



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

June 2008

June Programs by Joey McCoy

Our meeting this month will focus on what some consider to be a compliment to Bonsai, but really is an artform and appreciation of it's own: Suiseki. On **Wednesday, June 11th, Suiseki collector Peter Aradi** will talk to our group about this beautiful and evocative art. We had many beautiful examples of Suiseki at our May show, I hope that everyone had the chance to see. Bring in your own Viewing Stones to show the group on this night and we'll all learn something along the way.

On **Tuesday, May 17th we will have an open Bonsai workshop**. Being so close to the Seminar in San Antonio, we won't be having a visiting artist. Bring any tree to the meeting you'd like to trim, wire, or style, or get another person's opinion on and you'll have fellow Bonsai artists give you their take. It's about the right time for repotting Tropicals as well, so if you'd like assistance, bring along your tree. Please bring any tools and supplies you'll need for your project, table covers will be provided.



An Elm forest on display during the May Member's Workshop

Calendar of Events

June 7 Shohin Society of Texas Meeting
Selecting Seminar Exhibit Shohin and Workshop
Persimmon Hill Bonsai 10:30 am

June 11 ABS Monthly Meeting Reception
Hosts: Bill and Nancy Moore, and Bill Boytim
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm
(Hosts for July's reception: Audrey Lanier and Elaine White)

June 11 ABS Monthly Meeting
Suiseki with Peter Aradi
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

June 17 ABS Board Meeting
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

June 17 ABS Members Workshop
Open Bonsai Workshop
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

June 19 - 22 American Bonsai Society
Learning Seminars
El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel
San Antonio, TX

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Jim Trahan
President

Joey McCoy
Vice President

Charlotte Cranberg
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Pat Ware
Treasurer

Nancy Moore
Member at-Large

Collin Murphy
Member at-Large

Mike Watson
Member at-Large

Carl Quisenberry
Past President

President's Message by Jim Trahan

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone that participated in the annual club show. We had lots of volunteer help, great daily programs, friendly vendors and a wonderful display of trees and suiseki. I am reminded of what a good club we have because of the people that are and have been involved in the Austin Bonsai Society. Former club members helped with the setup and breakdown, another former club member donated material, loaned us trees to fill in the gaps and even led one of the programs! The show would not have looked as good had Greg Setter not brought trees to fill in the holes in the display.

Bonsai is an art that stays with us throughout our lives, though halcyon days and hectic times. Because of this there are times when we cannot participate in bonsai as much as we would like. Though faces come and go, I am surprised with how many people return to our club. Never has this been more apparent to me than at this show. I had the chance to talk to several former members that decided to become active in the club once more. It felt like seeing family again after a year's absence.

I cannot overstate how much I enjoy seeing people laughing and smiling when we display our trees. This is a pure kind of happiness, unlike a common joke, where there is no fool or sarcasm. This kind of happiness comes from inside, a recognition of beauty beyond words. If a single gesture could save the world, then each of these smiles is a candidate. Thank you!

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.

We still need volunteers for the **American Bonsai Society Seminar** in San Antonio. Volunteers will be fed and have the opportunity to be docents in a classes held by the famous artists in attendance. **You do not have to be registered to be a volunteer.** There is a need for volunteer help in all areas of the seminar.

Registrations are still far short of what was estimated. ABS is allowing single-day registrations now and this should help people that cannot attend the entire weekend. A full registration will get you into two classes of your choice each day, all meals, a very nice looking shohin exhibition pot, goodie bag, etc.

The El Tropicano Hotel is on the River Walk so I suspect this is going to be an all weekend party. I am excited by the quality of vendors that will be there—one is among my favorite potters and there are at least two great suiseki vendors. Oh yeah, there will be incredible trees for sale there as well.

Think about it this way: The national convention is just an hour and a half from here! Last year you would have had to drive over 26 hours to get to the convention. And they had mosquitoes! This is a big deal convention and it is right in our own backyard.

Please don't miss this excellent convention. Contact Pauline Muth, at (518) 882-1039 to register.

MBP Bonsai Studio

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Your source for:

High quality Yagimitsu & Ryukoh tools

Organic Bonsai Fertilizers

Imported and Domestic Trees

Bonsai Pottery, Soils and supplies

Classes & Seminars

Open Tuesday Through Sunday



ph: 512-244-3240 or 1-888-627-7883

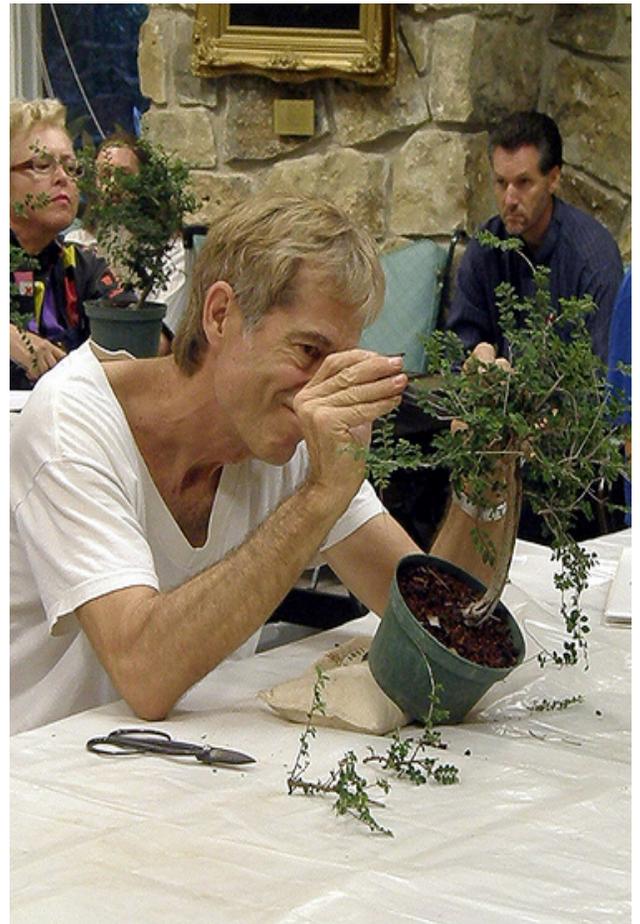
e-mail: mbpbonsai@hughes.net

601 Kay Lane

Pflugerville, TX 78660

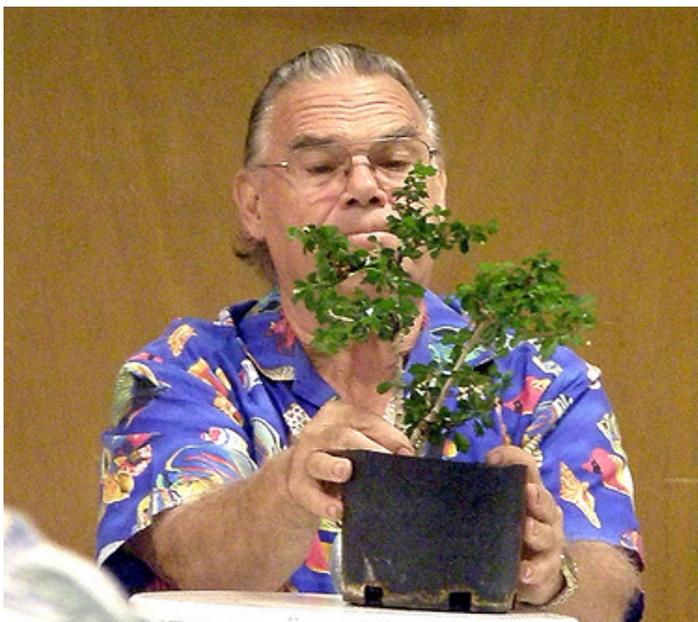
(call for directions)

Catlin Elm Workshop with Jay Nolen
Photos by Joey McCoy



Jay Nolen offers advice during his workshop

More Than One Way with Terry Ward and Chuck Ware
Photos by Joey McCoy



Terry Ward and Chuck Ware give their opinions on various trees

Annual Show
Photos by Joey McCoy



Ulmus crassifolia



Ginkgo biloba



Neea buxifolia



Rhododendrum indicum

Annual Show
Photos by Joey McCoy



Ulmus parvifolia 'Catlin'



Lagerstroemia indica Tanuki (Phoenix graft)



Acer palmatum



Eysenhardtia texana (Kidneywood)

Annual Show
Photos by Joey McCoy



Suiseki poodle shape



Suiseki

Directory Additions

Sam Jeske and Brent Brown
12302 Limerick Ave
Austin TX 78758
(512) 636-1176
sam.jeske@gmail.com
bbrown127@gmail.com

Dwayne Jungman
3815 Machaca Rd #35
Austin TX 78704-6756
(512) 462-3306
djungman1@austin.rr.com

Jo-Christy Brown and Clay Smith
1612 Hartford Rd
Austin TX 78703
(512) 472-5628
jcbrown@jcbrownlegal.com

Marie J. Beyer
428 Mason St
San Antonio TX 78208
(210) 834-0751
mariebeyer4@aol.com



Suiseki

Directory Corrections

Mary K. (Timmi) Kuykendall
timmi.kuykendall@gmail.com.

Foster Care a Tree Program

By Alisan Clarke, The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit

The collected cedar elms, *Ulmus crassifolia*, in the photographs are part of an exciting new hands-on program from TTSBE. These trees, along with others, are available for foster care! To see photographs of more trees in the program contact your clubs TTSBE Representative.

Foster care is a program where an individual can pick a tree — ranging from rough material to styled bonsai — and become its foster parent at the TTSBE development site. Trees are available for bonsai skill levels ranging from basic through advanced. Skilled bonsai artists will consult with each foster parent about their tree and help design a development program. Foster parents are responsible for the maintenance and development of their tree for a renewable one-year commitment. This includes pruning, pinching, weeding, spotting and addressing any problems with the tree and, as needed, wiring, repotting and styling. Watering, insect/fungal control and feeding are taken care of by other volunteers.

Becoming a foster parent requires dedication and a commitment of time. Bonsai enthusiasts who live outside the greater Austin area can work with TTSBE to set up their schedule. Schedules must include a minimum of three to five timely, hands-on sessions per year with the tree. Foster parents must adjust their time to meet the plant's needs throughout the year. A co-foster parent will look after the tree at other times.

Becoming a foster parent is a large responsibility. However, the rewards make it well worth it. Pride in developing your foster tree, advancing your skills, learning new techniques,

the camaraderie in sharing with other foster parents plus some special perks.

If you are interested in joining our foster care program or have questions, please contact your local bonsai clubs TTSBE Representative or Elaine White at ewbonsai@austin.rr.com or 512-266-2655.

CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

Austin Bonsai Society

Els Ulug

Bonsai Society of Dallas

John Miller

Corpus Christi Bonsai Club

Jesse Willars

Fort Worth Bonsai Society

Gail Williams

Houston Bonsai Society

Alan Raymond

Longview Bonsai Society

Todd Davis

San Antonio Bonsai Society

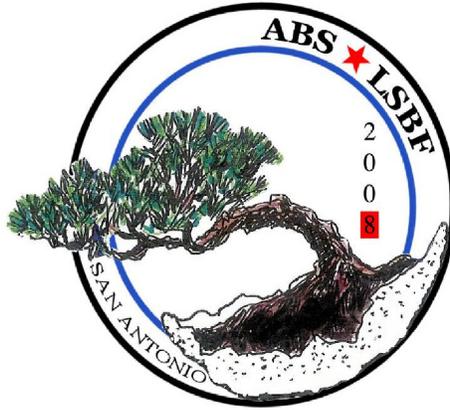
Donna Dobberfuhl

Shohin Society of Texas

Sheila Ward



Special Announcements



EL TROPICANO HOTEL RESERVATIONS

The telephone number for reservations at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel recently changed. Their new telephone number for reservations is 1-866-293-1842

RAFFLE ITEMS NEEDED

Donations of raffle items are needed for the upcoming convention. Raffle items don't necessarily need to be bonsai-related. Bring them to any ABS meeting. Raffle donations are tax deductible (SABS, 501c3 Non Profit).

CALL FOR ENTRIES!

We need trees for our first ever exhibit of Texas Native Bonsai at the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center. This is our chance to show our bonsai to thousands of people who may not see bonsai made from native plants.

There are only three limitations on the trees selected for exhibit:

1. The plant must be native to Texas.
2. The tree must be a minimum of 12" tall including the pot.
3. The tree must be in good health.

The Exhibit opens on Sunday June 29 and closes on Sunday August 31. If you have a tree or trees you can show for all or part of this time, please call Mike Hansen at 512-567-7541 or e-mail: mbpbonsai@hughes.net
If you have questions regarding your tree or the exhibit please call Mike Hansen.



**PERSIMMON HILL BONSAI
STUDIO & NURSERY**

Terry & Sheila Ward Austin, Texas
512-280-5575 - phbonsai@sbcglobal.net - By Appointment

May 2008 AAGC Meeting Minutes by Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

The president announced that the Zilker Garden Festival grossed \$86,894.00 and with debits of \$31,000.00 the net profit was \$54,905. That is not as well as we did last year, but we did spend more money this year. Because our treasurer, Bill Ater died two weeks ago, after a brief battle with cancer, we will not have a detailed report until a substitute treasurer can become familiar with Bill's system. Our gate take was better than ever and it was a very successful festival from the point of view of the public and the vendors who did very well and enjoyed themselves.

June 15 is the deadline for Down The Garden Path. Editor Robert Beyer wants more horticultural articles like facts and trivia, dino connection of your plants etc.

AAGC is in need of 3 more executive committee members: education, special projects and treasurer. If interested see Charlotte.

Mel gave a dinosaur presentation which included a slide show of the trail and where the dinos would be placed. He had pictures of the dinosaurs we would be using. The exhibit will open on Sept. 6 and will cost \$3.50 for children and \$5.00 for adults. Clubs are being encouraged to come up with ideas to contribute to the event. Garden Club of Austin will present a show of "Zoo of Ferns" for example.

The Pond Society contributed \$100 to the Zilker Festival.

A brick will be placed in the Walk of Friends in honor of Bill Ater.

JADE GARDENS
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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>

May 2008 ABS General Meeting Minutes by Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

President, Jim Trahan called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM in the Austin Area Garden Center. He thanked hosts Collin Murphy and Nan Jenkins & Timmy Kuykendall.

Guests Karen and Cody Remsin were introduced.

Jim had a list passed around for volunteers to sign up for the weekend exhibit. He said that the June exhibit needs docents, too.

Council Representative, Charlotte Cranberg gave the AAGC report.

Joey McCoy introduced Terry Ward and Chuck Ware who gave the program on suggestions for improving trees brought in by members.

May 2008 ABS Board Meeting Minutes by Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Vice President Joey McCoy in the library of the Austin Area Garden Center. Present were Pat and Chuck Ware, Collin Murphy, and Charlotte Cranberg.

Treasurer, Pat Ware reported \$65.65 income over expenses for April.

The Bonsai Exhibit expenses and income were presented and discussed. The amounts were similar to last year's.

Pat suggested that guidelines be established for new vendors. The board agreed.

It was moved that we rent a truck, with the San Antonio club, to transport trees from Austin to San Antonio for the June convention, if enough members have trees that warrant doing it, as long as it is understood that Austin and San Antonio are not liable for the trees and pots. The greatest care will be taken in moving them. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40.

June 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.

If you have not registered for the American Bonsai Society-Lone Star Bonsai Federation joint convention in San Antonio, there is still time to do so. Just log on the their website, www.absbonsai.org, for information. They have added a weekend only registration. Also remember that as members of LSBF you do not have to pay the \$40 to join ABS, just put LSBF member in that slot. This should be a good learning experience since it is in a seminar format, you pick a class each morning and afternoon slot. Holler at me when you get there.

Since this year has been fairly cool you may still be able to leaf prune if you need to but be careful, it could turn hot in a hurry. Do it only if you think there will be enough time for the tree to mature foliage before hot weather. Put the tree in a semi-shaded location out of the wind until new foliage appears. Never leaf prune the atropurpeum varieties of Japanese maples, they do not rebud very well but will usually come out again next spring.

However, some tropicals can be leaf pruned all summer. The *Ficus nerifolia* especially benefits by leaf pruning and can be done more than once each summer. That will develop the heavy twiginess you see in the *Ficus* bonsai from the Far East.

Now that night temperatures usually stay above 60 degrees you can replot the tropicals. Just use good replotting techniques as for the spring replotting.

It is important to continue the twig pruning of your trees on a regular basis. While doing this chore look at the tree to see if there is a need to do some refinement pruning. Refinement pruning is a deeper pruning to replace a branch that has grown too long or too big with a smaller one. This is usually done with the secondary or tertiary branches not the primary branch coming from the trunk. I prefer to do this refinement pruning on deciduous trees in the winter when I can see the branch structure. But on bonsai like the yaupon hollies I like to do it at this time when the tree is actively growing so that any winter dieback is apparent. Trees that weep a lot from cuts such as maples or pines should not be done at this time.

The extended cool and damp weather is good for fungal diseases like black leaf spot. Treat with potassium bicarbonate or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda). After the foliage is hardened a bit you can treat with 1% hydrogen peroxide

(1 part 3% peroxide to 2 parts water) weekly. Warm damp weather will bring its own fungal problems like mildew. Same treatment.

Also watch for signs of insect problems. The spider mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, and mealy bugs. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and cider vinegar per gallon water) to control all these. It also get any caterpillars and even bagworms. You can use some of the other organic controls like horticultural oil or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully and DO NOT apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods.

It does not do much good to spray if you do not do it correctly. Hose end sprayers have too coarse a spray and usually do not cover very good. All pathogen controls must be sprayed with a sprayer that has a nozzle which produces a fine spray in order to cover the entire leaf surface, top and especially the bottom where most are hiding. The secret is to get all them bugs (or they come right back) and to spray on a regular basis. Any bugs or fungus spores hiding in cracks will repeat the infestation in short order.

Even if the days are relatively cool the sun can still get the pots pretty hot. Not only does this dry out the soil very fast but the tree roots cannot live in a hot soil. A temperature I have heard given is that 120 degrees will kill roots on most plants. I cannot give you a precise to-do list since your backyard is different from mine but you should be sure that the sun does not hit the pots directly. If you use a cover of any kind be sure that the side of the pot is protected also. A loose weave cover is preferable to solid paper or foil. Leave an air space between the cover and pot and soil.

Most plants in pots will not enjoy a full day of 90 plus sun. Partial shade should be provided. A shade cloth awning will protect in the middle of the day. A shade cloth on the west side will protect from the late afternoon sun. This is the worst sun as the temperature is already high and the drier air makes the rays more intense. The trees can take more sun if the pots are covered loosely. There should be some air space around the sides of the pot. Aluminum foil should not be used-it reflects sun rays to the underside of the leaf giving it a double dose of sun.

Get to know you trees like your children. Which ones use more water and which ones stay moist between waterings. If some are difficult to keep happy you can try moving those to a cooler location (but be sure they get their sunlight). Another trick is to group problem trees together so that you can hit them with a shot of water twice a day and not have to spent the time going thru all your trees.

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

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P.O. Box 340474
Austin, Texas 78734**

