

Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

February 2013 vol 26

February 2013 Programs

by Bill Boytim

Hands On Grafting Program “Where the Cambium meets the Cambium”

Over the past few years we have had programs on thread grafting and some other grafting techniques. Last September we had a program on getting ready to graft. In our September and October Workshops we had programs on sharpening and maintaing your bonsai tools to include grafting knives.

This February you have the chance to see and do “where the cambium meets the cambium”. During our regular program **Wednesday February 13th** and the following **Tuesday February 19th** workshop will be your chance to learn and perfect your grafting skills. We will have members that will be able to help you do an approach graft, thread graft, cleft graft, add branches or roots to your tree.

Please bring your tree and the material that you want to graft onto your tree. If you want to add roots, seedlings are best to use. You will also need a grafting knife or other sharpened knife, binding material (raffia, cotton string, jute string, budding tape), water sealing material such as parafilm or one of the other sealing materials, small plastic bags, duct tape, spagnum moss (not the brown fine milled type but the fibrous stringy type).

An additional form of grafting a Phoenix or Tanuki style will be available through The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit. This workshop will meet at Elaine White’s house in Lakeway on **Sunday February 17th** starting at 10:00 am. Cost of this workshop is \$65 and includes a Shimpaku whip and dead wood, plus instructions on how to prepare the deadwood for the graft. Please contact Elaine White at 512 266-2655 to reserve your spot.

Please provide any ideas you have on programs and suggested speakers to Bill Boytim, 282-3580 cbboytim@att.net as soon as possible.

Calendar of Events

**February 13th ABS Monthly Meeting
Reception**

**Hosts: Els Ulug and Joey McCoy
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**February 13th ABS Monthly Meeting
Approach graft, thread graft, cleft graft
by ABS Members**

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

**February 19th ABS Board Meeting
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm**

**February 19th ABS Member’s Workshop
Workshop - Continuation from General
Meeting subject**

Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



**Mike Hansen demonstrating Zelkova on Tile
at the January 2013 General Meeting**

(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 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

Are we in winter, summer or possibly our very brief spring? What crazy weather, even for central Texas. I really want a crystal ball so I can find out if we are going to have another arctic front that takes our temperatures into the 30's or even 20's. That, of course, is a major unknown for our precious bonsai trees. Repot now or wait? Put them all out into the beautiful sunshine, or keep them away from it so they don't leaf out too soon?

We all have to decide those things based our own micro-climates in our yards. Different spots in my yard can be five or more degrees different at any given time. Pay attention to your trees, and hopefully we can guess correctly!

This week I also discovered lots of our cute little bugs having a chomping good time, especially on the trees in the greenhouse. I pulled out the neem oil and soap mixtures and got after those aphids and red spider mites. We may need a lot of the various pesticides this year unless we get more freezing weather.

I'm busy cleaning pots, mixing soil and getting ready for the rush of repotting time. I don't have many deciduous trees, so my big rush comes in June and July when I can do the tropicals and semi-tropicals.

I hope everyone is taking their donation booklet with them any time you are going to a store that might give us something for the raffle. (I think that is all the stores.) Remember that the raffle is the place that our club will make whatever profit we get from the convention. So we need STUFF, any stuff, to raffle off. Of course, we would also take some great bonsai things too—including trees!

Happy Potting everybody!
Nan

ABS General Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2013

Zilker Garden Club House

Newly elected President Nan Jenkins called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

There were no new members or visitors tonight.

Pat Ware was thanked for the night's refreshments. She then passed out the Profit/Loss comparison from 2011 and 2012 with the 2013 Budget and their differences. A short discussion was held about the newsletter expense. Pat also spoke about the newly printed Convention Packets available for everyone tonight, and discussed the Convention sponsorship proposal: everyone should think about businesses to approach and look into for possible off-setting some of the Convention costs. For more information, please see one of the Convention Chairs.

Charlotte Cranberg talked about how the Garden Council is looking to fill board positions at AAGC (President, Treasurer, greeter). See Charlotte if you are interested in volunteering. The deadline of March 15th for submission to Down the Garden Path was announced as well.

Charlotte showed the flier she brought from the funeral of Don Rehberg, a long-time member who passed away on Jan 5th. Joe Trochta shared some memories and thoughts about Don to the group.

Joey invited anyone in the club to join us at the Convention planning meetings. All members are welcome to attend. He and Nan reminded the group that everyone's help is needed to make the Convention a success, and to please get involved. Everyone was also reminded to give items for the raffle, and also not to wait to register for workshops as some may sell out quickly.

Nan introduced Bill Boytim who asked everyone to be thinking of program ideas they would like for the club this year and to contact him with suggestions. Please give him ideas on topics that interest you.

Bill then introduced Mike Hansen who led the program of the evening of creating nebari by planting a Zelkova through a tile. Mike first illustrated the technique on the dry-erase board, then demonstrated the technique by drilling a tile and planting a tree. Next two Zelkova trees belonging to Joey and Nan (from the original 2010 workshop) were removed from their pots, the roots were cleaned and trimmed, the tile removed, and the evidence of this program was shown. They were then repotted and trimmed back, ready to continue their path to Bonsai.

Respectfully Submitted
Joey McCoy, temporary secretary

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(call for directions)

REMINDER:

DUES ARE DUE *NOW!*

PLEASE BRING TO MEETING OR MAIL
TO TREASURER

JADE GARDENS

HOME OF



Chuck & Pat Ware
Owners
Visa & MasterCard

12404 Ranch Road 12
Wimberley, TX 78676
(512) 847-2514

e-mail: bonsaijg@gmail.com

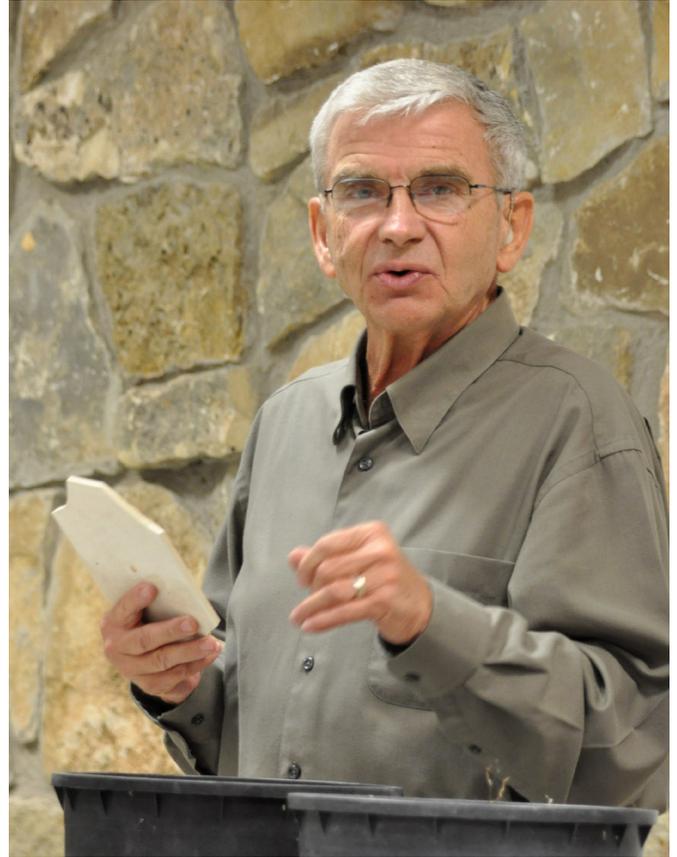
web page: <http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

Bonsai Calendar

- **SSOT meeting schedule for 2013:** Feb. 16 Flat Root/Root over Rock; Mar. 23 Convention Display, DYOT; June 1 Logstrum Workshop or Tropical with Stone; Sept. 28 Annual business meeting and panel critique.
- **The 2013 state LSBF convention will be April 11-13, 2013, at the New Braunfels Convention Center.**

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

January 2013 ABS Program - Zelkova on Tile Revisited



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

January 2013 ABS Program - Zelkova on Tile Revisited, continued



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

WE, the **ABS – American Bonsai Society** are forwarding you this message from the National Bonsai Foundation. They are in need of support and we are hoping you will feel the need to help them.. The ABS in conjunction with the Chicago Bonsai Society have pledged \$5,000 but we know this is no where near what they need so again, we are in hopes that you will also send a small donation towards this great Bonsai Museum. Please pass this information onto your fellow Bonsai enthusiast and to your local club.

Dear Bonsai Enthusiast

I would like to update you on the National Bonsai Foundation’s campaign to raise the funds needed to renovate the 37-year-old Japanese Pavilion at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum in Washington, DC.

Thanks to your efforts and supporters of the art of bonsai across the USA, we are closing in on our fundraising goal of \$2 million which is the estimated cost of the renovation. This includes the renovation not only of the Japanese Pavilion itself but also of the Kato Family Stroll Garden leading into the Pavilion.

So far, we have received in cash and pledges about \$1.7 million. A complete list of donors appears (and is updated regularly) on the NBF website at <https://www.bonsai-nbf.org/site/campaigngifts.html>. (Please let me know of any omissions or corrections.) We have already deposited the funds needed to pay the architects for the cost of preparing the construction documents, and just received from them those documents completed to the 50% development level. We hope to start the actual construction later this year.

Of course, there is still work to be done, and we would greatly appreciate your help in raising the balance of the funds needed. For everyone in America who loves the art of bonsai, this is our National Museum -- a cultural icon we can all be proud of, showcasing bonsai and penjing for the national and international community. The Japanese Pavilion was the genesis of this National Museum, and displays bonsai with great historical significance that propelled the dramatic expansion of the art of bonsai and penjing in this country.

BTW, NBF has developed a fabulous new “official” app for the Museum, now available for free downloading on your iPhone. Go to the App Store and search for the “National Bonsai & Penjing Museum,” and there it is. Just open it and take a virtual tour of the entire Museum, plus much more.

As to the Japanese Pavilion, attached are the Frequently Asked Questions, and the pledge form.

We are completing plans for the new Donor Recognition Wall at the Bonsai Museum. A donation of \$5,000 will ensure the donor’s permanent recognition as an important supporter of the Bonsai Museum. The names of all donors will, of course, also be publicized through NBF’s new digital outreach program, including our website.

The renovated Japanese Pavilion will be quite a milestone in the history of the Bonsai Museum – confirming the lasting legacy of the 1976 Bicentennial Gift of bonsai from the Japanese people to the American people and breathing a renewed spirit into the Bonsai Museum as a whole. Once completed, we will certainly have an exciting opening ceremony at the US National Arboretum, and I hope you will be there to help us celebrate.

Thank you for your help and best wishes.

Felix Laughlin
NBF President

February 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.

The big event we are looking forward to is coming up--repotting season. Normally the 'best' time to repot is when the sap starts to flow and buds swell. In the real world we usually need to fudge this a little because of constraints on our time so we need to do it earlier. But never after the buds open. Deciduous trees repotted in Jan will need the new roots protected by setting on the ground and mulching good (think about the nursery trade planting yard trees in early winter).

Preparing a group of basic soil mixes can save time at the actual repotting. Mix your favorite recipes in 3 sizes, for small medium and large pots, and then modify them by adding some extra of one material or other to suit the particular tree you are repotting. There is no perfect mix, you must decide based on your backyard.

The basics of good mixes:

- Permit free drainage. Use granular material--decomposed granite, lava gravel, pumice, haydite, Turface, etc.
- Provide water retention material--akadama, ground or decomposed bark (organic, should not break down too quickly).
- Provide air space--Use appropriately sized particles.

Moisture retention is controlled by the type of material (e.g. akadama (good) vs granite (poor) and by particle size (finer particles retain more residual water).

A good general mix for this part of the world is equal parts of akadama, lava gravel, and pumice.

Akadama is not magic. It is merely a soil native to Japan which is a volcanic island. After lava has broke down they dig it and low fire it to dry it, break it up and sieve it into uniform sizes to use as one part of their bonsai soil. We do not have anything native comparable on the market in the USA. The advantage of akadama is that it holds water uniformly throughout the particle and is soft enough for roots to penetrate easily. Having this source of moisture close to the trunk results in short fibrous roots. So I have started using it on my bonsai. I feel the pinch of dollars too much to utilize it on the growing stuff even tho I am sure it would speed up their development.

Check wire applied last year. During dormancy the woody portions tend to lignify and swell. Severe wire marks can occur. Remove any tight wire.

Early February is the end of the season for major pruning. You

may be able to continue for a while on some late sprouting species such as the oaks. After the onset of sap flow you should not try to make big cuts, cut paste or pruning sealer cannot withstand the hydraulic pressure created by the urge to grow.

If there is a significant warm streak, you could get some activity from over-wintering pests. A dormant spray (horticultural oil or a very weak lime sulphur) should be used on outside plants. The lime sulphur should not be used on any green growth or after buds begin to swell. The lime sulphur will also serve to kill fungal spores and help control any bacterial diseases. For the greenhouse use the original organic spray mixture. I get good control of mites, aphids, and even scale with it when used on a weekly basis.

My original organic spray is 1 tablespoon each of Fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water.

Using organic fertilizer cakes on top of the soil is a better way to fertilize. You may make your own or buy one of the commercial versions from your local bonsai vendor.

I would suggest that you also repot azaleas at this time. The roots will be reestablished by blooming time. This is much easier on the tree than waiting until after bloom when the temperature will be hot. (An aside note: later on, before blooming starts, you will be removing a lot of excess buds anyway which will reduce the stress on the tree at that time).

If new growth appears, keep it pinched so you keep the internodes short and develop a compact set of twigs on the branches. On alternate leaved species (e.g. elms) pinch when the shoot gets 4 or 5 leaves. Fingernails or shears can be used. If the twig gets too long it will be tough and you have to use shears. On opposite leaved trees (maples) pinch the central shoot as soon as it can be distinguished from the two leaves. To do this really right you need to use pointed tweezers.

Spring flowering plants will have their buds set on last years growth so pruning them will remove some flowers. Those that bloom later in the year will generally bloom on this years growth. Pruning them will reduce the amount of flowers. In some cases such as crape myrtle, tip pruning of the branch will result in no flowers at all. In these cases you must decide which is most important, ramification or flowers. A compromise would be to prune the branch shorter than you normally would and then let it bloom on new growth which will at the proper length.

When the growth starts the tree will need fertilizer. However, use one that has only a small amount of nitrogen (the first number). The tree is naturally programmed to grow rapidly at this time so you don't need to encourage it further. Feed lightly to maintain a healthy green foliage. Trace minerals should be added to help with both the foliage color and the color of blooms.

Convention Chronicle #8
Tree Ring Circus – April 11-14, 2013 New Braunfels TX
www.lsbconvention2013.com

Volunteering for Convention is one of the most rewarding experiences, I can tell you from experience. We will need helpers in every area from set up and take-down, to registration and raffle, exhibit and room monitors and more. It really is going to be a all-hands-on-deck show, and we just can't do it without you! Register early, take your favorite workshops, win some raffles, shop the vendors and enjoy the exhibit, but please also volunteer your time to help us make this event a success. The Committee chairs will be asking for workers so please be generous. If you're not asked directly, you're still needed! See one of the convention chairs to ask how you can help. We will all be distinguished as a worker by a special shirt, so be sure to volunteer and get your order in soon.

One of the workshops we're holding will be Texas Natives. This will actually be a variety, a smorgasbord if you like, of different trees native to the state. We will have species represented from the other native tree workshops as well as some species that will only appear in this one. Some of the material includes: Bald Cypress, Cedar Elm, Mustang Grape, Nettleleaf Hackberry, Mulberry, Fragrant Mimosa, Oaks, Texas Baccharis, Yaupon Holly, Texas Persimmon and more. Plant material will vary wildly in type and size. Everyone will choose their own material, but the order in which they choose will be by random drawing. We cannot guarantee the availability of a certain species, so come to this workshop with an open mind & a sense of adventure!

The Vendor room at this show is going to be huge. We will have sellers from Texas and other parts of the nation with a large selection of hand-made products (Bonsai, pottery, handmade stands and more!). On Thursday evening, join us for the Early Bird Reception which will allow those who come early to get the first jump on the Vendor's tables. We will be hosting the Emerging Talent Competition at the same time, which should be a fun demonstration of our local skills.

Early registration of only \$125 runs until March 15th, so be sure to send your registration in early (when choosing, checks don't cost the convention, while credit cards always charge us a fee). Some workshops are already half full and others are going quickly. We hope you come to stay for the weekend, but there is also a daily registration available for \$30, as well as a daily general admission of \$5 (which will get you into the Exhibit, Raffle and the Vendor rooms only). This is a time when our state Bonsai community comes together for the biggest party of the year, I hope to see everyone there!

Joey McCoy

Convention Chair

ABS January Board Meeting Minutes

January 15th, 2013

Meeting opened at 7:09 PM

Present at the Meeting: Nan Jenkins, Pat Ware, Russell Kohlert, Joe McCoy and John Muller

The Treasury Report as presented at the General Meeting, was approved.

We need volunteers to Host for several of the Meetings... please sign-up! **Reminder that Annual Dues are Due.** All the Meeting Dates have been confirmed for this year. The visiting Artist will be announced soon. Please make suggestions for General Meeting Programs. It was decided to extend the agreement for the current Storage Unit which is located in North Austin, to March 2014. There was discussion on table coverings for our Annual Show, and that could be used at the Convention. Additional upgrade suggestions for the Show were made. It was decided to print the ABS Newsletter in Black and White. A color version will be available at the Web site.

Adjourned 7:50 PM

Minutes provided by substitute Secretary: John Muller

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



Spot Light of the Month
Editor's Choice