



BONSAI NOTEBOOK

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

March 2016 vol 62

March 2016 Program By: Zach Rabalais

With this great weather we have been having, I'm sure that everyone has been elbow deep in bonsai soil over the past few weeks, frantically re-potting trees. I know that's where all of my spare minutes have gone lately. That, and watching buds break on my trees that are early risers.

We have a great program planned for March. Chuck Ware will be putting together a Trident Maple forest planting complete with a nice bonsai pot. These are trees that have been grown from seed specifically for bonsai so they have a lot of nice low branching and other aspects that are sometimes missing on nursery stock trees. I love looking at a well done forest planting. The way one tree interacts with another to make a believable composition is something that I've always greatly enjoyed. We will be raffling off the finished product so one lucky member will walk away with the start of a great forest bonsai! Remember to bring your cash or check books if you want to participate in the raffle because this one is not to be missed.

We now have a link on the Austin Bonsai website for the new photo contest. The theme for 2016 is Bonsai Inspiration from Trees in Nature. I know we all spend a lot of time looking at trees, and we want you to share some of your favorites with us. The link is on the home page of austinbonsaisociety.com.

Also, remember to bring any tools, pots, or whatever that you might want to trade to the March meeting. The swap meet will be very informal, but while everyone is socializing before and after the meeting you might just find something that you've been looking for or something that you didn't even know that you couldn't live without.

CALENDAR

- MARCH 9:** TRIDENT MAPLE FOREST W/CHUCK WARE
7:30PM
HOSTS: SHEILA WARD & JOEY MCCOY
- MARCH 15:** BOARD MEETING 7PM
MEMBERS ONLY WORKSHOP: Repotting 7:30PM
- MARCH 19/20:** DIG IN SOLEDAD
CONTACT JOEY MCCOY
- APRIL 13:** GUEST ARTIST: KATHY SHANER 7:30PM



Joey McCoy's presentation on root over rock

(Photo by Jonathan Wood)

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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**

What a great presentation last month by Joey McCoy! We enjoyed the uncovering of various root-over-rock projects and getting to see the finished results.

Spring is here and I'm having a lot of fun seeing my Japanese maples bud out. Reds, yellows, greens are starting to show as deciduous trees wake up from their short slumber. This is one of my favorite times of the bonsai calendar... seeing trees put on their show!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the Trident Maple group planting demo night with Chuck. Sure to be an informative evening and a lucky night for the raffle winner. Welcome new members! Keep coming to 2nd Wednesday meetings and monthly workshops to get to know future friends and mentors in the bonsai art. Reach out and say hi! Maybe even bring a friend or two who takes interest in bonsai to Wednesday meetings from time to time.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Wood, ABS President

Bonsai quote:

"One of the things I learned from John (Naka)...and it's one of his proverbs that he would say...I heard him say it again and again and again, 'a live donkey is better than a dead doctor'. The meaning of that is that when you're working on bonsai, it's better if your bonsai is kind of like that live donkey. It's got to be alive. ...You have to do the techniques that you are doing to create a master piece... if those techniques are going to kill the tree...it's better to have a lesser tree that's green than this master piece that's dead. And he (John Naka) was always, always sensitive to the life blood in the tree, and that fact that it needs to be healthy and vibrant. That's more important than being artistically perfect. "

-- Cheryl Manning

<http://bonsaificusretusa.com/cheryl-manning-bonsai-artist-interview/>

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**ABS General Meeting
January 13,2016
Zerita Rogers, Secretary**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by President, Jonathan Wood.

Jonathan, recognized Phina, Lizzie and Nathan for the served refreshments.

This evenings guest was Joe Rahmeyer.

Next, Jonathan welcomed our new members Winnie Tan, and Chia Hui.

Pat, our Treasurer, advised members who have not paid their dues, to do so before the end of the month. Failure to do so would mean exclusion from the 2016 directory and newsletters, which closes at the end of February. She also mentioned that the Audrey Lanier Memorial donations earmarked for the Bonsai Society is now \$350.00. Additional sums are anticipated.

Alisan, passed out the petition again to take a count of those that support the Zilker Garden. This was done for those who were not present at the last meeting. Alsan, reminded everyone that the Garden festival is held the first week-end of April. She would like everyone who will be volunteering at the Garden Festival to send their T-shirt size. You can send an e-mail.

Joey, spoke about the many plants of Audrey's that need repotting. He asked members to sign up for February 21, 2016 of the repotting of her plants at Terry and Sheila Ward's home. Starting at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to help, please e-mail him. TTBSE now have the Taniguchi Architect Firm helping with the building design and Bonsai exhibit in Zilker Park. Taniguchi's grandson will be helping with the project.

Jonathan, mention that there is a signup sheet for the LSBF artist Rodney Clemons workshop. April 25 is a Monday evening and the location will be announced at the next meeting. Kathy Shaner will be in Austin April 15-18th. Registration forms are available. Next meeting will be on Trident Maple group planting. There will be a tree raffle of the Group Planting and pot. Tickets are \$5.00 each.

Joey, reminded those who are participating in the March dig of the availability of hotels and camping nearby.

Elaine, has more books for sale.

Zackary, discussed the Nature Photo Contest, which is a year long. Members, will be submitting photo by e-mail. The photo should have the date, location and the style features such as Formal, Informal, Twin Trunk, Slanting, Multiple Trunks, Exposed Roots, Raft, Windswept. The finalist will be selected at our Holiday Party in November 2016. Winner will be in the publication of our Newsletter in December.

Zackary, introduced Joey who did our program of Root over Rock .

Joey, who is one of our many knowledgeable members in the art of Bonsai. The subject of this evening was repotting Root over Rock technique. Most plants can be used for Root over Rock such as Ficus, Cedar Elm, Trident Maple. Choosing the right color stone (dark stone looks older than light stones), don't use smooth stones. Look at the leaf size and root size, if it is to scale. The rough textured rock with irregular surfaces are more suitable, since soil adhere more easily to them. Also very interesting in appearance. The clay soil that was shown is used to hold the root in the creviced rock. You can use raffia, cotton string, jute--- don't use duct tape or green tape. When using raffia moisten before you wrap it around the clay roots in crevices. Make sure the top of the stone is not exposed to sun, it will heat up and dry out. Build a corral around it for protection from the sun. If it has not shown some growth in a year, leave it in the pot for another year. Each step is going back to evaluate your plant.

Jim Baumann, announced that the Tuesday workshop will be the continuation of tonight's program of Root over Rock. Bring your trees that was done two years ago. Also, bring your tools.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2016
Zerita Rogers, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Jonathan at 7:00.

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

The Board voted to accept the minutes as printed of our last meeting.

Pat Ware, advised the Board that we have received additional funds of \$205.00 donated to the Audrey Lanier Memorial. So far we have received \$555.00.

The treasurer's report was approved by Simon Tse, and accepted by the Board.

Zachary, asked Pat as to how those donating get a Federal Income Tax write-off for a donation to our club. In response, Pat said that the Thank You note that they received should be sufficient.

Jonathan confirmed Chuck will be doing the program next month of Trident Maple Grove Planting. Zachary, will be selling tickets for the raffle of the Group Planting and pot. Tickets are \$5.00 each.

Next month workshop will be on repotting. Zachary, will be the doing the program. Chuck will bring the soil that the club will purchase for use.

The Board discussed the programs of coming events for this year. Some of the artist are having a scheduling problems.

We are proud to announce that Els Ulug donated some of the older LSBF News Letters for our archives.

Meeting, adjourned at 8:04.

MARCH BONSAI
BY: JOHN MILLER

The jet stream has kept us from having a winter this year. It has pushed all arctic air far enough to the east that we have not had enough cold. However no one knows just what it will do in March and April. We could get some unpleasant surprises. You need to keep one of the weather prediction programs in your favorites bar and look a week ahead so you have time to take any necessary precautions.

Bonsai usually start growing in late February or March in this area depending on your wintering techniques and on the species. However this year many bonsai have already done a lot of growing. 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 strong winds however they should have some air flow 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.

Usually 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 a 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 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.

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 your thumb and finger and pull it off. Using fingernails or scissors will result in brown tips on the cut foliage. Don't pinch anything with a strong center thread.

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 be sure to follow directions closely. Be sure to spray with a fine mist sprayer to cover top, bottom and branches thoroughly. Hose end types have too coarse a spray.

Be careful when using a new insecticide or cure. The best advice is to try it first on some lesser plants to see how it behaves in your yard. Hydrogen peroxide is suggested as a control for fungal problems. 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, on tender new spring foliage it caused some leaf burn. Therefore anytime I use peroxide it will be on mature foliage and diluted to a 0.5% solution.

Fertilizing is necessary once 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 used more often than labeled 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 fertilizer you use has a balanced formula and not extra high in nitrogen. Be especially careful with chemicals or manure based organic fertilizer on newly potted plants.

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