



BONSAI NOTEBOOK

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

June 2016 vol 65

June 2016 Program By: Zach Rabalais

The program for June will be a presentation on styling a tree with pen and paper before you start cutting. This is a great skill to learn as it can give you some inspiration for difficult trees. It also helps you get a clear picture of your goal so you can be smarter about what you cut off in the very beginning of a bonsai's development. This could save you many years re-growing branches that you could have been left alone at the beginning of the design process.

Joey McCoy will be presenting this month's program. Joey has been active in the Austin Bonsai Society since 2003. Most of you have seen first hand just how talented Joey is. It seems that he has a never ending supply of beautiful trees that he brings to meetings and shows to share with us. Bonsai isn't the only medium he works in though, he has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art from the University of Texas, focusing on painting, sculpture, and photography. He also works as a bench jeweler creating beautiful jewelry as well.

If you have something that you've started working on but don't have a clear vision of the finished tree, or maybe something that is proving difficult to work with, bring it to the meeting on June 8th. You can get some help sketching out your tree's future and leave with a clear goal for it over the coming years.

CALENDAR

- JUNE 8:** STYLE ON PAPER BEFORE CUTTING W/JOEY MC COY
HOSTS: ZERITA ROGERS & ELAINE WHITE
TREE HOSTS: NAN JENKINS & TIMMI KUYKENDALL
- JUNE 21:** MEMBERS WORKSHOP—7:30PM
BOARD MEETING, 7PM
- JULY 13:** BASIC WIRTING WITH TERRY WARD
- AUG 10:** L/D WITH OWEN REICH
- OCT 13-16:** LSBF CONVENTION IN CORPUS CHRISTI



ABS 2016 Annual Show

(Photo by Mau 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 board and I are so very proud of members of Austin Bonsai Society for putting together such a wonderful 2016 show here at Zilker Botanical Garden in Austin. Joey was our show chair this year and he did an excellent job organizing the support and volunteers. I know for a fact he went the extra mile to help us coordinate our spectacular show! Thank you Thank you Thanks to all of our members who helped bring this together! You should be proud of your contributions to raising awareness of Bonsai art in Austin.

We are grateful to Zilker Botanical Garden Facebook page as well for helping us get the word out to locals with botanical interests. This year may have set a record show attendance of close to 1,600 attendees. Interestingly, social media is becoming a place where guests are showing gratitude to the quality of the public show. If you have haven't connected yet to the Austin Bonsai Society Facebook Page, you may wish to do so to see praise for our membership's superb show!

TTSBE staffed an outdoor exhibit as well at the edge of the Taniguchi garden to promote The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, which was well received by the public.

Our bonsai vendors were on hand to meet the enthusiasm of visitors looking for just the right tree to start or add to their collection. Also to note was the popularity of the 2PM demo times, the seats were full on Saturday and Sunday was standing room only with our Vice President's demo on quality juniper stock.

A fond memory I have is being asked to do a public demo on one of the late Audrey Lanier's trident maple tree. It was special to uncover some of the original styling hidden beneath the healthy overgrowth. I could see years of branch development within the structure of the tree! The family who won the tree in the raffle was very excited and we are glad it made it to "a good home". The stories behind trees are one of the fascinating parts of our fellowship.

As a club, we need to be ready to extend a warm welcome to the visitors who are sure to join our ranks in June and July following their interest in the May show. We have an opportunity to welcome bonsai enthusiasts into our club as they visit after having their interests peaked by the show. Let's keep getting to know our visitors and make them feel welcome.

A quick note about the Terry Ward May club night presentation -- We learned so much about deadwood and are grateful for the samples of deadwood carving passed around the room and of the caliber of information imparted at our most recent club meeting. Thank you, Terry!

Also, what a nice gesture by the family of Lizzie Chen to present our membership with celebratory favors with the announcement of their wedding! We hope you will receive our thanks and best wishes on behalf of all of ABS!

"Although bonsai is an art form, it is unique among other forms of artistic expression in that it includes the element of time: the design of the tree changes constantly and naturally as it grows, and as the seasons change."

QUOTE from Harry Tomlinson's book, *Bonsai* (1995)

Happy Styling!

Jonathan Wood, Austin Bonsai Society President 2016

PHOTO CORNER by MAY LAU




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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CHRIS ALLGEIER/chris.t.allgeier@gmail.com

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FERNANDO GAYAN & DERIK TRAN/gaytan_fernando@yahoo.com

JAKE HOBERG & LIZ KRUESI/jacob.hoberg@gmail.com

**ABS General Meeting
May 11, 2016
Zerita Rogers, Secretary**

Meeting called to order at 7:23 by President, Jonathan Wood.

Refreshment, was provided by Daniel Lim and Kevin Patureau.

Jonathan, welcomed this evenings guests, Jake Hoberg and Luke Pharr.

Jonathan announced the upcoming wedding of Nathan Gaar and Lizzie Chen.

Pat passed out the signup sheet for two members to bring a tree each month for display at our General Meeting. Chuck and May started the program in May.

TTSBE: Joey mention that the Pilot Program will be rotating display trees. He also, thanked those that donated their time for potting some tropical's.

LSBF: Nan informed the members to try and attend the Convention that is being held in Corpus Christi in October 2016. It would be a great benefit for those who would like to advance their education in the art of Bonsai. They have visiting artist and a variety of classes you can attend.

TTSBE: Elaine needs more volunteers for the Pilot Program at the Zilker Garden. Zilker Garden is still working on getting the correct amount of water to each plant. Elaine, will have some plants that belonged Audrey Lanier to sell, at our Austin Bonsai Society Show on May 21 & 22, in the Green Room.

For the Austin Bonsai Society Show, Joey gave the time line starting Friday May 20 to set up from 4:00 to 9:00. Everyone is needed to do this job. It moves a lot smoother if we have everyone helping. Saturday at 8:30 and Sunday at 9:00 open for our volunteers but the show starts at 10:00 to 5:00. Three volunteers are needed at all times. Joey, would like names on items, use felt on the feet pots. Volunteer parking is next to Green House. If you have an early picture of the tree, bring with your tree. It will help with questions, how old is the tree. There will be a raffle table. Demonstration of a Bonsai will be held at 2:00 Saturday and Sunday. Zachary and Jonathan will do the demonstration. Sunday tear down will start at 5:00 p.m. and have to be out by 6:30 p.m.

Zachary Rabalais, introduced our speaker Terry Ward on Display of Art, and Deadwood and Preservation.

It takes a keen eye and mind like Terry Ward's to give you the insight of what he has mastered over many years. Display Art can be formally or informally presented with plant stands, giving you a new appreciation for Bonsai Display. You want the accented plant to flow into the larger plant. Select items that live in same region that you would see in nature. The accent plant is used to enhance, not over power the larger plant. The dominant plant and accent plant should be in a pot that complement each other, not clashing. Display, should be within the stand carving. Accents can be stones, figurines, scrolls, and bamboo mats etc.

Next, Terry explained some of the items you can use to preserve or improve a tree with deadwood (Deadwood-know is also known as driftwood). Carving can be used to improve the appearance of the tree, whether it was struck by lightning, hollow trunk, peeled bark, broken off by wind, bug or termites. Some of the items you can use for making improvements are Wood Preserve, Plumber Brush for rot. Use of lime sulfur will turn wood white after at period of time. Deadwood should not be shiny. Terry showed some examples of his carvings and also gave us the opportunity to see some of the tools he has acquired for carving. Carving, take lots of patience. TIP: do not carve below the soil line.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20

ABS Board Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2016
Zerita Rogers, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by President Jonathan Wood.

Present were Jonathan Wood, Zachary Rabalais, Pat Ware, Mary Lau Tse, Simon Tse, Angie Hewes, Zerita Rogers.

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

Pat discussed the Treasurers Report. Income exceeded expenses by \$1,809.14

The Board voted to accept the Treasurers Report.

Nan and Timmi each will bring a tree for display at our General Meeting in June.

Some topics discussed by the Board were, the upcoming General Meeting of Style on Paper before styling a tree. Which will continue to the workshop the following week.

Next, our Annual Bonsai Show, we talked of changing the floor plan, but as we have to keep within the City Fire Department code, we will probably stay with what we have done in the past.

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

Storage will be discussed at a future meeting.

A tree contest for beginners. More to come later.

Jonathan, adjourned meeting at 7:30.

2016 Austin Bonsai Show – Thank you!
Message from Joey McCoy

A big thank you goes out to all who pitched in their time to help make our May 21-22, 2016 Austin Bonsai show such a great success. We had volunteers who generously took time off at 3:00pm Friday to pick up and load all the supplies into Zilker early in the day, getting the site ready. We had helpers who came to assemble the tables, risers, PVC supports, backdrops, linens, etc from 4:00-6:00pm, prepping the room for the bonsai which were to come. Everything was arranged and organized, we stayed right up until the 9:00pm cut-off. The small army of volunteers who helped out on both Saturday and Sunday, greeting the public, selling raffle tickets, watching the trees and answering questions to our visitors made all the difference and helped to make everyone feel welcome. Thank you also goes to Jonathan and to Zachary for giving terrific demonstrations each day and teaching this great art to some people who were seeing it for the first time. Thank you to May for taking some really wonderful photographs of the event, capturing the beauty and camaraderie of the show. Also a big thank you to those who brought snacks and refreshments to share! We had a rush at the very end of the day on Sunday and had to take it all down and pack it away double-time. Everyone jumped right in and worked with amazing speed and precision. I think we would have set a new record (if we were to keep track of such things). As in the beginning, it all had to be driven back to unload and store, and those people who were still working into the early evening doing this get a gold star. I just know All of our club, especially those who brought their precious Bonsai and related items to display to the public are heroes in my book. Thank you everyone!

Joey McCoy, Show Chair

We had a higher number of people through the door than ever before.

Visitor count: Saturday 888, Sunday 790.....Total: 1678

ABS 2016 ANNUAL BONSAI EXHIBIT AND SHOW

Photos by Mau Lau



JUNE BONSAI
BY: JOHN MILLER

Get your trees prepared to take on the Texas summer. Winter and spring conditions have very little bearing on what summer will be like. 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.

Be sure to note the excess water, whether from rains or your watering, drains from the pots. Roots have a habit of forming dense mats in the bottom of the pot that prevent drainage. Most trees die rather quickly if submerged in water.

Leaf pruning should not be considered a yearly task. It should be done only as needed and only on very healthy trees. Broad-leaf 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 consider Memorial Day to be the cutoff for defoliation. I have done it on Shumard oaks successfully. Again never leaf prune the atropurpeum varieties of Japanese maples, they do not rebud very well.

If you let the spring candles grow on the Jap Black pine, now is the time to start removing them. In general earlier removal will result in larger needles on the new candles. So start with the large JBP. Do the middle size in the last two weeks of June and the Shohin the first of July.

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 and use a shade cloth on the west side.. If you use a ground 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 thru 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 organic fertilizer cakes. The cakes provide a slow constant feeding each time you water. Cakes made with a cottonseed base will provide an 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