



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

August 2013 vol 32

August 2013 Programs

by Bill Boytim

Three Person Critique

Have you looked at one of your trees and asked how should I style this tree? Have you been working on a tree and it just doesn't seem to be going in any positive direction? Want some suggestions on what to do with your tree? The three person critique will provide suggestions on how to style your tree. Each artists will provide ideas on what they would do to the tree. Each artist will sometimes see radically different treatments for your tree. This is a fun and informative program on **Wednesday August 14th**, it will give you many ideas and increase you ability to evaluate a tree and assess potential styling. For those in the audience, it is a time to sharpen your own evaluation and observation skills.

The three artists for the program are Terry Ward, Chuck Ware and Joey McCoy. They each bring a wealth of knowledge on trees and their styling. Each artist will evaluate the tree and then give their suggestions. Sometimes the suggestions will be somewhat similar and at other times will greatly diverge.

Please bring no more than two trees. Trees already in styling are preferred to one you pick up on the way to the meeting. The trees will be selected randomly for evaluation. There will be no obligation to style your tree in any of the suggestions made during program.

The **Tuesday August 20th Workshop** will be a bring your own tree workshop. This will be a chance to start styling your tree with the suggestions made during the critique or to just do maintenance work on another tree.

Remember that Wednesday Nights are Blues on the Green in Zilker and traffic can be backed

Calendar of Events

August 14th ABS Monthly Meeting
Reception Hosts: Audrey Lanier,
Zerita Rogers and Elaine White
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

August 14th ABS Monthly Meeting
Three Person Critique - with
Terry Ward, Chuck Ware and Joey McCoy
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

August 20th ABS Board Meeting
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

August 20th ABS Member's Workshop
Workshop - Members only
Bring your Own Tree
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



Elaine White demonstrating - Tropical Tree Care at 2013 July ABS Meeting
(Photo by Editor)

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 inc

hes. 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.

John Muller is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". He may be contacted at jcm2austx@sprintmail.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 Nan Jenkins

Greetings Fellow Bonsai Enthusiasts!

Your club needs your help.

I realize that being involved in club work is not the thing that many people are interested in, especially our younger generations, but the reality is that we need some of you to step up and do a few things in service to this organization. If that does not happen soon, Austin Bonsai Society will cease to exist because there will be no one to do the work that is necessary for any organization to operate. The really good news is that ABS is the least demanding of any organization that I have ever been a part of! Our board meets for about 30-45 minutes just prior to the Tuesday workshop. In most months that is it! When we are having the exhibit, there is a bit more to do, but our members all help with that. Some board members do extra—the secretary takes minutes and distributes them via the newsletter, the vice-president is in charge of the programs, and someone, not necessarily a board member, does the newsletter each month with help from others who send in pictures or write articles, such as this one.

This coming year we need to fill three vacancies on the board and find a new newsletter editor. John Muller has done a great job of that for the last three years, but is at the end of his commitment. I'm pretty sure he will happily pass on the template for the newsletter so that all that is needed is to update the information each month and get it printed and sent out via email.

In the coming month you may be contacted by the nominating committee, which we will elect at this month's meeting. If they ask you to serve, please seriously consider doing so. It really is a lot of fun and very necessary. Thank you.

Nan Jenkins

Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting
July 10, 2013,
No minutes available.

2013 Kathy Shaner Seminar
October 18th - 20th
Buda, TX

- * Seminar *
- * Grafting Workshop *
- * Bring-your-own-tree Workshop *

Registration available in August. To be notified when registration is open, email ckmurphy2000@gmail.com

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Bonsai Calendar

- SSOT meeting schedule for 2013:

Sept. 28 - Annual business meeting and panel critique.

- LSBF 2014 Convention - Houston

The 2014 convention will be held at the Houston Marriott-Westchase.

Know of an upcoming Bonsai event of interest to club members? Send the details to jcm2austx@sprintmail.com

Tropical Tree Care at 2013 JulyABS Meeting



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

continued -Tropical Tree Care at 2013 JulyABS Meeting



(Photos by Editor)

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.

As I start this column the high temperatures have not reached 80 for three days, no rain just cool. But we have to make sure the bonsai will not suffer the rest of the summer from the merciless sun and ambient in triple digits.

During this time you will need to provide shade, check your watering habits, and maybe modify your fertilizing techniques.

A good many species could take the summer Texas sun if their roots were maintained in a normal soil temp less than 80 degrees. But since their pots are in an ambient where even the August night temps may not get that cool, you have to take some heroic steps to care for them.

When you think about providing shade remember that the sun is constantly moving. The worst sun is in late afternoon when the ambient is very high and the air is usually very dry. If this sun hits the pots they will get very hot. Providing shade on the west is very important. You should cover your pots with a loose fitting cloth to allow air flow around them.

Special summer care needs to be given any kind of bonsai with rocks. That would include root over rock, tree on a rock, and a tree using a rock to mask a poor nebari. These rocks need to be shielded from the sun even more so than the bonsai pots as they are in intimate contact with the roots.

Watering usually presents a major problem, since most of us work away from home. The high ambient causes the trees to transpire heavily in the afternoon just when the soil is getting drier. The tree has difficulty in transporting enough water up the trunk.

Ideally you would be able to water three times a day. A morning watering would get the plant off to a good start. Watering at about 2:30pm would not only replace the water loss thru evaporation but would also

cool the soil back to 60 or so refreshing the tree for its afternoon ordeal. Then again water at sundown which again cools the soil and lets the tree recover overnight. If the humidity allows (no fungal problems), you can spray the foliage.

If you have to use an irrigation system, it is best to not use drip emitters as they only create wet spots in these shallow pots. Better to use a loop of 1/4 inch soaker hose going all the way around the surface of the pot. With overhead sprinklers the tree may shed the water to the outside and may not get the soil wet.

Fertilizers, including the organics, and insecticides are chemical activities and as such are greatly influenced by the temperature. You still need to feed the trees and control the insects but read all labels carefully. You would be advised to use a lower application rate usually.

Meanwhile all the usual mundane things must be taken care of. The warm conditions are great for the bad things. Spider mites especially grow fast and are more damaging. Any problems you have had in the past, scale or other insects, will probably need to be attended to.

In the real world, plan your soil mix for your average conditions and then if you have a long wet spell tilt the pots for drainage and give an extra watering when hot and dry. Put loose sphagnum moss on the surface to keep it from drying out. Use some loose covering on the pot to shade it from the sun. A windbreak could help with tender leaved trees.

Remember to water twice. Wait a few minutes after the first watering for the dry soil particles to absorb some of the water on their surface. Then with the surface tension reduced the second watering gets the particle wet.

We can still repot our Tropicals and Semi-tropicals like Fukien tea, Bahamas Black Olive, Buttonwood, Ficus. When repotting, be sure to wire the tree securely in the pot to give it good stability against the winds. It might be a good idea to also tie the pot to the bench also, especially if there is a lot of foliage or your pot and soil mix are lightweight. You should

remember that even the tropicals do not like their roots hot. Sun on the pots may heat the soil and prevent new root development even tho the tops may break new buds.

Spring flowering species usually set their buds in the fall. Most azaleas set in July. For good flowering next year do not prune them and feed with a higher phosphorus mix. Some of the minor elements are needed for brilliant colors.

Deciduous trees usually slow (but do not stop) their growth during summer so you can do some pruning on them. Pruning can stimulate new growth that may not have time to harden before winter resulting in some dieback of the new growth. On these trees its better to wait until later. After leaves have fallen you can see where corrections need to be made more easily. However you should not let tip growth ruin the fine ramification on finished trees. Keep it pinched.

Help your club by noting bonsai related things while you are driving around. Any possible collecting sites, nurseries, sources for soil ingredients, people who could present an interesting program would be of use. Your club officials are usually not wellsprings of information and would welcome any inputs. Also write a short (or long) article for your local newsletter editor. It could be on a new or unusual species, where you saw something interesting, etc. Small things like that would be most welcome and make your club grow and keep it interesting both for you and others.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes July 16, 2013

Zilker Garden Club House

Russel Kohlert, Nan Jenkins, Pat Ware, Bill Boytim and John Muller were present. Meeting called to order by Nan Jenkins.

The following items were discussed and did not require a formal vote:

1. Come this October we will be looking for help filling several Board positions. And in the meantime we would like to **find someone to fill-in with the Secretary duties**. It would be a great opportunity to temporarily see what the Board Secretary does. So, please consider it, and let Nan Jenkins or Bill Boytim know if your are interested. They can be contacted if you just have some questions. A nominating Com-mitty will be looking for persons to serve as Board members for the 2014 Calender Year.
2. We discussed the dates and activities for the Traveling Artist, who is Sheryl Manning of California. The dates are Tuesday September 9th and Wednesday September 10th. More to come on her visit.
3. **The Treasure's Report:** We have the same balance of 2,140.71, as we did last month.
4. Again we are discussing methods to increase our membership and ideas are being solicited, so please share.

Meeting was adjourned by Nan

Respectfully submitted by John Muller,
substitute Secretary

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 Editor)