



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

February 2014 vol 38

February 2014 Programs

by Jimbo Baumann

Root Over Rock Hands on Workshop

On **Wednesday, February 12**, Joey McCoy will be conducting a demonstration on root over rock bonsai with Cedar Elm.

We are encouraging members to bring a styled root over rock tree to the meeting. Everyone will have the opportunity to create their own masterpiece to take home.

We are providing Cedar Elm seedlings and the rock for members but are asking members to bring the following items: tools, nursery deep container, soil, and old pantyhose or string would be useful.

The monthly members only workshop will be on **Tuesday, February 18th** at the club house. Bring your deciduous trees for repotting and bring your established trees. We encourage beginners to attend this study session. There will be plenty of support from other members.

Calendar of Events

February 12 ABS Monthly Meeting
Cedar Elm Root Over Rock Workshop
Reception Hosts: Phina and Marlon Chen
Lizzie Chen and Nathan Gaar
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

February 18 ABS Monthly Meeting
Bring Your Own Root Over Rock
Or Create Your Own
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

April 10-13 LSBF Texas State Bonsai Convention
Houston, Texas

May 17-18 ABS Annual Show and Sale
Zilker Garden Center



Mike Hansen provides a demonstration on pine care at our ABS Jan 2014 meeting

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

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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.

Lizzie Chen is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". She may be contacted at lizziechen09@gmail.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 Nan Jenkins

Greetings Everyone,

Well, this is a crazy year! Poor trees! How can they ever figure out what season it is? As I write this, we are expecting another really cold front (so they say), so I spent time today carefully checking all my outdoor trees to find out which ones are budding out. We now have about 10 trees on the covered porch, and if the worst projections are expected, then we will cover them. Some of them even have leaves already.

The empty pots are all ready to get new plantings in them. We are lazy so we purchase soil and amend it as we want. That is done, so we are ready for February and March so we can get the trees repotted that need it. I'm excited because I am going to pot my biggest yaupon, the one styled several years ago by Roy Nagatoshi. I'm excited to see what it looks like in the pot I've chosen for it. I have a few more things to do on it, and it will be ready for public viewing.

The registration materials are out for the 2014 Lone Star Bonsai Federation state convention in Houston. It looks like a lot of fun, and the expenses are lower than they often are when it is held at a hotel. Plan on attending as much of it as you can. It starts on April 10th with the new bonsai artist competition on Thursday night. It is always fun to see all the ways that the different people can style a tree. That competition is limited to people who have been in bonsai for 5 years or less. Each club will choose one person to represent them. But you have to be registered for the convention and be a member of the club to be considered by the board.

Pat is taking memberships for ABS for 2014. It is certainly a bang for your buck, and well worth the small membership fee. Where else can you learn a craft and art that is so fulfilling? See you on Wednesday, February 12th!

-Nan

Remembering Richard Hayes

It is with great sadness that I announce the unexpected passing of Richard Hayes, a 30+ year bonsaist, an educator of bonsai, a long-time member of SABS, and most of all a dear friend to us all. Our loss of Richard, is the heaven of bonsai's gain of a great man.

I personally only knew Richard for the past 2 years, but in that short time, he taught me about Texas natives and other species, weather conditions affecting our trees, tree maintenance, and the history of SABS. I especially enjoyed my time during shows and events when we were able to discuss bonsai one-on-one. This is where Richard really opened up and gave me timeless information.

If I had just a few more seconds with Richard, I would have thanked him for all he did for the Texas bonsai community, SABS, and to each person he helped along his journey. Prune on Richard...

- Ryan Odegaard, SABS President



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PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES!

DUES ARE DUE NOW. IF NOT RECEIVED BY THE TREASURER BY FEBRUARY 28TH, YOU WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE DIRECTORY

Dues are \$30.00 for individuals and \$35.00 for a family (two adults) membership.

Houston Bonsai Society
LSBF 32nd Annual Exhibit & Convention 2014

East meets West

The Houston Bonsai Society and the Lone Star Bonsai Federation will host the annual Texas State Convention East Meets West at the Houston Marriott Westchase Hotel, from Thursday April 10 to Sunday April 13, 2014. These three days will be filled with lectures/demos and workshops and exhibit critique by three internationally known artists: Pedro Morales, David DeGroot and Arthur Joura, and by many other outstanding bonsai artists.

Pedro Morales from Puerto Rico is a talented artist and founder of the international Tropical Bonsai School. David DeGroot, an author and award-winning bonsai designer, has been the curator of the Weyerhaeuser's Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection in Seattle, Washington since its creation in 1989. Arthur Joura, a renowned bonsai artist, has been the manager and bonsai curator of the largest and finest bonsai collection in the Southeast, in North Carolina.

Local artists and specialists will also contribute numerous specialized workshops and lecture/demos. Dr. Scott Barboza, a geologist will address most bonsai soil substrates. Alex Leong, an HBS bonsai artist, will demonstrate the Chinese Lingnan Clip & Grow technique. David Kreutz will lecture on Azalea styling, care and maintenance. Frank Mihalic, a second generation bonsai artist, will hold a Make Your Own Sterling Silver Jewelry workshop.

The exhibit will present exceptional masterpieces from LSBF members across Texas. There will be national and local vendors for bonsai trees, tools, pots, books, stones and bonsai clothing. There will be raffles after raffles of bonsai, bonsai-related and a variety of other items as well as an auction of magnificent bonsai.

The Houston Marriott Westchase Hotel at 2900 Briarpark Drive, Houston, TX 77042 has reserved a special Bonsai Convention rate for attendees at \$79.00 per night. Make your reservation directly with the Marriott at 800-452-5110.

To enter bonsai in the exhibit or to include bonsai in the auction, please contact the Exhibit Chairperson, Alan Raymond at amraymond@suddenlink.net or 832-866-9546.

Beginning January 6, 2014, Convention information and registration form will be available at www.houstonbonsai.com. Full early registration is \$150 before March 15th and \$175 afterwards. Register early to ensure a seat in your favorite workshops.

ABS General Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2013

Call to order at 7:31 by Nan Jenkins, President welcoming Mike Hansen of MBP Bonsai, Pflugerville as speaker for the night's program.

Nan pointed out the most important aspects of the club's newsletter are on pages 2 and 3: Board of Directors, rate of advertising, facebook, Bonsai Calendar. Pat Ware discussed the end of year statement and budget, expenses and income. The Club had a \$3,684.25 profit for the year. There were no new members or visitors at the meeting.

Bill Boytim, outgoing Program Chair, explained that Jimbo will now be in charge of programs for membership meetings and that members should consider seasonal programs when presenting their requests to Jimbo.

Bill then introduced Mike Hansen, as an importer of pines who has studied and worked with Japanese Black pines and is author of "Seasonal Care of Japanese Black Pine."

Mike began his presentation by pointing out that winter is the busiest time for caring for your Japanese Black pine. It is the safest time to pot and repot, wire, cleaning needles and thinning, inspecting the tree for insects and disease. Wiring takes time and this work should be done carefully, working from the finest wire to the heaviest. He explained that the tree should be divided in three zones and how to remove the proper number of needles from each zone.

Winter is the only safe time to repot the Japanese black pine and a good time to look for good health in the root system. Repotting should be done every two years. Sanitize pots. A chlorinated "soft scrub" is good to use. He talked about his 6 pine soil recipes. Mike emphasized not to move a newly transplanted/repotted tree for 3 mos.

Mike outlined the yearly tasks for caring for a Japanese black pine in our area:

Spring - Daily watering
 Fertilize – organic best
 Candle pinching the elongation of a bud before it develops into new needs or bud

Summer - Protect tree from our hot sun by placing in an area where it will get partial shade after 11:00.
Water daily once or twice but do not over water.
 Candle pruning should be done between June 15 and July 4 above last years needles.
 He explained different times for candle pruning and what they produce as a result.

Fall (Oct-Nov) - Move tree into full sun
Water daily
Fertilize
Inspect

Adjournment 8:45 pm
Angie Hewes, Secretary

February 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.

The timing of the spring functions, such as repotting, will depend on your microclimate in your backyard. If you have kept your trees from freezing they will want to start growing much earlier than those kept outside all winter. Repotting can be done at any time during the dormancy but new roots are susceptible to freezing so you must have some place to protect them after repotting. The 'best' time to repot the deciduous temperate zone trees is when the buds are just beginning to swell. Generally this will be before the last of the freezing weather. Trees that leaf out early, maples and elms, can withstand a few degrees of frost but if repotted you must protect the roots. Sometimes this just means setting them on the ground, possibly with some mulch covering the pot. Some species such as the oaks and willows are naturally programmed to wait much later so that there is very little chance to get nipped. Typically, in my collection, the elms will be first, foliage showing about the end of February, along with the earliest maples. Then during March, the rest of the maples and most of the others. The deciduous oaks will come out around April 1. The live oaks and the cork oaks usually drop their leaves and get their new foliage during March.

The newer wisdom on azaleas is that you also repot them at this time. The roots will be reestablished by blooming time. This is much easier on the tree than waiting until after bloom when the temperature will be hot. (An aside note: later on before blooming starts you will be removing a lot of excess buds anyway which will reduce the stress on the tree at that time).

When new growth appears, keep it pinched so you keep the internodes short and develop a compact set of twigs on the branches. On alternate leaved species (i.e. elms) pinch when the shoot gets 4 or 5 leaves. Finger nails or shears can be used. If the twig gets too long it will be tough and you have to use shears. On opposite leaved trees (maples) pinch the central shoot as soon as it can be distinguished

from the two leaves. To do this really right you need to use pointed tweezers.

If you have not used an horticultural oil, the time is fast running out. The oil would be used to kill scale and over-wintering mites and other boogers. When new growth starts, the problems to look for are the above mentioned mites but especially aphids and mealy bugs. These can be controlled as well as giving the plants the required fertilizer by using an organic spray (4 tablespoons each of liquid kelp, liquid fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and liquid molasses in one gallon of water. All these are available in any organic nursery.) If leaf spot, mildew or any other fungal problems appear, use a baking soda (Sodium bicarbonate), Potassium bicarbonate, or a commercial fungicide spray.

Spring flowering plants will have their buds set on last years growth so pruning them will remove some flowers. Those that bloom later in the year will generally bloom on this years growth. Pruning them will reduce the amount of flowers. In some cases such as crape myrtle, tip pruning of the branch will result in no flowers at all. In these cases you must decide which is most important, ramification or flowers. An compromise would be to prune the branch shorter than you normally would and then let it bloom on new growth which will at the proper length, at least for the first flowering of the season.

When the growth starts the tree will need fertilizer. However, use one that has a small amount of nitrogen (the first number). The tree is naturally programmed to grow rapidly at this time so you don't need to encourage it further. Feed lightly to maintain a healthy green foliage. Trace minerals should be added to help with both the foliage color and the color of blooms.

Wire removal---Anytime you work on trees you should be noting if any wire is cutting into a branch. Repotting is a very good time to check all your trees for such damage. Sometimes you wire one or two branches to adjust them a bit and forget that you did. Start at the tip of the branch and completely remove that wire before going to the next so you don't inadvertently leave loops on the branch.

ABS Board MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2014

An important job which many neglect saying they are not going to show any trees is to detail their trees. This makes them look their best and that helps give you incentive to follow other good practices. Start by checking the branches. Prune any out of place or too long twigs. Remove any unnecessary wire, that is wire on limbs that have set in place. Treat any jin and shari that needs it. Then move down to the pot. Be sure it is clean and all lime deposits are removed. Steel wool works great to clean pots. A coating with a very light wax polish such as leaf shine will make the pot look good and help keep the mineral deposits from forming. Then check the soil. It should cover the outer roots. The surface of the soil must be clean of any fallen leaves or other debris.

What can you do on cold rainy days? Think about how to upgrade and improve your bonsai knowledge and your collection. Go to your computer and log on to www.houstonbonsai.com and register for the LSBF convention to see 3 of the best bonsai artists of today. Do a workshop or two. You cannot learn bonsai out of a book, you need to get the whys as well as the where-to-cuts. Other possibilities would be the opportunities your local club offers and in many cases are ignored. An exhibition should be a learning event for you, not just a show. Each tree there has a problem or two that have been cleverly concealed or the artist has drawn your eye away to some good feature.

SHOHIN SOCIETY 'HANDS-ON' WORKSHOP

Everyone is welcome to take part in the free Shohin Society of Texas how-to and hands-on workshop Saturday, February 15th. It's at the home of Terry and Sheila Ward, 12001 Red Hawk Cove in Austin. The workshop gets underway at 10:30 a.m. and is usually finished by 2:30 p.m.

The workshop is all about creating stone clasping and fused trunk style shohin bonsai. Complete workshop and what to bring details are in clubs newsletter. To get your copy or ask questions please email texshohin@sbcglobal.net.

The Shohin Society is a very informal group of enthusiasts from throughout Texas who love working with shohin size bonsai...bonsai eight inches tall and under. The club has no annual dues and meets four times a year. Everyone from just beginning to bonsai veteran is welcome to share in the learning and camaraderie.

Attendees: Nan Jenkins – President
Jim Baumann – Vice President
Russell Kohlert – Member At-Large
Deborah Van Cleaf – Member At-Large
Pate Ware – Treasurer
Zerita Rogers – Member At-Large
Angie Hewes – Secretary

Nan Jenkins called to Order 7:01 pm

Pat Ware gave treasurer's report: including 2014 budget for program speakers, paying

LSB dues, membership dues (19 paid so far).

Motion was made to reimburse Joey for the ink cartridges and report sleeves that were used for the Convention reports to all the clubs of 2013 Convention. Motion was seconded and all present were in favor of reimbursing Joey for these expenses.

Board discussed possible programs for monthly meetings. There was much discussion on the calendar of events and a root over rock program for the February monthly meeting was decided on with a hands-on workshop following aimed at mostly new members.

There was a discussion on the need for educating new members on ABS background and history.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm

Angie Hewes, Secretary

<https://www.facebook.com/AustinBonsaiSociety>



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 \$30.00 for an individual and \$35.00 for a family membership.

For additional information, please contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, Texas 78734



Spotlight of the Month
(Photo by Joey McCoy)