



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

September 2005

September Programs by Jim Trahan

This month we have world renowned artist Marc Noelanders. **Again, there are still openings for this workshop!** This is an unbelievable opportunity to have a club workshop with an artist of this caliber. We are only able to offer this because of a substantial contribution from LSBF. The price is \$40 per person--less than a tenth of what this workshop would normally cost. If you don't have a tree that you feel is worth bringing to this workshop, visit one of our local vendors and get a tree that is. I have visited all of the local vendors within the past month and can assure you that there is an abundant amount of quality rough stock available. The money saved by the subsidized workshop can be placed towards purchasing one of these gems in the rough.

For those unfamiliar with Marc's work, I would describe his work as being strongly grounded in universal design principles. These are principles that one can apply to bonsai, photography, painting, ikebana, architecture, tokonoma, sculpture, ad infinitum. Much of the genius of his work is that we can see a harmonious union of these principles, yet have a single feature echoed over and again throughout the tree... just as a musical phrase is echoed throughout a symphony. Many of his trees have an anthropomorphic quality that we intuitively find appealing. However, Marc is not unapproachable. His ability to create such beautiful works of art is balanced by his extraordinary gift for teaching. Please do not miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to have a workshop with this world-class artist.

To make time for the workshop, the September 14th meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

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Calendar of Events

- Sept. 14 Monthly Meeting**
Marc Noelanders
Club Workshop
Zilker Garden Center
7:00 PM
Refreshments by:
Candy Hansen
Eileen Urschel
- Sept. 21 Board Meeting**
7:00 PM
Zilker Garden Center
- Sept. 28 Members Workshop**
Bunjin workshop
By Mike Hansen
7:30 PM
Zilker Garden Center
- Oct 12 Monthly Meeting**
- Oct 19 Board Meeting**
7:00 PM
Zilker Garden Center
- Oct 27 Garage Sale**
- Nov 9 Monthly Meeting**
Annual Auction
TTSBE Cruise Drawing

2006

July 14-16 LSBF Convention in
Corpus Christi

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“Bonsai Notebook” is the monthly newsletter of the Austin Bonsai Society, Inc., and is provided to its members without cost.

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.

Articles may be submitted, by the 15th of the month, for publication to the Editor, in care of the Austin Bonsai Society, 8205 Beaver Brook Lane., Austin, Texas. 78748. Original articles for “Bonsai Notebook” may be reprinted if credit is given to the author and to “Bonsai Notebook”.

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September Programs

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Mike Hansen will lead a bunjin workshop for our September 28th Study Group. This workshop has already been filled, but members are encouraged to come, watch, and learn. Participants will need tools, wire, and a willingness to abandon typical bonsai forms. We will be working on Procumbens Juniper, so gloves may be a welcome addition to your tool kit for this workshop.

Finally, I would like to add that the board has been discussing a change to the club auction on November 9th. This is the biggest club booster of the year. Over the past few years the quality of material that has been donated has declined. As a result, the earnings from the auction have declined as well. In response, we voted to allow members to donate specimen trees and split the closing bid 80/20. The donating owner will establish a reserve and an opening bid. Eighty percent of the closing bid will go to the donating owner. Our hope is that by bringing in higher quality material we can encourage members to get more excited about participating in the auction and in the end provide a better club for you. More money in the treasury means better programs for you. If you have questions or comments about this process, please e-mail me at malhomme@austin.rr.com. I will compile your comments and present them at the next board meeting.

President's Message

by Carl Quisenberry

We are privileged to have Marc Noelanders, for a workshop, at this month's regular club meeting. I have been looking forward to his return, since watching him work at the New Braunfels convention. Unfortunately, I must be out of town, on the fourteenth, and stand little chance of getting back for the workshop.

Marc is a native of Belgium, who has studied extensively with noted Japanese artists, including Masahiko Kimura. He is an accomplished artist and author, who is well known for his skillful bonsai technique and unique style. He has been recognized by many, including John Naka, for his comprehensive knowledge of the trees he works with and for his ability to capture perfection and yet maintain the ruggedness of his subject. He has taught in Great Britain, throughout Europe, Russia, Canada, and the United States.

The pictures from the Members's Workshop, are before and after views of the members working with visiting artist, Yvonne Padilla, on their trees and after styling. She was very comfortable to work with and every tree came out looking good. Her cascade, lecture demo, was most enjoyable. Not many artists do demonstrations on cascades. Now, maybe more members will give one a try.

I was unable to attend Elaine White's workshop on tropicals, due to my work schedule. I was told the class was excellent. We are very fortunate to have so many great artists and teachers willing to give their time and expertise to our club. Thank you Elaine.

Many of us have family and friends in New Orleans, Gulfport, Hattisburg, Waveland, Biloxi and other places along the Louisiana, Mississippi Gulf Coast. Our prayers are with them as they face the daunting challenge of rebuilding their lives, homes and jobs.



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*Del, the happy raffle winner, accepting
Yvonne Padilla's Lecture Demo tree*

To all TTSBE Cruise Ticket Sellers:

Just to alert you that the ticket drawing will be at the regular meeting of the Austin Bonsai Society, on November 9th. **Tickets should be in Bill Cody's possession by NOVEMBER 2nd!**

Don't forget to save Garage Sale items for our sale on October 27th. Tools, kitchen items and children's things sold well last year, but not clothes. Large items can be bought to Audrey's house Friday, October 26th.

Lets have a concentrated effort to sell those tickets in the next two months. Good Luck and Thank You so much!

Elaine

Yvonne Padilla's Workshop

Photographs by Joey McCoy







Yaupon Holly - *ilex vomitoria*

by Chuck Ware

The Yaupon Holly is a small-leaved evergreen shrub or tree, found from Texas eastward to Florida and north to Virginia. It will reach extreme heights of 40 feet in the East Texas bottomlands, but normally grows to about 25 feet. It grows in almost any soil type.

The Yaupon Holly has grey bark and is generally multi-trunked. It tends to have a shrub from getting thick and twiggy on the inside. The bright red, sometimes yellow to orange fruit are quite ornamental and eaten by many birds. The leaves of the Yaupon Holly are used for making stimulating tealike drinks and in strong concentrations, have emetic qualities. The name “vomitoria” refers to the belief that some Indian tribes used Yaupon tea as an emetic. To make the drink, the leaves must be roasted in an oven, at 200 degree F. until they turn brown. The drink was widely used as a coffee or tea substitute because it is high in caffeine. The dwarf varieties of Yaupon Holly are more commonly used for Bonsai because of their more compact, slow growth. They can be styled into most shapes and will sprout readily on old wood.

These trees have brittle branches, so wiring should be done with great care. Clip and grow is generally best. Constant pruning will reduce the fruit.

Repot each year in early spring, using a standard Bonsai mix. It likes a pH between 6.5-7.5. The Yaupon Holly likes full sun but will adapt to many light conditions. In a container, the Yaupon Holly will withstand a light freeze but it should be protected during a heavy (25 degree F.) or extended freeze.

The Yaupon Holly, Dwarf Yaupon Holly, or Weeping Yaupon Holly have the potential to be excellent Bonsai material. They have the small leaves, tight twigging and growth on old wood. Older specimens have trunks and root nebari that are highly desirable.



Tree Rats

by Ron Martin

Lately the squirrels have been getting into my work area. Doing the usual damage. Digging holes and generally messing things up. The wife won't let me shoot the little buggers and poison is out of the question because of my dogs.

In desperation, I bought one of those fake owls that Wal-Mart sells. The head is on a spring and it bobs up and down and spins around with the slightest breeze. Sort of like those dogs that just about everyone had in the back window of their car years ago.

It worked. Scared the heck out of the squirrels. They left the area pretty quick. Problem is that they are darn smart. Did not take them long to figure out it was a fake owl. Before the day was out, they were back. Another \$20 wasted in the war against the tree rats. I was just about to give up on the darn thing and chuck it in the trash when an old gentleman stopped by. He got a chuckle out of my plastic owl. I told him my tale of woe and he looked at me like I was crazy.

He spent some time explaining to me the nature of squirrels. They have a good sense of smell to go with that good eyesight of theirs. Plastic is not a scary smell. He then grabbed the owl and rubbed it all over one of my dogs. The dog wasn't all that pleased. “Now,” he said, “it looks like an owl and smells like a dog. It will scare the heck out of them:.”

I thought he was crazy but didn't want to hurt the old man's feelings so I just said thanks. Funny thing is, that was about a week ago. Guess what I haven't seen in my yard lately? No holes dug into my Bonsai soil either. Maybe that old guy wasn't all that crazy!

Now every morning when I water my trees, I grab that owl and rub it on the dog. She still doesn't like it all that much so most of the time I have to chase her into a corner to do the deed.

For the past couple of days I have been moving the owl to different spots on the tables after I water. Figured that might help the illusion a bit.

Not sure how long this will continue to work. Maybe it doesn't Those squirrels could be messing with me. They could be hiding up there in the trees laughing their butts off at the joke they are pulling on me. They are sneaky little devils.

Ron Martin

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Elaine White's Workshop

Photographs by Joey McCoy





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Please don't forget to save garage sale items for our sale in October.

Workable tools and household goods, furniture and children's toys are always good sellers.

We also have cruise tickets that needs selling. Keep them with you so that you don't miss an opportunity!

Elaine



Board Meeting Minutes

by
Charlotte Cranberg



The August meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM at the Austin Area Garden Center by President Carl Quisenberry. Present were Pat Ware, Joey McCoy, Jim Trahan, and Charlotte Cranberg. Treasurer, Pat Ware reported a profit of \$117.75 on the May Bonsai Show. Our income over expenses for the year to date was \$795.41. There are only two openings left for the Mark Noelanders workshop at the regular meeting in September. It was suggested that we remind members to start looking for good stock or bonsai for the auction in November. Jim Trahan moved that we propose to the membership that we let people put a minimum price on nicer trees and that the sale price be divided between the club and the owner. The vote carried. Jim will work out the percentage and other details to be presented to the club at the October meeting for their approval. Kathy Shaner's fee has gone up \$50 to \$300 and we will pay part of her travel cost. The Garden Council asked each club to select a member who has volunteered a lot to be honored at a function in September. The board chose Charlotte Cranberg. The 2008 Convention will be discussed at a later date. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Tokonoma

The decorative alcove, called tokonoma in Japanese, is considered one of the four essential elements in the main hall of a noble residence. The word tokonoma can be the alcove itself or the room containing the alcove.

In the traditional Japanese house, there is, by western standards, little artwork on the walls. The typically western house, by contrast, can appear vulgar and burdensome to the Japanese eye.

The tokonoma has some guidelines to it. There is generally a place to hang a picture or calligraphic poem. There's usually a small shelf for a flower arrangement, perhaps a vase. You'll probably see an incense holder. A traditional Japanese family would have a variety of objects and scrolls that they would display in the tokonoma depending on the season or nearest holiday.

Upon entry to a traditional Japanese tea house, for example, you'll typically spend a few moments in front of your host's tokonoma kneeling, observing. If you're polite, you'll talk about the object on display. Zen, responsible for both the tokonoma and the tea ceremony, asks us to pay attention to the smaller details in life, finding beauty in simplicity. "What school of flower arrangement does this represent?" "Is this vase from Kyoto?" And as a foreigner, you can always gesture toward anything and ask, "What is this?"

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Directory Additions

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Directory Corrections

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..... You make an incredible bonsai soil, but can't make toast.

... Your cologne is "Essence of SuperThrive".

... You experience separation anxiety when you go on vacation.

... You've "screwed up" pruning your shrubs so they can be dug up and trained.

... You wonder if your neighbor would really miss that shrub in their yard.

... The term "good pot" has a different meaning to you now than when you were a teen.

Ron Smith
7315 FM 646 Road South.
Santa Fe, Texas 77510

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 7:30 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 \$25.00 for an individual and \$30.00 for a family membership.



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

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