

BONSAI NOTEBOOK

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

July 2017 vol 79



Calendar of Events

- Wed. July 12. 7:30 pm- CHANGE IN PROGRAM!
Alisan Clarke will give a demonstration on Ikebana
- Tues. July 19. 7:00 pm Board Meeting
- 7:30 pm Member Workshop - Tropicals
- Wed. Aug. 9. 7:30 pm Good or Bad Tools with
Zach Rabalais
- April 20 - 22, 2018 LSBF Convention in Longview, Tx.
at the Hilton Garden Inn

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2017 Board of Directors

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ZACH RABALAIS
Vice President

BRANDON BALDAUF
Secretary

PAT WARE
Treasurer

RUBY CHAING
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KEVIN PATUREAU
Member-at-large

VACANT
Member at large

June Meeting Volunteers:

JULY 12TH FOOD:

DANIEL PINTAURO
&
ZACK RABALAIS

JULY 12TH TREES:

NAN JENKINS
&
TIMMI
KUYKENDALL

President's Message

by **Simon Tse**

Summer is here! We have already seen triple digits in June and I expect this trend to continue. It is always challenging to provide sufficient moisture to our Bonsai without overwatering them. Some remedies include utilizing coconut fiber, shade cloth and modifying your soil mix to battle the brutal temperature. Coconut fiber will provide a buffer between the sun and the root systems. Good shade cloth will filter out some harmful UV rays to keep a consistent environment but you may need to be careful with the ratings (percentage) for different bonsai. Expanded shale and/or pumice can be used to maintain the moisture of your soil mix. July is also the month for repotting Tropicals. If you need assistance and advice, please do not hesitate to contact myself or other experienced club members.

We have a slight change in our program: Alisan will be the presenter for Ikebana in our July meeting. As most of you may have known, Alisan is always passionate with this ancient art and she is recognized as an expert in the Austin area. Originally from Japan, Ikebana is the art of flower arrangement. This art piece is usually placed in a tokonoma alcove inside a residence. Most common Ikebana styles include Rikka, Nageire, Seika/Shoka and Jiyuka.



Last but not least, I would like to express my gratitude to Marlon and Phina for the surprise raffles last month. Our club members really appreciated the items and are looking forward to having more raffles during our regular club meetings.

Cheers!

Simon

Photos from the Monthly Meeting with Elaine White and the monthly workshop.



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Upcoming Event

Discussion

NO SPAM

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/austinbonsai/>[austinbonsai/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/austinbonsai/)

Or message Joey:

jvmccoy@

sbcglobal.net

FACEBOOK

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Terrific place for us to
gather, chat, and talk

Bonsai!

Vice President's Message

Spring Show!!

by Zach Rabalais

The Summer heat is really in full force now. I've been having to water my trees 2-3 times a day to keep up with all of the sun that they are getting. I'm sure everyone is getting a little tired of the heat, so why not take a break and cool off indoors this Wednesday at the Austin Bonsai Society meeting.

We had a slight change of plans, according to the program guide we were going to have Dario present a program about his Franken-tree, but he will not be able to make it this month. Alisan will be doing a program on Ikebana, which is the Japanese art of flower arrangement. It is a very interesting art form that has a lot of design elements that are very usable in bonsai. We hope to see you at Zilker on the 12th, make sure to leave a little early because Blues on the Green will be going on at the same time as the meeting so traffic will be crazy in that area.



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Busy month for projects for ABS and TTSBE!



RULES FOR SILENT AUCTION

1. A description of any item to be offered must be submitted to either the President or the Treasurer by September 6th so that sheets can be prepared. A form to be filled out is attached below and will show date & time received by either the President or Treasurer. Only 6 or 8 (depending on size) items will be accepted; so it is possible that the item will not be accepted if too many are submitted. It is understood that this is a 50% to club and 50% to owner of the winning bid unless the owner so states that it is a donation to the club, so that the club gets 100%.

Items must be worth \$100.00 or more; consequently, the opening bid is \$100.00

2. If there is a reserve, the bidding sheet is to be so marked and the Treasurer is the only one to know what the reserve is. If after bidding, the reserve is NOT met, the Treasurer will so announce and the item will be returned to the owner.

3. There shall be short breaks throughout the evening so that bids can be checked or added to.

4. At the prescribed time (tentatively set for 8:30 PM), the Treasurer will pick up the sheets and after the tallying, announce the winners. The winners can then pay, or add the amount to the total for whatever else they have won that evening.

FOR SILENT AUCTION - SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: _____

CHECK ONE: _____ 50/50 split _____ DONATION TO CLUB

WILL THERE BE A RESERVE? _____ YES _____ NO RESERVED PRICE: _____

RECEIVED BY: _____ DATE: _____ TIME: _____

ABS General Meeting Minutes
June, 2017

Elaine White presented a informative session covering Bonsai 101 with a special emphasis on tropical trees. Topics included:

- Knowing your species and it's preferences**
- Watering techniques**
- Tropical tree tips**
- Fertilizer options**
- Trimming and pruning**
- Propagation with cuttings**
- Caring for sick plants**
- Potting**
- Soil types and best practices**

Special thanks to Joe for bringing in the beautiful tropical bonsai displayed during the meeting.

An additional special thanks to Marlon for the donated items raffled off in conclusion of the meeting. He mentioned continuing to donate for the raffle for the rest of the year. Let's all consider bringing in extra equipment to contribute to the raffle.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes
June, 2017

Date: June 20th 2017

In attendance: Brandon, Simon, Kevin, and Pat
Start time: 7:15

~General

The board discussed upcoming artists for next year.

~The Auction

We made plans for our upcoming auction in September. Is there anyone interested or who has experience in being the auctioneer?

This year there will be a silent auction. Minimum value of \$100 and there will be a 50/50 split between the seller and ABS. Contact Simon if interested, there is a limit of 6-8 spots for the silent auction.

~Financial Report

As of May 31st, we are financially solid. Income over expense is \$1890.37.

Recent expenditures of note include reimbursing the presenting artists.

~Social Media

After one month of being on Instagram, we have 227 people following the Austin Bonsai Society account! If anyone has photos they want to share, please send them to Brandon. You can also tag @austinbonsaisociety with any photos you take at events, digs, or trees.

End Time: 7:40

July Bonsai

by John Miller

You need to know the timing of whatever species of bonsai you have. Know when they break dormancy, when they set buds for fruit and flowers, how much cold the roots can take which is usually a lot less than their tops, etc. For example, some azaleas will be setting buds for next years flowers during the end of July so a lot of pruning should not be done.

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 the mean late afternoon sun. Low humidity lets the full force of the heat come through.
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.

New business
by ABS member
Daniel Pintauro -
Tabares

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intermediate
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New Members Corner

Caitlin Harris
crharrismore@gmail.com

Frank & Denise Hart
hart@austin.rr.com

John & Debbie Hooper
jchooper1954@gmail.com

David Lemon
dlemon@yahoo.com

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. 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 some 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. They 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.

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 bicarbonate which you can find at any nursery with a decent organic section. Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) works too but not as well. There are several chemical sprays available too.

If you use the Boon technique for growing two-needle JBP pines, now is the time for removing the candles, earlier on bigger trees later on smaller ones.



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Austin Bonsai Society P.O.Box 340474 Austin, TX 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 info contact the address above.

