



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

March 2014 vol 39

March 2014 Programs

by Jimbo Baumann

Propagation Methods

with Bill Boytim

With winter challenges (hopefully) behind us, it is time to plan for the new growing season. On **Wednesday, March 12**, Bill Boytim will do a program on propagating methods for creating new plants. There are many methods to achieve this such as grafting, rooting or seeding. When you do this you are bringing life to material that would otherwise would have been lost, thus creating new potential bonsai.

We encourage our members to come prepared to ask questions and learn from a Master Gardener.

The monthly members workshop will be on **Tuesday, March 18th** at the Zilker Garden Center. Bring projects & cuttings to be shared. We encourage beginners to attend these study sessions as there will be plenty of support from other members.

Calendar of Events

March 12 ABS Monthly Meeting
Spring Propagation Methods
Reception Hosts: Elaine White
Audrey Lanier and Zerita Rogers
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

March 18 ABS Monthly Workshop
Bring Your Own Project
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

April 10-13 LSBF Texas State Bonsai Convention
Houston, Texas

May 17-18 ABS Annual Show and Sale
Zilker Garden Center



May and Simon working on their root over rock bonsai at our ABS Feb 2014 meeting.

(Photo by John Muller)

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

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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

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 Nan Jenkins

Greetings everyone!

Ok, I'm officially not going to write this note next month if the temp is falling to the 20's that night! It seems to happen every time I do this, so this is the last one until spring is here for real!

I've done my winter repotting. Only the tropicals remain and they have to wait until the temps are in at least the 50's if not the 60's at night. I hope the newly repotted make it through this night. They are protected.

We are getting close to time for two big events. The first is the state convention of the Lone Star Bonsai Federation, which is our statewide bonsai organization. It will be hosted by the bonsai club in Houston, and looks to be a great learning experience. You can sign up on line. The link is on our own bonsai site at www.austinbonsaisociety.com.

The other event is our own exhibit which will be May 17-18th. This is an opportunity for everyone to practice getting a tree ready to show. This is not a show for the phenomenal amazing trees, although there will be some of those there, but all of us have trees in process that can look far better than you ever imagined! Start now to find one and prepare it to show. Find a long time member to help you. You will be amazed at what you've created!

See you at the meeting! Love those trees!
Nan



**ZILKER GARDEN FESTIVAL
MARCH 29-30, 2014**

Zilker Garden Fest is Saturday March 29 & Sunday March 30, and Austin Bonsai has an educational & demonstration area in the Greene Room (adjacent to the main room, which will be the annual flower show). Our set-up is typically Thursday before the show starts, to give the judges time to award prizes on Friday. If any members of Austin Bonsai would like to help man the table, they would be very welcome!

Bring a tree to show and maybe one to work on (wire, trim, shape - show some of the Bonsai techniques to the public). This is one of the biggest events we do as a club that helps to get new members, and we can use bonsai hobbyists from all levels.

Volunteers park for free on Stratford Dr. (with a parking pass) and get a free t-shirt, but must be registered first. There will be a sign-up at our regular March meeting. Contact Alisan Clarke: 512-327-3168.

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ABS Board Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2014

Present: Russell Kohlert, Jimbo Bauman, Pat Ware, Zerita Rogers, and Angie Hewes

Nan Jenkins and Deborah Van Cleaf were not present.

Joey McCoy briefly came in with a proposed amendment to the Austin Bylaws Article III.

Pat Ware made motion to table the proposed amendment for research and discussion. Time is needed to look at wording which needs to be changed. It was agreed to table by board.

Treasurer: Pat discussed how club is doing good: membership is good, there are no big expenses. At the end of January the club running ahead of expenses by \$529.32.

Board discussed raffle and how it was dropped last year because there seemed to be no interest. Raffle is a nice tool for new members who might need supplies.

Board discussed whether ABS would pay the \$150 registration fee for the member who would represent the club in the Emerging Artist Contest at Convention in Houston and then the Board voted to reimburse the member for the \$150 registration fee.

Discussed the need to recruit more members to join club.

Discussed finding a place for the workshop that Peter Tea would be doing on September 9 and asked for suggestions. Angie suggested the VFW Hall behind Penn Field off South Congress. Jimbo said he would check on possibly renting it for this workshop.

Pat brought up that Alisan needs to know what to do for green room at Garden Fest.

Pat brought up the Garden Council meeting and how the ABS had provided refreshments for their meeting. At the meeting the council discussed they were not getting response from their ads in the newspaper and that the Council is going to go to KLRU and put ad in Central Texas Gardener's basic production. This ad would cost the Council \$10,000. Pat brought up possibly donating to help Council meet their goal and in exchange possibly getting a link to their website. This would be a possible way to get some new members. The Council gets matching funds for each donation they get. ASB Board voted and agreed to give \$200 donation for the Garden Council.

Jimbo discussed upcoming programs for the year that will be published in March issue of membership manual along with membership, bylaws. The new manual will be passed out to the membership with encouragement to read it since it contains helpful information, including the yearly calendar, bylaws, history and a membership directory.

Pat made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Jimbo second and adjourned the meeting.

Angie Hewes, Secretary

ABS General Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2014

7:32 pm Nan Jenkins – Welcome – Will be a fun night. We'll be doing root over rock.

Introduced new members:

Alice Chen- Guest of Phina Chen

Linda Oswald – Minnesota

Chris Johnson – didn't make it to meeting and

Jim Van Cleave – Guest of Deborah Van Cleave

Renewals Nelda Garcia –

Thanks to Lizzie and Phina for refreshments.

1. Discussed LSBF Convention in Houston, April __. Information is on front table. Registration before March 15 is \$150 after is \$175. Hotel is \$69 night. Bring your raffle items.

2. Info on Zilker Garden Show Alisan. Encouraged members to volunteer and to bring their trees for the learning center.

3. Terry Ward talked about Shohin Society meeting. Information was also available on the front table. Shohin Society's free meeting is held only 4 times a year at the Ward's House

4. Joey made announcement on TSB Exhibit – workshop on Trident maples.

5. Jim Bauman talked about the root over rock demonstration. To be done again at the Tuesday workshop for members only. Members will be preparing cedar elms for sale and to raffle in the future. Jim then introduced Joey who began with a demonstration.

6. Joey brought tree he had prepared a couple of years before to dig up from the pot to see whether roots were growing tightly around rock. He demonstrated how to clip small unwanted roots and position larger roots in desirable aesthetic position then how to secure with muck and wrap tightly with raffia. The tree and rock would be reburied for another couple of years before starting to expose roots above the dirt. Reburying provides a buffer for roots to stimulate root growth. He encouraged members to be aware of elements of the stone you want to preserve and position roots away from those elements so when you expose the rock these elements will be visible.

Joey also brought a maple on a rock that was already above dirt for members to see. He also had a very nice portulacaria afra (baby jade) that was growing around a rock.

After Joey's demonstration members were encouraged to participate and begin their root over rock projects.

Jim brought cedar elm saplings and various rocks for members to use for their projects. Many members participated in the cedar elm root over rock project.

Correction to January 8, 2014 membership meeting minutes on Mike Hansen's presentation regarding rewiring the Japanese Black pine: "Wiring takes time and this work should be done carefully, working from the heaviest wire to the finest." (Instead of the finest to the heaviest.)

Angie Hewes, Secretary

March 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.

The past 6 months illustrate why you cannot just do tasks on a 'schedule', you need to vary them according to nature. Last year the temp here was well above average all summer, with 100's into Sept and 90's into Oct. After that the only two temps above 80 were on Oct 23 and Nov 17. So it has been a cold winter. In a way that was good because the plants stayed dormant. But now I need to be extra vigilant because some species tend to respond to the lengthening daylight but there will probably be more hard freezes.

Bonsai will start growing in late February or March in this area depending on your wintering techniques and on the species. After growth starts some species can take a couple degrees of frost but unless you know what your particular tree can take you should keep it from freezing. Also, newly growing roots are more tender. In this area you should keep the new foliage out of the strong winds however they should have some breeze to help harden the new foliage and to help keep insects and fungal diseases at bay.

You may continue repotting on deciduous species until you see a tiny bit of green on the tips of the swelling leaf bud. Be sure to keep the newly repotted tree out of the wind and late morning or afternoon sun. Broadleaf evergreen species will generally be okay to repot later on. Yaupon do better if you wait until it warms a bit more. Even tho its gets quite warm now, we can expect a freeze in March so you may have to protect trees that have started growth and those that have been repotted this winter. Don't repot tropicals until the night temps stay above 60.

There are two different approaches to branch and tree care. The first is the development stage of the tree where you are growing and developing branches, doing root work and generally developing the style of the tree. During this time you will cut and

wire and then let it grow for a good period of time developing taper and interesting bends and twists. Timing of these functions is not as critical.

The other approach comes after the development stage and results in the refinement of the bonsai. This gives it the twiginess, Small leaves and patina of age which takes it from a commercial bonsai to a piece of art. It is quite time consuming especially in the flush growth period after dormancy breaks. If not done carefully, the new growth will thicken the twigs and cause long internodes which will ruin the all the previous work and may even send you back to the development stage.

Now you should get your tweezers and shears ready for the real job ahead. In order to develop the ramification and fine twigs you want you must be pruning the new growth as its develops. Waiting until the shoots are three or four inches or longer results in coarse twigs with long internodes. These will have to be cut off and new ones developed.

Junipers in development should be trimmed with shears. Styled juniper may be done with the fingers. As the new growth develops grasp the twigs with one hand spreading the foliage in a fan shape. Then with the other hand grasp the tips between the fleshy part of you thumb and finger and pull it off. Using fingernails or scissors will result in brown tips on the cut foliage.

AS the weather warms up the insects will surely make their appearance. Use the foliar spray (1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar per gallon of water weekly to control aphid, mites, caterpillars etc. Commercial sprays may be used but follow directions closely. Be sure to spray with a fine mist sprayer to cover thoroughly.

Fertilizing is necessary one the trees start to grow. Too many trees exhibited do not have a good dark green foliage. Since we are using soilless mixes for the most part, a different technique is required than used for most potted plants. Water soluble chemical fertilizers should be used at half strength and more often than given since they will wash out with the next watering. The same is more or less true with

liquid organic fertilizers. The best technique is to use solid organic fertilizers. Fertilizer cakes on the surface is the best way. They break down slowly and a small amount is carried into the root zone each time you water. Pelletized organic material can be spread on the surface also but they tend to crumble and create an undesirable surface. Be sure that the material you use has a balanced formula and not high in nitrogen.

Hydrogen Peroxide as fungicide. It is suggested to use a 1% solution sprayed on top and bottom leaves to control fungi (leaf spot, powdery mildew, etc). The normal medical solution as purchased is a 3% solution so dilute that with 2 parts water to 1 part peroxide. One article cited TA&M studies which showed that a strength greater than 1.7% produced some leaf burning on tender test foliage. A 0.1% solution aided in rooting cuttings and in controlling Botrytis. Can be added to drip systems and foliar feeds. The peroxide degenerates into water and oxygen fairly rapidly so is no threat to the environment. Personally, I have used 1% peroxide on elms and yaupons later on in the season spraying once a week. It got rid of the black spot with no damage. However, when I sprayed tender new foliage with it I cause considerable burn. Therefore anytime I use peroxide it will be on mature foliage and at a 0.5% solution.

RAMIFICATION PRUNING

by John Miller

In order to develop the ramification and fine twigs you want you must be pruning the new growth as it develops. Waiting until the shoots are three or four inches or longer results in coarse twigs with long internodes. These will have to be cut off and new ones developed if you are to have a good bonsai and you have wasted a lot of growing time.

Essentially there are two kinds of growing habits, those with leaves growing alternately on the twigs, e.g. elms, oak, and hawthorn, and those with opposite growing leaves, e.g. maple.

The alternate growing leaves start out with small leaves and each succeeding leaf will be larger and the internodes longer. Also each leaf will have a latent bud in each leaf axial. Therefore if you let the shoot grow to 4 or 5 new leaves and cut it back to 2 or 3, you will be keeping smaller leaves and also getting twice as many growing tips on each branch and each will be a finer twig. Keep this up and you will soon have nice development on the branches of your bonsai, after only 4 cuts your one original twig is now sixteen twigs and your leaf reduction is tremendous. In determining whether to cut to two or three, note the direction that you wish the end of the branch to take and cut to the leaf which has the bud on that side of the branch.

Note: If last years twig has been let grow long it should be cut back to the first 2-3 buds and start over.

On plants that have opposite growing leaves the new bud produces a growing tip with two leaves clasping a new growing tip. If left to its normal development the twig behind the new leaves will continue to lengthen until the new tip opens up. This causes long internodes and no new buds will break between the internodes. The long internodes would need to be cut off and wait for new buds to break from to old node.

To prevent this, you need to use tweezers to spread the new leaves and snip the new growing tip before it lengthens. The twig then stops getting longer and new buds will develop at the base of each of the two leaves. When these start growing repeat the process. On a well developed maple this can be quite a chore.

Tweezers are almost a necessity in working on maples. The opposite growing leaves clasp the new growing tip and will be extending from the old bud but on a lengthening stem. If the new tip is taken off as soon as the leaves separate, the result is that the leaves will be smaller and the stem will stop lengthening. Then two new tips will pop from the new leaf axials and you will repeat the tip plucking. Tweezers work much better for this job. I will sometimes separate the new pair of leaves from the new tip with tweezers but be careful not to bruise them.

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 John Muller)