



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

May 2010

May Programs by Mike Watson

In just a couple of weeks we will have our annual bonsai exhibit. The best part of the show (other than the beautiful trees) is how the members all come together and make this event happen. When it comes to the displays themselves, some people may wonder how or why things are set up the way that they are. On Wednesday, May 12th, we will explore why we display our trees this way as well as the best ways to exhibit our trees. Although the program will be led by our own esteemed member, Terry Ward, there will be a lot of audience participation. Please feel free to bring trees, stones, scrolls, accent plants (ESPECIALLY accent plants!), suiseki, or anything that you think could be used. This is going to be a fun and eye-opening experience!



Jimbo won Koji's demo tree after his demonstration at April's meeting

Calendar of Events

- May 12th ABS Monthly Meeting Reception**
Hosts: Elaine White, Audrey Lanier,
and Deborah Van Cleaf
(Next months hosts: Carl and Noreen
Quisenberry, and James Costabile)
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm
- May 12th ABS Monthly Meeting**
Formal Display Techniques and Critiques
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm
- May 14th ABS Annual Show Setup**
Zilker Garden Center 5:00 - 9:00 pm
- May 15th - 16th ABS Annual Show**
Zilker Garden Center 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- May 18th ABS Board Meeting**
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm
- May 18th ABS Member's Workshop**
Juniper Raft Revisited
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm
- June 11th - 13th LSBF Convention**
Radisson Hotel North
Ft Worth, TX

Remember those juniper rafts we did last year? For our member's workshop on Tuesday, May 18th we will revisit those and start wiring out the branches. Bring your juniper, tools, and wire and we'll take the first step in refining our miniature forests. Of course, you are welcome to bring anything you would like to work on or just come hang out!

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Joey McCoy
President

Mike Watson
Vice President

Collin Murphy
Secretary

Pat Ware
Treasurer

Becki Drozd
Member at-Large

Charlotte Cranberg
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.

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

I'd like to thank all those who have taken part in some of our late-season urban these last few weeks. It's been a lot of fun and we've unearthed some terrific material for future Bonsai. It should encourage everyone to keep their eyes open for unwanted landscape plantings in their neighborhoods.

Koji Hiramatsu gave a terrific demonstration in April, and congratulations go to Bill Boytim and Jimbo on winning the trees. I hope to see them in future shows!

Speaking of shows, on May 15-16th we get to show the public what Bonsai is all about at our annual Show and Sale. Our set-up time is Friday the 14th from 5-9pm 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 some extra sets of hands. Plus we'll have pizza for the volunteers as a thank you. The weekend show itself is always a fun event with raffles, demonstrations, vendor area and a terrific display showcasing some of the best Bonsai in Central Texas. Here's where the Austin Bonsai membership shines: as volunteers. We're blessed with a giving membership who are always there to help when asked, but often it's the same few people who do the work year after year. Not everyone is available to donate the time, but if you are, please do come and help out the club. That means watching the trees as docents to make sure that nothing is touched (the public sometimes wants to test if they're real), sell raffle tickets, greet at the door, etc. We always need people just simply walking the aisles to answer questions. Come to help make our yearly show shine! For each person that we reach, who may feel that Bonsai is something they wish to have in their lives, it enriches us as well. When it's time to 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 as well.

When considering Bonsai for the display, make sure that the pot is clean, that the soil surface is neat and weed-free and that the branches are trimmed and...
continued on next page

continued from previous page

...free of dead leaves and insects. To choose trees to bring, find those that please you, those you spend time on and enjoy. Our yearly show isn't a competition, and I'd like to have all of our membership represented in the display. So spread the word by putting up flyers in local garden centers, bookstores and other places, invite a friend or two and enjoy the show. I hope to see everyone there!

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)

Directory Additions

Directory Corrections

LSBF Convention Report

by Donna L. Dobberfuhl, President SABS

TO ALL ABS MEMBERS-----I have been just been informed that there are only 40 registrants thus far for the Ft. Worth LSBF State Convention. The deadline for the lesser rate is fast approaching. When a club cannot meet the minimum registrants of 100, all the free meeting rooms (workshops) become not so free. This is how it works at all the conventions (for each club), Don't meet the quota and everybody loses. LSBF can't afford the annual guest artist and when your convention comes around the attendance will be down. Please consider a wonderful weekend of bonsai and register.

With a great deal of delight I also found out that the San Antonio Bonsai Society leads the pack in the number of registrants. We have nine to date and there may be a couple more soon to appear. Austin Bonsai Society has 5 registrants. I am issuing a challenge!! Look around and grab a buddy, register four more souls. The best fun is had at the conventions and just so much is learned just standing around. Do you want SABS to have sole bragging rights?? TOP CLUB FOR 2010. Then meet me in Fort Worth!!!

Zilker Garden Festival Report

by Charlotte Cranberg, AAGC Representative

The Zilker Garden Festival was a great success for the vendors and the visitors. We won't know for a few weeks how successful it was financially. The weather was superb and everyone had a good time. The pictures were taken in the Greene Room where Bonsai Society set up an educational display. We had a constant stream of interested people and more signed up and were truly interested in bonsai and the club than ever before. We should gain some new members from this effort.

There were demonstrations of pruning and a display of trees, accent plants, soil, tools and books. Lots of questions were asked.

President Joey McCoy set it up and was there along with Bill Boytim for most of the time of the two day event. Also helping were Nan Jenkins, Mike Watson, Charlotte Cranberg, Timi Kykendall, Els Ulug, Zerita Rogers, Alisan Clarke, and Jim Bauman. It was lots of fun and I hope more of you will join us next year.

Koji Hiramatsu Demonstration

Photos by Joey McCoy





PERSIMMON HILL BONSAI
CLOSING SALE
 DISCOUNTS ON NURSERY & STUDIO STOCK
 INCLUDING A LARGE SELECTION OF POTS
 EMAIL US FOR DISCOUNT LIST

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

ABS April 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, Collin Murphy, and Nan Jenkins.

Pat reported our income over expenses through March was \$491.33.

ABS will host the LSBF convention in either 2013 or 2014, depending on whether we co-host with San Antonio. Acquiring workshop material for that convention was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

TTSBE GARAGE SALE

No not this month—in September, but keep us in mind as you do your Spring housecleaning! You do DO Spring housecleaning, don't you??

Or whenever the mood strikes to get rid of those things that you're not using!

We need all of your good 'ole stuff!!



Members creating accent plants during 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.

Does mycorrhiza work? Apparently all plants, not just pines, have a need for some form of mycorrhiza. The topic is too involved to be covered here. Go to the website www.fungi.com/mycogrow/amaranthus for a good article. If you have problems with that (as I did) go to www.fungi.com and click on the product Mycrogrow. Then scroll to the bottom and click on their link to Dr. Amaranthus article. If you can't find their product in the local store get whichever one has the most species of good fungi.

Three new tasks present themselves this month, repotting tropicals, leaf pruning and keeping roots cool.

Leaf pruning is the cutting off of many or all of the leaves in order to induce a new flush of growth similar to the growth after breaking dormancy. This should only be done on very healthy trees and should not do it two years in a row. Sometimes the excuse is made that you get two seasons of growth. However if you do the proper trimming during the growth phase the plant is continuing to produce the division of twigs necessary for ramification and the stress of leaf removal is unnecessary. The only real justification for leaf pruning is to replace old or damaged leaves with a newer set that will be prettier in a show or in the fall. The pruning must be done while there is still a month of good growing weather left meaning before the end of May in the D-FW area. The tree should be fertilized a few days before pruning. When pruning defoliate strong branches fully while leaving some leaves on weak branches. Usually interior branches will benefit by having their foliage kept on. When the leaves are off you can check the branches for undesirable characteristics. Cut vertical growing, hanging, or crossing branches. Leave any major work for next fall. After this work watch your watering, the tree will not use nearly as much water as when in full leaf so do not overwater. When growth starts get your tweezers out and keep up with the trimming. Do not let the new shoots get long internodes.

When the night temperatures are consistently above 60 degrees you can start thinking about repotting those tropicals. The need the warmth for good root growth. Remember that

the warmer temperatures and spring winds will cause the roots to dry quickly so have a spray bottle or some damp cloths handy. Keep them shaded until they recover.

The old methods were to repot azaleas after they finished blooming thinking that the tree needed nutrients from the roots for their blossoms. The newer thoughts are that the plant has all the necessary nutrients available in the bud and to repot the azaleas in the spring while they are still dormant. If you repot after blooming, do not remove as much soil and keep them shaded until they recover and are growing well. 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.

The hot sun shining on the pot, especially the dark colored ones, can raise the temperature to the point of killing the roots. Especially sensitive are the nice growing tips at the edge of the rootball next to the pot. If the pot feels hot to your hand think about how the roots feel, after all they are living things too. These temperatures can be kept lower by shading the pot with any porous material. Putting sphagnum on the surface is good. Do not use any solid material like newspaper on the surface of the soil as it will cause you watering problems. And speaking of watering problems do not rely on rainfall to water for you, some plants shed the water to the outside & miss the pot. You must check them yourself.

Insects are waiting for a chance to get hold of some well fed and very tasty snacks. If you give them half a chance they will move into your bonsai almost overnight and are usually hard to spot until damage shows up. The most prevalent ones are aphids, spider mites, and scale. Leaf miners and various caterpillars will sneak in too. I use the organic foliar spray (1 tablespoon each of liquid kelp, fish emulsion, molasses, and apple cider vinegar in one gallon of water) to control all these. Horticultural oil spray can be used the year around. Note that the horticultural oil spray is a more refined and lighter version of the old dormant oil spray that could only be used in the dormant season. Do not use oils on those species such as the buttonwood that have a sensitivity to oil. If in doubt please read the label on the product you wish to use.

Treat for fungal problems too. Leaf spot, mildew, and such can be treated by using potassium bicarbonate obtainable from any good nursery. A substitute would be sodium bicarbonate (baking soda). Use one tablespoon per gallon as a spray and be sure to cover both sides...

continued on next page

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

