



# BONSAI NOTEBOOK

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

May 2016 vol 64

**May 2016 Program**  
**By: Zach Rabalais**

For May we have two great programs lined up. Both will be presented by Terry Ward. Terry studied bonsai in California under Bob M. Kayo as well as Mitsu Umehara, and has been active in bonsai for over 4 decades. He was honored as an Outstanding America Bonsai Artist by the National Bonsai Federation in 1987 and has founded 2 statewide shohin bonsai organizations in both California and Texas. He was also a member of the original board of directors for Golden State Bonsai Federation's Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt an an original member of the board of directors for TTSBE.

The first of the two programs for May will be on deadwood care and refinement. Very few things get more of a reaction from beginners and veterans a like than an amazing section of deadwood on a tree. I can still remember the first time I saw a juniper that was 60% deadwood or more. I stared at it for close to 10 minutes, and it was one of the experiences that made me want to learn more about bonsai as and art form. Due to the nature of our meetings and the limited time, especially with two programs in one night, this will be more of a discussion and lecture on deadwood. We won't really have much time to do any carving or application of techniques, but we would like members to bring in trees that are in need of carving or deadwood maintenance. Having lots of trees to talk about and examine is always a good thing.

The second program will be another short program on displaying bonsai in a show setting. Kathy Shaner briefly touched on some of the things to think about when displaying bonsai in a formal setting, but she didn't get to go into much detail about it due to time restrictions. This will be a great opportunity to learn more and ask any questions you have before the show on the 21st - 22nd.

## CALENDAR

- MAY 11:** SHOW DISPLAY/DEADWOOD & PRESERVATION WITH TERRY WARD  
HOSTS: DANIEL LIM & KEVIN PATUREAU
- MAY 17:** 7PM BOARD MEETING  
7:30PM: MEMBERS WORKSHOP
- MAY 20:** 5:30-9:00pm SET UP FOR ANNUAL SHOW
- MAY 21 & 22:** AUSTIN BONSAI SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW
- JUNE 8:** STYLE ON PAPER BEFORE CUTTING W/JOEY MCCOY
- OCT 13-16:** LSBF CONVENTION IN CORPUS CHRISTI



**KATHY SHANER LOOKING AT A JAPANESE BOXWOOD**

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

**Austin Bonsai Society  
Board of Directors**

**Jonathan Wood**  
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**Zach Rabalais**  
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**Simon Tse**  
Member at-Large

**May Lau Tse**  
Member at-Large

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Nan Jenkins

**President's Message  
by Jonathan Wood**

Looking forward to a great bonsai show this year! Austin Bonsai Society has our spring show listed as an event on the Zilker Botanical Garden Facebook page. Consider inviting your friends and family who have shown an interest in bonsai appreciation so they can join us and enjoy our public show.

Rodney Clemons was a fantastic wealth of knowledge for our club at the members workshop. Participants and silent observers took away a number of tips on both horticulture and style...looking forward to seeing the evolution of the trees that our members brought in to work on with Rodney last Monday.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting and again at our Bonsai weekend show at Zilker later this month! Let's get our trees ready for the show :-)

Jonathan Wood, ABS President

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](mailto: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](mailto:jvmccoy@sbcglobal.net).

# PHOTO CORNER

PHOTOS BY MAY LAU



  
Countryside Nursery and Landscape  
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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

KIM & BOBBY AFSHIN/ [kimafshin@gmail.com](mailto:kimafshin@gmail.com)

MARY LOU WILKER/ [mlwilker02@gmail.com](mailto:mlwilker02@gmail.com)

**ABS Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 19, 2016**  
**Zerita Rogers, Secretary**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by President Jonathan Wood.

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

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

Pat discussed the Treasurers Report, income exceeded expenses by \$1,990.89.

The Board voted to accept the Treasurer's report.

Next discussion, Zachary will be firming up the program with Terry Ward for our next Wednesday Club Meeting on May 11, 2016. Terry Ward will be the presenter of Show Display, Deadwood and Preservation.

Zackery, will be the doing the continuation of Deadwood and Preservation at the Tuesday Workshop on May 17, 2016.

Jonathan, would like two auctioneer's again this year for our annual Bonsai Auction Fundraiser to keep it flowing smoothly. Simon, now has the equipment capability of accepting any credit cards on sight but will confirm all information before release of merchandise. Still, preference is for cash or check.

The Board, is still discussing strategy to be used in attracting new members to our Bonsai club. Also, to get the members to become more involved, he proposed a member or two to bring a tree every month. Pat will have a signup sheet at our next General Meeting. Chuck and May will start it off by bringing a tree to the May meeting.

Jonathan, adjourned meeting at 8:15

**ABS Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 13, 2016**  
**Zerita Rogers, Secretary**

Meeting called to order at 7:40 by Jonathan Wood.

Refreshments, was provided by Quoc Hoang and Zachary Rabalais.

Jonathan , welcomed our guest Michael Kenny.

Joey, thanked the ABS members who volunteered, and Katy Shaner, for taking care of the Bonsai trees at Elaine, Terry and Sheila homes. Kathy Shaner helped with sorting of the many Bonsai that were given by the Audrey Lanier Memorial. Some will be sold as there are too many to keep.

Alisan, announced that the Zilker Garden Festival was a economic success, but did not know the exact dollar amount. She will have more information later, after all expenses are paid.

Elaine, mention the Pilot Bonsai Project at the Zilker Garden Festival, was very well received. The questions from visitors gave TTSBE an opportunity to share what will be happening at TTSBE in the near future. Next month, the TTSBE will start the Pilot Program Display. Elaine passed out a signup sheet for volunteers for each day of the month. There will be an operational booklet available, for use to explain what is happening with Bonsai trees on your visit. Emergency phone numbers are provided.

Jonathan, asked delinquent dues payers to meet with him at the conclusion of the meeting. There was no Treasurer report at this meeting.

Next, was the Rodney Clemons classes. Simon, reported he had some members who signed up for the classes but have not received payment.

Jonathan, requested that we give our full attention to the program this evening. It is best that we save the conversation for later.

Zachary, introduced Kathy Shaner who will be doing the Refinement of Show Trees. Also, mentioned that the ABS program next month was on Deadwood and Preservation.

As always, Kathy Shaner did a outstanding job on the Refinement of Show Trees. Refinement should be started with simple things and built up from there. Brown leaves at the tip, cut a portion off. Round off knotted wounds to give a softer appearance. Wire or no wire for showing a tree, can be left on the tree showing how you can change the appearance. Not enough limbs: you can wire in a different direction.

Finding the apex, you can

Leave the tree upright or to the side or leaning toward viewer. Change the color of the bark with minwax or a marker. Stands for Bonsai trees, don't put two stands together. Avoid stand damage by placing felt under the pot. Containers: find one that is appropriate for your tree. They come in different sizes, shapes, depths, soil lines, colors, for the placement of the tree. Refinement is a continuous and never ending activity. Refining a Bonsai tree is done by pruning, grafting, wiring, carving, repotting and changing methods, depending on what has happened to your tree since acquisition.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40



## Tropical Bonsai School, with Pedro Morales

### First Year Class (Year of the Saw)

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>  
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.

**\$395.00 per class**

Contact Hurley Johnson to sign up, 832-526-5962 or [hurley@all-tex.net](mailto:hurley@all-tex.net)

# CHECK OUT THESE PHOTOS BY MAY LAU



MAY BONSAI  
BY: JOHN MILLER

An interesting article by Bjorn Bjorholm in the latest Golden Statements, Vol. 39 No. 2, on studying the Phylotaxy, Species Identification and Evolutionary Background of trees cleared up (for me anyway) why use what I have referred to as the Boon technique for training Japanese Black Pines. Since the JBP is a seacoast tree and Japan has many massive typhoons that shred new growth from the branches, the JBP has developed capability to break a second flush of growth yielding new bud development. Two things to remember. The first spring growth must be encouraged and fed to supply the tree with enough energy to produce the new growth. Secondly, more twigs sharing the energy in the branch mean smaller needles. When and how many Japanese are doing this I don't know at this time.

In the Dallas area, May is the time you do the leaf pruning job if you have to do it. If you have kept the new growth pinched properly, you have been getting the ramification usually attributed to leaf pruning. The only good reason for leaf pruning is to replace foliage that has been damaged by wind or insects. On some individual plants that have large foliage, the new foliage will sometimes be smaller. Leaf pruning should be done after the spring foliage has matured and supplied the tree with enough nutrients to produce a good crop of new foliage. It must be done well before the summer heat causes the plant growth to slow or stop. I consider the very latest time in this area to be Memorial Day. Leaf pruning is done only on very healthy trees and never on the atropurpeum type of Japanese maple (Bloodgood is one). The tree should be well fertilized 7 - 10 days before the operation. Cut the stems of those leaves that have them (maples) or cut across the leaf about 1/16 inch from the twig if leaves are attached direction on the twig (elms). It will not need as much water until the new foliage has developed.

When the satsuki azaleas finish bloom remove all seed pods and do any reshaping that is necessary. You have 2-2 1/2 months (that is mid-July) to work on them. They will start setting buds for next years flowers at that time. Other varieties will have different bud set times.

When the nighttime temp stays above 60 degrees it is time to start repotting the tropical material. Since there are so many different requirements for tropicals I will not try to cover their individual needs here. But in general, I like to put them in shade and mist them until the new growth starts.

Warm humid days are favorable for fungal growth. Watch for mildew, black leaf spot on elms and yaupons, among other. As an organic control you can use baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) or better use Potassium bicarbonate that you can get at a nursery. Hydrogen peroxide in a 1% solution (mix 1 part of the normal 3% commercial product with 2 parts water) can be used on mature foliage. It may burn tender foliage but its only by-product is water.

If you have insect problems you will need to apply your control, whatever you use, several times. For example, in hot weather

spider mites may go thru the cycle from egg to adult to egg in as little as 5 days. Therefore you should spray 4 times 5 days apart. Other insects will have a different cycle but that schedule should take care of almost everything.

Aphids, spider mites, and scale continue to be the most prevalent insects. The foliar spray of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar (1 tablespoon each per gallon of water) is all the control I use for them. Scale is the most difficult because it is usually covered with a waxy coating (the scale). You may need to use a horticultural oil mixed as directed on the label. Be sure that the direction you read is for summer use as some have two dosages given, one for dormancy (usually the first and strongest) and one for summer. Do not use an oil based spray on buttonwood. Always check to see if your plant is included on the label. Please note: the commercial organic spray sold as Garret Juice does not do the same as the above mixture. Use it as a fertilizer only.

If you see damage to the foliage or the plant is not doing well, look for other problems, possibly root problems. If you don't recognize the culprit ask your favorite bonsai nurseryman for help fast.

Start checking your pots to see if the sun is heating them up. Our summer sun shining on dark pots can make the soil temperature soar and kill the roots. Try putting your hand on the pot. Roots are living organisms and cannot take high temperatures any more than you can. Heating also dries out the soil making you water more often. Any number of ways of keeping the pots cool will work, the requirement being to prevent the sun from getting to them. An inch or more of air space around the pot is desirable. I do not care for the aluminum foil methods because I don't care to have the light reflected to the underside of leaves or into my eyes. A simple cloth with a slit to go around the trunk works fine, weight it down with a rock. Shredded sphagnum will keep the surface soil cooler and damp.

Remember all the work that you did in the spring? Keep the new growth trimmed so that you haven't wasted your time. While trimming or watering check the wiring periodically and remove it before it damages the branch. If the branch springs back some rewire it.

If you are not on a regular organic foliar/drench feed schedule be sure to use fertilizer cakes with supplemental feeding with a good liquid fertilizer, one that includes the minor elements. Most bonsai I see are malnourished. The liquid water soluble fertilizer gets washed out with the next watering and the tree starves until the next (infrequent?) feeding. There are a number of fertilizers in pellet or cake form on the market or you can make your own.

# 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