



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

April 2009

April Programs

by Mike Watson

Kakejiku is the Japanese name for the scroll that hangs in the tokanoma or the tearoom. It was introduced to Japan during the Heian period, primarily for displaying Buddhist images for religious veneration, or as a vehicle to display calligraphy or poetry. Later it became fashionable to portray birds and flowers as well as haiku. The kakejiku is an integral part of a formal bonsai display.



*A peach bonsai on display at
March's general meeting*

Calendar of Events

**April 4 Shohin Society of Texas Meeting
Convention Exhibit Selection and Panel
Critique
Persimmon Hill Bonsai 10:30 am**

**April 8 ABS Monthly Meeting Reception
Hosts: Elaine White, Audrey
Lanier, Zerita Rogers
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm
(Hosts for May's reception: Collin Murphy, Nan
Jenkins, and Timmi Kuykendall)**

**April 8 ABS Monthly Meeting
Kakejiku Scrolls with Alisan Clarke
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm**

**April 21 ABS Board Meeting
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm**

**April 21 ABS Members Workshop
Making Scrolls with Alisan Clarke
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm**

Alisan Clarke is an accomplished artist who has studied this art form and will give us more insight during our Wednesday monthly meeting on April 8th. Seeing as our annual show is next month, it is prime time to be thinking of how to improve our displays. Including more scrolls in our show would be a good start!

“Too expensive!” you say? Nothing could be further from the truth. It is extremely simple and fun to make our own kakejiku. Austin Bonsai Society members are welcome to join us with Alisan Clark for the Tuesday member's workshop on April 21st where we will learn how to make beautiful these beautiful and unique works of art. See you all then!

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Joey McCoy
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Pat Ware
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Member at-Large

Noreen Quisenberry
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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.

Collin Murphy is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". He may be contacted at ckmurphy2000@yahoo.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 Joey McCoy

When nature strikes! Having lived in Austin for 32 years I've never seen a more incredible natural phenomenon as when golf-ball to tangerine sized hail pummeled out of the sky on March 25th. All I could do was to watch in amazement as it crashed over my car, my home and my Bonsai. Luckily, most of my trees only suffered minor damage and so far I've only notice two broken pots (and incidentals like skylights and roof), so I actually count myself lucky that it didn't do more damage to my Bonsai. As an interesting bit of trivia, the two previous days with the worst hail in Austin have also occurred on March 25th in 1993 and 2005. Is this something we should watch out for in the future??

One of the exiting things in Bonsai seems to be sharing our enthusiasm with others. Showing the public the beauty of our artwork and busting as many bad myths as we can. Our Austin Bonsai educational display at Zilker Garden Festival was a great opportunity to meet with the public. I'd really like to thank all our volunteers who generously donated time and energy, and also for bringing items for our display. In no particular order, thanks to: Mike Watson, Els Ulug, Connie King, Carl Quisenberry, Bill Boytim, Elaine White, Roberto Ainslie, Jimbo, Deb Van Cleaf, Nan Jenkins and Timmi Kuykendall. You all helped to make this a great display and a great time!

The LSBF State Convention is in Houston this year on April 17-19. There are still some classes available from the world-class guest artists Boon Manakitivipart, Mrs. Milagros Rauber Herrera and Roy Nagatoshi. All information can be found online at the Houston Bonsai Society website: www.houstonbonsai.com or call 713-914-9180. The state conventions give us the chance to meet with the other Bonsai people in the state (and even farther), to further our skills and to have a mini-vacation centered on our hobby. I've enjoyed every convention I've attended and hope to see our Austin gang down there in the mix!

Happy Spring everyone!

JADE GARDENS HOME OF



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

e-mail: bonsaijg@wimberley-tx.com
web page: <http://www.wimberley-tx.com/~bonsaijg>

ABS March General Meeting Minutes

by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and recognized Bill Boytim and Connie King for hosting. Guests Jose Galdamez was introduced, and new members Roberto Ainslie and Luke Pharr were introduced.

The next TTSBE newsletter will be posted on the web and given out in goodie bags at the LSBF convention this year. Fewer hard copies are being mailed to reduce expenses. Joey thanked Joel Sarchet for last month's newsletter which was printed in color. Joel has graciously arranged to have the newsletters printed in color at no cost.

The San Antonio club auction will be held on March 12. Zilker Garden Festival will be on March 28th and 29th. ABS will be demonstrating bonsai techniques in the green room. Joey McCoy and Mike Watson will be there and need a few additional volunteers.

Charlotte Cranberg gave the AAGC report and encouraged people to attend this year's Zilker Garden Festival. It is a great fundraiser for Zilker Gardens. Contact Charlotte if you are interested in volunteering.

The club agreed to let Charlotte vote for AAGC positions as she saw fit.

Elaine White reminded everyone that flyers advertising our annual show are available and encouraged people to take a few and post them at local garden-related areas. Elaine also reminded people about the program offered by Randall's grocery store in which they will donate a portion grocery purchases to TTSBE or any other charity.

Joey reminded everyone about the workshop for March in which Elaine will guide participants in making a raft-style juniper.

Alisan Clarke mentioned the TTSBE garage sale fundraiser to be held later this year. Contact a TTSBE representative for more information or if you can host the garage sale. TTSBE is also having a fundraiser and Fiesta in San Antonio this year.

Joey introduced Elaine White who gave a demonstration on creating a raft-style juniper.

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Bonsai Calendar

SSOT Quarterly Meeting	Persimmon Hill Bonsai	April 4, 2009	
LSBF Convention	Houston, TX	April 16 - 19, 2009	www.houstonbonsai.com
Shohin St Louis	St Louis, MO	April 24 - 26, 2009	www.stlbonsai.org
SSOT Quarterly Meeting	Persimmon Hill Bonsai	June 6, 2009	
SSOT Quarterly Meeting	Persimmon Hill Bonsai	September 19, 2009	

The phone number was omitted on the registration form for the Houston/LSBF Convention April 17-19, 2009. It is 713-914-9180

Know of an upcoming Bonsai event of interest to club members? Send the details to ckmurphy2000@yahoo.com and it will be posted here.

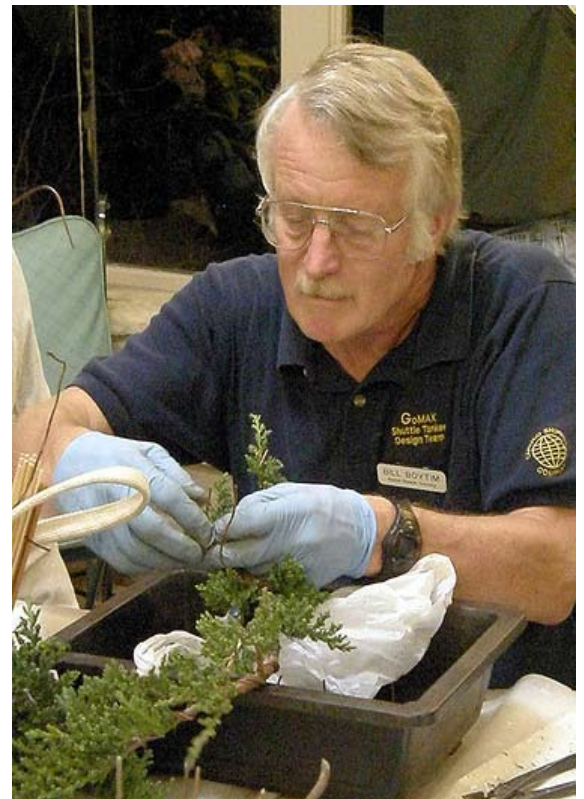
Juniper Raft-Style Demonstration by Elaine White

Photos by Joey McCoy



Elaine started with a non-descript juniper in a nursery container and transformed it into a raft-style bonsai.

Juniper Raft-Style Workshop with Elaine White
Photos by Joey McCoy



Everyone who attended March's workshop created their own raft-style bonsai

April 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.

Do the math! Bonsai is a study in mathematics. You start with triangles in the design of individual trees and forest plantings. You use the golden rectangle or Fibonacci series to proportion the tree and pot. Powers of two show you the multiplication of twigs in a very short time with proper trimming. Fortunately, you do not need to be a math whiz to do good bonsai, just follow the rules and it will look good without you having to know why.

Most trees will do good in the full sun at this time of year. However, if you have had them in partial shade be careful about moving them directly to full sun. They probably should be acclimated gradually. Too much wind will cause the leaves to burn. Some damage may not show up until hot weather.

Repotting for most hardy bonsai has ended. Very late budding species like oaks may still be done, depending on your local climate. I also do dwarf yaupon and olive then. It's still too early for the tropics. They should usually be held until the night temps are in no danger of going below 60.

Going on now is trimming, feeding, trimming, check for insects, trimming, shows, trimming. You get the idea. Trimming, that is the pinching, plucking or whatever of new growth, is the process that both develops refinement on your tree but is vital to keep it from losing that desired state. This is not pruning which is cutting of branches which should not be done when there is a strong sap flow which starts when the tree breaks dormancy and continues until after the leaves harden or later.

A good organic program takes care of both the feeding and the insect problems. I recommend the mixture of 1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses

and apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water. (A commercial product called Garret Juice which is to be used the same way uses compost tea, dried seaweed, water, molasses and vinegar. As a fertilizer this should act the same but I don't know about the dried seaweed versus liquid kelp as an insecticide.) I use the mixture both as a foliar spray and as a soil drench fertilizer. As a weekly foliar spray it keeps aphids and mites under control as well as any other insect I've had. The prime requirement is to cover the entire plant, top and bottom of the leaves with a fine mist sprayer (no hose end stuff). I try to drench soil twice a month partly because I don't think the plant can absorb all the minor elements it needs thru the foliage.

Fungal diseases can show up with damp weather. Leaf spot can be serious on Catalpa and Chinese elms and on hollies. Mildew shows up later with warmer weather. There are organic fungicides available, two are potassium bicarbonate or baking soda (sodium bicarbonate). NOTE: do not mix these with the vinegar in the foliar spray. Check an organics nursery or publications for other items to use. A 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide (dilute the standard 3% store bought stuff 2 parts water to one part peroxide) is also recommended but it can injure very new foliage.

Be sure to check your soils each day for proper water content. It is easy to assume that the soil has plenty of water when the days are cool or there has been some rain. It's also too easy for a tree with full leaves to shed water outside of the pot or a good sun and low humidity after a front to dry the soil. I suggest that you remove most of the moss so that you can see and feel the soil in order to determine how dry it is. (Moss growing on the trunk or roots will cause the bark to rot also) An automatic watering system will be an aid but you should not rely on it to replace hand watering. Hand watering allows you to adjust the watering for each tree individually. Also most automatic systems use a drip system which only waters a small spot in shallow containers.

If you have early blooming azaleas, you should remove some of the buds. Most azaleas have way too many buds to look good when they do not have room to open fully.



Part of the bonsai educational exhibit at Zilker Garden Festival

ABS Board March Meeting Minutes

by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present board members were Joey McCoy, Mike Watson, Collin Murphy, Pat Ware, Nan Jenkins, Carl Quisenberry, and Noreen Quisenberry.

Pat gave the treasurer's report. As of the end of February the income over expenses is \$504.18. 42 members have paid dues this year.

Joey talked to Charlotte Cranberg about reserving a room when visiting artist Robert Martinez comes on Tuesday, August 11. Charlotte talked with the AAGC and we can rent the green room. The Iris Society has the main room reserved and they will use the green room so that Robert's demonstration can be in the main room. The rental cost is \$120 for three hours. The board approved spending

\$120 to rent the green room for the Iris Society to use so that Robert's demonstration can be in the main room.

The Zilker Garden Festival raffle chairman wanted better donations than what ABS originally offered and turned down our donations. Nan donated a 12 x 12 metal and canvas gazebo in the name of ABS.

Collin will give a hard-copy of each month's newsletter to Jimbo for him to archive in the ABS library.

Nan suggested ways of increasing raffle revenue. Different ideas were discussed including raffling some items halfway through the meeting and placing the raffle items closer to the entrance. The club usually breaks even on the raffles.

Nan moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was passed at 7:40 p.m.



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TTSBE GARAGE SALE

We are having another garage sale!! This will be in September, so please save all your Good Ole' Stuff for us until then.

We need kitchen items, books, childrens items, tools and electronics. Please, no clothes.

As in the past, we really appreciate your help. We couldn't do it without you!!

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 \$25.00 for an individual and \$30.00 for a family membership.

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

