



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

April 2010

April Programs

by Mike Watson

Spring has sprung! What a great time to enjoy our trees. We also have a visitor coming! On Wednesday, April 14th, we will welcome Mr. Koji Hiramatsu from Kokubunji, Japan. Koji regularly teaches bonsai in Japan but this will be his first experience teaching outside of his homeland.

Koji is a 4th generation bonsai grower and teacher. He and his father, Kuniaki Hiramatsu, operate the family business (Syunsyoun-en). In the past several years they have become a magnet for shohin bonsai in Japan. Koji is a Director and Authorized Instructor of the All Japan Shohin Bonsai Association.

Although Koji's specialty is shohin bonsai, over the past 20 years he has exhibited his skill on just about any size bonsai. Don't miss this chance to see his work and possibly win the raffle tree!

For our member's workshop on Tuesday, March 20th



Joey demonstrated repotting techniques at March's meeting

Calendar of Events

**April 11th Mr. Koji Hiramatsu Lecture/Demo
MBP Bonsai 1:00 pm**

**April 14th ABS Monthly Meeting Reception
Hosts: Nan Jenkins, Timmi Kuykendall,
and Collin Murphy
(Next months hosts: Elaine White,
Zerita Rogers, Audrey Lanier)
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**April 14th ABS Monthly Meeting
Mr. Koji Hiramatsu Lecture/Demo
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm**

**April 17th Shohin Society of Texas
Convention Display Selection and
Forest/Raft/Saikai Workshop
Persimmon Hill Bonsai 10:30 am**

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

**April 20th ABS Member's Workshop
Accent Plants
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm**

we will learn about accent plants and how to make our own. Remember that the annual club show is coming up in May and we need to prepare NOW! Start getting those trees ready and don't forget that the correct accent plant can often turn an OK display into a real show stopper. This is also a good time for me to mention that we are going to need show trees, accent plants, scrolls, and stands for the program in May. More about that later...

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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

Last month we lost an important member of the Bonsai community and of our own Austin Bonsai Society. Dr. Bill Cody passed away on March 2nd in Belton. Bill leaves behind a legacy of careful Bonsai study based on scientific principles. He never simply accepted horticultural practices with faith, but instead would always strive to understand the reasons and logic behind it. With numerous articles published in national and local Bonsai resources, Bill himself became a reference on topics such as heat stress on potted plants as well as collection of our native Ashe Juniper. Beyond his skills as a Bonsai artist, he was a good friend who will be sorely missed.

One of Bill's passions was with our natives here in Central Texas. He was adept at recognizing future Bonsai potential and carefully collecting specimens from the wild, all the while keeping meticulous notes and photographs. The quality of our native material ranks up there with the best, due to the harsh conditions many plants must endure, and I have seen some amazing specimens on display over the years. Please think about your own native trees and select some for entry into the display of the LSBF convention show this June in Fort Worth. The setup is going to be a bit different this time, as I understand it. Each club will have its allotted space to display as a group. This gives us the opportunity to have a unified display, really showcasing the plants we select. Mike Watson will give an announcement soon about this, but for now, please start considering which of your native Bonsai you would like to bring. The icing on the cake of LSBF is that it's highly likely that the show will be featured in a major international Bonsai publication with a focus on our native trees. I'd love to have a great showing from the Austin club, and know we'd have an outstanding display!

Another reason to support the LSBF convention is that this is the primary money used to get our national and international visiting artists each year on the artist tour (this year we will have Roy Nagatoshi.. cannot wait for that!). So if you've been on the fence about attending the convention, consider this: you're helping out our club and all the Texas clubs, you have the opportunity to learn a lot of new skills or hone the ones you already have, and it's just a great time to enjoy the company of ...
continued on next page

so many Bonsai artists in the region. Every year I see friends from other cities and the weekend seems to fly by. Don't let this convention slip by this time.

Speaking of visiting artists, don't miss Koji Hiramatsu this month. Koji is a 5th generation Bonsai artist and a specialist in Shohin. He will be working on an outstanding specimen that will be raffled at the end of the meeting, so don't miss it!

ABS March Board Meeting Minutes

by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. present were Mike Watson, Pat Ware, Joey McCoy, Charlotte Cranberg, Becki DrozdCollin Murphy, and Nan Jenkins.

Pat reported income over expenses of \$456.89 for this year through February 28th. Zilker Garden Fest tickets have been purchased and LSBF dues have been paid.

Pat received a solicitation from a bank to provide credit cards with the ABS logo on the credit card. There was no interest from the board.

Next month Koji Hiramatsu is doing a lecture/demonstration at the general meeting. The cost for this is \$350. Club members are encouraged to attend and buy raffle tickets to support this event. The demo tree will be a shohin.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Repotting Techniques
Photos by Bill Boytim



Joey and Mike demonstrate repotting techniques

Zilker Garden Festival Volunteers
Photos by Charlotte Cranberg



Several volunteers worked at the ABS booth during Zilker Garden Festival

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.

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. Its still too early for the tropicals, They should usually be held until the night temps are in no danger of going below 60.

There are two things to consider when doing the spring trimming. Are you still in the styling stage or are you ready to do the refinement and develop the twiginess that a mature bonsai needs.

If you are still styling, you will need to develop size and movement in your branches by letting those branches grow vigorously, then cut back to a good node and repeat the process on the new shoot. At the same time you must not let the other branches get too powerful. Keep the foliage there trimmed so the energy goes primarily to the developing branch.

If your tree is a mature bonsai or is ready for refinement, Do not let the new growth get large. On elms and other trees with leaves appearing alternately down the shoot, do not let more than 5 new leaves appear. Cut back to 2 or 3 leaves, leaving the last leaf on the side that you want the new growth to appear. On maples and others with leaves coming in pairs on opposite sides of the twig, cut the center shoot as soon as you can determine it. You must get behind the new internode that is emerging. Tweezers work best for this operation. Since the shoots do not all open at the same time this could be a daily chore for the best results. Sometimes it is easier to grasp the new leaves and bend the tip sharply backward breaking the node off.

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. 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.

(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 do not know if the dried seaweed would be as good as liquid kelp as an insecticide.)

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, potassium bicarbonate or baking soda (sodium bicarbonate). Check an organic nursery or publications. A 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide (dilute the standard 3% store bought stuff 2 parts water to each 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 is 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, kill it with isopropyl alcohol) 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. Later flowering plants usually bloom on new growth so they may be pruned now with no loss of flowers.

ABS March General Meeting Minutes

by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He recognized Connie King and himself for hosting.

There were no new members or guests.

Charlotte Cranberg reminded people to attend Zilker Garden Festival later this month. She also requested that if people have small plants they can donate (not necessarily bonsai) to contact her.

Bill Cody passed away earlier this month. Bill was recently made an honorary member of ABS.

ABS will have a table at ZGF. Members are invited to bring trees to work on and talk to the public about bonsai. Contact Joey if you can volunteer to do this. Anyone who volunteers for 4 hours or longer will get a ZGF t-shirt.

The LBJ Wildflower Center bonsai display is on March 21st. See last month's newsletter for more details.

The LSBF convention is June 11th - 13th. Each club will have a section in the exhibit to display trees from that club's members.

The San Antonio Bonsai Society's auction is tomorrow night.

Joey then introduced Mike Watson who led a group that demonstrated repotting techniques.

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Bonsai Calendar

Koji Hiramatsu Demonstration
Koji Hiramatsu Demonstration
Roy Nagatoshi Demonstration
Roy Nagatoshi Workshop
Kathy Shaner Demonstration
St Louis Shohin Seminar

MBP Bonsai
ABS General Meeting
ABS General Meeting
ABS Members Workshop
ABS General Meeting
Collinsville, IL

April 11, 2010, 1:00 p.m.
April 14, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
September 8, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
September 21, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
October 13, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
May 20 - 22, 2011

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

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

