

ABS-BSD 1995

Bonsai From Start To Finish

by Martin Klein, Andover, MA

It began as a gleam in George Gray's eye—the idea of a bonsai extravaganza for the American Bonsai Society 1995 convention hosted by the Bonsai Society of Dallas-Bonsai From Start to Finish. Sadly, George Gray passed away just as the convention planning began.

Howard Herrington and co-chair, Walter Strain, took up the challenge and continued plans for a convention. Then, shortly before the convention, Arch Hawkins, our ABS Journal Editor and also a founding member of BSD, also passed away. So the 1995 convention was held in memory of both George Gray and Arch Hawkins.

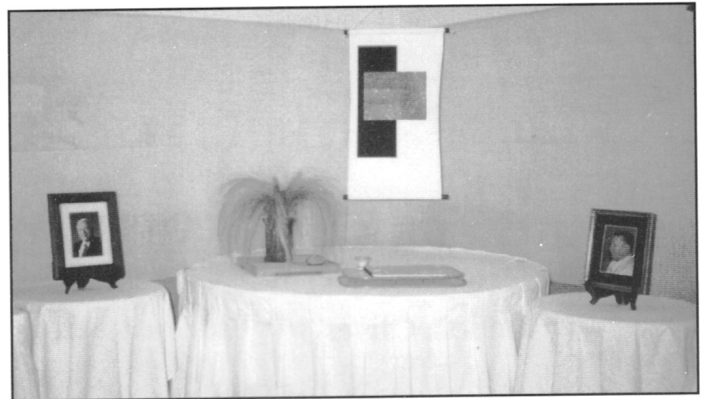
The fully subscribed workshops included large boxwoods, buttonwoods and cedar elms with Warren Hill: Japanese maple group planting, juniper on a slab and Kokonoe white pines with Larry Ragle: and large cotoneasters, narrow leaf ficus and cedar elm with Ernie Kuo. Mike Hansen led a youth workshop that produced some outstanding results.



Warren Hill assists Bill Smedley with a large cedar elm.

Mike Hansen demonstrated the restyling of a black pine that included bending of very thick raffia-wrapped branches. Mike, former President of Bonsai Clubs International, also spoke about travels in China and discussed American and Chinese bonsai. Respected potter Don Gould gave a presentation called "Burnt Offerings" in which he discussed some of the history and philosophy of bonsai containers and another talk on the selection of bonsai pots. David De Groot, curator of the Weyerhaeuser Company's Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection, gave talks about Horticultural Aspects of Bonsai and Bonsai Refinement. Vito Megna took us on a vicarious bonsai collect-

ing trip in Texas. David Schlessner and Dave Roberts spoke about "The Environment, Bonsai, and You". Ernie Kuo demonstrated refining an existing bonsai and Warren Hill demonstrated construction of a cedar elm forest. The audience watched with fascination as Warren fit a group of huge trees on a slab.



A memorial area for George Gray and Arch Hawkins

On Sunday the perimeter of the hotel ballroom was lined with tables of "All American Stars," including our own Jane Nelson. There was a large vendor area with a fine selection of bonsai plants, pots, tools, books and other materials. A beautiful bonsai display area included a memorial section for George Gray and Arch Hawkins including some of their fine trees. Excellent meals included a Texas BBQ Buffet and a dinner with a theme of "Land, Sea and Air, a Feast for the Senses."



Mike Hansen demonstrates restyling of a black pine

During the convention, ABS held a brief General Meeting at which the recipient of the ABS Ben Oki Award was announced—Taki Nagasawa of Seattle, Washington.

The Board of Directors of the National Bonsai Foundation held their Annual Meeting. There has been incredible progress at NBF towards the creation of an International Museum of the Art of Bonsai and Penjing at the U.S. National Arboretum.

There were raffles throughout the conference with a wide variety of excellent material. At the ABS table, attendees had a

chance to purchase the first copies of the book, Basic Bonsai Design by David De Groot. David's hand was sore as a long line of people asked him to autograph the book.

Klein praised outgoing President Jane Nelson and presented her with a plaque and gift as a token of thanks for her many years of dedicated service to ABS.

In a standing ovation, the attendees expressed their gratitude to Howard Herrington, Walter Strain, Laurie Herrington and all of the BSD Convention Committee for an outstanding conference. It was a successful and memorable event — from start to finish.



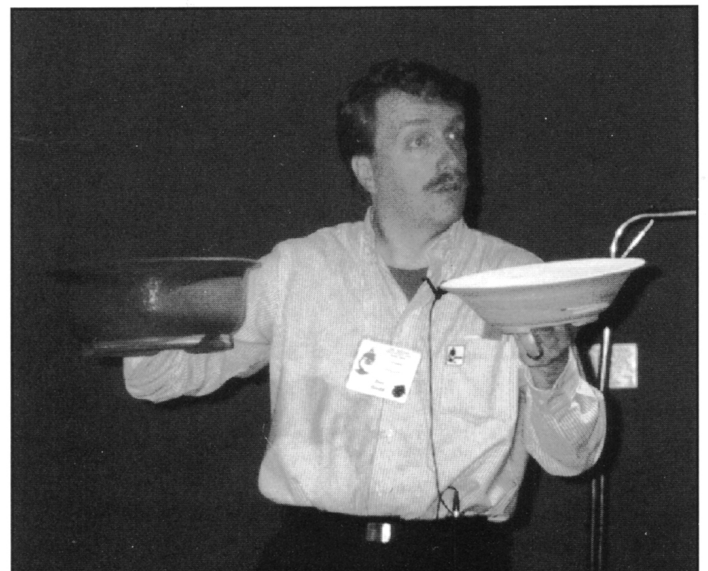
Marty Klein praises outgoing President Jane Nelson



Mike Hansen leads a Youth Workshop



Howard Herrington tries to sever Alex Shaner's tie. (Howard warned us this conference was informal — no ties allowed!)



Don Gould talks about pot selection.