



# Bonsai Notebook

*www.austinbonsaisociety.com*

*A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society*

*August 2014 vol 44*

## **August 2014 Programs**

by Jimbo Baumann

### **Demystify Tropical Bonsai A Panel Discussion with Q&A**

Has the central Texas weather of rain, drought and intense sun, especially in July and August helped or hurt your tropical bonsai? Do you have questions on when to repot, how to water, time in direct sun versus filtered sun/shade, what kind of fertilizers for blooming and growth? Or did you buy a buttonwood at last year's auction and you do not know what to do? Well bring your questions and your trees to the August meeting and let our panel of experts help with your questions. Our expert panel features Elaine White, Chuck Ware, and Joey McCoy and they are willing to share their experience and growing techniques for the tropical bonsai in central Texas.

As each of you know Elaine, Chuck and Joey collectively represent many years of bonsai design, cultivation, artistic quality, and success so bring those tropical bonsai growing issues to our August meeting! Look forward to seeing each of you!

## Calendar of Events

**August 13 ABS Monthly Meeting  
Demystifying Tropical Bonsai  
Reception Hosts: Deborah Van Cleef and Russell  
Kohlert Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**August 19 Board Meeting and Members Work-  
shop**

**September 8 Workshop with Visiting Artist,  
Peter Tea**

**September 9 LSBF Visiting Artist, Peter Tea**



**Ikebana with Alisan Clarke at ABS July**

*(Photo by Joey McCoy)*

## Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

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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](mailto: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](mailto:jvmccoy@sbcglobal.net)

## President's Message by Nan Jenkins

Hello, Everyone,

Well, this summer has arrived, but wasn't it nice to have such a long spring/ early summer time of milder weather than usual? That ought to help our trees that have been stressed by the dryness and heat of the past two or three summers. But it is really important that you have your trees in the shade, under shade cloth, or have the pot shaded. Water once or twice a day depending on your particular environment in your yard.

The program this month is always and interesting one to me. We will have a panel of members who know their stuff who will help us decide on needed changes for our trees that we bring to the meeting to have critiqued. I love this one because you get three different ideas, and the panelists are kind and supportive of what we are doing. I find it really helpful when I have a tree that I just don't know what to do next. It helps me move to the next level of designing a tree. So bring a tree or maybe two and get some help with them.

October will be our auction, and I hope many of you are choosing which trees you are ready to let someone else have a try at. Or maybe they are trees that just demand too much time and energy and someone else would love having them. Perhaps you are moving to better pots and would like to clear some shelf space for new ones. This is a great opportunity to trade up and sell some of your pots. Do you have an extra set of tools that you don't use anymore? We have lots of new people who would probably like to have a few more tools.

I'm looking forward to seeing you August 13th. It will be fun!

-Nan

ABS Board Meeting Minutes  
July 16, 2014

Present: Nan Jenkins, President, Pat Ware, Treasurer, Zerita Rogers, Member at Large, Deborah Van Cleaf, Member at Large, and Angelina Hewes, Secretary

Jimbo Bauman, Vice-President and Russell Kohlert, Member at Large, were not present

Nan Jenkins calls to order at 7:28 pm

Treasurer's Report: Pat Ware reported there was not much happening. The Newsletter is one of the larger expenses the society currently reports. The Society has a negative \$152.23 balance for the month.

Upcoming Events: Deborah reported greater than 50% registration for the Peter Tea workshop. Table covers and support materials were discussed for the workshop.

Jimbo's notes (which he left for Nan) were discussed. Jimbo suggested members might think about bringing tropicals to work on for the August meeting.

It was brought up that John Pittenger, a member artist has declined the January 2015 program slot. The board will need to seek a replacement for the January 2015 presentation which is currently entitled Raft Juniper. Previous program for this subject was done in 2009 by Elaine White with a juniper.

Action Item: The club is still in need of a new storage place and members are encouraged to keep continue looking and give suggestions to board members.

Simon Tse, ABS webmaster, continues to work on refinements and updates to the Austin Bonsai Society web page. A new interactive map has been displayed and further refinements are ongoing.

The Board Meeting was short and adjourned around 8:00.

Respectfully submitted, Angelina Hewes, Secretary

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e-mail: mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net  
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<https://www.facebook.com/AustinBonsaiSociety>

## **JADE GARDENS**

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Chuck & Pat Ware  
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(512) 847-2514

e-mail: [bonsaijg@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaijg@gmail.com)  
web page: <http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

ABS General Meeting Minutes  
July 7, 2014

Nan Jenkins, President calls to order 7:04 pm  
Welcomes everyone to meeting

Thanks to Hostesses: Becky Drozd and Els Ulug

New Members: Jaime Molina and Bob Charpentier

Deborah Van Cleaf reminds the members about the upcoming Peter Tea workshop on September 9, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the South Austin Senior Center. Cost for members is \$55.00. Members who will participate should remember to bring your own tree, tools, and wire. The club will provide table covers. The South Austin Senior Activity Center is located at 3911 Manchaca Road Austin, TX 78704, just north of Ben White Blvd. Phone: 512-448-0787.

Announcements:

Nan – Newsletter. Lizzie Chen, our newsletter editor, has volunteered to continue with the newsletter provided the club can streamline time with printers, folding, and distribution of the paper version. So in the interest of the volunteer labor time and the cost of printing ABS is converting to digital distribution of the newsletter. Paper distribution will continue to only those members requesting paper distribution. Members will receive newsletters via the Austin Bonsai Society (ABS) webmaster. Those members without email accounts and requesting printed format will receive a mailout. At present time this is less than 10% of the club membership.

October Meeting is the ABS Annual Club Auction: This is a big fundraiser for the club as all money raised goes to the club. Please keep this in mind and bring trees, stands, tools, and any bonsai related items you want to part with for the auction.

Jimbo: Introduced Alisan Clarke who did her presentation on Ikebana (living flowers). Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arrangement, also known as kadō (the way with flowers). Jimbo reminds the members that there was a write-up on Alisan in the last newsletter.

Alisan: Began her presentation on Japanese flower arrangements in a Japanese house and how this is a means of making your guests feel welcomed. She is dressed in the traditional Japanese kimono. Alisan studied in the Ikenobo-Ikebana School in Japan. This method dates from the 15th century and provides the background of flower arrangement from Japan. She points out a scroll on home arrangement and introduces Stephanie Quisenberry, her assistant, who also is dressed in a beautiful kimono, passes out handouts on 5 diagrams of patterns of flower arrangement. Alisan brought a 55 year old Japanese flower arrangement kit for members to see. She goes on to demonstrate how to put together a welcoming flower arrangement in a bamboo home-made vase. Her finished flower arrangement is beautiful.

Alisan introduced Joey McCoy who had put together a tokonoma (a built-in recessed space in a Japanese style reception room, in which items for artistic appreciation are displayed). His display contained a gorgeous boxwood with an accent plant on the left in front of a screen. A scroll is hung up that flows with the tree arrangement. Joey explained how a bamboo picture on the scroll added variety to the tokonoma.

Alisan demonstrated making a flower arrangement to complement Joey's tokonoma and Stephanie hung it on one side of Joey's screen.

Alisan talked on about how flower arrangements based on the heaven, man and earth theme can welcome guests to your Japanese home. She showed how height, numbers and colors add meaning to the flower arrangement.

Alisan brought a variety of different stems, leaves, home-made vases, and flowers to do her demonstrations. Afterwards she invited members to come and do their own flower arrangements to take home. Members made some beautiful arrangements using the materials Alisan brought.

It was a very beautiful presentation.

Submitted by Angelina Hewes

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### **Lone Star Bonsai Federation (LSBF) Visiting Artist Series—SEP Program**

The Lone Star Bonsai Federation (LSBF) is an affiliation of Texas Bonsai Associations, each year they host a Visiting Artist Program in the fall. Usually a single bonsai artist will visit all Texas member clubs in a two week period and complete a two event program, usually a private workshop for registered club members only and a general club presentation (guests & public invited). This year the Austin Bonsai Society (ABS) will host Peter Tea, an artist trained in Japan and a resident of northern California. Many thanks to LSBF for this bonsai artist program sponsorship. And, a special thank you to Chuck and Pat Ware for hosting and providing transportation for our Austin Texas visitor.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Peter Tea, (<http://peterteabonsai.wordpress.com>) promises to be a special program. Peter Tea was working as an automotive technician in northern California and working on bonsai as a hobby (early 2000's) when he started to focus more time on his hobby and trained with Boon Manakitivitpart (<http://bonsaiboon.com>). He later completed an apprenticeship with Dr. Junichiro Tanaka of Nagoya, Japan (<http://bonsaiaichien.com>). Please visit his website for a viewing of tree work and bonsai philosophy.

We look forward to seeing each of you and enjoying our SEP program.

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## **WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS**

**Victor Engel**  
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512-588-303  
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**Bob & Lynn Charpenter**  
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**Dan & Kirsten Hoard**  
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**August Bonsai**  
by John Miller

*Editor's Note: John Miller, who writes a monthly column for the Bonsai Society of Dallas and the Fort Worth Bonsai Society, has agreed to share his column with us. We need to make adjustments for our warmer, climate, with its early springs, long summers, late falls and erratic winters.*

Watering once in a week in July? This past week I did just that, temps were in the 66 low to 84 high range, with a day of rain. Shows that you cannot make a hard fast rule for bonsai, you have to observe and adjust.

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 heating the pots 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. 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, lots of debris and breaks down fast. Again order from the internet. Lowes as 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. 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. 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 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.

Look in nurseries for sales on materials. Many want to clear out the spring merchandise so they have fresh stuff for the fall season and you can sometimes pick up some good starter plants cheap. Have something set aside to take to workshops. Workshops are the schools where you learn what not to do as well as what makes your trees better.

# 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)*