



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

May 2015 vol 53

May 2015 Program by Jimbo Baumann

The 2nd Wednesday Night May 2015 Austin Bonsai Club Program (Walter Pall DVD preview and Bonsai Display with Terry Ward) will be quite beautiful and exciting! Around 7:00 or so, while folks are meeting and greeting each other, members can catch a glimpse of the Austin Bonsai Society Walter Pall DVD. Mr. Pall is an internationally-renown bonsai artist, residing in Germany, who visited us last December. He provided a lively discussion of "Tree Inspiration" based on approximately 24 club member trees. DVDs are on sale for \$8 cash/check made out to Austin Bonsai Society and Jonathan will have some extra copies on hand. Walter Pall gave permission for the club to record and replicate this special event. Please bring in a tree Walter talked about if you have made any specific changes or improvements since December. (Kind of an informal show and tell opportunity. Also these and other trees will be handy for the core program.)

The majority of the meeting will be devoted to the practical and aesthetic considerations of setting up this year's public bonsai show. Long time club member, Terry Ward, will lead us in the key elements that make a successful and balanced annual show. Beyond learning about show display, these elements can go into considerations of the enjoyment of bonsai display in our homes and gardens. Club members are asked to bring: various finished bonsai trees, display stands and mats, example accent plants, scrolls, and the like (all in various sizes) to provide insight into the design of formal display.

About our Presenter, Terry Ward: Terry's love for nature and artistic ability are reflected in his bonsai. His initial studies in the late 1960's were from the then limited bonsai publications in English. His first formal lessons were with the late Bob M. Kayo in California and he continued his studies with other noted bonsai sensei. Terry, a Native Texan, his wife Sheila and all their trees moved from Half Moon Bay, CA to Austin in 1993.

Terry has given lectures, demonstrations and workshops at clubs, state and international conventions. He founded state-wide and local bonsai groups and has served bonsai organizations such as The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, Lone Star Bonsai Federation, California Shohin Society and Golden State Bonsai Federation in different capacities. Terry was named an Outstanding American Bonsai Artist by the National Bonsai Foundation in 1987.

Terry's beautifully styled and arranged bonsai attract attention wherever they are displayed. He loves to teach and is able to convey an understanding of his thoughts, feelings and techniques. Styling and display are two of his favorite bonsai topics. His lectures and workshops are places for sharing and learning. To him, bonsai offers unlimited opportunities to gain knowledge and make new friends.

Terry and Sheila, who is a teacher in her own right, owned and operated Persimmon Hill Bonsai Studio and Nursery in Austin for many years. They are active members of the Austin Bonsai Society and the Shohin Society of Texas.

Calendar of Events

March 13, 7pm: ABS Meeting Walter Pall DVD Screening & Terry Ward Demo Show
Hosts: Joey McCoy & Candy Hansen

May 15: Set up for Annual Show

May 16/17: Annual ABS Show and Sale
10am-5pm

May 19: Board meeting and members workshop

Remember to sign up for the Owen Reich workshop on
Tuesday, July 7th



Zilker Garden Festival
(Photo by May Lau)

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 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

It's show time!

Our May show weekend (May 15th-17th) is just around the corner... One of my favorite times of the Austin Bonsai Society annual programming calendar. Our annual show is an "all hands on deck" event and is a shared service each and every available club member plays a part in.

Can't wait to see what our members bring in to display. Also looking forward to time spent having fun and getting to know more volunteer members. Reminder: please drop off plants at Zilker Friday evening May 15th at 5:00 PM and help set up show screens and displays of approximately 50 trees. Following past tradition, a celebratory pizza party will take place at Zilker as volunteers finalize setting up the show Friday evening so don't miss out on good times! Then come Saturday and Sunday, bringing friends and family to enjoy the show. Last year I believe approximately 1,200 toured our show. Then, come pick up your wonderful little trees and help us disassemble the show on Sunday evening at 5:00.

What a wonderful presentation in April 2015, by our very own Joey McCoy, that documented the progression of some collected trees into show-class bonsai! He brought in fantastic specimens from his collection and inspired us with high hopes for our collected material. One of the most helpful techniques I learned about was thread grafting boxwoods that tend to have bare trunk lines. With grafting, I can see a lot more potential in collected material that is a bit sparse near the base... and varieties that don't back-bud easily for one reason or another in our region. We also took some short needle yellow pine seedlings home to attempt to grow into bonsai on down the road. Some ideas are root over rock pine and group plantings on down the road.

Welcome, welcome, welcome to our new members! Reach out and say hi! Keep coming to 2nd Wednesday meetings and monthly workshops to get to know future friends and mentors in the bonsai art. Maybe even bring a friend or two who takes interest in bonsai to Wednesday meetings from time to time. Also, it's good to read each month's newsletter as soon as it comes out as it will have important dates and events listed.

If you think you have a little extra time for set-up and take down at some of our monthly events, please email me at Jonathan.WoodJS@gmail.com. We have a spirit of volunteer rotation and can always use your help :-)

Sincerely,
Jonathan Wood, ABS President

Bonsai quote:
"Bonsai is not the result: that comes after. Your enjoyment is what is important."
--- John Naka, Master Bonsai Cultivator

NEWS CORNER

Tricky Spring Showers

Did you ever stand under a tree during a spring shower. Why?

Because the fullness of the tree sheds water and you were likely to stay dry.

Don't be fooled. During those light spring showers, the roots of your bonsai (especially those with full canopies) may not be watered enough.

Rest in Peace Peg Hollen

At 5 PM, Sunday, May 3rd, 2015 our good friend and long-time ABS member, Peg Hollen died of a heart attack after surviving a stroke. Our thoughts go to her long time partner, Marty Klajnowski in this time of sorrow.



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Yang "Cindy" Huang
512-416-1065
hair1800@yahoo.com

Austin Bonsai Society Club Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2015

Austin Bonsai Society Club Meeting Date: April 8th, 2015

Location: Zilker Botanical Garden

Display Tree(s) brought by: Joey McCoy (presenter). Display stones brought by Marlin.

Topic: Developing Trees from Collected Material to Show quality material with Joey McCoy.

Meeting of Austin Bonsai Society General Club Membership was called to order at 7:30PM.

1. Thank you to the Hosts, Elaine White and Zerita Rogers for tonight's refreshments.
2. Guests and New Member sign ups were introduced.
3. Reports and Announcements: (see newsletter)
4. Old Business: (none)
 - a. Special Thank you to all the volunteers who came up to Zilker Garden Festival and hosted the public with education about the art and techniques involved in Bonsai. Special thanks to Alisan, who helped coordinate the volunteer shifts and who brought in a progression of trident maples and a Japanese maple to show various techniques used in bonsai. Some members even got a chance to learn about advanced topics like forest plantings, air layering and the like!
5. New Business:
 - a. Sign up for beginner tree class interest for Texas Ebony in June 2015 -- \$40.00. 6 signed up and currently on a wait list.
 - b. \$8 Walter Pall DVD order Sign-up took place. Still have plenty of chances to buy/order this club DVD.
 - c. May 2015 Show Tree and Accent Plant Sign Up passed around. Members may still bring show tree(s) if they have been unable to sign up.
 - d. May 2015 Show Docent/Volunteer sign up, including set-up volunteers was passed around.
6. Jimbo introduced the speaker, Joey McCoy. Joey brought 5 bonsai from his collection and made a spectacular presentation which provided photo and blog chronology of their progress. Members took home short leaf yellow pine saplings to grow... they were rescued and donated to club members.
7. President closed the meeting at 8:45 PM by motion and unanimous vote of those members present.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2015

ABS Board Meeting Date: April 21, 2015

Location: Zilker Botanical Garden

Names of Board members present: Jonathan, Pat, Jimbo, May

Visitors: Simon.

1. Meeting of Austin Bonsai Society Board was called to order by (Jonathan) President at 7:00PM.

2. SECRETATRY REPORT

March 2015 Board Meeting Minutes were approved as published by a unanimous vote.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Prior Month had low expenses resulting in \$1,360.97 Income over expenses. Treasurer's report voted unanimously into acceptance.

3. PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT CLUB MEETING:

1. Walter Pall DVD Screening (Jonathan) + Terry Ward Display demonstration/Tree help.

Members to bring a show tree if they have questions about preparing it for display. Bring a stand, accent plant, viewing stone, scroll, etc to help Terry have material to present/discuss. Members to bring \$8 cash for Walter Pall DVD or pay \$9 by pay-pal request to member email. Bring \$40 cash for Tx Ebony Workshop (pre-payment required or reservation will be released to the wait list).

4. ADDITIONAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LSBF Report-- July 2015 guest artist will need overnight accommodations near airport due to 6AM flight time early morning. Board approved \$150 hotel expense by a unanimous vote.

TTSBE announcements-- TTSBE Board met April 12, 2015. Details coming later from TTSBE.

Zilker Garden Council -- No report.

5. OLD BUSINESS

1) Cost of beginner tree program was previously set at \$40. Sign up is full for Tx Ebony in June 2015 and Ficus in August 2015. Tree, Soil, Bonsai Training Pot, education provided by ABS. Ceramic beginner tree pots and soil have been sourced and ordered.

6. NEW BUSINESS

1) Secretary duties will need to be picked up by a board member: (Jonathan in the short term).

2) May 2015 Show discussed in detail.: Show coordination tasks include: Volunteer Coordinator (Contacts volunteers, sends all emails, instructions, etc). Show Set-up Coordinator (Oversees all show set up, take down, coordination, etc. Arrange trucks to move storage items, etc.) Show Raffle Tickets/Donations Keeper at 5PM daily. Show emails to community to invite them to show with flier attached. Show Publicity / Online Marketing for websites, to other clubs, to local nurseries and art societies, to Chronicle and local newspaper. Etc.

3) Jimbo has a Bonsai Show folding street sign to display during show weekend.

4) ABS Storage proposal: 12 month trial with member to store in residential garage with maximum of 10 times of access per year with 24 hour notice at \$35 per month. Discussed but no vote taken.

5) MATT OUWINGA as possible 2016 touring artist -- March 9 thru 12th, 2016 range - discussed and likely to be voted on at next board meeting to go into 2016 budget.

6) Board voted unanimously to Set-up Paypal and Square electronic payment options for ABS, for such services to be set up by Simon / Jonathan, and to be accountable to the Treasurer and linked back to the ABS bank account. It was discussed and authorized to charge a reasonable electronic payment/convenience assessment to online payment users to help offset the fees incurred to Paypal and/or Square. Board sees these electronic payments as a trial effort and to re-evaluate the new offering in about 6 months. In time, donations, workshop registrations, and some membership registrations may be offered electronically at a higher cost, while cash and check payments remain at current member costs. The estimated electronic payment premium is estimated at up to \$3.00. It was noted that ABS has a "Correspondence" membership option for out of area members who cannot attend local meetings.

7) ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was moved to a close by Pat, called to a vote, and closed by unanimous vote at 8:25PM.



Tropical Bonsai School, with Pedro Morales

First Year Class (Year of the Saw)

July 2nd – July 5th

Classroom portion – Thursday, 9 AM – 6 PM

Hands –On work

Friday, Sat. and Sunday, 9 AM – 5 PM

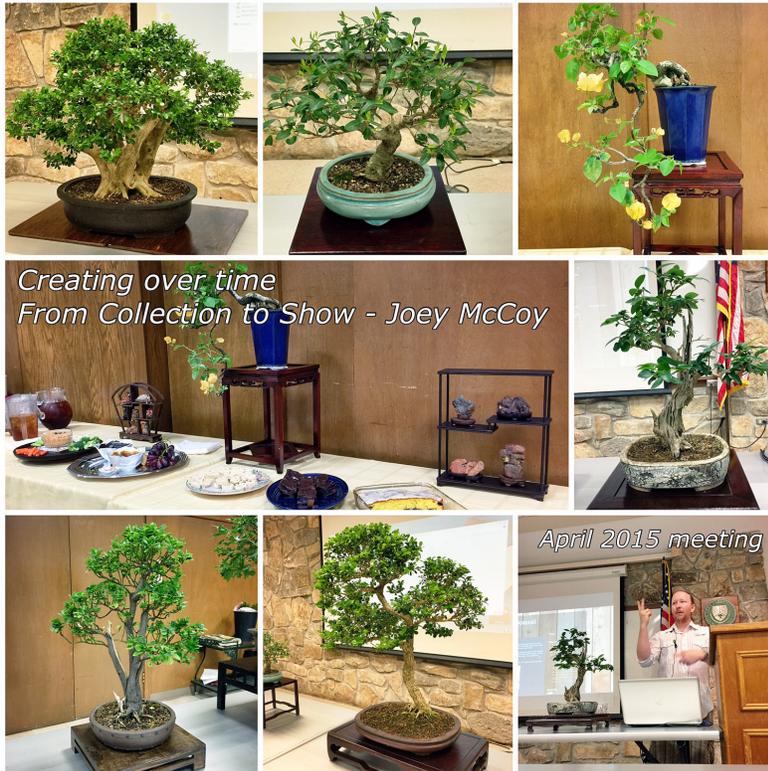
Held at “Timeless Trees” in Rosenberg, TX.

Four days of intensive instruction, lecture, videos, and hands-on work with the world renowned Bonsai artist Pedro Morales. Just bring your tools and wire. Lunch on Fri, Sat and Sunday, is included. Hotels and restaurants close by, we will assist you with arrangements.

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



Photos by
May Lau

44th Annual
BONSAI SHOW
& Sale by Members



THE AUSTIN BONSAI SOCIETY

ZILKER GARDEN CENTER

Saturday, MAY 16, 2015

Sunday, MAY 17, 2015

10 AM – 5 PM

**Demonstrations daily
at 2:00 pm**

RAFFLES

**Members available
for questions**

FREE ADMISSION

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

May Bonsai **by John Miller**

March and early April in my backyard was rainy and cold. There was no time that I had to water everything, I just watched daily and watered those that needed it.

Anyhow, we must assume that they will now fall into a 'normal' routine and proceed with the usual May bonsai care, maybe modified a bit.

Leaf pruning would normally be done in May only on very healthy trees. However if your trees broke late you should make sure that they have sufficient food and light and time to make and store enough energy to produce a healthy set of new leaves before the heat of summer. The new leaves need to have time to mature before the heat sets in. If in doubt do not leaf prune this year. My rule of thumb is no leaf pruning of deciduous species after Memorial Day.

If you have flowering or fruiting bonsai, they should probably not be pruned until June so they will develop the necessary flowers and the fruit will need a lot of foliage to support the tree while the fruit grows. Azaleas usually have too many buds and should have some buds removed to allow room for the flowers to open fully.

Repotting season is getting close for tropicals. Generally they may be done whenever the night temperatures stay above 60 degrees. The repotting of tropicals is done when they are in active growth. Be extra vigilant to prevent the roots from drying during repotting. Place the repotted tree in an area with good light but little direct sun. It should have good air flow but no wind until it shows new growth.

A good organic program takes care of both the feeding and the insect problems. The trick is to be sure to thoroughly cover the plant including all the leaf axils and do it on a regular basis. A regular schedule is needed with chemical sprays too.

The standard horde of pests will be knocking of your door any day now if they are not already at the dinner table. Pale leaves would indicate spider mites. Aphids and woolly scale are easy to see but you need to look for them. Small caterpillars are easy to miss until you see holes in your leaves. My overall cure for these is an organic foliar spray of one tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and apple cider vinegar in a gallon of water. It will not only feed the tree but take care of any vermin there. Be sure to spray the under sides of the leaves and the leaf axils too. Use a hand or pump up sprayer to get a fine spray to cover all top and bottom of leaves, a hose end

sprayer doesn't cover good enough. This is also true if you want to use commercial chemical sprays.

A regular schedule is needed because you need to hit them while they are moving and out of their protective coating especially scale and bagworms. The life cycle of spider mites (from egg to adult laying new egg) can be as short as 5 days in hot weather. You may have to use a systemic control for scale.

Fungal diseases can show up with damp weather. Leaf spot can be serious on Catlin and Chinese elms and on hollies. Mildew can be a problem when the weather turns warm. There are organic fungicides available, baking soda is one. Check an organics nursery or publications. A 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide (dilute the standard 3% store bought stuff 2 parts water to each part peroxide) is also recommended but it can injure tender new shoots.

Most Americans do not fertilize their bonsai properly. We are addicted to quick and labor saving techniques. Chemical fertilizers tend to fall in that bin. Plants can only utilize a small amount of nutrients at a time. Organic fertilizers break down slowly by microbial action. When you water over an organic fertilizer you wash those nutrients into the soil constantly providing the required small amount of food. Water soluble chemical fertilizers give a large quick dose of food. However our bonsai soils do not captivate the fertilizer as well as dirt or commercial planting mixes. The next time you water you wash all nutrients away and the tree starves until the next feeding. I do not like loose organic fertilizers because they tend to wash into the top layer of soil and reduce the air space and keep the soil too moist. Ball type fertilizers do not do that. You can try using a small plastic or paper cup to hold a teaspoon of the loose organics. Punch small holes in the bottom and hold them in place with a nail.

Be sure to keep the pruning utensils going, do not let the growth get coarse. Ideally you would never let the new growth on developed branches get more than 5 leaves and prune it back to 2 or 3 leaves. Also develop a habit when pruning of checking the wire you may still have on the tree. Remove it before the branch grows into the wire. Wire marks can never be fully removed.

If in spite of your efforts a tree gets dehydrated from being in high winds or from lack of watering some special care will be needed. If the tree was recently repotted that compounds the problem. First move the plant to a protected area out of the sun and winds and mist the foliage, branches and trunk.

Treatment would depend on how much damage you have to the foliage. If the leaves are dried, and go easy on the watering until new growth starts. Do not pull the dead leaves off because you may damage the latent buds. You may cut the leaf stem if you desire. No fertilizer until the plant starts growing again. If the leaves are mostly green with only damaged tips continue normal care. If the tree is not stressed too much you can then leaf prune later and obtain new foliage.

Make preparations to protect your trees and pots from the heat that is coming. Be sure to remember that the most critical time of day is late afternoon. Usually that is when the temp is highest and the air is driest (the relative humidity is low) and lets all the suns energy through to your backyard. The bonsai must be protected from the sun coming in at a low angle getting under your shade cloth or trees. Use chopped sphagnum moss on the surface of your soil to help retain moisture in the soil and it also helps keeping it cool. I like to water after sundown to cool the roots so the plant can recover overnight. Water other times as needed.

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)