



# Bonsai Notebook

[www.austinbonsaisociety.com](http://www.austinbonsaisociety.com)

*A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society*

*June 2011 vol 6*

## June 2011 Programs

by Collin Murphy

Do you have a tree lurking on your bench that you're just not sure what to do with? Maybe something you won in a raffle at the last convention, or something you bought at a nursery? Maybe you have a tree you've been working on but are stuck figuring out the next step. Bring it to our general meeting on **Wednesday, June 8th** and get some advice. We will have a three-person panel offering insight and suggestions on anything from nursery stock to bonsai in training. Our own Chuck Ware, Terry Ward and Donna Dobberfuhl will be on hand to give their opinions on anything you bring in.

On **Tuesday, June 21st** we will have an open workshop. This is an opportunity to work on a tree you bought at the Corpus Christi convention, a tree you brought to the three-person panel, or anything else. Open workshops are a great opportunity to get away from day-to-day distractions and just work on bonsai for a few hours. I hope to see you there.

## Calendar of Events

**June 8th ABS Monthly Meeting Reception**

**Hosts: Becki Drozd and  
Charlotte Cranberg  
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**June 8th ABS Monthly Meeting**

**Insight and Suggestions - with Terry Ward,  
Chuck Ware and Donna Dobberfuhl  
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**June 21st ABS Board Meeting**

**Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm**

**June 21st ABS Member's Workshop**

**Workshop - Open  
Bring what you got!  
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm**



**Terry Ward's presentation at our May 2011 Meeting**

## Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

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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.

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 Mike Watson

Wow, what a month May was! The convention in Corpus Christi was a lot of fun. There were some great trees in the exhibit as well as the vendors room. Some fantastic suiseki both for display and for sale and raffle items galore. Plus, it's always great to hang out with fellow bonsai nuts and talk trees. The part I am most proud of is that our very own Becki Drozd walked away with the grand prize for the Newcomer's Contest! She created a great bonsai out of an ordinary shimpaku and the visiting artists were impressed enough to give her there highest ranking. What a great feather in our cap! As if that were not enough, we won the "Great Wire Weigh-off" and took home the prize bunjin pot. It's also rumored that we held the greatest percentage of club members at the convention. I don't think I could be any more proud of this club!

Wait a minute, yes I can! During Memorial Day weekend, the Austin Bonsai Society put on one of the best annual bonsai shows that it has been my pleasure to witness!! We were operating under adversity due to members who could not attend, or show trees, for one reason or another. Scrolls and accents were more sparse than normal due to the same reason. Despite all of that, we (as a club) made a kick-butt display that made me very proud. I received a lot of compliments about the show but I could not have put it together without all of you! Thanks to those who showed up for setup, worked during the show, and stuck around for tear-down and pack-up. Most of all, I want to thank Joey McCoy. Without him the show would have been sub-par at best.

One thing I wanted to mention before I close is how happy I was to see Mike Hansen attend the May meeting and also to thank him for bringing excellent trees to the show. Mike, as well as the whole Hansen family, have been through a rough time lately and I'm so glad to see him back on his feet. I also want to thank the people who have done what they could to help MBP Bonsai while he was in the hospital. We are not just a club but also a family. If you have any time to donate I bet they would be happy for the help!



## ABS May General Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2011

By Nan Jenkins, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Watson at 7:30 pm.

Refreshments were provided by Sheila Ward and Phina and Marlon Chen. They were delicious and were eagerly consumed by all!

There were several announcements:

We had one guest, Cielo, visiting from Colombia.

Fliers are available for distribution about our exhibit.

Mike is still collecting money for Japanese tsunami relief.

Els had wood flooring samples available to make into accent stands.

Colin reminded us that the exhibit will be Memorial Day weekend with set up at 5:00 on Friday, the show 10-5:00 on Saturday and Sunday, and break-down 5:-6:30 on Sunday. There were sheets available for sign-ups to help with set-up, break-down and docents during the show.

Colin introduced Terry Ward who facilitated a program on how to create a bonsai display. We practiced putting together various trees, accent plants, stands, and scrolls to make the best scene possible with our trees. It was very helpful and informative.

Becky conducted the raffle. Several folks went away with some new goodies for their bonsai work.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00

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(call for directions)

LSBF (Lone Star Bonsai Federation), of which all members of the Austin Bonsai Society are members, has a website which might help members understand the organization better.

Please go to: <http://www.bonsai-lsbf.com>

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## Bonsai Calendar

- On Sunday, October 2 the LSBF visiting artist will be Erik Wigert. There will be a demo followed by a bring-your-own-tree workshop.

- The 2012 LSBF convention is in Dallas on April 27 - 29, 2012.

Know of an upcoming Bonsai event of interest to club members? Send the details to [jcm2austx@sprintmail.com](mailto:jcm2austx@sprintmail.com)

## ABS May Board Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2011

Present: Becki Drozd, Colin Murphy, John Muller, Joey McCoy, Mike Watson, Nan Jenkins, and Timmi Kuykendall.

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Watson at 7:15 pm.

The minutes as published in the club newsletter were approved by acclamation.

There was no treasurer's report because the treasurer was absent.

### Old Business

The San Antonio club has agreed to work with us to present the 2013 Texas State Bonsai Convention. We will take the lead. It is important that we select a coordinating committee as soon as possible. There was some discussion regarding the convention, all which will need to be decided soon. All members of the club will be needed to help in some way with the convention.

The Raffle was again a topic of discussion. The board would like to get suggestions from the membership about how to improve the raffle.

### New Business

There was an extensive discussion regarding the local exhibit. Joey and Mike will be in charge because Colin will be at the Brussels workshop. There are many people signed up to help. Els will do a demonstration of a boxwood and Mike will do a shimpaku.

Congratulations to Becki Drozd for winning the new talent award at the state convention. She won the Joshua Roth award which was a set of Joshua Roth tools.

The LSBF master artist this year is Eric Weigart. That workshop will happen at MBP in Pflugerville since it will be on a day when we do not have the availability of the Zilker clubhouse.

Motion to adjourn was passed at 7:46 pm.

## The 2011 Emerging Talent Champ Becki Drozd



Hurley Johnson (left) who sponsored the prize, William Valavanis (middle) from NY who was one of the visiting artist judges and is holding Becki's winning tree, and Becki Drozd is holding her prize: a new Joshua Roth tool set.

### May Workshop - touch-ups for Show



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

# LSBF Convention 2011 - in Corpus Christi



**The Suiseki Workshop with Bill Val**



**The Diaza Workshop with Sean Smith**



**Workshop with Ed Trout**



*(Photos by Bill Boytim)*

## 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.*

Normally I would consider Memorial Day the last day to leaf prune, since the tree needs to have enough growing temperature to get the new foliage matured. If your spring has been like mine, you should still be able to leaf prune if you need to but be careful, it could turn hot in a hurry. Remember do it only on healthy vigorous trees. Put the tree in a semi-shaded location out of the wind until new foliage appears. And be careful to not overwater, nude trees don't need as much. Again never leaf prune the atropurpeum varieties of Japanese maples, they do not rebud very well. However, they would probably come out again next the spring.

When night temperatures stay above 60 degrees you can think about repotting some of the tropicals. I would wait another month tho for the buttonwood. 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. I leaf prune my Eleagnus six weeks or so before a show if it looks ratty.

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 bottom. You GOTS to get all them bugs or they come right back. And you GOTS to spray on a regular basis. Any bugs or spores hiding in cracks will repeat the infestation.

Ants are a different problem. Some ants are after the honeydew exuded by aphids feeding on the leaves and will leave when you get rid of the aphids. However, if they are building nests in the soil, like my fire ants, the tunnels and cavities will prevent proper watering and result in loss of roots. After you get rid of the ants be sure to grab your chopsticks and work the soil down and eliminate any holes. Add more soil on top if needed.

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 is the best as it will protect in the middle of

continued .. pg 6 Miller

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.

Get to know your 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.

Keep on rotating those bonsai on a regular basis, as you learned two months ago.



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### **Austin Cactus and Succulent Society**

Austin Bonsai Society was invited to attend a meeting of the Austin Cactus and Succulent Society on May 19th where they brought in visiting artist Susan Amoy to talk about Bonsai with Succulents. Joey McCoy and Els Ulug attended and had a terrific time! Susan grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii and now resides in New York. She has a master's degree in visual arts and has lectured for years on the subject of Bonsai. She has been growing succulents for over 30 years and practicing Bonsai (on succulents, tropical and temperate species) for over 15 years. At the meeting Susan gave a presentation slideshow, illustrating how Bonsai has grown as an artform, with its history and basic techniques and styles, then went on to show examples of Succulents as Bonsai and some of the specialized techniques needed. After the powerpoint, Susan discussed some of the Bonsai brought to the meeting and then worked on Succulent brought in by ACSS members, giving these plants their first training into a Bonsai form. Most all were cut back hard, wired, and some were transplanted into Bonsai pots brought for the evening. Some very unusual species were worked on during the night and it would be interesting to see how these grow and respond in the future. I felt it was a terrific way for our two clubs to meet together this way, and hope it leads to other collaborations.

Provided by -Joey McCoy

### **May ACSS Presentation**

*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*

# 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

