



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

August 2009

August Programs by Mike Watson

One of the things I find exciting about the art of Bonsai is how it has evolved from one culture to the next. Most people think that Bonsai is purely Japanese however, as most of us know, it originated in China and possibly has seeds (forgive the pun) from the more ancient cultures of India and Egypt. That is why I really like to see what other countries are doing with this art and how they are adapting it to their region.

With that being said, I am looking forward to welcoming this year's LSBF guest artist, Roberto Martinez from Puerto Rico. He has been described not only as an accomplished and knowledgeable artist, but also a friendly and approachable person. Roberto and 10 lucky participants will take part in a "Bring Your Own Tree" workshop on Tuesday, August 11th at our usual Zilker location. The cost is only \$45 and the list is filling up fast! There are still a few spots left so don't miss out. Call me at (521) 731-7092 to reserve your spot. This is an excellent chance to get advice on that tree that you're not sure what to do with.



Jim Trahan gave July's program on daiza

Calendar of Events

August 11 LSBF Visiting Artist Workshop with Roberto Martinez
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

August 12 ABS Monthly Meeting Reception
Hosts: Carl Quisenberry and Charlotte Cranberg
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm
(Hosts for Septembers's reception: Candy Hansen and Jim Baumann)

August 12 ABS Monthly Meeting
Roberto Martinez Lecture/Demo
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

August 18 ABS Board Meeting
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

August 18 ABS Members Workshop
Open Workshop
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

Before the Wednesday monthly meeting on August 12th we will have a "Meet the Artist" dinner with Roberto at 5:00 PM. The location will be "Shady Grove" on Barton Springs Road and it is a "pay your own way" dinner. It's a great chance to meet Roberto in a more casual setting and have some great food as well! At the ABS meeting, Roberto will demonstrate his skills on a tree which will be raffled after his presentation so don't forget your raffle money.

For our Tuesday member's workshop on August 18th we will have an open workshop. Bring anything you would like to work on or just show up and hang out. I know I've got a few projects I've been putting off!

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Joey McCoy
President

Mike Watson
Vice President

Collin Murphy
Secretary

Pat Ware
Treasurer

Carl Quisenberry
Member at-Large

Noreen Quisenberry
Member at-Large

Nan Jenkins
Member at-Large

Jim Trahan
Former President

President's Message by Joey McCoy

I'd like to take this opportunity to mention what a great group we have at the Austin Bonsai Society. Members are always there to help each other out and to share knowledge and skills freely. We have a diverse mix of people from different backgrounds and interests but are somehow united in this art of the tiny trees. I'm honored to think of each and every one of the members as friends.

Thinking about how knowledge is passed down in other countries, it was and sometimes still is from the teacher-apprentice approach. In our fast paced life here in the US, the new and modern often overrides slow tradition. This is one of the reasons our nation is so great (constant innovation and not accepting the status quo), but why we sometimes appear as adolescents to the older regions of the world, always chasing that next new thing. Bonsai, just by its nature forces us to slow down and work by the trees' schedule (as some of my non-bonsai friends say, it can be like watching grass grow). Careful study in any field with a master or long-time practitioner gives the student hands on skills under a more watchful eye than in a classroom type setting. I'd personally like to see some type of teacher-apprentice program started in our Bonsai Society. We have many newer members who are eager to learn, and would advance quickly under the guidance of some of our more senior members. And some of our older members would benefit as well. They would receive help during some hectic times (such as repotting for instance) and would have the satisfaction of knowing that their skills are directly being passed to the next generation. Also, we never learn as much as when we teach others. This doesn't need to be an official ABS organized activity, but rather our older members can reach out to the newer members knowing that both people would benefit and learn and grow in this art. Our bonds of friendship would strengthen knowing that we have others to turn to for instruction and also for assistance.

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.

We all are also so lucky to have such a bounty of local Bonsai resources nearby. I read online about people in other parts of the country (or parts of the world) who must take a several day drive to visit a Bonsai nursery. Our choices are much more varied and the material is world's better for having such terrific businesses nearby. I know that we sometimes take them for granted. Keep in mind that they need us as well, and when thinking about a new purchase, please give our vendors first priority. Our Bonsai world would be much darker without them here.

ABS July General Meeting Minutes
by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and thanked hostesses Deborah Van Cleaf and Becki Drozd.

Deborah Van Cleaf introduced new member Ken Shroeder.

Donna Dobberfuhl announced that the San Antonio Bonsai Society is hosting a mini-convention on September 10th from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. It will be like the state convention and there will be vendors, raffles, demos, and even goodie bags. The only admission fee is a donation of a raffle item.

Elaine White reminded everyone about the potting workshop. Only tropicals can be potted at this time. You can attend even if you don't have a tree that needs to be repotted.

Joey then introduced Mike Watson who reminded everyone about the Roberto Martinez workshop. Mike then introduced Jim Trahan who gave an excellent program on creating daiza.

MBP Bonsai Studio

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Your source for:

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ph: 512-989-5831

e-mail: mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net

601 Kay Lane

Pflugerville, TX 78660

(call for directions)

TTSBE September Garage/ Yard Sale !!

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit needs a centrally located, or densely populated area to hold our sale. If you are willing to share your space Friday, September 25th and Saturday, September 26th from 8:00am to 5:00 pm, please contact Alisan Clarke at 512-327-3168.

Please save your good 'ole stuff until Friday, September 25th, or bring it to the next two Bonsai club meetings.

We need kitchen and garden things, books, electronics, tools, childrens furniture and toys.

No clothes please.

We will gratefully appreciate all donations, and volunteers to help with the sale!

Bonsai Calendar

World Bonsai Convention

San Antonio Mini-Convention

SSOT Quarterly Meeting

California Shohin Seminar

San Juan, Puerto Rico

San Antonio, TX

Persimmon Hill Bonsai

Santa Nella, CA

July 7 - 13, 2009

September 10, 2009

September 19, 2009

February 5 - 7, 2010

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

Making Daiza with Jim Trahan

Photos by Joey McCoy



Jim shows some of the tools used in daiza creation as well as some finished daiza

Tropical Repotting with Elaine White
Photos by Joey McCoy



Elaine helped members report their tropical bonsai at July's workshop

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.

We can still to 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.

For all except the tropicals this is the most stressful time. Most native species can take the full sun on the foliage but cannot take heating of the roots. Tropicals are usually repotted during warm weather but 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 though the tops may break new buds. No new roots eventually mean 'dead tree', a finished bonsai.

You will need to provide some way to keep the sun off the pot while still providing air circulation around the pot. Partial shade, 50% shade cloth or afternoon shade will be great. Mulch on the soil will help but does not keep the sides of the pot from getting hot. Even the morning sun can be too much on the pot in August. A cloth cover will work. Setting the pot in a loose fitting box does not give as much protection.

Not only does the heat get to our plants but the low humidity causes the plants stress by evaporating the water from the leaves faster than the plant can move it upward. Any wind that is present multiplies the problem. Hot soil dries out faster. Therefore you may need to water more than once a day. If so, my preference is to water heavily in the evening letting the plant recover during the cool night and then to water lightly in the morning spraying the foliage also. It also minimizes the length of time the roots are hot.

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 the second watering gets the whole particle wet.

The stress caused by the temperature will give any insects a chance to wreak havoc. Watch for the spider mites and scale especially this month. The morning spray will help knock some off. The organic foliar spray will keep them down also. Horticultural oil sprays may be used year around. (The old oil sprays were heavy and would burn foliage so be sure to get the new type). Even so you should be cautious about using them

in July-August. Spinosad is a fairly new organic pesticide on the market (can be found locally under the Green Light label) that works on caterpillars, mites, and thrips without harming beneficial insects (per TAMU website). Please note that Spinosad is said to be toxic to bees. Chemical sprays are available but most chemical reactions are accelerated by heat and may damage plants. Read the labels! (organic foliar spray--one tablespoon each of liquid kelp, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon water. can be used as a fertilizer also.)

Also be careful about applying fertilizer in hot weather. Even organic fertilizers create some chemical reactions and the above remarks apply here too. By the end of the month the nitrogen applied to the tree should be reduced. A little may be put on into September but the tree needs to be allowed to stop growth to get ready for dormancy. Evergreen trees benefit from a low nitrogen fertilizer through the winter.

Any rainy spell can bring some fungal problems. Powdery mildew or black leaf spot are a couple of them. That is why I use the foliar spray in the morning, so that the leaves will dry quickly. The organic websites say you can mix baking soda with the Garret Juice for fungal control. However I have decided to do separate sprayings. The foliar spray has an acid (vinegar) which would react with the baking soda thereby reducing the effectiveness of both. Anyhow all your trees would benefit from the GJ but not all would have a fungal problem.

If you have a fungal problem, you may also use potassium bicarbonate available at most nurseries. One brand is named Remedy but that is also the name of a potent herbicide, please check all labels.

Most spring blooming plants make their buds in the fall so pruning them would limit the amount of flowers you will have. Do not prune azaleas any more this year if you want flowers next spring. Buds have been set by now. If you are still developing your azalea, go ahead and prune. Some varieties will set a few buds anyway. In general, when pruning look for the cluster of twigs at the site of last spring's bloom. Cut out all but two, usually the ones growing horizontally. Be sure to cut back strong growing shoots to a couple of leaves.

Since deciduous trees have slowed their growth you can do some pruning on them. However pruning may stimulate new growth that may not have time to harden before winter which would result in some dieback of the new growth. On these trees it's better to wait until later. After leaves have fallen you can see where corrections need to be made more easily. You should not let tip growth ruin the fine ramification on finished trees. Keep it pinched.



**PERSIMMON HILL BONSAI
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512-280-5575 - phbonsai@sbcglobal.net - By Appointment

San Antonio Mini Convention

September 10th
4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Goodie Bags

Bonsai Vendors
(including some new additions)

Giant Raffle

Demonstrations All Day

Quick Draw

Styling contest between two artists
The trees will be auctioned when finished

Refreshments provided by SABS
Members are bringing a covered dish

**Admission Fee: A raffle item of your
choice**

Location:
Sculptural Designs Atelier
1514 Broadway
San Antonio TX 78215
(210) 326-0860

ABS Board July Meeting Minutes

by Nan Jenkins, Acting Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Present were board members Joey McCoy, Mike Watson, Pat Ware and Nan Jenkins. Chuck Ware was a guest.

Discussion was on the bench to be placed in the Tanaguchi Garden in Zilker on whether to buy stone bench for \$450.00 approx. to hold large Bonsai tree to be donated by Elaine White for the Austin Bonsai Society. Budget concerns – bench not in current year’s budget so board has to vote to pay for it. We would want it in place for the Tanaguchi Gardens celebration in November. The board is in favor of purchasing the bench and placing it and the donated tree in the Tanaguchi Garden. Final approval will be based on the confirmed cost of the bench with shipping, with Terry Ward’s input as to where the bench will be placed and when it could be installed.

Treasurer Report: Pat reported that our income over expense for the year is \$13.77.

Mike Watson discussed the visiting artist workshop with Roberto Martinez. We still have several available places for the workshop on Aug 11th - \$45. A demo tree to be raffled off at the end of Aug 12th meeting.

JADE GARDENS

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

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

