

Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

August 2012 vol 20

August 2012 Programs by Bill Boytim

Bonsai displays have several elements to them, primary is the Tree. Most have two additional elements that may be made up of three different objects. We have earlier covered the companion plant or accent plant used in the Bonsai display. Two other elements are also often used, the scroll and a viewing stone. This month's program will cover using and making scrolls to support the Bonsai display.

Our featured speaker will be Alisan Clarke, a well known artist, art restorer, lecturer, flower arranger, and scroll maker. Alisan was immersed in the Japanese culture and Bonsai during a three-year stay in Japan while her husband was in the Air Force. She studied the Japanese art of Ikebana and was the twelfth certified Ikenobo School western artist to return after the 2nd World War period. She has also studied at UT Austin with two years Asian arts in addition to a BFA in Studio painting. Another two years were spent with Prof W. Kelly Fearing in the MFA Creative Spirit program.

During the **Wednesday August 8** meeting Alisan will set up several displays using scrolls and with the help of one of our new members illustrate some of the basic art techniques to create your own scroll.

You will need to sign up during the Wednesday meeting for the **Tuesday August 21** hands on scroll creation workshop. Alisan has a limited amount of materials for the workshop and there will be an \$8 fee to cover materials.

September 1 will be a special LSBF visiting artist opportunity. The session will be held at MBP Bonsai. More details will be provided at the meeting.

Calendar of Events

August 8th ABS Monthly Meeting Reception

Hosts: Victor Engel

& Jim Baumann

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

August 8th ABS Monthly Meeting

**Demo on Supporting Scrolls for Bonsai
with Alisan Clarke**

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

August 21th ABS Board Meeting

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

August 21th ABS Member's Workshop

**Members Workshop - Scrolls follow-up
with Alisan Clarke**

Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



**Carving Trees & Deadwood by Donna Dobberfuhr -
July 2012 ABS Meeting**

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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.

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

Am I in Texas?!? It's August and I can count the 100+ temperature days on one hand without using my thumb! Rain too! Pinch me, I'm dreaming... All kidding aside, this has been a gentler and kinder summer than that never-ending inferno that we endured last year. I am sure that I am not alone in feeling a deep sense of gratitude that we have had some decent rains as well. This is the first summer that I have had to break out the fungicide in several years. So, let's cross our fingers and hold our breaths that these next two months continue in this trend. We're not out of the woods yet!

Enough about the weather though, I have something that I feel the need to talk about. This club has given me so much as far as knowledge, hands-on experience, friends and camaraderie, not to mention a great source of bonsai and pre-bonsai material. What it has given me most, and what I treasure the greatest, has been the chance to give something back to both the club and the community as a whole. Not only by sharing my modest bonsai knowledge, but by serving and volunteering for positions and duties for the club itself. There are many of you out there that know what I mean because I always see the same faces when it's time to tow the line a little bit. For those of you who don't have time to give, or feel they have too many responsibilities, I can truly understand and identify with your situation. I only ask that you consider sacrificing a handful of hours a year to help out when needed. You'll be surprised at how light of a commitment it actually is. That being said, there are several positions and representative opportunities available for our club that need to be filled as quickly as possible. They are extremely easy jobs and require hardly any time or effort. If you are interested, please contact me or grab me at the next meeting or workshop. The satisfaction you will feel from giving is a great thing to experience. Thanks and stay cool!

**AUSTIN BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL
MEETING
July 11, 2012**

The call to Order was at 7:27.

President Mike Watson thanked Els Ulug and Deb Van Cleaf for the wonderful refreshments. The guests and new members were welcomed.

Mike also announced that the Lone Star Bonsai Society needs a representative from the Austin Society and invited anyone who might be interested in serving in that way to contact him. The Austin Bonsai Society also needs one more person to serve on the board member at large. Please contact Mike to let him know if you would like to serve on that board.

The program was presented by Dona Dobberfuhl from the San Antonio Bonsai Society. She demonstrated how to carve deadwood features on the bonsai to present an aged look, the tools to use and methods to preserve the wood to prevent decay. Her program was very helpful and interesting.

The raffle was held and all prizes were awarded.

Adjournment was at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Jenkins, Secretary

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(call for directions)

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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Bonsai Calendar

- SSOT meeting schedule for 2012:

Sept. 15 Annual business meeting and panel critique.

- 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

Convention chronicle #2
– April 11-13, 2013 New Braunfels, TX

Cedar Elm, *Ulmus crassifolia* is a deciduous landscape tree associated with the South and with Texas specifically. We will have a workshop in this species for the 2013 LSBF Convention, with collected material supplied from both the Austin and San Antonio clubs. Cedar Elm produce naturally small leaves which reduce even more in Bonsai culture, a thick ramification of branches, and a beautiful coarse bark which will heal over wire marks and wounds. It is mostly a worry-free tree, resilient to many common insects. They transplant well and are easy to grow from seed, and will bud back from old wood. In the fall, leaves will usually turn a deep yellow, but sometimes reds and oranges can be seen as well. As a species, Cedar Elm are drought tolerant and long lived. They look great in any Bonsai style, but are especially nice in an informal broom.

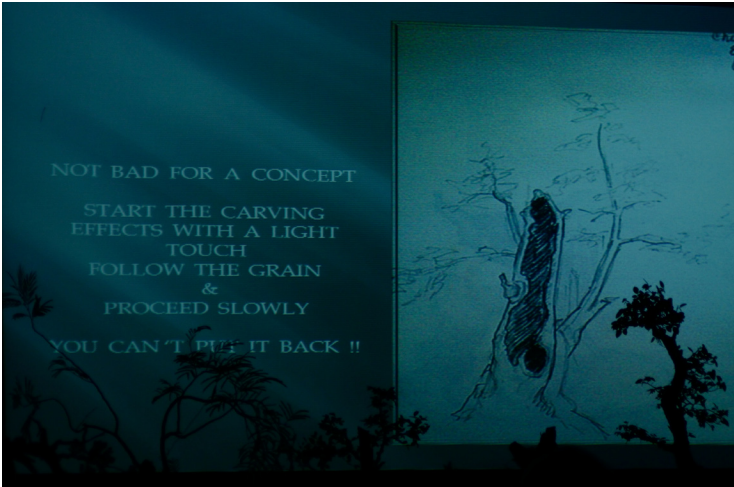
Joey McCoy
Convention Chair

Carving Trees & Deadwood - 2012 July Workshop



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

July 2012 ABS General Meeting on Carving Trees & Deadwood



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

August 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.

Thanks to Sylvia's program last Thursday, I have remembered to add to summer care special needs any kind of bonsai with rocks. That would include root over rock, tree on a rock, suiseki, and a tree using a rock to mask a poor nebari. These rocks need to be shielded from the sun even more so than the bonsai pots.

Every once in a while you hear something that makes you really wonder. I won't go into the whole story but will remind you that keeping your trees in a greenhouse during the summer in Texas is not tender loving care. Even tho they have vents there is not enough air circulation to keep the temperature anyway near ambient. Much better to just have them outside. A shade house constructed so that you can roll the top up allows you to give enough shade now and let the tree get full sun in the spring. A 30% shade cloth on the sides can be used a wind break and aid in controlling insects. Keeping the top shade cloth down during the winter serves to prevent the sun from breaking the dormancy of deciduous trees and will give a small amount of cold protection. Of course, you could cover with plastic to turn it into a greenhouse.

In the real world, plan your soil mix for your average conditions and then if you have a long wet spell tilt the pots for drainage and give an extra watering when hot and dry. Use some loose covering on the pot to shade it from the sun. A windbreak could help with tender leaved trees.

Remember to water twice. Wait a few minutes after the first watering for the dry soil particles to absorb some of the water on their surface. Then with the surface tension reduced the second watering gets the particle wet.

An automatic watering system will allow you to water at midday or to be absent for a few days. I do not approve of spot emitters as they only water a very small portion of the bonsai soil. Better to replace them with a loop of 1/4 inch soaker hose long enough to go around the tree. You should also hand water each tree daily when you get home.

The stress caused by the temperature will give any insects a chance to wreak havoc. Watch for the spider mites especially this month. The morning spray will help knock some off. The organic foliar spray will keep them down also. Light weight horticultural oils are available as well as neem oil sprays. Dont use oil sprays on buttonwoods. Check all spray labels for heat limitations. Chemical sprays are available but most chemical reactions are accelerated by heat and may damage plants. Read the labels!

Any rainy spell can bring some fungal problems. Powdery mildew or black leaf spot are a couple of them. That is why I use the foliar spray in the morning, so that the leaves will dry quickly. The organic websites say you can mix baking soda with the foliar spray for fungal control. However I have decided to do separate sprayings. The foliar spray has an acid (vinegar) which would react with the baking soda thereby reducing the effectiveness of both. Anyhow all your trees would benefit from the foliar spray but not all would have a fungal problem. Potassium Bicarbonate (available in nurseries) would be a better choice than baking soda which is sodium bicarbonate.

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Be careful about applying fertilizer in hot weather. Even organic fertilizers create some chemical reactions and the above remarks apply here too. The solid organic balls are best to use as they release nutrients very slowly and do so during each watering. By the end of the month the nitrogen applied to the tree should be reduced (cut the number of fertilizer balls in half). A little may be put on into September but the tree needs to be allowed to stop growth to get ready for dormancy. Evergreen trees benefit from a low nitrogen fertilizer through the winter.

Quit pruning your azaleas because they have set buds for next years bloom. Other spring flowering plants also set buds during the fall but most have so many blooms that you can still keep them in shape.

Deciduous trees usually slow their growth during summer so you can do some pruning on them. However pruning can stimulate new growth that may not have time to harden before winter resulting in some dieback of the new growth. On these trees its better to wait until later. After leaves have fallen you can see where corrections need to be made more easily.

Its never too early to think about having your tree ready for a show. Identify (in you mind) any tree or trees you think you would like to exhibit and give them a little extra care: twig pruning, a guy wire to move a branch a little, that kind of thing, a very small change can make a world of difference. At the Ft Worth 4th Thursday open workshop night a member brought a tree to discuss what improvements could be made so as to be shown at the convention the next year. Bonsai is the ultimate plan ahead hobby.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2012

Zilker Clubhouse

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

Call to Order was at 7:14 pm.

The minutes were approved as presented in the Bonsai Notebook.

Pat Ware presented the **treasurer's report**. As of May 30th, we had a total of \$739.82 income over expenses. We made a profit of \$438.24 on the ABS Exhibit. We had 1160 attendees. On June 30th, we had \$622.32 of income over expenses.

Pat also **announced** that she has received the schedule for meetings for 2013 from the Zilker Garden Clubhouse. The second Wednesday of the month will be 6:30-10:00. The third Tuesday workshop we will have the building 6:30-9:30. Our exhibit is scheduled for May 17-19, 2013 and our Christmas party will be on December 11, our usual Wednesday night meeting day.

We need to decide on a place for our storage unit or pay for the rest of the year where we are. That is due the end of August. Mike Watson said he would check on units closer to Zilker and more convenient to members.

Adjournment was at 7:40.

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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