



# Bonsai Notebook

*www.austinbonsaisociety.com*

*A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society*

*September 2013 vol 33*

## September 2013 Programs

by Bill Boytim

### Cheryl Manning Workshop and Demonstration

Cheryl Manning is the Lone Star Bonsai Federation Visiting Artist for 2013. She will be in Austin on **September 10th and 11th**. Cheryl has over 30 years of Bonsai experience and has studied in California and in Japan. She was a student of John Naka.

Cheryl will host a bring your own tree workshop on **Tuesday September 10th** at Zilker Gardens, starting at 7 pm. The cost of the workshop is \$50 and there are 8 slots available. Please contact Nan Jenkins to signup 512 852 1029 or email lodenana@fastmail.fm. There were still a few slots available at the time this article was written. Silent observers are welcome during this workshop.

Cheryl will demonstrate styling a tree at the regular **Wednesday September 11th** ABS meeting. The tree will be selected from several the club has available for demonstrations. The tree used in the demonstration will be raffled off at the end of the meeting. We will be going to **Dinner with Cheryl before the demonstration on Wednesday**. The location will be announced on Tuesday at the latest.

The monthly workshop will be held on **Tuesday September 17th** starting at 7 pm. This is a bring your own tree workshop.

October Wednesday Meeting will be the annual auction. Start sorting through the Bonsai items that you would like to donate to be auctioned. Proceeds from the auction supports our club and the continuance of the art of bonsai.

## Calendar of Events

**September 11th ABS Monthly Meeting**  
Reception Hosts: Valerie Morris,  
Dario and Jo Octaviano  
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

**September 11th ABS Monthly Meeting**  
LSBF visiting artist  
Cheryl Manning  
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

**September 17th ABS Board Meeting**  
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

**September 17th ABS Member's Workshop**  
Workshop - Members only  
Bring your Own Tree  
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



**Nan Jenkins sharing a Traveling Artist's vision of a demo tree at our 2013 August ABS Meeting**  
*(Photo by Editor)*

## Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

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

## President's Message by Nan Jenkins

The coming two months are some of my favorite when it comes to Bonsai work! In September we get to experience one of the primary bonsai artists in the United States, Cheryl Manning. Cheryl will be doing a workshop on **Tuesday, Sept.10th**, where we can bring trees that we want to work on with her to get her suggestions and help on styling, wiring, even the needs of particular trees. Then on **Wednesday the 11th** she will join us at our regular meeting to demonstrate how she develops a tree. The tree will be auctioned off following her work. These are great opportunities to increase your bonsai skills. There are still a few slots available for the workshop, so call me ASAP to get your name on the list. The cost is \$50. The demonstration is free. Call 512-587-4506 or email at [lodenana@fastmail.fm](mailto:lodenana@fastmail.fm)

Then in October we will have our annual auction at Austin Bonsai Society. We all bring trees, pots, tools, magazines, books, etc to sell to other members of the society. It is a time to sell trees that you are ready for someone else to work on and to buy new trees that someone else has begun, but you want to continue the styling work, or pick up pots and supplies for your bonsai garden.

I keep thinking that it is only a few weeks until the autumn equinox on Sept 22nd. Surely that means that we will soon see a break in the heat, which helps our trees, our yards and our souls! I hope your trees have managed to survive and perhaps even thrive this summer season. Now if we can only get some rain so we have the water to give to them! Is anyone a good rain-dancer or cloud seeder? Either would be welcome.

See you on the 10th or the 11th . Good watering everyone.

Nan

## Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting

August 14, 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](mailto: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](mailto:jcm2austx@sprintmail.com)*

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## Cheryl Manning – Biography

Cheryl Manning has been passionate about the art of bonsai for over thirty years. She was fortunate enough to become a student and close friend of John Naka, the father of American bonsai. She also spent a year in Japan as an apprentice to bonsai master Yasuo Mitsuya, owner of Tokai-en in Toyohashi.

Cheryl has conducted bonsai demonstrations and workshops in the United States, Canada, and Australia. An artist's eye makes design her forte. Her other strengths include carving, refinement, and presentation.

She's written more than fifty articles for major bonsai publications including a quarterly column "Trash To Treasure" for *Bonsai: Journal of the American Bonsai Society*. Cheryl has also edited *John Naka's Sketchbook* (National Bonsai Foundation, 2005) and is contributing "Sketchbook Stories" (anecdotes about the trees featured in *John Naka's Sketchbook*) for the *NBF Bulletin*. She's currently researching and writing a biography of John Naka.

Her artistic philosophy: it doesn't matter whether you're a novice with beginning bonsai or an expert with masterpiece material. All levels of expertise should be appreciated and encouraged to grow. It's the journey one takes that sets the art of bonsai apart from all other arts.

Three person critique at 2013 August ABS Meeting



*(Photos by Editor)*

## September 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.*

I think plants are more attuned to the varying length of days than to temperature to set their life cycles--dormancy, flowering, etc. For example, the cedar elm sets buds in early August so they are ready to bloom with the first fall rain. That way its seeds have the best chance to get a root down far enough to survive the next summer. It is probably not late enough for the bonsai to go into their pre-dormancy slow down period. If they are still growing, continue twig pruning and other summer care.

There will still be some days with pretty hot temps. So as the sun changes its angle make sure that the pots do not get too hot in the afternoon sun. Also watering now becomes harder. As trees slow their growth they do not take as much water. Neither will they transpire as much on the cooler days. So check each one separately and water as often and as much as the individual tree requires.

Help your trees go into dormancy. The general rule of thumb on fertilizers is to stop giving nitrogen early in September and fertilize with one that has a formulation like 0-10-10. They will need less water as they quit active growth but on warm days trees with green foliage will still transpire and will have need of that water. Most tropicals have a dormant season also but it is caused by dry conditions rather than cold. These types need to be hardened also by cutting the fertilizer to halt active growth and give them lighter watering. This will enable them to withstand the transfer to the greenhouse better.

Check the trees you still have wire on. When the cooler days get here some trees will expand their branches and get wire cuts rather quickly. You need to check them periodically over the winter also. Winter growth will usually be pretty slow but can occur, especially on the evergreens. Cut the wire off. You can easily break the branches trying to unwrap the wire and its just not worth trying to save the wire. Work from the outside end back so that you do not overlook a small piece of wire. It would cut into the branch very soon. If you need to reapply some wire take care.

Two other things you can do now. You should prepare your winter quarters and you should study your evergreen trees to determine if you need to do any restyling later on this fall. Bonsai in Texas should be a year around sport, you don't need to cover them completely like up north. Try to put them where you can see some of them. Just remember that they will still need to be watered and evergreens will need some sun.

Check on the place you expect to winter your bonsai.

(1) Make sure that it is clean. Debris harbors insects and other plant pathogens. A strong lime-sulfur spray can be used to disinfect the area as well as your growing area after the trees are removed.

(2) Be sure that you will be able to check the water needs of the trees.

(3) It should be somewhat protected from winds but should have some air movement to help prevent molds from developing.

(4) Having it in a location where you can see the trees will allow you to enjoy the winter silhouette, i.e. the branch structure and twiginess, that is a great part of deciduous bonsai.

There is not too much to be done on de-

ciduous trees at this time. Bugs and other problems are usually not a matter of concern since the foliage will be dropping soon. Evergreens and tropicals will still need to be watched for their insect problems, especially the spider mite which will be active into fall. Use the organic spray formula to control them. If we should have a stretch of damp weather you should be watching for fungal problems, leaf spot, mildew, etc. Treat fungal with potassium bicarbonate, (baking soda-sodium bicarbonate- will work about as well). I would be okay with using a 1% hydrogen peroxide solution at this time of the year for fungal control.

The organic spray formula is one tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water. This supposedly can be used as a foliar feed but I only consider it an insecticide.

Pruning and trimming 'can' be done any time that there is not a lot of sap flowing but is usually advisable to do it during dormancy. Sap flow is indicated by the foliar activity of the plant like in the spring. If your tree went into summer dormancy which sometimes occurs during hot weather then the cooler weather might result in a larger sap flow in late summer or early fall. If your plant gets a flush of new growth it would be advisable to postpone large pruning cuts for a while. Basically let your tree tell you when it is ok to operate.

Check nurseries for possible bonsai material. When the planting season is over they usually put everything on sale to clear it out so they can fill up with christmas trees.

**ABS Board Meeting Minutes**  
**August 20th, 2013**  
Zilker Garden Club House

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

**No minutes available.**

Meeting was adjourned by Nan

# 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)*