



# Bonsai Notebook



A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

March 2005

## President's Message

by Pete Quisenberry

March is upon us, and this reminds me of one of my late Father's sayings. *"Spring is sprung. The grass is riss. I wonder where the birdies is."* Spring is in the air, and our trees are telling us to tend them. Chuck Ware's presentation on soil and watering at the February meeting, was just wonderful. The teacher in Chuck came out with the various size pots he lined up. He tested and teased us into comparing soil volume and water retention, in the different shape pots. I've had more physics classes, than I care to remember, and knew all about water table "theory". Except, I left all those graphs and pressure tables in the classroom, and never made the connection to Bonsai. The fourth Wednesday in February, Chuck was there again, along with Charlotte and Jimbo, for the Member's Workshop. Some of our new knowledge was put to work, tending and repotting trees. I would again like to encourage everyone to invite your friends and neighbors, with an interest in Bonsai, to come and learn what we are all about. We have much to share and so many great teachers. We wish Alisan Clarke the best as she continues her recovery from surgery. Alisan is a past President and current Member at Large to the ABS Board, and a very special member of our group. So, get well soon!



<http://www.main.org/bonsai/>

## Calendar of Events



### March

9<sup>th</sup>

**Monthly Meeting at Zilker Garden Center**

7-7:30 pm

Socialize and *"Ask A Member"*

7:30 pm

Monthly program with Terry Ward

16<sup>th</sup>

**Monthly Board Meeting at Zilker Garden Center**

7:00 pm

23<sup>rd</sup>

Fourth Wednesday Members' Study Group with George Brown on azaleas

7:00 pm

### May

13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

**LSBF Convention**  
Fort Worth (see inside)

20-21

**Annual Bonsai Show at Zilker Garden Center**

28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

**World Bonsai Convention**  
Washington D.C.



# Austin Bonsai Society

Board of Directors

**Pete Quisenberry**

President

**Jim Trahan**

Vice-President

**Charlotte Cranberg**

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**Pat Ware**

Treasurer

**Alisan Clark**

Member at-Large

**Chuck Ware**

Member at-Large

**Tyrone Sanders**

Member at-Large

For the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday **Study Group** we are grateful to be able to offer an azalea workshop by George Brown. If you are unfamiliar with George, it's because he just joined ABS this year and we are very fortunate to have someone of his skill-level in our club. George brings with him over 20 years of experience with satsuki azaleas, and was an under-study of satsuki master Tatemori Gondo for three years. This is a **workshop** so bring your tools and trees. George insists that your azalea material does not have to be perfect. Bring anything from a seedling to a specimen. Or just come to listen and watch. This will be a fantastic workshop on Japanese azaleas!

Also, if you were unable to attend Chuck Ware's demonstration on soil theory as it relates to pot dimensions, well, you missed out. Half magic show and half Mr. Wizard, many of us were awestruck at what we saw. Several people came up to me and said that it was one of the most amazing demonstrations they've ever seen. Great job Chuck!

## March Programs

By Jim Trahan



Now that most of our trees have been repotted and settled into their new homes it's time to work on everything above the soil line. For our **Monthly Meeting** Terry Ward will discuss methods for creating realistic branch shapes. This is a **workshop**, so bring your tools and one or more trees to work on. Advanced members will be available for consultation during the workshop. There are a lot of misconceptions about how to grow branches, and many books only give details for maintaining the appearance of a branch. With this meeting we are hoping to throw new light on this often overlooked subject.

Though it was simply open repotting at the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday study group, many of us learned a thing or two about the design of our trees, and just simple techniques for untangling roots. And above all, we had a lot of fun. I'd like to acknowledge some special thanks to Chuck, Pat, and Charlotte for making this possible. It was a fun and informal workshop, and one that has the potential to become a club tradition.



## February 2005 Bonsai Society Board Meeting

The Austin Bonsai Society Board meeting was called to order on February 16th at 7:10 pm by President Carl Quisenbery at the Austin Area Garden Center. Present were Carl, Jim Trahan, Pat and Chuck Ware and Charlotte Cranberg. The date for Mark Nolander's visit was set for 6:30 pm Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2005, our regular monthly meeting date. It was decided to move the auction to November. Instead of a lecture-demo, the board voted to hold workshops and encourage members who do not want to sign up for a

workshop to come and observe. The teacher will address the group as a whole while advising workshop participants on their trees. The workshops will be limited to 8 participants and will cost \$40.00. A major raffle item, in place of a lecture-demo tree, will be offered. It was unanimously voted to make Bennie Badgett an honorary member of the Austin Bonsai Society. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm



## February 2005 Bonsai Society Monthly Meeting

***MBP Bonsai Studio***  
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(call for directions)





The regular meeting of the Austin Bonsai Society was called to order by President Carl Quisenbery at 7:30 pm February 9th at the Austin Area Garden Center. Hostesses Sheila Ward and Marion Chen were thanked for the refreshments. Treasurer, Pat Ware reported a surplus of \$383.33. Charlotte Cranberg gave the AAGC report. Vice President, Jim Trahan introduced the speaker, Chuck Ware.



Chuck Ware spoke and demonstrated the properties and physics of pots, soil and water. Els Ulug sold tickets and conducted the raffle.

Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

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Terry & Sheila Ward	512-280-5575
12001 Red Hawk Cove	phbonsai@sbcglobal.net
Austin, Texas 78739	By Appointment Please

quisenberry, John Pittenger, Els Ulug, Virginia Sabia, Del De Los Santos, Sam Jeske, and Me. We can be proud of our club, Next year consider joining us!

Three dollar parking fee is now in effect on weekends through the summer and early fall. The \$3 ticket can be used all weekend in any of the parking areas in the park. If you are coming to work in the garden or volunteer for the garden center or for your club show you can park free in the back near the greenhouse if there is room. There is room for 15 cars there. Call Mel at the garden center if you will need several places. This is for volunteers only and not for the Garden Festival.

Seventeen (by Jim Trahan)

The Form  
in seventeen breaths.  
Ten-thousand  
words can't  
describe Emptiness



### AAGC Report March 2005

The big push now is for the Garden Festival on April 2nd and 3rd from 10am to 5pm. If you can't volunteer, please support the event by coming! And support the vendors by buying something, if you can. I usually have trouble controlling myself and end up with more plants than I can plant. You will find some unusual varieties in areas such as herbs, bamboo, zeriscape & natives, bromeliads, orchids etc. Chuck is usually there with bonsai which is very nice because he is promoting our favorite interest. He answers a lot of questions from the public. So, come on out and join the fun!

Help is needed in the Japanese Garden. If you'd like to work there call me.

Don Freeman reported on the rainwater collectors behind the garden center. They are now operating and you can learn how to do one for yourself. The new woodland arch is in. The fern and cycad society will landscape it. Look for it next time you are there. Also, visit the Prehistoric garden. There have been some interesting and rare primitive flowers in bloom there this spring and the banana and other prehistoric magnolias bloomed sweetly.

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 web page: <http://www.wimberley-tx.com/~bonsaijg>

Look for our Bonsai volunteers, Carl

Landscape architect, Robert Leeper held a demo in



the Japanese garden on pruning on Saturday, March 12th. He has studied in Japan.

Cactus Society is having a show and sale on **April 9th** and 10th.

Charlotte Cranberg

**The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, Inc.**

*We're having a Garage Sale!*

Yes, again- in the Fall. We wanted you to know now, so that when you do your Spring house cleaning you don't throw out any old, good stuff

that can make money for us.

Many thanks, Elaine White

*Tag it and save it until Fall, Please!*



**The Austin Bonsai Society is a non-profit 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 7:30PM. 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 nominal, presently only \$25.00 for an individual and \$30.00 for a family membership.**



Please contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P. O. Box 340474, Austin, Tx. 78734 for more information.

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