



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

May 2009

May Programs by Mike Watson

It's that time of year again... time for our annual Austin Bonsai Show on **Saturday, May 16th & Sunday, May 17th!** This is our chance to show off our trees and educate the public about this often misunderstood art form. It's a lot of fun and I strongly encourage everyone to come out. We really need volunteers to help set up on Friday, and pack it up Sunday. Helping out as a docent during the show is great also! If you want to volunteer please contact me at **732-7092** or just grab me at the next meeting.

For our **Wednesday monthly meeting on May 13th** we will have a presentation from our own Bill Boytim. The topic will be about different types of display stands and their construction. Why spend tons of money (especially in this economy) for stands when you can make a nice one using easily obtained materials! Bill is an excellent craftsman and I am looking forward to his program.



*A viewing stone on display at
April's general meeting*

Calendar of Events

- May 13 ABS Monthly Meeting Reception**
Hosts: Collin Murphy, Nan Jenkins and Timmi Kuykendall
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm
(Hosts for May's reception: Sunny Huang and Sheila Ward)
- May 13 ABS Monthly Meeting**
Show Display and Display Tables with Bill Boytim
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm
- May 15 ABS Annual Show Setup**
Zilker Garden Center 4:00 - 9:00 pm
- May 16-17 ABS Annual Show**
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm
- May 19 ABS Board Meeting**
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm
- May 19 ABS Members Workshop**
Yaupons with Mike Watson and Joey McCoy
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

On Tuesday, May 19th we will have our member's workshop. We will be working on, and discussing, Yaupon Hollies. This will be a very informal workshop so just bring your Yaupon (or any other tree) and we'll have a nice, relaxed bonsai session.

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

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.



PERSIMMON HILL BONSAI STUDIO & NURSERY

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

President's Message by Joey McCoy

Our State Convention in Houston has come and gone, and it was great to see so many Austin faces down there. The workshops, raffles, food, exhibit and all the time talking with our Bonsai friends from around the state – The Houston Bonsai Society really put on quite a show. There were a few hiccups (remember the Indian wedding that crashed our hotel all night long??) but in all it was a terrific time!

To those who couldn't make it to the state show, there's another opportunity coming soon – our Austin Bonsai show. On May 16-17th we get to show the public what Bonsai is all about. We have a kind of mini-convention that weekend with a large exhibit, raffles, demonstrations and a vendor room. Here's where you come in: we need volunteers. We're blessed with a giving membership who are always there to help when asked, but often the it's the same few people who do the work year after year. To have a truly successful show, we need the full membership to participate. That means bringing in a tree to exhibit (along with a stand, accent plant, scroll, etc. if you have them), watching the trees as docents to make sure that nothing is touched (the public wants to "feel them"), sell raffle tickets, greet at the door, etc. We always need people just simply walking the aisles to answer questions. There really is truth to the old saying that you never learn more than when you teach others. Our set-up time is Friday the 15th from 4-9pm so this is when you should bring your Bonsai to Zilker. We'll be setting up the backdrops, draping the tables, etc., and always need a few extra sets of hands. When we take everything down on Sunday at 5pm we'll need people to help with disassembling the room and packing it all back into the boxes.

A note about bringing Bonsai to the show: there isn't a set rule about what can qualify to show or not. We don't have a judged show and we want trees from all our members, from advanced teachers to beginning students. The only requirements I would place would be that the trees are healthy, in a clean Bonsai pot, are free from weeds and bugs and are in trim. Basically if you are happy and proud of your tree and would like to share it with others, bring it! It doesn't matter how long you've been doing Bonsai, all our members are equal and should all be represented.

ABS April General Meeting Minutes

by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and recognized Elaine White, Audrey Lanier, and Zerita Rogers for hosting.

Flyers are available for the LSBF and St Louis Shohin Conventions to be held later this month. Some LSBF workshops still have space available.

There were no new members or guests.

Els Ulug reminded people about the survey for the TTSBE land this Saturday, and the need for people to help clear the land. Contact Els, Joey or any TTSBE representative for details. Elaine White reminded everyone about the upcoming TTSBE garage sale this fall.

Everyone who worked at Zilker Garden Festival should email their hours worked to Charlotte Cranberg (cranchar@austin.rr.com).

Mike Watson also reminded people about the need for volunteers to help clear the TTSBE land this Saturday. Mike also reminded everyone that the ABS annual show is next month.

Joey introduced Alisan Clarke who gave an excellent program on Japanese scrolls.

JADE GARDENS

HOME OF



Chuck & Pat Ware
Owners
Visa & MasterCard

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

e-mail: bonsaijg@wimberley-tx.com

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

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.

Bonsai Calendar

ABS Annual Show	Zilker Gardens	May 16 - 17, 2009
SSOT Quarterly Meeting	Persimmon Hill Bonsai	June 6, 2009
BCI Annual Convention	New Orleans, LA	June 19 - 21, 2009
World Bonsai Convention	San Juan, Puerto Rico	July 7 - 13, 2009
SSOT Quarterly Meeting	Persimmon Hill Bonsai	September 19, 2009

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

Kakejiku Scrolls with Alisan Clarke
Photos by Joey McCoy



Alisan showed several examples of matching scrolls to different trees, as well as how to make scrolls.

Kakejiku Scrolls with Alisan Clarke
Photos by Joey McCoy



Alisan demonstrated Sumi-e and scroll making techniques at April's workshop/

May 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.

At the convention I watched two good artists working on black pine, Roy had the student cut all needles o 1/4 inch. Bon had them pluck all old needles and left the 1 yer needles full length. Both techniques will work if followed by the correct care for that technique. For this reason I dont say much on conifers in this column. Whichever way you do it you should learn the complete method of your instructor and not mix them. Dont change methods unless you have a very good reason. Then it may take a full year to get everything on track.

In the Dallas area, May is the time you do the leaf pruning job if you have to do it. If you have kept the new growth pinched properly, you have been getting the ramification usually attributed to leaf pruning. The only good reason for leaf pruning is to replace foliage that has been damaged by wind or insects. On some individual plants that have large foliage, the new foliage will usually be smaller. Leaf pruning should be done after the spring foliage has matured and supplied the tree with enough nutrients to produce a good crop of new foliage. It must be done well before the summer heat causes the plant growth to slow or stop. I consider the very latest time in this area to be Memorial Day. Leaf pruning is done only on very healthy trees. The tree should be fertilized 7 - 10 days before the operation. Cut the stems of those leaves that have them (maples) or cut across the leaf about 1/16 inch from the twig if leaves are attached directly on the twig (elms). It will not need as much water until the new foliage has developed.

When the azaleas finish bloom remove all seed pods and do any reshaping that is necessary. You have 2-2 1/2 months (that is mid-July) to work on them. They will start setting buds for next years growth at that time.

When the nighttime temp stays above 60 degrees it is time to start repotting the tropical material. Do not push too hard just in case a late season front comes in. Since there are so many different requirements for tropicals I will not try to cover their individual needs here. But in general, I like to put them in shade and mist them until the new growth starts. For a good many tropical species dormancy is induced by the dry season and not temperature.

Warm humid days are favorable for fungal growth. Watch for mildew, black leaf spot on elms and yaupons, among other. As an organic control you can use baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) or better use Potassium bicarbonate that you can get at a nursery. Hydrogen peroxide in a 1% solution (mix 1 part of the

normal 3% commercial product with 2 parts water) can be used on mature foliage. It may burn tender foliage but its only by-product is water.

If you have insect problems you will need to apply your control, whatever you use, several times. For example, spider mites may go thru the cycle from egg to adult to egg in as little as 5 days. Therefor you should spray 4 times 5 days apart. Other insects will have a different cycle but that schedule should take care of almost everything.

Aphids, spider mites, and scale continue to be the most prevalent insects. The foliar feeding of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar (1 tablespoon each per gallon of water) is all the control I use for them. However it should be sprayed on a regular weekly basis which is ok as any that washes into the soil is a good fertilizer. Scale is the most difficult because it is usually covered with a waxy coating (the scale). You may need to use a horticultural oil mixed as directed on the label. Be sure that the direction you read is for summer use as some have two dosages given, one for dormancy (usually the first and strongest) and one for summer. Do not use oil on buttonwood or any other plant not included on the label. Please note: the commercial variation sold as Garret Juice does not do the same as the above mixture. Use it as a fertilizer only.

If you see damage to the foliage or the plant is not doing well, look for other problems and if you do not recognize the culprit ask you favorite nurseryman for help.

Start checking your pots to see if the sun is heating them up. Our summer sun shining on dark pots can make the soil temperature soar and kill the roots. Try putting your hand on the pot. Roots are living organisms and cannot take high temperatures any more than you can. Heating also dries out the soil making you water more often. Any number of ways of keeping the pots cool will work, the requirement being to prevent the sun from getting to them. An inch or so of air space around the pot is desirable. I do not care for the aluminum foil methods because I dont care to have the light reflected into my eyes aand its hard to water properly. A simple cloth with a slit to go around the trunk works fine.

Remember all the work that you did in the spring? Keep the new growth trimmed so that you havent wasted your time. While trimming or watering check the wiring periodically and remove it before it damages the branch. If the branch springs back some rewire it.

If you are not on a regular organic foliar/drench feed schedule be sure to use fertilizer cakes with supplemental feeding with a good liquid fertilizer, one that includes the minor elements. Most bonsai I see are malnourished. The liquid water soluble fertilizer gets washed out with the next watering and the tree starves until the next infrequent feeding. There are a number of fertilizers in pellet or cake form on the market or you can make your own.

ABS Board April 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.

May is the annual show. Mike W is in charge this year. We need volunteers to move material from the storage facility to Zilker. Carl and Nan volunteered to help move everything.

Someone needs to contact vendors about vending. Nan volunteered to contact vendors. Table prices will be the same as last year, \$35 per table.

Collin will contact other Texas clubs and inform them about our show.

Pat gave the treasurer's report. Current income over expenses is \$416.07.

We will no longer send postal newsletters to other clubs, just email versions.

Nan moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was passed at 7:55 p.m.

AAGC Board April Meeting Minutes

by Charlotte Cranberg, AAGC Representative

The president announced that the Zilker Garden Festival grossed \$83,112.30 and with debits of \$34,613.00 the net profit was \$48,598. That was about \$5,000 less than last year, but we didn't get as many big donations, perhaps due to the economic downturn. Our gate take was better than ever and it was a successful festival from the point of view of the public and the vendors who did very well and enjoyed themselves. We had 18,000 visitors, 317 volunteers, 116 vendors of whom 5 were food. We had to turn away vendors because of the demand. Sunday's gate was the highest ever.

It is very rewarding to see so many Austinites coming to the gardens. We need the public awareness and support to continue getting support from the city. As of now we have not had any cut-backs of funding as many others have had in this economic downturn. Any cut-backs are regrettable, but when you cut back the gardens you lose the investment in plants that are much cheaper to maintain than to replace. We can maintain the staff we have, but if anyone leaves we can't rehire someone else. So the gardens could get pinched for cash. We may see more demands on the clubs to help out if this happens.

The election for Executive Committee was held and I will be serving 2 more years as corresponding secretary. Laura Joseph was elected to replace Marion Alsop and Andrea Wakefield was elected over Sandra Holt. Those were the only two positions that were being challenged. The rest of the Committee will be the same as last year.

MBP Bonsai Studio

Importers, Retail & Wholesale

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: 512-989-5831

e-mail: mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net

601 Kay Lane

Pflugerville, TX 78660

(call for directions)

TTSBE CALL FOR DONATIONS

TTSBE will be vending at this year's annual show this month. The annual show provides a great opportunity for fundraising.

TTSBE is asking for bonsai-related donations that will be sold during this year's show. If you have an item you wish to donate, please contact Alisan Clarke or any other TTSBE board member.

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

