



BONSAI NOTEBOOK

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

April 2016 vol 63

April 2016 Program
By: Zach Rabalais

We are very excited to have Kathy Shaner with us for our April 13th meeting. Kathy Shaner is an internationally recognized bonsai artist and teacher. She spent 5 years in Toyohashi, Japan as an apprentice under Yasuo Mitsuya, and was the first non-Japanese citizen to become certified by the Nippon Bonsai Kyodo Kumai as a bonsai professional. She is the curator of the Golden State Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt in Oakland, CA, and is an adviser to the Texas State Bonsai Exhibit.

We encourage our members to bring in trees for Kathy to evaluate. This is a great opportunity to get expert advice on improving a tree that you might be interested in putting in the Spring show next month. Having an expert like Kathy help with the finishing touches on your tree before the show is a great opportunity that I hope everyone will take advantage of.

We also now have the link for the photo contest live on the Austin Bonsai Society web page. Remember that we are not looking for pictures of bonsai, we are looking for trees in nature that inspire you when creating bonsai. Please send your submissions with your name, the species of tree, the location, and the date the picture was taken to webmaster. austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| APRIL 13:
HOSTS: | KATHY SHANER ON REFINING TREES 7:30PM
QUOC HOANG & ZACH RABALAIS |
| APRIL 19: | MEMBERS WORKSHOP—CANCELLED
BOARD MEETING, 7PM, IHOP |
| APRIL 25: | RODNEY CLEMONS WORKSHOP 7PM
SIGN UP WITH SIMON AT APRIL'S MEETING |
| MAY 11: | SHOW DISPLAY/DEADWOOD & PRESERVATION
WITH TERRY WARD |
| MAY 21 & 22: | AUSTIN BONSAI SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW |
| OCT 13-16: | LSBF CONVENTION IN CORPUS CHRISTI |



Chuck Ware: Trident Maple Dmeo

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

**Austin Bonsai Society
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Zach Rabalais
Vice President

Zerita Rogers
Secretary

Pat Ware
Treasurer

Angie Hewes
Member at-Large

Simon Tse
Member at-Large

May Lau Tse
Member at-Large

Past President
Nan Jenkins

**President's Message
by Jonathan Wood**

What an exciting month we have planned. Kathy Shaner's visit is always such a treat for us. This is her 21st year sharing her masterful insight on the bonsai arts with us. Next month we will have a fantastic show at Zilker of our bonsai. Kathy's insight will help us refine our trees for optimal display.

Also, Rodney Clemons is putting on a members only workshop for paid registrants later in April. Please be sure to pre-pay for your workshop position as slots are filling up fast.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who volunteered at Zilker Garden Festival. This was the first year for TTSBE to staff an outdoor display near the Taniguchi Garden, which received much public enthusiasm and praise. Also Austin Bonsai Society members greeted the public and fielded questions about bonsai in the Green Room indoors. Very impressed, indeed, were tourists and guests with the quality of trees on display and our member's interaction with the them . Way to Go Volunteers!!!

Happy styling to you all! Jonathan Wood, Austin Bonsai Society 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

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.

PHOTO CORNER




Countryside Nursery and Landscape
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Chuck & Pat Ware
 Owners
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 e-mail: bonsaijg@gmail.com
 web page: <http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

VICTOR ENGEL/brillig@gmail.com
 CHRIS JOHNSON/cjohnson@npraustin.com
 DAVID MILLER/ mail@davidbmiller.com
 KEN & MELISSA SCHINDLER/ mschindler.hallelectric.com

ABS Board Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2016
Zerita Rogers, Secretary

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

Refreshment, was provided by Sheila Ward and Joey McCoy.

This evening guest was Mike Smoller.

Pat, after passing out our Membership Directory for 2016, advised members that it has all the programs for the year. Jonathan, asked the members to open the Directory which has Past Presidents, 2016 Officers, Committee Chairs, Date for meetings and programs for 2016, The Austin Bonsai Society By Laws, Membership Directory, List of Bonsai Books which is checked out for a month, Books of Horticultural Interest, Periodicals, Video Cassettes. The Librarian made a selection of books available for each meeting but members can request a particular book.

Alisan, said the Zilker Garden Festival will be held the first week-end in April. A signup sheet is available for volunteers and T-shirt sizes. Volunteers are needed in the Education Room which is also known as the Green Room, and outdoors at the Pilot Bonsai Display near Tanaguchi Gardens. Joey and Alisan, will be in the Green Room. Elaine, will be near the Tanaguchi Gardens. Joey asked that, if we volunteer, we bring a tree to work on as the public enjoys seeing tree demonstrations. Zilker Garden Festival tickets for ABS members are \$2.00 a piece and purchased at the Gift Shop.

Joey, said they have made tremendous stride in getting the Pilot Bonsai Display ready. They have a fence and reed screen. When its complete we will need volunteers each day, to check on plants. There will be a operational booklet available for use to explain what is happening with Bonsai trees on your visit. Emergency phone numbers will be provided. More details later.

Alisan, mentioned the docents of Zilker Gardens want a private tour of the Pilot Bonsai Display, when its complete.

Joey, reminded those that are going on the Club Dig at Nilda Garcia land March 18, 19, 20th 2016. There is accommodation on Friday night if needed. Everyone will meet Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

Jonathan, mention that Kathy Shaner will be in Buda April 15-18. The seminar will be on Refinement which will start with her program for the club on April 13th preparing trees for our show in May.

Jonathan, to start the Photo Contest, passed around a photo of a tree he had entered into the contest and encouraged everyone else to do so, too.

Zackary, Vice President, introduced Chuck Ware who will be doing the Trident Maple Grouping. The finished product was raffled: Tickets were \$5.00 each. The lucky winner was Joey McCoy.

As usual Chuck Ware did a fantastic job, with the Trident Maple Grouping. Group plantings, are several trees put in a shallow tray to form a forest. Some are also on rock. It is always done with an odd number of trees. Start with the tallest, somewhat out of the middle in pot and add smaller trees around them. No trees are centered. Triangle should be obtuse, trees staggered, fading in the distance. Because of the depth it's pulling farther away. It is a good idea to have selection of trees ready for planting. You will have a choice of varied sizes. Don't mix trees that will not go together. With this Group Planting, as it has already leafed out, we are leaving as much root system as possible. Leaving the upper roots, it has a strong growth. When satisfied with the composition of Group Planting, carefully use the attached wires to anchor the tree. Check the wire in a year or it will grow together with the roots. Jonathan suggested to wrap the scar tightly, after cutting off a larger branch, so it will be not callous. For this grouping, in between six and twelve months your tree is ready for wiring the branches and trimming. Always sterilize your tool, Maples are prone to infections. Trident Maples are more sensitive to cold. After planting let it soak in water to rim of pot for an hour. In spring, you leave in sun and as summer heat approaches move to shade.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15

ABS Board Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2016
Zerita Rogers, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Jonathan at 7:00

Present were Jonathan Wood, Pat Ware, Zerita Rogers, Angie Hewes, Simon Tse, May Lau Tse.

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

Pat discussed the Treasurers Report, no expenses incurred last month. Income over expenses through February 29, 2016 is \$1,582.20. Raffle receipts for the Trident Maple group planting are \$205.00. Trees were purchased at the cost of \$142.50.

The Board voted to accept the Treasurer's report.

Countryside Nursery & Landscape paid for the advertisement in both the newsletter and the directory.

Next discussion: Pat receive conformation that Rodney Clemons will be in Austin on April 25, 2016. The cost will be \$45.00 per person. Simon Tse, will send an announcement for members to sign up for Rodney's class. The class will be held in the Green Room at Zilker Gardens. It's bring your own tree Workshop.

The club workshop for April has been canceled, the Board Meeting for April will be held at a different location, due to the change in scheduled to secure a room for Rodney Clemons.

Our April 19, 2016 Board Meeting will be held at I-Hop on 1101 S Mo Pac Expy. Bee Cave Rd an Mo Pac at 7:00.p m.

At our next General Meeting on April 13. Kathy Shaner will be our guest speaker. This is your chance to get advice from one the best Artist on Refinement of your tree . If you intend to bring a tree for our annual show in May, this is the time to get some pointers for our Austin Bonsai Society Show.

Zilker Garden Festival is the first week-end in April. If you are not volunteering for the Festival, you can still get tickets at the gift shop in Zilker Garden. For club members they are \$2.00 a person.

The Board discussed, as to the most convenient method of payments for workshops and auctions etc.. What strategy could be used to attract more people to our Bonsai club. The Austin Bonsai Society Show is held in May. There is a signup sheet for names and e-mail addresses for those who would like to be contacted. Our experience is that many people who initially sign up fail to follow thru and attend club meetings.

Simon worked to have interested people become new members, and will be doing so again this year.

Jonathan, adjourned meeting at 7:50.

RODNEY CLEMONS



Photo from ofbonsai.org

Rodney Clemons spent his formative years in the Florida panhandle, moving to Atlanta GA when he was thirteen. He was captivated by bonsai in 1973 when he saw a Trident maple forest that struck chords in his heart and artistic nature. Bonsai has been his passion since that time. Rodney is a bonsai artist and instructor.

He was a professional landscaper, specializing in Japanese gardens and natural water features. His work has developed his sensitive eye and skill with rock and plant placement which adds realism to his bonsai creations. He studied with E. Felton Jones and enjoyed workshops with many visiting artists like John Naka and Yugi Yoshimura. His style has been formed by studying nature, drawing heavily on childhood memories of coastal Florida.

Rodney excels in capturing the tension in nature and translating it to bonsai. He is best known for his unique "rock plantings" and his love of Kingsville boxwood. When teaching, his remarks are delivered with a liberal dose of humor.

He has been an invited speaker to numerous Bonsai societies meetings and conventions. A few of the highlights are: 1987 BSF Convention, Fort Walton Beach FL; 1989-1997 Southeast Bonsai Conferences, Atlanta GA; 1993 World Bonsai Convention, Orlando FL; 1996 ABS Convention, Hershey PA; 1997 International Bonsai Convention, England; 1998 International Bonsai Symposium, Rochester, NY; 2001 Mid Atlantic Convention, Newark NJ; 2002, 2005, 2009, 2013 and 2014 Brussels' Rendezvous, Memphis TN; Expo 2005 and 2013, Asheville NC.

He has spoken at four BSF Conventions; the last one was in Gainesville FL in 2006. Rodney has been President of the Atlanta Bonsai Society three times since joining the organization in 1973. He was President of Phoenix Bonsai Federation in 1999. Phoenix hosted a convention with Masahiko Kimura as the exclusive speaker. Rodney continues traveling, teaching, judging shows and critiquing collections.

He leads a study group at Smith Gilbert Gardens in Kennesaw GA where he is the curator of their collection. He also is the curator of the collection at The Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers GA. He is a member of the consortium of public bonsai curators which was started by Jack Sustic, Curator of the National Collection in Washington DC. At present he is applying his talents at his nursery, Allgood Bonsai, designing trees and teaching advanced workshops. Rodney enjoys the opportunity to share and express his love of nature and bonsai with people in the hope that he can influence them in a positive way.

APRIL BONSAI
BY: JOHN MILLER

Do the math! Bonsai is a study in mathematics. You start with triangles in the design of individual trees and forest plantings. You use the golden rectangle or Fibonacci series to proportion the tree and pot. Powers of two show you the multiplication of twigs with proper trimming. Fortunately, you do not need to be a math whiz to do good bonsai, just follow the rules and it will look good without you having to know why.

Most trees will do good in the full sun at this time of year. However, if you have had them in partial shade be careful about moving them directly to full sun. They probably should be acclimated gradually. Too much wind will cause the leaves to burn. Some damage may not show up until hot weather.

Repotting for most hardy bonsai has ended. Very late budding species like oaks may still be done, depending on your local climate. I also do dwarf yaupon and olive then. Its still too early for the tropicals, They should usually be held until the night temps are in no danger of going below 60.

Going on now is trimming, feeding, trimming, check for insects, trimming, shows, trimming. You get the idea. Trimming, that is the pinching, plucking or whatever of new growth, is the process that both develops refinement on your tree but is vital to keep it from losing that desired state. This is not pruning which is cutting of branches which should not be done when there is a strong sap flow which starts when the tree breaks dormancy and continues until after the leaves harden or later.

A good organic program takes care of both the feeding and the insect problems. I recommend the mixture of 1 table-spoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water. (A commercial product called Garret Juice which is to be used the same way uses compost tea, dried seaweed, water, molasses and vinegar. As a fertilizer this should act the same but I dont know about the dried seaweed versus liquid kelp as an insecticide.) I use the mixture both as a foliar spray and as a soil drench fertilizer. As a weekly foliar spray it keeps aphids and mites under control as well as any other insect I've had. The prime requirement is to cover the entire plant, top and bottom of the leaves with a fine mist sprayer (no hose end stuff). I try to drench soil twice a month partly because I dont think the plant can absorb all the minor elements it needs thru the foliage.

Fungal diseases can show up with damp weather. Leaf spot can be serious on Catlin and chinese elms and on hollies. Mildew shows up later with warmer weather. There are organic fungicides available, potassium bicarbonate or baking soda (sodium bicarbonate). 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 very new foliage.

Be sure to check your soils each day for proper water content. It is easy to assume that the soil has plenty of water when the days are cool or there has been some rain. Its also too easy for a tree with full leaves to shed water outside of the pot or a good sun and low humidity after a front to dry the soil. I suggest that you remove most of the moss so that you can see and feel the soil in order to determine how dry it is. (Moss growing on the trunk or roots will cause the bark to rot also) An automatic watering system will be an aid but you should not rely on it to replace hand watering. Hand watering allows you to adjust the watering for each tree individually. Also most automatic systems use a drip system which only waters a small spot in shallow containers.

If you have early blooming azaleas, you should remove some of the buds. Most azalea have way too many buds to look good when they do not have room to open fully.

Varieties that bloom on newly growing tips (like crape myrtle) can grow out of shape quickly. You may have to prune a bit hard during dormancy and then let them grow out when blooming.

Normally the best fertilizer to use is cakes made of organic material. They should be spread around the soil surface. The plant gets a bit of food each time you water.

April weather can vary from freezes the a sun too hot to let it heat your pots. Be observant and take necessary measures.

And last but surely as important as the rest if you want to learn bonsai, get to the Lone Star Bonsai Federation convention being sponsored by Corpus Christi in October this year. If you havent received any literature look on their website www.corpuschristibonsaiclub.org. I don't have any details at this time.

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