



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

April 2012 vol 16

April 2012 Programs

by Bill Boytim

A Bonsai display includes many elements; the tree(s), the pot, the stand(s), the scroll, and the very important accent or complimentary or companion plant. An accent or complimentary or companion plant can be in several forms, a single plant in a small pot or a group of plants in a pot or free form clay pot. The multi-plant accent is often called a Kusamono, while others refer to all accent or complimentary or companion plants as Kusamono.

At the **Wednesday April 11** meeting Sheila Ward will provide information on Kusamono and accent/complimentary/ companion plants, their differences and their use in the Bonsai display. Sheila has presented workshops on Kusamono at the Shohin Society of Texas, Austin Bonsai Society, Fort Worth Bonsai Society, Bonsai Society of Dallas, Lone Star Bonsai Federation Convention in Houston and at the Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention and has helped numerous Bonsai enthusiasts create their own Kusamono/ accent/ complimentary/ companion plantings. Sheila is very knowledgeable in both working and firing clay and has helped many members create their own free form pots for their Kusamono. Sheila has created elegant Kusamono for table decorations at Austin Bonsai Society functions. Her displays have always been very creative and artistically executed.

The member's workshop on **Tuesday April 17** will be conducted by Sheila Ward and members will create their own Kusamono (accent or complimentary or companion plant). Members should bring small pots, tweezers, chop sticks, moss, spray bottle with water, scissors (old pair good for root cutting) and plants for creating a Kusamono. Some plants will be available. A sign up list for this workshop will be available at the April 11 meeting.

Calendar of Events

April 11th ABS Monthly Meeting Reception

**Hosts: Nan Jenkins, Timmi Kuykendall
& Charlotte Cranberg**

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

April 11th ABS Monthly Meeting

**Kusamono & Accent Plants
by Sheila Ward**

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

April 17th ABS Board Meeting

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

April 17th ABS Member's Workshop

**Workshop - Kusamono & Accent Plants
from General Meeting**

Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



Chuck Ware demonstrates Multiple Tree Design at our March 2012 Meeting

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

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hes. 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.

John Muller is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". He may be contacted at jcm2austx@sprintmail.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 Mike Watson

I always love April because I knew a beautiful girl named after this month. Besides that, it is the real beginning of spring! The few flowering trees that I have are strutting their stuff right now. This would usually tempt me to stop and smell the roses but there are a few things coming up I need to get ready for.

First is the convention in Dallas later this month. I am unable to bring any bonsai to display there but hopefully other members of our club will. It's always nice to see our bonsai at conventions but it's even better to see our members there! Hopefully you all have registered for the show. My band is playing right down the street on Saturday night so it's worth the price of admission to get a chance to come throw tomatoes at me!

Next month is our annual bonsai exhibit. I am so far behind in getting my trees pinched, pruned, and wired in order to be show worthy and I am truly ashamed. It seems intimidating but honestly it only takes a couple of hours to make miracles out of messes. I just need to get'r done. Take heed from my warning ... Go outside and do some work on your trees!

Don't forget about donating stuff for the raffles for our convention next year. THIS MEANS YOU! It's going to be here sooner than you think and we're going to look foolish if there's nothing to raffle! Bring your items (remember, they don't have to be bonsai related) to the regular meetings. We also need large coffee containers for the raffle tickets.



Shown at the Garden Festival & Flower Show
Photo by Joey McCoy

AUSTIN BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

February, 2012 (reprint - due to no March Minutes)

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Watson at 7:28 pm at the Zilker Park club house. Mike thanked Joey McCoy and Phina Chen for the lovely refreshments. Deb Van Cleaf introduced the visitors, Eric and Maria Flaniken, and new members, Dario Octovians and Bob and Nancy Gordon. Joey McCoy announced that the next planning meeting for the 2013 convention will be on Sunday February 26th at 1:00 pm at Jade Gardens Nursery in Wimberly. All are welcome to attend. Becky Drozd announced that she is collecting things for the raffles at the convention. They can be brought to her at the meetings and she will store them. She also needs coffee cans, any size, for the tickets at the raffle. The raffle is the main place that our club will make money at the convention, so the more things we have the higher our take will be. Pat Ware announced that she needs volunteers for refreshments for August and November, and she got the volunteers. Alisan Clarke and Zerita Rodgers have the bags of products you need for serving, so please pick those up prior to leaving tonight.

Alisan asked if the club wants to do demonstrations of bonsai work at the pond society open houses this year. She needs to know by next month for the tour which will be in June. Call her if you want to volunteer.

The LSBF newsletter, "Texas Bonsai" is in the back of the room for us to pick up.

Bill Boytim introduced the program, Root Over Rock Bonsai, with Elaine White doing the demonstration. The workshop on Tuesday will allow us to practice the procedure. Bill will have the seedlings and we need to bring the rest; pots, soil, wire, cotton string, muck. Elaine put together a fine program with a sheet to give us instructions on the process.

Bill also announced that he has extra Bald Cypress seedlings if people want to take one home. They will be a part of the workshop on rafts at a coming workshop. More information will be in the newsletter.

Many of the new members and visitors won the raffle drawing. It was good to have them be a part of it.

Adjournment at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Jenkins, Secretary

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LSBF (Lone Star Bonsai Federation), of which all members of the Austin Bonsai Society are members, has a website which might help members understand the organization better.

Please go to: <http://www.bonsai-lsbf.com>

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web page: <http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

Bonsai Calendar

- SSOT meeting schedule for 2012:

June 23 Part II Diaza workshop; Sept. 15 Annual business meeting and panel critique.

- The 2012 state LSBF convention is in Dallas on April 27 - 29, 2012.

- The 2013 state LSBF convention will be April 11-13, 2013, at the New Braunfels Convention Center.

Know of an upcoming Bonsai event of interest to club members? Send the details to jcm2austx@sprintmail.com

2012 Garden Festival & Flower Show



March 2012 ABS Multi-Tree Workshop



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

March 2012 ABS General Meeting - Multiple Tree Designs



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

April Bonsai

by John Miller

Editor's Note: John Miller, who writes a monthly column for the Bonsai Society of Dallas and the Fort Worth Bonsai Society, has agreed to share his column with us. We need to make adjustments for our warmer, climate, with its early springs, long summers, late falls and erratic winters.

The lack of cold this winter has everything is messed up schedule wise. Some of my oaks are beating some of the cedar elms in leafing out. I think the post oaks were the first and they usually wait until after the live oaks drop foliage. The old farmers saying was that you should plant corn when the oak leaves are as big as a squirrels ear. So maybe that means we will get by without a late freeze.

The early budding has put an end to most repotting. There may be some like the dwarf yaupon that may still be done but it will depend on your particular back yard. Its still too early for the tropicals, They should usually be held until the night temps are in no danger of going below 60.

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 be noticeable until hot weather. Plan ahead for having some protection for later on. I use 30% shade cloth on Cedar elms, oaks, and trident maples. 50% works for most others, Japanese maples, Chinese elm and azalea.

Do not let the extra spate of work caused by everything breaking dormancy at once cause you to let the trimming slide. If the new growth gets long it causes heavy twigs and long internodes and you lose the nice development you work so hard to get.

At the risk of repeating the process too much I repeat it for the beginners. On elms and other trees with leaves appearing alternately down the shoot, do not let more than 5 new leaves appear. Cut back to 2 or 3 leaves, leaving the last leaf on the side that you want the new growth to appear. On maples and others with leaves coming in pairs on opposite sides of the twig, cut the center shoot as soon as you can determine it. Tweezers work best for this operation. Since the shoots do not all open at the same time this could be a daily chore for the best results.

A good organic program takes care of both the feeding and the insect problems. I recommend the mixture of 1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water. 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 (hose end sprayers are usually too coarse). 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. It is a good practice to also use fertilizer cakes on the surface of the soil which feeds a bit every time you water.

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.

And last but surely as important as the rest if you want to learn bonsai, get to the Lone Star Bonsai Federation convention being hosted by Dallas this year. If you havent received any literature look on their website www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com .

ABS May Board Meeting Minutes March 20, 2012

Present: Bill Boytim, Nan Jenkins, John Muller, Pat Ware, Mike Watson, Joey McCoy

Call to Order was at 7:07 pm.

Bill asked about raffles during the coming months. There will be none in May. Mike Watson will do the one in April.

The topic for the visit from Warren Hill who comes as a visiting artist in May was discussed. It was decided that we would ask members to bring trees that they want the artist to look at and recommend additional refinements that could be made. These trees will be ones in bonsai pots that need refining, not trees in the beginning stages toward being bonsai. There will be room for 10 trees total and each member will be charged \$15.00 per tree with a maximum of two trees per member.

Treasurer's Report: There is a profit of \$478.14 through the end of February.

There was some discussion regarding the Zilker Festival to be sure that it is all being handled.

Adjournment at 7:30

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Jenkins, Secretary



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

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