



BONSAI NOTEBOOK

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

August 2016 vol 67

August 2016 Program By: Zach Rabalais

Our program for August will be a lecture and demo by traveling artist Owen Reich. Owen has a degree in ornamental horticulture from the University of Georgia and helped establish Samara Farms, one of the largest nurseries in the Southeastern US. He has apprenticed at Fujikawa Kouka-en nursery in Ikeda City, Japan for 2 years under Keiichi Fujikawa, and is the founder of Bonsai Unearthed Nursery, and blog, in Nashville, TN. He has been traveling and teaching bonsai in the US since early 2013 and he will be with us again this year for our monthly meeting on the 10th.

Since this month's meeting will be on a lecture/demo tree, we will not need any trees brought in by our members. As always though if you have something that is looking particularly nice right now, which is always a feat in the middle of Summer in Texas, feel free to bring it to the meeting to brighten up the room. Also, if you are a new member that has a tree that is in need of some help, we always encourage you to bring those in as well. We will be raffling off the finished demo tree so be ready to pick up some tickets at the meeting.

Also Remember that we are still looking for entries for our bonsai inspiration in nature photo contest. Photos can be submitted through the link on the Austin Bonsai Society website.

CALENDAR

- AUG 10:** OWEN REICH PRESENTATION 7:30PM
- HOSTESSES:** CANDY HANSEN & MAY LAU TSE
- TREE HOSTS:** RUBY CHAING & QUOC HOANG
- AUG 16** BOARD MEETING 7PM
MEMBERS ONLY WORKSHOP: 7:30PM
(BRING A TREE TO WORK ON)
- SEPTEMBER 14:** ANNUAL AUCTION-GET READY!!
- OCT 13-16:** LSBF CONVENTION, CORPUS CHRISTI



Terry Ward's presentation on wiring

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

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The rate of advertising in "Bonsai Notebook" is \$6.00 per month or \$35.00 per year, for two column inches minimum. Additional space must be purchased in increments of two column inches. Two column inches measure approximately 3 1/2 inches wide by 2 inches high. All ads must be camera ready and prepaid. Changes to ads must be received 30 days prior to the month of the desired insertions. Other newsletter content is due on the last day of the month, in order to be published in the next month's newsletter.

Lizzie Chen is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". She may be contacted at lizziechen09@gmail.com

Austin Bonsai on the Internet

Online discussions
Picture and video sharing
Questions and answers
Upcoming events
NO SPAM

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/austinbonsai/>
or
jvmccoy@sbcglobal.net.

**President's Message
by Jonathan Wood**

This is quite a fun summer season for bonsai! In the July 29, 2016 Austin American Statesman newspaper, an article was published that highlighted our local bonsai community. We are so thankful to freelance writer, Carolyn Lindell, for taking the time to visit our club and get to know our members and club activities. It's so nice to see our club getting a 1/2 page in the local paper, and to see that TTSBE pilot exhibit addition to Zilker Botanical Garden was mentioned as well. The article highlighted what attracts us to our enjoyment of Bonsai and featured quotes from our members!

Thank you, Terry Ward, for the informative presentation on bonsai wiring last month-- amazingly detailed slides and tips for efficient wiring of common situations we encounter on our tree branches.

Looking forward to Owen Reich joining us this month with a demo at our club meeting. Remember to bring raffle \$ money to be able to go home with demo tree!

Hope our members, and their bonsai, are staying relatively cool this summer! My collection is getting water almost twice daily a number of times during the summer heat!

Also, the board and I encourage our members to get a head start on registering for the October 2016 Convention in Corpus Christi. (Handed out registration packets last meeting, but you can register using online forms as well at the Corpus Christi website).

Happy Styling, Jonathan Wood, ABS President

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web page: <http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

David Pintauro-Tabares
dannyjp@msn.com

**ABS General Meeting
July 13, 2016
Zerita Rogers, Secretary**

Meeting called to order at 7:37 by President, Jonathan Wood.

Refreshment, was provided by Ruby Chiang and Winnie Tan.

Jonathan, welcomed this evenings guests Gus Voelkel III, Daniel Pintaura-Tabares and Orcum Atokor.

Pat Ware, Treasurer, had no official report, but we are SOLVENT.

Zilker Garden Council: Alisan had great news. Cat Newlands, is now the Executive Director of Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy.

TTSBE: Joey asked for volunteers on July 17 at Mike and Candy Hansen home. Some of the TTSBE larger trees needed repotting, pruning and cutting back branches.

We had another guest this evening and Jonathan had her introduce herself. She is Carolyn Lindell, freelance writer from the Austin American Statesman. She will be doing an article on The Austin Bonsai Society. Jonathan and other members were interviewed.

Jonathan passed out pre-registration packages for members who plan to attend the Convention that is being held in Corpus Christi on October 13-16 2016. Jonathan mentioned that the program includes a variety of classes you can attend but it is on first come first serve basis and they will fill up quickly.

The tree host this evening was Joey McCoy and Els Ulug and other members who brought in their trees. Some of them were asked to give us some background of there trees.

Lizzie announced that her father Marlon Chen would be showing his Asian Art Collection at the Asian American Resource Center from July 15 to September 30, 2016.

Zachary Rabalais introduced Terry Ward who worked on our Basic Wiring technique.

Terry did an excellent job on how wiring is used in the art of Bonsai. Wiring can be used to shape trunk or for better movement in the tree branches. Thicker wire is used to shape the trunk. Thinner wire is used on branches. Annealed copper wire is soft, but once used it becomes stiff and unforgiving. Special care must be exercised when removing wire as tree bark is easily damaged. Aluminum wire is much easier to work with. There are multiple size wiring used to shape trunk and branches. Before using wire ensure wires are at room temperature and malleable. Don't use steel wire, as rust may present a problem. Start wiring from bottom branches or trunk at a 45 degree angle, coil wire not too loose or too tight. If there is a chance of damage to a branch or trunk these are some of the items you can use. Raffia, plastic, tape, tubing, padding, cut paste or garden hose There is a two branch wiring also. If first wire is not strong enough you can use a second wire. Once your Bonsai has been wired, regularly check that the wires are not cutting into the bark. It's best when removing wire to do this with cutting with a wire cutter in smaller pieces. Trying to uncoil wire may end up with damage to the branch. Before wiring a Bonsai, whether trunk or branches, practice on cut branches or a piece of wood.

Meeting was adjourned by Jonathan at 9:00 PM.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2016
Zerita Rogers, Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Jonathan Wood.

Present were Jonathan Wood, Zachary Rabalais, Mary Lau Tse, Simon Tse, Angie Hewes, Zerita Rogers.

The Board voted to accept the minutes for our last meeting.

Pat sent a copy of the Treasurers Report. The total Income over expenses for the month of May is \$2,184.41. IRS has been taken care of for 2015.

The Treasurers Report was approved by May Tse and accepted the board.

Some topics discussed by the Board were, the upcoming event with Owen Reich for our General Meeting in August. Firming up some of the details prior to the event. The following week workshop will be on, Bring your own Tree.

Simon, is planning on adding additional equipment to allow the accepting of any credit cards for use at our Annual Bonsai Auction Fundraiser, but will confirm all information before the release of merchandise. Still preference is for cash or check. The Board is considering a credit card surcharge.

Jonathan, said there is a need for volunteers, from around the State, to help at the Corpus Christi Convention. We need fifteen raffle items to donate to the convention.

Jonas Dupuich is the touring artist for 2017.

Carolyn Lindell, of the Austin American Stateman interviewed the President and attended our General Meeting in July. She will be writing about our Austin Bonsai Society. It should appear in the newspaper around the end of July.

Jonathan, would like to have a new calendar started with events for 2017, before the elected board takes over.

A tree contest for beginners. Zachary, is still working on the details. Now it has been drafted and almost ready.

Jonathan, would like all of us to reach out to our new visitors and make them welcome.

Refreshment will be provided by Candy Hansen, May Lau for our next General Meeting in August.

Jonathan Wood, adjourned the meeting at 7:35PM.

JULY BONSAI BY JOHN MILLER

AUGUST BONSAI

What should you think of when the temp is in the triple digits? Its about time to get your winter quarters ready. Starting in September will let you get all things done right and not have to depend on make shift arrangements.

However now during August the temperature will make your present ob harder. The prime effort is toward keeping the roots cooler and not have them dry out. The main culprit is the late afternoon sun. It sneaks in at the hottest part of the day when there is no humidity in the air to buffer some of the heat and is at an angle that gets it under any foliage or awning you may have.

Normally you will need to watch for changing water needs. Porous soil dries faster than one that is dense or has a high organic content. Wind dries the soil both directly and by taking moisture from the foliage. Heat from the high temps or from the sun heats the pots and evaporates the water.

Shade should be provided. Tridents maples, most elms, oaks as well as junipers and pines do good with 30% to 40% shade cloth. Thin leaf trees like Japanese maples are understory species and work with 50% cloth. 60% and higher should be avoided. It might be used on the western exposure to protect from the extremely hot late afternoon rays. Local sources (Home Depot, Lowes) are high percentage not really useful for plant protection. I order shade cloth from the internet, cheaper that way too.

Chopped long fiber sphagnum moss should be used on the soil to help retain moisture. New Zealand moss is the highest quality, South American is almost as good, North American usually is poor quality with lots of debris and breaks down fast. Again order from the internet. My Lowes had Miracle-Gro which is Chilean and also Mosser-Lee American from Wisconsin. Old cloth, shop towels, or such may be substituted or used to hold the moss if you have a windy location.

Fertilizer should be used sparingly during August. Organic fertilizer cakes are the safest to use however they should not have any 'hot' ingredient like rabbit or chicken droppings. After Labor Day switch to a winterizing type of fertilizer that is high in the third number--potassium. However for tropicals keep your regular schedule going, just be sure the soil is cool enough that the chemicals do not burn the roots.

This is a good time to remember to water twice. Dry soil particles, especially clay and organic particles tend to resist absorbing water. This is due to the surface tension of the water. Wait a few minutes after the first watering for the dry soil particles to absorb some of the water on their surface. Then the second watering gets the whole particle wet. During this period especially you should consider foliage spraying. The humidity is usually very low in the afternoon and many junipers close the stoma during the day and open at night to absorb the dew. The foliage spray cools the plant and the

environment so it can recover a bit overnight.

Deciduous bonsai may be pruned, wired, or styled during this period. Any trees wired in the spring (or earlier) should be carefully checked. If the wire is snug it should be removed and the tree rewired.

Tropicals are in their glory as long as you keep their roots reasonably cool. Defoliate, wire, and prune to your hearts content. Repotting should have been done earlier.

Summer flowering plants should be fertilized carefully so as to not burn the roots. Remove any seed or fruit that may form, they rob the plant of needed energy. Crape myrtle need to be deadheaded. Cut them back so the new shoots that form will not be too long. They should bear flowers each time. If you have the america wisteria (wisteria frutescens) they should rebloom each time you prune them.

Do not prune azaleas any more this year if you want flowers next spring. Buds have been set by now. If you are still developing your azalea, go ahead and prune. Some varieties will set a few buds anyway. In general, when pruning look for the cluster of twigs at the site of last springs bloom. Cut out all and leave two, usually the ones growing horizontally. Be sure to cut back strong growing shoots to a couple of leaves.

The combination of heat and dry conditions are optimum for the growth of the spider mites. Scale will be extremely dangerous sucking the sap from the plant. Cedar elm is subject to a very small white scale hard to see. Controls for these will generally take care of any other you may have. Be sure you read and follow the manufacturers directions for any control you use. Organic controls have no residual action and need to be used on a regular basis. Used regularly they get scale when it is in the reproductive stage outside of the shell. The only way to get scale under the shell is by a systemic poison. For example, Bayer systemic granules are applied to the surface of the soil, watered in, absorbed by the roots and transported by the sap throughout the plant. The bug gets it when he sucks the sap or eats the leaf.

My organic control is one tablespoon of each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses, in one gallon of water. Spray with fine mist sprayer covering top and bottom surface of leaves and into crevices in the bark.

Extreme dry conditions will keep fungal problems in check but watch out if we happen to get a few days of rain. Warm and wet mean an eruption of leaf spot and mildew. Control them with the 1% hydrogen peroxide spray. I like that because it does not leave a white residue like the baking soda or potassium peroxide.

BONSAI NOTEBOOK

Austin Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 340474
Austin, Texas 78734



The Austin Bonsai Society is a nonprofit organization which exists to help in providing guidance and education for individuals in their desire to learn and expand their knowledge and skill in the arts of bonsai.

The Society holds regular meetings, twelve months a year, on the second Wednesday of each month. Our social period begins at 7:00 PM, followed by our program at 7:30 PM. Normally, unless announced otherwise, these meetings are held in the Zilker Garden Center building, located on Barton Springs Road in Zilker Park, Austin, Texas. We offer a monthly program of interest to the general membership.

The cost of membership is presently only \$30.00 for an individual and \$35.00 for a family membership.

For additional information, please contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, Texas 78734



SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH
PHOTO BY JOEY MCCOY