



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

September 2009

September Programs

by Mike Watson

It's that time of the year for my favorite ABS event. On **Wednesday September 9th we will have our annual auction!** This program is not only fun, but really helps the club to finance all of our great programs. Many of us have trees with which we've hit a wall, stylistically. Also many of us have pots, tools or other items that we don't use any longer, and that others would cherish. Please bring in Bonsai or related items (items that might auction well for the club) which have been properly labeled by copying the enclosed tags and filling one out for each item. If you have an expensive item which you'd like to see have a minimum bid, please write this separately in RED ink and be sure to include your name at the bottom in case it is not sold so it can be returned. Be sure to stick around and bid, bid, bid! And bring a friend or neighbor with you too, it's a great way to get some terrific material at low price and help out your club!

Tuesday September 15th we're going to have a special



Sunny works on a bougainvillea during August's open workshop

Calendar of Events

September 9 ABS Monthly Meeting Reception
Hosts: Candy Hansen and Jim Baumann
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm
(Hosts for October's reception: Mike Watson and Phima Chen)

September 9 ABS Monthly Meeting
Annual ABS Auction
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

September 10 San Antonio Mini-Convention
Sculptural Designs Atelier
San Antonio, TX
4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

September 15 ABS Board Meeting
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

September 15 ABS Members Workshop
Native and Tropical Trees with Yvonne Padilla
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

September 19 Shohin Society of Texas
Annual Business Meeting and Shohin Pot Making Workshop
Persimmon Hill Bonsai 10:30 am

guest. Corpus Christi's own Yvonne Padilla will lead our **Member's Workshop** where the subject will be "Texas natives and Tropicals". We all seem to have plenty of both in our collections so be sure to bring a couple of trees. This will be a fun and informative workshop!

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

President's Message by Joey McCoy

"We're having a heat wave, a tropical heat wave. The temperature's rising, it isn't surprising.." I seem to have all sorts of songs stuck in my head lately. We're just days away from beating the record of the most days over 100 degrees as I write this, and so far no cooling or rain in sight. What is surprising to me is that some of my plants are absolutely thriving right now, mainly the Ficus. They're growing like weeds, and loving every minute of the weather. Of course I have to water them well to keep them from getting too crispy, but it's always interesting to me to find that what I consider to be extremes in weather are sometimes right in the range of happiness for some plants. We should all watch how different species grow with the seasons and not necessarily treat them with kid gloves just because it's uncomfortable for us. Same goes for winter, some plants do just fine with the cold. It's our job to learn what our trees can take. Meanwhile I'll stick to cool pools and air conditioning. "...Man it's a hot one, like seven inches from the mid-day sun.."

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.

Our annual auction is coming! This is the biggest fund-raiser for our club all year. It's what allows us to be able to have our programs and to get visiting artists each year. Please attend, bring a friend as well, and bid! Get the word out to your local garden centers and let them know about our auction too, the public is welcome to join (and to bring home a new tree or two!). This is always one of my favorite events and there are always great deals to be had. See everyone soon!

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

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>

ABS August General Meeting Minutes
by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and thanked Carl Quisenberry and Jimbo for hosting. There were no new members or visitors at this meeting.

Joey reminded everyone about the San Antonio mini-convention on September 10th, and Elaine White reminded everyone about the TTSBE garage sale scheduled for September 16th.

Joey then introduced Mike Watson who thanked everyone who attended the Roberto Martinez workshop. He then introduced Roberto who gave a lecture/demo on a Shimpaku Juniper.

Directory Additions

Michelle Teed
603 W 13th St #1A-257
Austin TX 78701

Harrison Richards
201 N Weston Lane
Austin TX 78733
harrisonprichards@gmail.com

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 September Garage/ Yard Sale !!

Friday, September 25 12:00-6:00pm Drop off
Saturday, September 26 8:00-3:00 pm Sale

We have a lovely person who has offered
to share her yard for our sale:

Ellen Sullivan

2502 Wilke Dr.

Between Barton Hills Dr. & Rabb Rd.

We need kitchen and garden things, books, electronics
tools, childrens furniture and toys. No clothes please.

We will gratefully appreciate all donations and volun-
teers to help with sale!

If you can't bring items to the above address, on Friday,
bring them to the next meeting.

Bonsai Calendar

World Bonsai Convention
San Antonio Mini-Convention
SSOT Quarterly Meeting
California Shohin Seminar

San Juan, Puerto Rico
San Antonio, TX
Persimmon Hill Bonsai
Santa Nella, CA

July 7 - 13, 2009
September 10, 2009
September 19, 2009
February 5 - 7, 2010

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

Roberto Martinez Lecture/Demonstration

Photos by Joey McCoy



Roberto styled a shimpaku juniper and also made a sketch showing future refinements to the tree.

Roberto Martinez Workshop
Photos by Joey McCoy



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

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.

That was an interesting weekend we had with the LSBF touring artist. Using the Subulata (used to be nerifolia) in Dallas and the Raintree in FTW he taught a lot about doing tropicals like tropicals and not like temperate deciduous trees. During our trip east, I was able to find that they can grow pines (especially JBP) successfully without any cold weather. Being a tour guide to a visiting artist can broaden your bonsai experience in many ways.

What do you think about while you are watering your trees? Is this just a mindless chore or are you thinking about how that tree is developing and what will need to be done in the future. Good observing would let you plan ahead and obtain materials you need. A different pot perhaps or you may notice the start of an insect problem or the need to get them ready for winter. It pays to make a habit of doing more than just applying water.

Help your trees go into dormancy. Withhold 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 lighter watering. This will enable them to withstand the transfer to the greenhouse better.

The latest issue of International Bonsai has a good article about the minor elements needed for good plant growth. In addition to the big three N-P-K there are 13 more that are important. The article cites the authors experience with applying them to a chlorotic white pine and some deciduous trees. The deciduous responded with improved leaves on the new foliage and the white pine opened the next year with good green needles. He suggests that the proper time to apply is at bud break. Check your fertilizers that you use. Many will list the minor elements included. Most organics will have them. (My Hollytone has all 16 elements listed.)

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. I suggest to 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. But you must do it with care, its too easy to leave one coil on the branch. You should start at the tip of the branch and cut and REMOVE each coil back toward the center. 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 during the winter.

(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 and on your greenhouse plants all winter. 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 once was 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 your tree tell you when it is ok to operate.

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



**PERSIMMON HILL BONSAI
STUDIO & NURSERY**

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

San Antonio Mini Convention

September 10th
4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Goodie Bags

Bonsai Vendors
(including some new additions)

Giant Raffle

Demonstrations All Day

Quick Draw
Styling contest between two artists
The trees will be auctioned when finished

Refreshments provided by SABS
Members are bringing a covered dish

**Admission Fee: A raffle item of your
choice**

Location:
Sculptural Designs Atelier
1514 Broadway
San Antonio TX 78215
(210) 326-0860

ABS Board August Meeting Minutes

by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Present were board members Joey McCoy, Mike Watson, Pat Ware, Collin Murphy, Carl Quisenberry, Nan Jenkins.

Charlotte gave the AAGC report. AAGC clubs will be limited to one show per year at Zilker. Vendors will not be allowed at shows unless the rental fee for the facility is paid. The rental fee is approximately \$3,300 for a weekend. If vendors are not present the rental fee will not be charged.

AAGC clubs will also be required to meet a certain minimum membership requirement but the limit has not yet been set.

AAGC will host one event per year in which member clubs can sell to the public.

Carl suggested that vendors could pay the traditional table fee to the City of Austin instead of to ABS to avoid the \$3,300 fee.

The board then discussed the upcoming donation of a bench and possibly a bonsai tree to Zilker Gardens. Charlotte will find out if we can have a plaque on the bench naming ABS as the donor. There was lots of discussion about how to secure a bonsai tree if ABS donates one along with the bench.

Pat gave the treasurer's report. Expenses over income were \$5.79 for July.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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

