



BONSAI NOTEBOOK

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

July 2016 vol 66

July 2016 Program
By: Zach Rabalais

This month we have a great program lined up for our new members and anyone that is having problems with wiring their trees. The program for July will be on basic wiring technique. We will have lots of wire and juniper branches at the meeting for the demonstration, and we encourage you to bring in any trees you may need some help wiring.

The July program will be presented by Terry Ward. Terry studied bonsai in California under Bob M. Kayo as well as Mitsu Umehara, and has been active in bonsai for over 4 decades. He was honored as an Outstanding America Bonsai Artist by the National Bonsai Federation in 1987 and has founded 2 statewide shohin bonsai organizations in both California and Texas. He was also a member of the original board of directors for Golden State Bonsai Federation's Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt an an original member of the board of directors for TTSBE.

CALENDAR

- JULY 13:** BASIC WIRING W/TERRY WARD
7:30PM
HOSTS: RUBY CHIANG & WINNIE TAN
TREE HOSTS: JOEY MCCOY & ELS ULUG
- JULY 15:** MARLON CHEN'S SUISEKI EXHIBIT RECEPTION
AUSTIN AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER
- JULY 19:** BOARD MEETING 7PM
MEMBERS ONLY WORKSHOP: Wiring 7:30PM
- AUGUST 10:** L/D WITH OWEN REICH
- SEPTEMBER 14:** ANNUAL AUCTION-GET READY!!
- OCT 13-16:** LSBF CONVENTION, CORPUS CHRISTI



Joey McCoy's presentation on design

(Photo by May Lau)

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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 Jonathan Wood**

The registration packets are now available for the Lone Star Bonsai Federation Convention this October 13-16 2016 in Corpus Christi. I sat in on our LSBF meeting last weekend -- this convention is going to be wonderful! Reserve your workshop trees now by filling out and submitting registration packet ... before they run out of your favorite tree! The workshop material is excellent and the trees have grown a great deal more foliage since when the material photos were taken. Also, take advantage of the early registration discount... sure to be a great educational convention, with presentation of show trees from all over Texas and Louisiana.

The thought comes to mind that our club is superb because of our efforts as members. Individual contributions by members add up to shared knowledge, improved bonsai artistry, fellowship, and fun in the bonsai art. We are a volunteer-run club where everyone pitches in ... Consider how service to the club makes us a part of the greater community through our shows and educational booths, how it puts us in touch with touring artists, conventions, and hands-on instruction from bonsai masters from the US and beyond. I know my time volunteering has enhanced my learning and connected me with wonderful bonsai people, to whom I am forever grateful!

Thank you Joey McCoy for guiding us on sketching a vision for our bonsai... I have more confidence in sketching rough ideas for trees before completely removing branches that could be used in overall design... it was quite a clever demonstration!

Can't wait to see you all at our next club meeting to learn about wiring trees with Terry Ward. Terry is such a great instructor and I'm sure we have much to learn from his presentation!

Happy Styling!

Jonathan Wood, Austin Bonsai Society President 2016

"Killing trees is the tuition you pay for learning bonsai."
-- John Naka

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jorge & Angelica Reza
jorgereza59@yahoo.com

John & Taylor Vasquez
jjvasquez78660@gmail.com

Alejandro Villa
alexv81155@gmail.com

**ABS General Meeting
June 8, 2016
Zerita Rogers, Secretary**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by President, Jonathan Wood.

Refreshment, was provided by Elaine White and Zerita Rogers.

Jonathan, welcomed this evenings guests.

Jonathan, thanked Joey for the great job getting things organized and running smoothly for the annual Bonsai Show. The Bonsai show had more attendance than we had in years. Joey also thanked the Volunteers who helped with making this show such a great success. Set-Up and Take-Down was completed in record time. Volunteers were there to answer questions from the public. There were more people this year, to view the two demonstrations and both were fantastic. The raffle appeared to be a financial success. All in all the success of this event is due to the cooperation of all our members working as a team.

Pat reminded us that the two members who signed up to bring a tree for display at our General Meeting will be listed under the Hostesses in the Newsletter. We did have others members and guest, who brought a variety of trees.

Zilker Garden Council: Alisan had great news. The Zilker Garden Festival was a success this year. Their profit this year was \$ 58,000.00, after paying for four policeman. Zilker Garden sold beer this year and is thinking of offering apple cider next year. Alisan mentioned they should soon have a new Director of Conservancy. Good news, the gift shop is now paying for itself!

TTSBE: Joey mentioned that the Pilot Program still need volunteers. All that is required, is that you give a cursory check up to establish the condition of plants. If you have questions, there are emergency numbers on the log book. If you have not volunteered before you need to ask Joey for the combination lock for the exhibit.

LSBF: Nan informed the members to try and attend the Convention that is being held in Corpus Christi in October 13-16 2016. It is being held at the Emerald Beach Hotel on the beach. It's a great opportunity to advance your education in the art of Bonsai. The program includes have visiting artist and a variety of classes you can attend. Nan mentioned some classes will include plant and pot after completing. For sale items include but are not limited to pots, stands, tools etc.. It's a chance to get acquainted with your Austin Bonsai Members.

Jonathan, passed out a flyer that Countryside Nursery is having a Community Garden Festival June 18, 2016. From 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Activity Table, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM Music and Food. Their itinerary for the day is extensive. Live music, Food and Fun, Master Gardeners, Bonsai Society Pruning Demonstration, Nature Plants, Vendors, Local Art, Rain Barrel School. Bonsai Society Pruning Demonstration will be held from 11:00 to 1:00. Countryside Nursery is located at 13292 Pond Springs Rd.

May, who is our librarian reminded the Bonsai Members that if you needed a book she would bring them to the next meeting. She also mentioned that she has a budget of \$50 for new books if they want any.

No workshop will be held next Tuesday, June 14, 2016 as it is the 2nd Tuesday and our meeting is on the 3rd Tuesday. This third Tuesday monthly workshop will be the continuation of Sketching your tree or cutting on your tree.

Jonathan introduced Joey who did the program of Style on Paper before Cutting.

Joey gave an excellent account of how the sketching can be used as a tool in Bonsai. Using a pencil and paper is not about art but doing a rough draft of a tree. Starting with base, trunk, adding branches, circles, squares, structure of the trunk root. When you buy or collect a tree by drawing it you can look to earlier sketches to see the progress. It also helps when you have no idea what to do with a specific tree. Focus on what you find interesting on your tree. Rough sketches gives you the opportunity to make adjustment as to which way to bend a branch or help you with not cutting off the wrong branch. Visualize ways you can see your tree, as a finish product.

The subject of next month meeting will be on the Fundamentals of Wiring conducted by Terry Ward.

Jonathan, adjourned meeting at 8:50 PM.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2016
Zerita Rogers, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:09 by Vice President Zachary Rabalais.

Present were Zachary Rabalais, Mary Lau Tse, Simon Tse, Angie Hewes, Zerita Rogers.

The Board voted to accept the minutes for our last meeting.

Pat sent a copy of the Treasurers Report. The total Income over expenses for the month of May is \$2,479.28. We now have 47 members as of May 31, 2016.

The Board voted to accept the Treasurers Report.

Some topics discussed by the Board were, the upcoming General Meeting of Basic Wiring . Which will continue to the workshop the following week.

Discussed, auctioneer and publicity for our Bonsai Auction Fundraiser on September 14,2016.

Simon, now has the equipment capability of accepting any credit cards on sight but will confirm all information before release of merchandise. Still preference is for cash or check.

A tree contest for beginners. Zachary, is still working on the details, more to come later.

Refreshment will be provided by Russell Kohlert, Ruby Chiang, and Winnie Tan for our next General Meeting in July.

Zachary Rabalais, adjourned meeting at 7:30.

ASIAN AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER
Community Art Exhibit Summer 2016
July 15th - September 30th, 2016
Opening Reception: Friday, July 15th, 6 - 8 pm

Japanese Shibori:
The Art of Pattern

Lynne Brotman



Suiseki Rocks 雅石:
Finding Your
Universe

Marlon Chen



The Chrysanthemum Veil

Teruko Nimura



Big Medium

This project is supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department.



Asian American Resource Center
8401 Cameron Road, Austin, Texas 78754
512.974.1700 | aaarc@AustinTexas.gov
Learn more at austintexas.gov/aaarc

One of our ABS member, Marlon Chen has his very own suiseki exhibit at the Asian American Resource Center from July to December 2016.

Join the City of Austin and The Asian American Resource Center on July 15th for the opening reception from 6-8pm. It's FREE to attend!

Check out the flyer for more details!

JULY BONSAI BY JOHN MILLER

One thing we have in common all over Texas this year is too much rain. For bonsai that is a problem if the soil does not drain freely. Even in dry weather each time you water you should notice that the water runs out of the holes freely.

A yellowing of the leaves is an indication of root or soil problems. This is especially true of water logged soil. You might go to www.dirtdoctor.com, under library find Yellow Leaves Newsletter, and read it. While there look at the ingredient list on the label on Garrett's Tree Tonic. Some good info on micronutrients and micro-organisms that should be useful.

Going into July and August and usually later you will need to keep your bonsai as cool as possible. That means no sun on the pot and soil where the roots are. Without going into a lot of detail some considerations you will be looking at.

1. Shade cloth. 40% for pines, junipers, tridents. 50% for less tough plants. 60% on the west side.
2. Water schedule. At 2pm to cool the soil, at sundown to cool soil and refresh overnight, morning as necessary. This is optimum. You must adjust that schedule and soil mix to work with your schedule.
3. Soil covering. Chopped long fiber sphagnum to retain moisture also helps keep soil cooler.
4. Protect from late afternoon sun. Low humidity lets the full force of the heat come thru.
5. Consider foliage misting especially on junipers. Many species in the wild open stoma at night to take in dew. Some broadleaf plants do foliage feeding, usually for localized needs in the area of the leaf.
6. Keep insects under control especially the sucking ones- mites and scale.
7. Pot protection. Shade sides of pot. Use old cloth, shop towels, make boxes to fit. Some air circulation around the pot should be allowed.

We usually do not fertilize our bonsai enough. However during these hot days you need to exercise care. Slow release organics are best. Chemical fertilizers may burn roots if the soil temperature (remember the sun factor) gets too warm, probably like upper 90s or more, be sure to read the label for guidance. Most recommendations are to feed the trees with organic fertilizer balls. Many are available commercially or you can make your own, depends on how many bonsai you have. Even with the fertilizer balls I like to give a feeding with a liquid fertilizer every other week also. Somebody at the meeting last month had a good way to use powder type organic fertilizer by enclosing it in a tight mesh tube (pantyhose legs?) and tying it with string on each side and cutting them apart. Scatter them around the pot like fertilizer balls.

Also watch for signs of insect problems. The spider mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, bagworms, and mealy bugs. Preventative medicine is best, spray on a regular schedule. By the time you see signs of bugs, the damage is already done, especially from spider

mites. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and 5% apple cider vinegar per gallon water) applied weekly to control all these. You can use some of the other organic controls or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully. Do not apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods. A hose end sprayer does not work very well, its droplets are too large and you have little control over where it goes. Use a pump sprayer with a fine spray and cover both top and bottom of leaves, trunks and all twigs. Most controls, whether chemical or organic, must be done on a regular schedule for good control. If you wait until you see damage it is usually too late.

When checking the results on your plants after spraying remember that the spray usually will not remove the 'evidence' of problems. The webs will still be there after the mites are killed, the shells of the scale will be attached to the leaf or stem. These will have to be removed by hand, by a jet of water, or some other way. A soft toothbrush works good on the scale shells. There is no damage from this leftover evidence but it prevents you from seeing any new infestation that may occur.

Be careful when pruning the spring flowering species. Many will set buds for next years flowers in the fall. The Kurume azaleas set their buds in July and the Satsuki a little later in August. You need to find out if your particular flowering tree blooms on new or old wood and when it sets buds so you can keep it in shape and yet will not prune next years flowers off.

Tropicals, buttonwoods, fukien tea, serissa, fig, etc., should be repotted during the summer while they are growing strong. However, you need to keep enough of the root system to supply moisture to the top. Foliage spray would also be a good idea when the humidity is not high.

Also when the humidity is low I mist my junipers in the evening. I believe the story that in the wild junipers open their stomata in the cool of the evening absorbing any dew that may occur and close in the heat of the day to conserve moisture. The other species may get a foliage spray in the morning.

The humidity in summer varies quite a bit but when it sticks around for a few days look for fungal problems to appear, mildew being the most prevalent. Black spot will show up if the foliage stays wet very long. Foliage watering in the morning will usually not be a problem because it dries pretty quickly. Treat with potassium carbonate which you can find at any nursery with a decent organic section. There are several chemical sprays available too.

If you use the Boon technique for growing pines, June-July is the time for removing the candles, earlier on bigger trees later on smaller ones.

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 MAY LAU