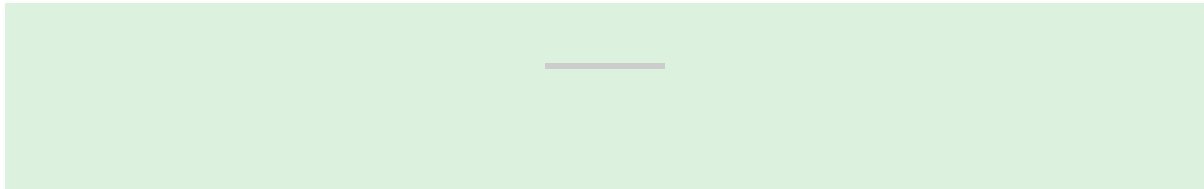


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# LSBF

## LONE STAR BONSAI FEDERATION

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Welcome to 2026  
Lone Star Bonsai  
Federation (LSBF)  
Members!

I would like to introduce myself as your 2026-2027 LSBF President. I have been studying and practicing bonsai for 20 years. My “obsession” or “compulsion” for bonsai started in California, where there is an abundance of Asian influences and either a vendor or nursery selling bonsai within 20 miles of you. In addition, my love of horticulture began when I redesigned my parents’ landscaping while in high school. Of course, I labored for free and

got them to buy all the materials. I have been an active member of the San Antonio Bonsai Society (SABS) since moving to Texas in 2011, and have held the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and many other unofficial roles.

In addition to me, your new Board of Directors are Dawn Koetting, Vice President (New Orleans Bonsai Society (NOBS)), AJ Guzman, Treasurer (Corpus Christi Bonsai Club (CCBC)), and Simon Tse, Secretary (Austin Bonsai Society (ABS)). To further introduce your representation, each club or society also has one or two LSBF delegates. Should you need to contact any board member or delegate, please refer to the contact information below:

- Ryan Odegaard, President:  
[bonsaiode@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaiode@gmail.com)
- Dawn Koetting, Vice-President:  
[dkoetting@msn.com](mailto:dkoetting@msn.com)
- AJ Guzman, Treasurer:  
[ajguzman.aj.11@gmail.com](mailto:ajguzman.aj.11@gmail.com)
- Simon Tse, Secretary: [simonltse@gmail.com](mailto:simonltse@gmail.com)

One of my objectives for 2026 is to enhance LSBF's presence in Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma by increasing visibility at annual conventions, resuming newsletter publications, and fostering communication among clubs and societies.

For starters, I would like to begin by explaining who LSBF is, as I have randomly quizzed Club/Society members on what LSBF is and what we do as an organization. To begin with, here is a synopsis of LSBF's history, organization, and operations:

*Originally authored by the late John Miller (Bonsai Society of Dallas) and briefly edited by me.*

**History and Current Members:** In 1978 or 1979, David Schlessor (Bonsai Society of Dallas) attended a John Naka workshop in Houston. While he was visiting with some members of the Houston Bonsai Society, they thought it would benefit members of both clubs and advance bonsai in general if they participated in a joint bonsai show, since there was no statewide organization at the time. They worked out the details, and the first combined show was held at

the Fair Parle Garden Center in Dallas. The next development came in 1980 when representatives from the Houston Bonsai Society, Bonsai Society of Dallas, and the San Antonio Bonsai Society met in Austin on August 23rd. This was the LSBF's first meeting with Leon McClellan (SABS) as its first president. The following clubs/societies are current members of LSBF (in alphabetical order):

1. Austin Bonsai Society (ABS)
2. Bonsai Society of Dallas (BSD)
3. Corpus Christi Bonsai Club (CCBC)
4. Fort Worth Bonsai Society (FWBS)
5. Houston Bonsai Society (HBS)
6. Lake Charles Bonsai Society
7. Longview Bonsai Society
8. Louisiana Bonsai Society
9. New Orleans Bonsai Society (NOBS)
10. Oklahoma City Bonsai Society (OCBS)
11. Rio Grande Valley Bonsai Society (RGVBS)
12. San Antonio Bonsai Society (SABS)
13. Shohin Society of Texas (non-voting member)

Sadly, the clubs/societies of Tyler, Victoria, Beaumont, and Abilene have ceased operations

over the years.

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**LSBF Organization:** The business of the organization is conducted by a board of directors and 1 or 2 delegates from each club/society. The Board of Directors or Officers consists of the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, elected by all delegates. Delegates are chosen by each club/society to represent their club/society at meetings. The Board and delegates meet quarterly via online platforms, with one meeting held in person at the annual convention. The purpose of LSBF is to provide a venue for cooperation among member clubs/societies and to encourage the development of bonsai in Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Three measures of LSBF's success include 1) our growth into Louisiana and Oklahoma, where we have grown to 13 clubs/societies, 2) the increased quality and quantity of bonsai shown at conventions compared to earlier years, and 3) the high quality of touring artists provided annually.

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**Conventions:** Sometime after LSBF was formed, the idea of having a state convention was put forth. However, there was much reluctance among the clubs to serve as hosts and sponsors of the convention. Many reasons for not being the first sponsor were given, with the main concern being the belief that the distances between the club cities were too great to entice the members to attend in sufficient numbers to make it a success. Probably the biggest drawback was that most delegates had never been to a convention and were afraid they wouldn't be able to handle it.

In 1982, CCBC presented an offer to produce the first convention. Although they were the smallest member club at that time, they were willing to do the work but requested that LSBF share the risk. They proposed that LSBF share any profit or shortfall equally with CCBC at 50% each.

Needless to say, the first convention was a huge success bonsai-wise, and it made a small profit. The conventions have grown remarkably. Most have been profitable. The bonsai exhibit has always included trees from all clubs and

societies. This makes our conventions truly a state convention—and now a tri-state convention.

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**LSBF Operations:** One of the more important functions of LSBF is to support a host club/society in the success of the annual state convention. LSBF also provides a monetary loan to the host club/society to begin acquiring convention supplies or down payments on convention locations. LSBF also offers liability insurance (typically required by the convention location) if a club/society doesn't already carry it. LSBF also hosts the traveling artist program, in which it selects and coordinates a highly regarded bonsai artist to visit each club/society, typically in the fall. In addition, in years past, LSBF has donated a portion of the traveling artist's expenses to participating clubs/societies.

As LSBF continues its growth across Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma, this expansion has attracted the attention of national bonsai organizations, including Bonsai Clubs International (BCI) and the American Bonsai Society. As a result, they are collaborating with

LSBF and the host club or society to enhance the bonsai convention experience by sharing expenses and advertising both nationally and worldwide.

At each convention, LSBF displays a plaque and notebook to remember and honor Texas bonsai practitioners who have made major contributions to LSBF and have significantly advanced the art and education of bonsai through their club/society. The last person to be honored was the original author of the history of LSBF above, John Miller, in 2024.

**LSBF Membership:** Membership in LSBF is quite simple and easy; as long as you are a member of any of the clubs/societies under LSBF, you are a member of LSBF. Each club/society pays \$3.00 per person annually to support LSBF. These dues have remained the same since for over 20 years. Why change a good thing!!!

In 2025, LSBF Delegate Hunter Hilburn (Longview Bonsai Society) began collecting email addresses from each club/society to begin building an LSBF contact database. Each person

should have received an email from Hunter outlining the database guidelines, with the option to opt out if you wish. Our database is growing with San Antonio, Longview, and attendees of the 2025 convention, but we need more people. If you have not received such an email, please contact a board member in your club/society. As a refresher, LSBF Database Guidelines are:

- Contact information will be managed and maintained by a member of the LSBF Board of Directors.
- Contact information will be used only for official LSBF business, marketing, or related club communications.
- Contact information will not be sold without the LSBF Board's express approval.
- Upon request, contact information will be removed from the database and not used again until the person in question grants permission.

*Again, if you wish to be permanently removed from the list, please click the "[Unsubscribe](#)" link below at the bottom of this email.*

## **2025 LSBF/Corpus Christi Bonsai Club/San Antonio Bonsai Society Convention**

The joint convention between Corpus and San Antonio, along with LSBF, was a huge success in October. The convention hosted over 110 attendees, 35 bonsai on display, and guest artists Mike Lane and Jennifer Price. Other attendees, including Randy Bennet, Steve Young, Dawn Koetting, and others, assisted in covering Jonas Dupiuch's absence due to illness. Despite the short time frame of planning the convention, 1 ½ years, the convention was a monetary success with each of the three members profiting over \$2,800.00. Congrats to all!!!



*Above, Jennifer Price & Dawn Koetting - Texas Persimmon Workshop  
Corpus Christi, Texas - September 2025*



*Above, Mike Lane, Jennifer Price - Plenary Demonstration  
Corpus Christi, Texas - September 2025*



*LSBF Exhibit  
Corpus Christi, Texas - September 2025*

**Convention Updates:** The 2026 convention in Austin has been cancelled due to scheduling conflicts with hotels and the convention center. We hope Austin can host another convention soon. GNOBS is hosting the 2027 convention in New Orleans. More information will be distributed in the fall of 2026.

### **2027 GNOBS/LSBF/ABS Conference:**

Mark your Calendar - March 11-14, 2027 - New Orleans, LA

Headliners Include - Suthin Sukosolvisit, Mauro Stemberger, Pedro Morales, and Jennifer Price.  
*More Information will follow.*

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Lastly, I would like to thank Stephen Hendricks (Fort Worth Bonsai Society) for his generosity in donating a monetary gift to LSBF following his passing in February 2025. LSBF is forever grateful Stephen thought of us as we remember Stephen's Texan legacy to bonsai.

**For questions about the Lone Star Bonsai Foundation, please email Ryan Odegaard at [bonsaiode@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaiode@gmail.com).**

For questions regarding this newsletter,  
please email Hunter Hilburn at  
[hunter.hilburn@gmail.com](mailto:hunter.hilburn@gmail.com)

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Lone Star Bonsai Federation - [www.lonestarbonsai.org](http://www.lonestarbonsai.org)

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