



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

September 2008

September Programs

by Joey McCoy

September is going to be an exciting month for Austin Bonsai as we will have an extra meeting. The Lone Star Bonsai Federation visiting artist this year is **Michael Hagedorn**. Michael, first known to many as an outstanding Bonsai potter, apprenticed for 2 ½ years to Shinji Suzuki of Nagano Japan. He now runs Crataegus Bonsai in Portland Oregon and is bringing his skills to our club. On **Tuesday, September 9th, we will have a workshop with Michael focusing on your Bonsai**. Cost of the workshop is \$45. I find it helpful to have another set of eyes on my trees as they can sometimes see a way to improve the Bonsai to the next level. Any species will be fine, and any level from unstyled to refined can be worked on. In fact, sometimes the most rewarding workshops can be had in having a visiting artist help with the final refinement stages on a tree. Please bring wire, tools, turntable and any other supplies to work on your tree.

*As of this writing there are still spaces available for the workshop, please contact me as soon as possible to be included! (656-7513 Joey). Remember that attending workshops helps ensure that we have them in the future.

On **Wednesday, September 10th** we will have our second meeting with Michael Hagedorn as he gives us all a **lecture/demo** working on a tree, which will be raffled to the attendees at the end of the meeting. Be sure to buy raffle tickets as this helps to pay for the cost of bringing our visiting artists to Austin.

*Before this Wednesday meeting we will have a dinner starting to meet Michael at 4:30pm at the **Shady Grove Restaurant**: 1624 Barton Springs Road Austin, TX 78704 • (512) 474-9991. I'll need to make

Calendar of Events

September 9 Workshop with Michael Hagedorn
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

September 10 ABS Monthly Meeting Reception
Hosts: Candy Hansen and Els Ulug
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm
(Hosts for October's reception: Mike Watson and Jim Trahan)

September 10 ABS Monthly Meeting
Lecture/Demo with Michael Hagedorn
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

September 16 ABS Board Meeting
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

September 16 ABS Members Workshop
How to Age Trees with Donna Dobberfuhr
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

September 27 Shohin Society of Texas Business Meeting and Workshop
Persimmon Hill Bonsai 10:30 am

reservations, so let me know well beforehand to tell me you're coming! (call me at 656-7513).

On **Tuesday, September 16**, we will have **Donna Dobberfuhr** give a program about how to "age" our trees. Enjoying our Bonsai, part of the wonder is to imagine a larger tree out in the wild, but the real magic happens when we get a sense of old age in a tree - that when looking at a tiny plant we feel somehow dwarfed both by size and time. So come to the meeting and learn techniques on how to make this happen on our own trees.

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

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Lone Star Bonsai Federation Visiting Artist: Michael Hagedorn



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.

Our visiting artist this year is Michael Hagedorn.

Michael Haedorn was a potter before apprenticing in Japan under bonsai master Shinji Suzuki. His work appeared in the prestigious Kokufu shows in Tokyo in 2004, 2005, and 2006. Mr. Suzuki honored him with the opportunity to wire two trees that went on to win a Kokufu prize and a Prime Minister award. Michael lives near Portland, Oregon.

Michael has written a book called *The Schooling of an Irreverent Bonsai Monk*. For more details, see, <http://www.crataegus.com/Crataegus%20Bonsai>.

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e-mail: mbpbonsai@hughes.net
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Pflugerville, TX 78660
(call for directions)

Hot Bonsai with Chuck Ware
Photos by Joey McCoy



Chuck Ware gave August's program on Hot Bonsai, using some of his own trees pictured below as examples.



Ficus Phillipensis



Burt Davyi Nana Ficus

Member's Workshop with Chuck Ware
Photos by Joey McCoy



Jimbo working on a forest



Els doing some major styling



Chuck giving advice on styling to Luke

Foster Care a Tree Program

By Alisan Clarke, The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit

The collected cedar elms, *Ulmus crassifolia*, is 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 plants 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 REPRESENTAIVES

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

August 2008 ABS Board Meeting Minutes by Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by President Jim Trahan in the library of the Austin Area Garden Center. Also present were Pat Ware, Joey McCoy, Mike Watson and Charlotte Cranberg.

Treasurer, Pat Ware reported \$2244.86 as our share of profit from the Convention. Also, our \$4000 up front loan for the Convention was returned to us.

The pots that were donated by Robert Albrecht were discussed and it was decided to divide them between auctions and raffles and possible programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Charlotte Cranberg
Secretary



**PERSIMMON HILL BONSAI
STUDIO & NURSERY**

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

September 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.

I think plants are more attuned to the varying length of days than temperature to set their life cycles--dormancy, flowering, etc. For example, the cedar elm sets buds in early August so they are ready to pop with the first fall rain so that its seeds have the best chance to survive long enough to get a root down. As I write this, we are having several days of 80 degree weather after the summer of 100's. It is probably not late enough for the bonsai to go into their pre-dormancy slow down period. If they are still growing, continue twig pruning and other summer care.

There could still be some days with pretty hot temps. So as the sun changes its angle make sure that the pots do not get too hot in the afternoon sun. Also watering now becomes harder. As trees slow their growth they do not take as much water. Neither will they transpire as much on the cooler days. So check each one separately and water as often and as much as the individual tree requires.

Help your trees go into dormancy. Withhold nitrogen fertilizers from those outdoor trees now. They would need less water as they quit active growth but on warm days trees with green foliage will still transpire and need that water. Most tropicals have a dormant season also but it is caused by dry conditions rather than cold. These types need to be hardened also by cutting the fertilizer to halt active growth and give them lighter watering. This will enable them to withstand the transfer to the greenhouse better.

Check the trees you still have wire on. When the cooler days get here some trees will expand their branches and get wire cuts rather quickly. You need to check them periodically over the winter also. Winter growth will usually be pretty slow but can occur, especially on the evergreens. Cut the wire off. You can easily break the branches trying to unwrap the wire and its just not worth trying to save the wire. Be sure you do not overlook a small piece of wire. It would cut into the branch very soon. If you need to reapply some wire take care.

Two other things you can do now. You should prepare your winter quarters and you should study your evergreen

trees to determine if you need to do any restyling later on this fall.

Check on the place you expect to winter your bonsai.

(1) Make sure that it is clean. Debris harbors insects and other plant pathogens. A strong lime-sulfur spray can be used to disinfect the area as well as your growing area after the trees are removed.

(2) Also be sure that you will be able to check the water needs of the trees.

(3) It should be somewhat protected from winds but should have some air movement to help prevent molds from developing.

(4) Having it in a location where you can see the trees will allow you to enjoy the winter silhouette, i.e. the branch structure and twiginess, that is a great part of deciduous bonsai.

There is not too much to be done on deciduous trees at this time. Bugs and other problems are usually not a matter of concern since the foliage will be dropping soon. Evergreens and tropicals will still need to be watched for their insect problems, especially the spider mite which will be active into fall. Use the organic spray formula to control them. If we should have a stretch of damp weather you should be watching for fungal problems, leaf spot, mildew, etc. Treat fungal with potassium bicarbonate, (baking soda-sodium bicarbonate- will work about as well). I would be okay with using a 1% hydrogen peroxide solution at this time of the year for fungal control.

The organic spray formula is one tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water. This supposedly can be used as a foliar feed but I only consider it an insecticide.

Pruning and trimming 'can' be done any time that there is not a lot of sap flowing but is usually advisable to do it during dormancy. Sap flow is indicated by the foliar activity of the plant like in the spring. If your tree went into summer dormancy which occurs during hot weather then the cooler weather might result in a larger sap flow in late summer or early fall. If your plant gets a flush of new growth it would be advisable to postpone large pruning cuts for a while. Basically let you tree tell you when it is ok to operate.

Check nurseries for possible bonsai material. When the planting season is over they usually put everything on sale to clear it out so they can fill up with christmas trees.

August 2008 ABS General Meeting Minutes

by Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by Vice President Joey McCoy in the Austin Area Garden Center.

A card was sent around for members to write to President Jim Trahan who was injured in a fall.

Hostesses Pat Ware and Alisan Clarke were thanked.

Visitors Marion Alsup, Ed Kotata and Sherri Rickman were welcomed.

Charlotte Cranberg introduced VP of AAGC Marion Alsup who talked about the Dino exhibit and encouraged members to volunteer for the fall event.

Chuck Ware was introduced and spoke on plant care during the hot summer weather. He brought in a magnificent display of native and tropical bonsai including some very large and impressive ones. He spoke of the importance of understanding the particular plant variety and it's culture. He brought in at least a dozen varieties of ficus to demonstrate the tremendous variation in growing conditions. He impressed us with the need for keeping the soil cool enough, even for tropicals and that water alone would not solve the problem of leaf desiccation that occurs in dry, hot, windy conditions. He referred to the research that Bill Cody has done in this area.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30PM

Charlotte Cranberg
Secretary

Directory Additions

Sarah Thomas
1 Country Club Lane
Mc Allen, Tx. 78503
(956) 451-6658
stthomas.im@gmail.com

Sherry Ruckman
900 Adobe St.
Karnes City, Tx. 78118
(830) 780-2702
rtsa2816@sbcglobal.net

Kathy Shaner Workshop

The Foster Care Parents that have signed up will have a free workshop with Kathy Shaner specifically with their tree, on Oct.6 '08 at Elaine White's Lakeview Bonsai garden.

You will be given advice and suggestions on your tree starting at 9:00am – 12:00pm.

We will break for a locally catered lunch from 12:00 – 1:00pm on the deck overlooking Lake Travis. Everyone will pay for their own lunch and can choose from several menus from the local area.

In the afternoon bring-your-own-tree session starting at 1:00, you may attend without signing up for the Foster Care Tree Program. Cost of this Workshop is \$40:00 and will last 'till about 4:00pm.

We will be working outside, so wear your grubbies and layers, as the weather is unpredictable.

You may attend both or only one session-or if you want to work on your tree in the pm you can observe the first session at no cost. Maximum number of participants is 8. Contact Elaine White: (512) 266-2655 or ewbonsai@austin.rr.com

Elaine White

Directory Corrections

Tom & Kiwe McGuire
614 Walsh Hill Trail
Cedar Park, Tx. 78613

JADE GARDENS
HOME OF



Chuck & Pat Ware
Owners
Visa & MasterCard
e-mail: bonsaijg@wimberley-tx.com
web page: <http://www.wimberley-tx.com/~bonsaijg>

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

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**

