



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

October 2009

October Programs

by Mike Watson

On Wednesday October 14th we will have a **VERY special guest!** Kathy Shaner will give us a demonstration of her awe inspiring bonsai skills. For those who have never seen Kathy, please do yourself a favor and come to her presentation. Starting her career in Bonsai in 1983, Kathy Shaner has become Internationally known and Recognized for her excellence in the art of Bonsai. After becoming a member of ten Bonsai clubs and studying under several of California's most respected Bonsai instructors, she was granted the opportunity to study in Toyohashi, Japan. There she worked for Yasuo Mitsuya, winner of



Els working on a pre-bonsai specimen at September's member's workshop

Calendar of Events

- October 14 ABS Monthly Meeting Reception**
Hosts: Mike Watson and Phima Chen
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm
(Hosts for October's reception: James Costabile and Sharon Tedford)
- October 14 ABS Monthly Meeting**
Lecture/Demo with Kathy Shaner
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm
- October 20 ABS Board Meeting**
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm
- October 20 ABS Members Workshop**
Open Workshop
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

Minister of Education and Kokufu Awards, among others. He realized that her drive and passion for Bonsai went far deeper than a simple hobbyist's desire and that she had a great talent. Mr. Mitsuya encouraged Kathy to complete the full 5-year apprenticeship, which she did in 1994. This was a double first for both Japan and Kathy Shaner. She was the first non-Japanese citizen and first woman to be certified by the Nippon Bonsai Kyodo Kumaii, the professional Bonsai grower's branch of the Nippon Bonsai Kyokai (Japan Bonsai Association). She is the curator of the Golden State Bonsai Collection-North at Lake Merritt in Oakland, California. (Excerpts courtesy of the Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Assoc.)

Tuesday October 20th we will have an open workshop. Bring anything you would like to work on or just show up and hang out. It's always a good time when we're talking trees!

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Joey McCoy
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Collin Murphy
Secretary

Pat Ware
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Noreen Quisenberry
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Nan Jenkins
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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.

Collin Murphy is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". He may be contacted at ckmurphy2000@yahoo.com.

President's Message by Joey McCoy

Wow, what a difference a month makes! Last time I was writing, we were caught in a sweltering heat storm, which was cooking my plants and my brain! Today just a day officially into fall, we haven't climbed out of the 60's and it's been as wet as Seattle! Such a change of pace, it's enough to give you whiplash!

October always brings cool weather and needed rain-fall, but it also brings another happy event – the return of artist Kathy Shaner to the Austin area! For those that have worked with Kathy and have experienced her skills firsthand, it's always a pleasure to have this skilled master with us. For those who haven't had that pleasure, I'd recommend taking advantage of the many opportunities available this month. She will give a free lecture/demo to our Austin Bonsai Society (please attend!), will lead a workshop in San Antonio (available to Austin members if they sign up with Donna Dobberfuhl in time!), hold an all-day workshop through TTSBE working on some of the foster care trees (contact Elaine White), and the pinnacle is her weekend seminar held this year in Buda (contact Terry Ward for more information). I feel lucky to have her come here to share her knowledge and skills with us. Bonsai is a small world (pun intended) and it's a wonderful thing to have the opportunity to learn from those who do it best!

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(call for directions)

ABS September General Meeting Minutes
by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and thanked Candy Hansen and Charlotte Cranberg for hosting. There were no new members or visitors at this meeting.

Elaine reminded everyone about the upcoming TTSBE garage sale on September 26. Donations are still being accepted. You can give donation to any TTSBE member before the garage sale.

Donna reminded everyone about the San Antonio mini-convention on September 10th.

Joey then introduced Mike Watson who introduced Chuck Ware, who was the auctioneer for the evening.



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ABS Board September Meeting Minutes
by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were board members Joey McCoy, Mike Watson, Pat Ware, Collin Murphy, Nan Jenkins.

The 2011 LSBF (state) convention is scheduled for the same weekend as our annual show. The ABS annual show will likely be rescheduled.

There is an upcoming AAGC meeting for member clubs to give feedback and ask questions about the recent changes regarding using the Zilker facility for club shows and events.

Pat gave the treasurer's report. For the end of August our expenses over income are \$245.17. There was a \$163.84 loss on the Robert Martinez workshop.

The auction generated \$1,264 income that will be included in next month's report.

In order to mail the newsletters in a more timely manner, newsletter content is now due on the 25th of each month.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Directory Additions

None

Bonsai Calendar

California Shohin Seminar
St Louis Shohin Seminar

Santa Nella, CA
Collinsville, IL

February 5 - 7, 2010
May 20 - 22, 2011

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

ABS Annual Auction
Photos by Joey McCoy



Lots of bonsai trees, pre-bonsai material, pots, and other items were auctioned at September's meeting

Yvonne Padilla Workshop
Photos by Joey McCoy



Several members participated in Yvonne's workshop and did lots of work on their trees.

October 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.

How hot does your tree get? The following data was taken by Mark Bynum on a calm sunny day with the ambient temp at 95 degrees F. with unglazed ceramic pots. For the full range of his measurements see the September newsletter (Ft Worth or Dallas)

In the sun	123
after watering	109
under shade cloth	105
in dappled shade	98
on ground dapple shade	85-90
black plastic nursery pot	143

Use this information to plan your bonsai area for next year. Remember that most trees need the full sun exposure except for the hottest time so you need to cover the pots with something.

If you have not checked your wiring yet this fall, you had better look at it. The fall growth can make the tree swell up and get bad wire marks in a hurry. If the tree/limbs do not stay where you want them, then rewire it placing the new wire in a slightly different path or possible wrap in the opposite direction.

Watch your watering now that the temperature is a little lower. Cut back on the watering but do not allow the trees to dry out. Trees require less water during the shorter days and lower temperatures. However you need to remember that the wind can still stress the trees and dry out the soil so you should water by checking the soil and not just on a given schedule.

Insects will continue to be present. Cooler (but not cold) days mean a resurgence of the aphids. Mites will also still be around. Scale also can be a problem. Treat with a light horticultural oil which will kill the adults and also wipe out the eggs and over-wintering pupae. Be sure to cover all the cracks in the bark to get to the eggs. The organic spray (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water) will work on evergreens and will also give them some nutrients. The dead scale will probably have to be removed physically. A soft toothbrush works for me (I sometimes need to wet the branch to loosen the scale).

Feeding of deciduous trees should be discontinued for the

winter. Evergreens and conifers will benefit from a low nitrogen feeding. Organic fertilizers are better as they will breakdown into nutrients more slowly as the season gets cooler and the trees activity slows also. Be sure to use one that supplies the 13 micronutrients needed. The organic spray given above can be used as a soil drench but dilute it a little more. Kelp is an excellent source of the essential minor elements needed by plants.

As the trees loose their foliage, you can study their trunk lines and branch structure. Any faulty styling and the general design features can be observed more easily and corrections planned. Look for crossing branches. Cut vertical growing twigs both growing up and those growing down. Reduce long internodes by cutting back and growing new extensions. Clean out heavy branch clusters the make the tree look too dense. Be particularly attentive to prevent the formation of heavy branches in the top part of the tree where faster growth often occurs. Work can be done now or later during the winter at your leisure but it is too easy to forget about it when the tree is in winter storage.

Some may repot in the fall but I feel that it is counter-productive to do so. New roots are more prone to freeze damage if we get a bad winter Repot at the proper time next spring which is when the buds swell and new growth is imminent.

Creating some shohin bonsai can lead to some winter enjoyment. Since they do not take much room you can find a space in the house or a small greenhouse. Let them go dormant for a short period and you can take them in and have new growth in a very short time. Small elms are especially good for this. Then set back and enjoy your little fellows in the house while the winter wears on.

Kathy Shaner (and Sylvia has said it too) has recommended that you remove the top 1/4 to 1/2 inch of soil and replace it with fresh soil. This will help eliminate weed seed that has blown in and may make watering easier.

Winter quarters: Here in Texas more trees are lost in the winter due to drying out than to the cold. Of course that doesn't mean for you to leave the tropicals out or to let the roots freeze on southern trees like the crape myrtle. Even in a greenhouse or sunny window the soil can dry out amazingly fast. The wind in winter has amazing drying powers too. So while protecting the roots be sure to give it a wind screen but make sure that you can check the soil for watering needs. (it helps here if you know which particular plants dry out faster and situate them together. Winter kill usually comes because the soil has frozen and the sun and/or wind is removing water from the tops. The roots cannot obtain water to replenish the loss and the top dessicates to the point of death.

September AAGC Meeting Minutes

by Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary



Kathy Shaner working on a tree during last year's demo

The treasurer reported that \$190,606.78 profit was made on the Dinoland exhibit. That was divided between PARD and AAGC. Both parties got \$95,303.39 which they agreed to put into accounts to be used for infrastructure improvements to Zilker Botanical Garden. With "in kind" contributions the total was half a million dollars.

Mel reported that 4 gardeners have retired and he will begin hiring Oct. 1st. Also, he will start using lake water.

Publications Chairman, Bob Beyer reported on changes that are planned for "Down the Garden Path". We will save over \$10,000 by going on line and we can publish more frequently and keep members up to date. He will publish 6 times a year instead of 2 or 3 times and there will be linkage to more detailed sites. Clubs will be encouraged to print out a few copies for those in their club who don't have computers.

The city has informed us that clubs with vendors will have to pay the rental fee which amounts to \$100 and hour for the auditorium and \$40 an hour for the Greene Room. If you don't have vendors, you don't pay anything for one show a year. They have worked out a plan for 2011 that will allow us to have our vendors if we give 30% of our proceeds to the PARD. That will amount to less than \$100 of our take so it's a good deal, but not permanent. In 2012, instead of paying several thousand dollars for the weekend we could be able to pay a minimum of \$1000 if we wanted to have vendors. In the next year everyone will be working out ways to come up with solutions for the smaller clubs who want vendors and don't have \$1000.

People are encouraged to volunteer for the Zilker Festival March 27th and 28th 2010.

Charlotte Cranberg
AAGC Representative

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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 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

