

# Bonsai Notebook

*www.austinbonsaisociety.com*

*A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society*

*June 2014 vol 42*

## **June 2014 Programs**

by Jimbo Baumann

### **Maples as Bonsai in central Texas with Chuck Ware**

The June program will look at the use of maple trees for bonsai in central Texas. What are some of the characteristics they have in common and their differences. How you can enhance your bonsai collection with that special maple tree. And a “how to” lecture on the growth of that maple with consideration to soil, water, environment and training.

As many of you are aware, Chuck is a “special bonsai artist”, as owner of Jade Gardens of Wimberly and a former research assistant in the geology department at Columbia University of New York. He entered the flight program for the US Navy and headed to Texas to teach inflight navigation in Corpus Christi. After leaving the Navy he brought together the harmony and balance of earth, water, and the heavens by moving to Hays County (Wimberly) and obtaining a Bachelor and Masters Degree from Texas State University—San Marcos (formerly called Southwest Texas State). He taught for 25 years in an elementary school program bringing patience, perseverance, and the realization that all living things have a strength and beauty, if it can be discovered. Chuck has also served as an Asst. Fire Chief in Wimberly and knows that bad stuff can happen and life must learn, adjust and move on!

So bring your special “mojo” to our June program and learn about Maples in central Texas.

Please plan your schedule to attend a special workshop and program by Lone Star Bonsai Federation

(LSBF) Visiting Artist Peter Tea in September. Special workshop on Tuesday, SEP 9th and the monthly program on Sept. 10th. he workshop is limited to six participants. See the treatusrer to reserve your space.

## Calendar of Events

**June 11 ABS Monthly Meeting**  
**Maples in Texas with Chuck Ware**  
**Reception Hosts: Nan Jenkins & Timmi**  
**Kuykendall, Noreen & Pete Quisenberry**  
**Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**June 17 Board Meeting**  
**Members Workshop-Bring trees for**  
**refinement**



**Chuck Ware will be talking about maples at  
our monthly ABS meeting in June.**

*(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 inc

hes. 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](mailto: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](mailto:jvmccoy@sbcglobal.net).

## President's Message by Nan Jenkins

Greetings Everyone,

Happy, happy, happy! I can dance with the Frozen crew to the Happy song because we got 4 inches of rain this week! All the plants and trees are already growing like crazy. And we get this wonderful cool weather at the end of May. Now that is truly good for the soul.

But I know that isn't going to last long, so I am considering what I am going to do to protect my trees from the heat this summer. Seems like we have to look at that each year since the big trees in my yard and my neighbor's also keep growing and changing what is shady during the day. We really only have about two hours of direct sun each day. It isn't enough to grow sun-loving plants in the backyard. But those two hours can be awfully hot. Last year I put burlap on the pots that were most in the sun, and it seemed to work well. I could water through it, it stayed moist for a little while to help with cooling, and the trees did great. So this year, we will do it again. We bought burlap yardage at Ace Lumber several months ago. That means we have to cut and fit, but that's ok if it keeps my pots below some ginormous heat index. Last year I bought about five inch wide burlap from JoAnn's. It is supposed to be used as ribbons on wreaths, but it worked great, if a bit pricy.

This is turning out to be a great bonsai year. I'm looking forward to so many events that are planned for the coming months: master artists coming our way, the annual auction, learning about new ways of doing things with my trees. And we have a new group of people to become friends with, and that always energizes a group. See you all on Wednesday, June 11th.

-Nan

**Austin Bonsai Society  
General Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2014**

Nan Jenkins called the meeting to order 7:34 p.m.

Welcome to: Daniel Axson, new member and greetings to former member and guest for this evening; Victor Engel.

Nan called for announcements and there were no announcements.

Talked about Annual ABS Show May 17 and 18 and asked for volunteers to set up on Friday and to take down on Sunday, and called for volunteers to be docents during the show.

Nan introduced Terry Ward. Terry's presentation was on how to properly display your bonsai.

Terry emphasized that you should make your bonsai look the best it can possibly look. It should be pruned and cleaned up by removing dead leaves. You should clean your pot and remove calcium from your pot with CLR (it eats up the calcium); make your pot look good. Make sure the soil around your tree looks good. You can add moss to it. Subtle things can add to the display.

The stand you use should not take away from the tree. Your tree should be the center of attention – not the stand.

The accent plant should complement your tree; it should flow into your tree.

Terry demonstrated setting up a bonsai display. He later asked for people to come up and set up their own bonsai display.

Submitted by Angelina Hewes

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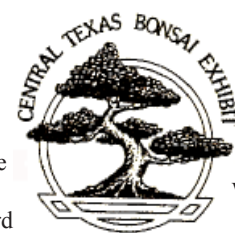
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## **JADE GARDENS**

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Chuck & Pat Ware  
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12404 Ranch Road 12  
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(512) 847-2514

e-mail: [bonsaijg@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaijg@gmail.com)

web page: <http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!**

**Marlene Lagerquist  
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Austin Bonsai Society (ABS) Board Meeting Minutes  
May 20, 2014

Board Members Present: N. Jenkins, J. Baumann, P. Ware, Z. Rogers, R. Kohlert, D. Van Cleaf—Input from  
Committee Members: J. McCoy and S. Tse Not Present: A. Hewes  
Call to Order 7:05 pm

Treasurer Report—Input to treasury \$462.00 from show weekend. Approximately \$26.00 in donations and the balance from raffle items.

Treasury still carrying a shortfall due to payment timing. This payment timing was an annual payment for the storage unit rental as opposed to paying monthly as receipts are received. This shortfall is expected to be covered later this year. The annual storage cost is approximately \$ 1128.00 for a 4 X 10 size of a climate controlled facility near 183 and MOPAC. Input is sought from our membership for any available space at a more cost effective price, closer to Zilker Park. It is required to be climate controlled.

Show results were discussed and are reported elsewhere in the newsletter. It appears that the show did yield approximately 640 Facebook visits over the show weekend and immediately post the show.

The following items were discussed:

Next significant event for ABS is the Lone Star Bonsai Federation (LSBF) Visiting Artist seminar/workshop—workshop to be held SEP 9th, final negotiations on space are ongoing. Workshop will be limited to 6 participants and location will be central Austin.

This 2 day event will feature:

- a) a “pay for” workshop on SEP 9th limited to 6 participants and
- b) a lecture / demo at the 10 SEP club meeting open to guests/public.

World famous European bonsai artist, Walter Pall has agreed to travel to the USA in December 2014. Many members will remember W. Pall was to be a featured artist at 2013 LSBF convention, but had to cancel due to health considerations. W. Pall will be a featured artist with our DEC program. Details still under discussion for this program organization and content. The travel / honorarium cost for this program is expected to cost approximately \$ 2350.00 and costs will be shared/split with the San Antonio Bonsai Society. The ABS expected cost share will approximate \$1175.00. The board agreed to this program last month, and motions were made (during this meeting) to continue with planning for this speaker event.

c) Various administrative issues were discussed in regards to lists, newsletter, directory, and web page maintenance. Board Members and various committee members are considering alternative electronic media (web hosting) for directory and newsletter distribution.

Information gathering is ongoing for 3 the subjects mentioned above. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 by N. Jenkins.

Submitted by D. Van Cleaf





## **Tropical Bonsai School** **By Pedro J. Morales**

### **Year 1**

**May 27<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Classroom portion**  
**Tues, Wed and Thursday**  
**Evenings 6 PM – 9 PM**  
**Hands – On work**  
**Friday, Sat. and Sunday**  
**9 AM – 5 PM**

### **Year 2**

**June 24<sup>th</sup> – June 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Classroom portion**  
**Tues, Wed and Thursday**  
**Evenings 6 PM – 9 PM**  
**Hands – On work**  
**Friday, Sat. and Sunday**  
**9 AM – 5 PM**

**Held at “Timeless Trees” in Eosenberg, TX.**

**Six days of intensive instruction, lecture, videos, and hands-on work with the world renowned Bonsai artist Pedro Morales. All supplies included, and Lunch on Fri, Sat and Sunday. The best instructional value in the U.S.**

**\$375.00 per class**

**Contact Hurley Johnson to sign up, 832-526-5962 or [hurley@all-tex.net](mailto:hurley@all-tex.net)**

### **Annual Austin Bonsai Show and Sale Report—2014**

Respectfully Submitted by the Board of Directors based on feedback from our docents, vendors, demonstrators, setup/closedown members and committee chair staff. Thanks to all for the metric reporting and labor involved in the setup, teardown, and working the show.

Our club, Austin Bonsai Society (ABS), has completed another annual club show. Congrats to all! And, to analyze our results it was a very collaborative and professionally done program from our newest members to our oldest members (not in age but in dynamic contributions to the science and art of bonsai). Also, in age a 40 year + tradition of shows (exact date a little fuzzy, but 40 for sure).

Now to the numbers! Remember science and art. It appears we had a grand total of 1274 visitors over the weekend, 618 visitors on Saturday and 656 on Sunday. We gained \$462 to our treasury, as a combination of raffles and donations. Some of you enjoy making cuttings and growing things or have some Asian art please remember your donations help us with raffles, and we thank you in advance. We accept all help to keep us going along the bonsai road.

While we were short of a few trees (due to our interesting weather here), the show appeared well designed by having a broad base of trees (both shohin and large), excellent suiseki with a cross section of native and foreign viewing stones, beautiful scrolls, and diverse and very popular with the viewing visitors kusamono. We might also add we had diversity in bonsai styling from clip and grow to the wired style; and from informal upright to windswept in technique. With an occasional cascade! A variety of plant and tree classes with succulents, blooming trees, grasses, and evergreen conifers, as well as deciduous trees.

Our vendors reported very good visitor interaction and interest with a “high level of good questions”.

While we added a few new members we will (as a club) like any feedback from our members, vendors and comments made by visitors. This feedback will help our continued show improvement.

Thanks to all.

**June 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.*

Get your trees prepared to take on the Texas summer. Remember that the biggest stress on potted plants comes from the soil being heated, especially by the late afternoon sun slanting in under the shade cloth and foliage. The low humidity in the afternoon does little to stop the heat. You need to provide good shade on the west side. Two waterings are sometimes needed--one about 2pm to cool the soil and provide for evaporative cooling and another later about sundown to get the soil temp back down and to allow the plant to be able to rest at night.

Leaf pruning should not be considered a yearly task. It should be done only as needed and only on very healthy trees. Broadleaf evergreens would not get it.

If you think you need to leaf prune, you probably can still do it but need to be careful, it could turn hot in a hurry. The tree needs time to replace the energy used to grow new foliage. I have done it on Shumard oaks successfully. Again never leaf prune the atropurpeum varieties of Japanese maples, they don't rebud very well.

When night temperatures stay above 60 degrees you can think about repotting some of the tropicals. I would wait another month though for the buttonwood.

However, some tropicals can be leaf pruned all summer. The *Ficus nerifolia* especially benefits by leaf pruning and can be done more than once each summer. That will develop the heavy twiginess you see in the *Ficus* bonsai from the Far East.

As the summer progresses the growth of the deciduous trees will sometimes slow also. But you still need to keep an eye out for errant shoots. Keeping a clipper with you when watering would let you take care of most of them. Just like in the spring a shoot too long will thicken the twig too much. The major

pruning chore is now transferred to the tropicals.

Tip pinching on some flowering species like the crape myrtle will result in fewer flowers but if you let it go they get out of shape. I prefer to try to balance the flower/design question by pinching early. This provides more growing tips to divide the energy and the resulting flower is shorter. It is less showy but more in scale.

Also if you have fruiting bonsai, you should reduce the number of fruit on the tree. The number one goal of the tree is to provide seeds for reproduction and it will starve itself in order to do so. Again, most fruit are too large to look good on a bonsai.

Some days may be relatively cool to you but the sun can still make the pot pretty hot. Not only does this dry out the soil very fast but the tree roots do not like a hot soil. A temperature I have heard given is that 120 degrees will kill roots on most plants. I cannot give you a precise to-do list since your backyard is different from mine but you should be sure that the sun does not hit the pots directly. Notice especially where the hot afternoon sun, from 2pm to sundown, hits your bonsai area. If you use a cover of any kind be sure that the side of the pot is protected also. A loose weave cover is preferable to solid paper or foil. Chopped sphagnum moss spread on the soil surface will reduce evaporation and help keep the soil cooler.

Get to know your trees like your children. Which ones use more water and which ones stay moist between waterings. If some are difficult to keep happy you can try moving those to a cooler location (but be sure they get their sunlight). Another trick is to group these together so that you can hit them with a shot of water twice a day and not have to spend the time going through all your trees.

Extended damp weather (if we have it) is good for fungal diseases like black leaf spot and mildew. Treat weekly with potassium hydroxide, or sodium hydroxide (baking soda), or a 1% hydrogen peroxide solution. Watch moss on the pots. It should be kept away from the bark on the trunk.

Also watch for signs of insect problems. The spider

mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, and mealy bugs. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and cider vinegar per gallon water) to control all these. You can use some of the other organic controls or a chemical according to label directions. Always read the label directions carefully and never apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods. You should do controls on a regular basis.

If ants, or any other creature, are building nests in the soil, the tunnels and cavities will prevent proper watering and result in a loss of roots. After you get rid of the ants be sure to grab your chopsticks and work the soil down and eliminate any holes. You will probably need to add a little more soil on top.

The best way to fertilize bonsai is by using fertilizer cakes. The cakes provide a slow constant feeding each time you water. Cakes made with a cottonseed base will provide as acid ph when they break down which we need in any city water system I know of. Making your own is easy and much cheaper than buying them. I use chemical fertilizers such as Miracid or Peters a couple of times a month also. My main problem with chemicals is not knowing how many bad salts that may accumulate in the soil and also I know that each time I water I am washing the chemical fertilizers out on the ground.

# 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)*