rescued dogs. Angela is a member of the Harris County Master Gardener Association (Retired), and a member of the Garden Writer's Association. She has been published in local and national print media, and her background includes: Texas Master Gardener 2000, Certified Propagation Specialist, Certified Greenhouse Management Specialist, Certified Rainwater Harvesting Specialist, Certified Entomology Specialist, Former Coordinator Precinct 2 Master Gardener Satellite, Former President Harris County Master Gardener Association, Texas State Master Gardener of

the Year (Awarded 2004), and Texas Master Naturalist 2001. Website:

www.thegardenacademy.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/thegardenacademy



Sooncheng Cheah or "Soon" to her friends is an avid gardener. About ten years ago, Soon became interested in kusamono and applied her horticultural skills in this new venture. She said, "Since my husband works on big trees, why don't I work on small plantings like kusamono." Soon's work was recognized when she won the 2016 Best Companion Planting Award at the 5th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, New York.

Soon's unique style draws on inspirations from nature. The result is best summed up by Colin Lewis who critiqued her kusamono at the 2013 Lone Star Bonsai Federation Show. Colin said that her works look very natural, like an English wildflower meadow, where he could just lie down and enjoy nature. Besides the more delicate and complex kusamono, Soon also creates simple, minimalist kusamono from single plants. She is a popular speaker, teaching classes for Houston, Austin, Dallas and Corpus Christi bonsai clubs, and in Houston she has conducted presentations and workshops at Timeless Trees Bonsai Nursery and several community centers. Soon's works were featured in the online Chinese magazine "Penjing World," and she received invitations to present workshops in Shanghai and Yunnan, China.



Hoe Chuah became interested in bonsai after visiting the Montreal Botanical Garden's Penjing and Bonsai Collections in 1990. Largely self-taught, Hoe learns from books and videos. He was fortunate to have made over 20 business trips to Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan, where he took opportunities to attend national and international shows, visited bonsai nurseries and gardens, observed and learned from several

professionals, many of them became his friends. As he could read Chinese and some Japanese, Hoe bought a lot of bonsai books during his travels and continues to improve his skills. After retiring, Hoe attended and completed Pedro Morales's three-year Tropical Bonsai School. Hoe has won numerous awards. His Tiger Bark Ficus received an award among the 25 Exceptional Bonsai in the 7th World Bonsai Friendship Federation Convention. He also won the 2016 Best Tropical Bonsai at the 5th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition In Rochester, New York. Hoe's trees also won awards in past Lone Star Bonsai Federation conventions, including Best of Show, Best Conifer, Best Evergreen and Best Deciduous. He works on both Lingnan Clip-and-Grow Penjing and Japanese style bonsai, from mame to large trees. In 2006, he co-founded the Houston Chinese Bonsai Society and is their current President. Hoe currently serves as Second Vice-President of the Houston Bonsai Society.



Daniel Coffey is an American bonsai artist and instructor based in Western North Carolina. His passion for bonsai has led him to a deep appreciation for a variety of styles and disciplines within the art form. He spent multiple years living in Japan as a formal apprentice to Junichiro Tanaka, 4th generation bonsai master of 'Aichien', a bonsai nursery in Nagoya Japan operating for over 120 years. Additionally, he served as intern and visiting artist for some of the finest public and private bonsai collections in the United States including the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum in Washington D.C., and The Pacific Bonsai Museum in Federal Way, Washington. His bonsai artistry, both original compositions and contributions to well established bonsai, have been displayed at national level exhibitions in Japan and the United States including the Pacific Bonsai Museum in Federal Way Washington, and at Aichien Bonsai nursery in Nagoya, Japan.



Jonas Dupuich is a Northern California bonsai professional. Jonas began his journey while working at his family's nursery when he met Boon Manakitivipart. This kicked off more than 20 years of study with Boon during which time Jonas became a founding member of Bay Island Bonsai of Northern California. Jonas has studied with Boon's Senpai, Japanese professional Daisaku Nomoto, during Daisaku's visits to the United States. In 2011, Jonas spent two months immersed in the culture of Japanese bonsai, studying with fourth-generation bonsai grower and artist Junichiro Tanaka of Aichien Nursery in Nagoya, Japan. Jonas worked on trees in Tanaka's collection and participated in exhibitions including Gomangoku, Meifu-ten, Taikan-ten, and Sakufu-ten. Jonas is the owner of *Bonsai Tonight* and author of a blog by the same name. Created in 2009, the Bonsai Tonight blog features more than 900 free articles on a wide range of topics with new posts published every Tuesday and Friday. Jonas grows bonsai and teaches classes across Northern California. Learn more at bonsaitonight.com.



Dave Kreutz started in bonsai in 1990 as a hobby. After several years he began working solely with satsuki azaleas and hired Joe Harris to teach him more about them. Eventually, he started a program titled "Satsuki Weekends" that he conducted for seven years, offering several different levels of workshops for satsuki azalea enthusiasts. There were several people who were known for their skills with satsuki hired to conduct the workshops. Then, David enrolled in a class held in California at El Dorado Bonsai Inc., that were three-year, seven weekends each year, intensives on the care and culture of satsuki azaleas taught by Tatemori Gondo from Osaka, Japan. At the end of the three-year class, Gondo administered a test to the participants, and David earned a certificate that stated he was considered a first level teacher of satsuki azaleas. After the USDA stopped all imports of material used in bonsai, David was awarded a permit to import plants into an approved quarantine house, he began importing his own trees. Today,

David imports outstanding material from five nurseries in Japan. He also conducts workshops and demos for many clubs and conventions in the United States. David continues his study as student of satsuki azaleas, and admits he is still learning new things every year. <http://www.satsukibonsai-en.com> Satsuki Bonsai-en, Imports LLC, St. Louis, Missouri.



Clark Long started out in bonsai in 1983, and what began as an interesting hobby has become a passion. Clark recalled being fascinated by the first bonsai tree he received as a gift from his sister June. His first tree is gone now, but he still has the pot after all these years. Clark also had an interest in art dating back to high school and thinks that bonsai is a very creative form that combines art and horticulture, his other favorite interest. For Clark, bonsai is a way of life today. He enjoys spending time with his collection daily and enjoys the time he spends in nature searching for the right trees to add to the collection. "Nature is the best teacher out there when it comes to inspiration and design," Clark said, and added that he is very thankful and appreciative for his good friend Alan Walker for taking him under his care back in the early 1980s to show him the basics. Clark did a lot of reading too and absorbed himself in Alan's wonderful library collection of great bonsai books. Clark is very thankful for the teachings and workshops of Vaughn Banting, David De Groot, Guy Guidry, Mas Ishi, Masahiko Kimura, and Jim Barrett. Clark considers himself to be a self-taught artist who added that he is extremely blessed to have worked with great bonsai artists, gained and gathered so much knowledge over the years!



Brussel Martin is his name. And it might surprise some to learn that there really is a person named Brussel behind the most famous *Brussel's Bonsai* in Mississippi. Brussel's fascination with bonsai and the foundation that would eventually lead to a huge bonsai business began when he was in elementary school after his father returned from a business trip to California with several small bonsai trees. Brussel was captivated by the trees, and that was the start of a lifelong love affair with bonsai. While still in his teens, Brussel sought out American bonsai masters like John Naka and Ben Oki, both renowned artists who taught Brussel bonsai concepts and techniques that helped refine his skills. As his talents grew, so did the bonsai collection in the family's backyard. Soon he was selling small trees to make room for more. The fledgling business had sprouted. Seeking the best sources for young bonsai trees, Brussel began developing business relationships with Asian growers in the mid-1970s. Now, decades later, his bonsai business is the largest in North America. Brussel takes annual buying trips to Japan, China, Taiwan and South Korea where he has friends he's worked with for decades. When you love something, it's natural to want to share it, right? Brussel does just that every spring during the

fantastic bonsai weekend known as *Rendezvous*. His nursery hosts the annual gathering of bonsai enthusiasts each Memorial Day weekend where internationally recognized teachers (Masters) from around the world and students from across the United States gather for lectures, hands-on workshops and demonstrations. And of course, there are also generous helpings of delicious barbecue, memorable camaraderie and classic Southern hospitality.

<http://www.brusselsbonsai.com>



Joey McCoy has always had an intense fascination with both art and nature for as long as he can remember. Joey graduated from the University of Texas with a BFA in Studio Art (painting, photography, sculpture), and has worked in the family business McCoy Jewelcraft as a gold & silversmith in northwest Austin, Texas. He recalls first seeing bonsai at the age of about 3 while living in Hawaii. The owner of a sushi restaurant, Pearl City Tavern, displayed his collection on his rooftop and Joey remembered being completely mesmerized at such a young age. That love of bonsai stayed with him. His interest in creating bonsai started in the mid 1980's, where he tried his hand at replicating nature in miniature while working to keep them alive. Joey joined the Austin Bonsai Society in 2003, and said he benefited greatly from the vast knowledge base and resources in the club. Joey has served as President, Vice President, Programs, Exhibit Chair, and he also chaired the state LSBF Convention in 2013. Joey has served on the Texas State Bonsai Exhibit Board since 2006, serving first as Treasurer before being elected Chairman. While there are some amazing and ancient examples of exotic bonsai out there in the world, Joey's heart is in creating from the material locally available, whether it is collected from the wild or dug from the urban landscape. For Joey, bonsai is not just a hobby, but a passion that often feels like a second job. "Bonsai is thoroughly enjoyable and takes people out of their daily troubles into a world of natural beauty," Joey said.



Byron Myrick has a bachelor's and a master's degrees in art and has taught college level ceramics for 33 years. Byron has worked with clay since taking an elective class in undergraduate school. Since the day he became hooked on pottery, he has worked with clay ever since. Byron especially enjoyed teaching ceramics all the years that he taught, and still enjoys working with people interested in working with clay. When you mix together Byron's love for bonsai and his passion for clay you end up with the perfect combination for the creation of traditional, well-functioning beautiful bonsai containers. A resident of Moselle, Mississippi, Byron is a member of the Mississippi Craftsmen's Guild. He produces pots full time, vending at many bonsai events around the Southeast and Midwest. <http://www.byronmyrick.com>



Mark Rhyne says woodworking is his passion. He creates bonsai stands, drawing on more than 20 years of experience and skill. His philosophy in designing and building bonsai stands is not to copy Chinese and Japanese styles but to springboard from those designs to create contemporary stands with Asian influence but represent western design ideas. He builds custom stands to compliment the tree's style, color, and shape using domestic and exotic woods. Construction utilizes mortise and tenon joints, and reinforced miter joints ensuring the stand's strength and durability. The wood can be left natural color or stained to the client's specifications. Stands are finished with hard urethane that brings out the beauty of the wood and preserves it for years to come. Website: <http://www.standsandstones.com>



Racie Rhyne creates viewing stones. Her unique stone choices and creative bases invite the viewer into her contemporary interpretation of what a viewing stone is or could be. The stone is the star, the base completes the artistry. Racie specializes in small stones that are versatile as companions for bonsai displays, Netsuke miniatures and decorative artwork. Racie's bases are created from a mixture of clay, wood, fossils, organic and found items. The combination of stone and base become her creation for a fresh view of viewing stones. Larger stone creations are made through a collaborate with Mark Rhyne who crafts a base using his extensive woodworking expertise. Website: <http://www.standsandstones.com>



Carlos Gabriel Santiago is the youngest bonsai grower artist featured in the ABS convention, but at 30 years of age, he already has been cultivating bonsai with famous bonsai artists for nearly 20 years. Carlos has broad experience with tropicals, boxwoods, junipers and more! He has led workshops on kuramas, root over rock plantings, repotting, styling, and his specialty – wiring. Carlos says one of his biggest passions is wiring junipers. Born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, Carlos was 13 when he visited a friend, noticed the family bonsai collection in their back yard and was immediately fascinated by the living art form. Soon after that, Carlos met Tony Rivera of Puerto Rico's Jibaro Bonsai School where he studied and apprenticed until Tony said it was time for Carlos to broaden his experience with new teachers and techniques. At his teacher's prodding, Carlos met the famous tropical Bonsai Artist Pedro Morales of Puerto Rico's Futago Bonsai when Carlos was in his early 20s. Carlos attended Pedro's tropical bonsai school, apprenticed for Pedro at his nursery on Mondays, and developed a deep understanding of tropical bonsai cultivation under Pedro's wing. Carlos also studied with well-known Latin Bonsai Artist Nacho Marin who taught Carlos

the art and skill of deadwood carving and worked with Bonsai Artist Juan Andrade of Costa Rica where Carlos refined his skills in working with junipers. In 2016, Carlos moved his family to Houston. Soon after he learned that the well-known local Timeless Trees Bonsai Nursery was hosting a workshop with Pedro Morales. Carlos contacted Pedro, and Pedro asked him to assist with the kurama workshop that was taking place at the nursery. It was there where Carlos met Timeless Trees Owner Hurley Johnson and has worked for Hurley ever since. Two years ago, Carlos's wife Darlene gave birth to their pride and joy son Dago Gabriel. Carlos is one proud papa!



Howard & Sylvia Smith have been working on bonsai together since they began dating in 1994. In 1996, they started *BonsaiSmiths* after spending many weekends on the road visiting bonsai nurseries and acquiring a significant number of trees. They attended their first Convention in 1995 which happened to be the ABS Convention in Dallas. Since joining the Bonsai Society of Dallas in 1997, they have held every board position at least once with Sylvia remaining a Board Member to date. Howard has served as President of LSBF as well as a Director of the National Bonsai Foundation. In 2001, after searching several years for the right bonsai teacher, Howard and Sylvia began serious study with Boon Manakitivipart, and are his first and second intensive student graduates respectively. Both Howard and Sylvia are the resident teachers for the Bonsai Society of Dallas and the Fort Worth Bonsai Society. They both have won many local exhibit honors in both clubs as well as multiple LSBF Best in Show Honors, placed in the top 100 in the World Bonsai Contests, won Best Medium Conifer Display at the BIB exhibit, and have had their trees and client trees displayed at the National Bonsai Exhibits in Rochester, New York. Through *BonsaiSmiths*, Howard and Sylvia continue to teach via private work sessions, workshops and demonstrations. <http://www.bonsaismiths.net>