



Bonsai Notebook

5

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

February 2012 vol 14

February 2012 Programs

by Bill Boytim

The **February 8, 2012** Program will cover Root over Rock Bonsai. The Root over Rock style features a tree growing over a rock. In nature the exposed roots may have been caused by wind or water erosion. Several years ago some of you may have started a Ficus over Rock Bonsai or a Trident Maple over Rock Bonsai or possibly both at one of the ABS programs or workshops. The February program will revisit these earlier Root over Rock plantings and provide the necessary information to start your own Root over Rock Bonsai.

The program will be conducted by Elaine White, one of our experienced Bonsai Artists. She has previously presented the Ficus Root over Rock program. Elaine is active with The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit where she maintains many of the exhibit's donated trees.

The **Workshop on February 21** will be a hands-on create your own Root over Rock Bonsai, Chinese Elm Seedlings will be provided. Members will need to bring bonsai soil, muck, a suitable rock, a pot or container large enough for the rock to be completely covered, cotton string to secure the seedling and roots to the rock and a spray bottle to keep the seedling damp. The Chinese Elm will lend itself to creating a Shohin sized tree within a few years, or you can really let it grow and create a larger sized Bonsai.

International Bonsai 2011/ Number 4 that was just sent out has some articles on Rock Planting Bonsai. John Naka's Bonsai Techniques I also has some information on Rock Planting Bonsai.

Please provide any program ideas that you would like to see in the coming year to Bill Boytim, 512 282 3580 or cbboytim@att.net.

Calendar of Events

**February 8th ABS Monthly Meeting
Reception**

**Hosts: Phina Chen & Joey McCoy
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**February 8th ABS Monthly Meeting
Root over Rock Bonsai**

**by Elaine White
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

February 21th ABS Board Meeting

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

**February 21th ABS Member's Workshop
Workshop - Root over Rock Bonsai,**

**Chinese Elm Seedlings will be provided
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm**



Chuck Ware demonstrates how to Shape dormant trees at our January 2012 Meeting

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Mike Watson
President

Bill Boytim
Vice President

Nan Jenkins
Secretary

Pat Ware
Treasurer

Ken Lakin
Member at-Large

Timmi Kuykendall
Member at-Large

John Muller
Member at-Large

Joey McCoy
Former 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.

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 have to admit that as much as I love bonsai, I've enjoyed the down time this winter. That's all about to change though because our slim window of repotting opportunity is nearly upon us! Have you got your soil components together? Have you sieved out the dust? Have you picked out pots to go with trees? These little things can get away from you and catch you off guard.

Late January to early February is when I like to do the black pines. This gives the roots a little head start to grow before the candles push later. Right now is the time to keep an eye on the Chinese elm buds. Once they start swelling is the time to go to DEFCON 5. When they get about the size of a BB pellet and look green it is time to repot them NOW! I have seen them go from bud to leaf overnight and then it's too late.

Speaking of acting before it's too late, have you registered for the Dallas Bonsai Convention in April? They have extended the early registration \$20 discount to February 29th. It's going to be a great convention!



Recently collected at TTSBE property
Photo by Joey McCoy

ABS General Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2012

By Nan Jenkins, Secretary

President Mike Watson called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm at Zilker Park Club House. He thanked our hosts for the evening, Alisan Clarke and Pat Wear. He welcomed one guest, Mike Morgan.

Announcements:

The Zilker Garden Festival will be March 31-April 1. A signup sheet was sent around to give people the opportunity to sign up to work at the bonsai society booth, and people were invited to bring trees for display.

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit will have an open house at their land in Mustang Ridge on January 29th, 10:00 to 4:00 for people to collect trees or pick up viewing stones or stone for root-over-rock trees. With the cows having cleared the land of the grass and the rains that have come, there are many rocks available. The address is 8424 Old Lockhart Hwy, Mustang Ridge TX, just south of Austin off hwy 183.

Pat Ware passed out copies of the proposed budget for 1012 and asked for questions. The total for the balanced budget is \$6,112.00 which is \$650 over the budget for 2011.

Becky Drozd announced that she is the chairperson for the raffles for the state convention in 2013. She asks that we begin to collect items to donate. This is our primary money-raising project

MBP Bonsai Studio

Importers, Retail & Wholesale

Your source for:

High quality Yagimitsu & Ryukoh tools

Organic Bonsai Fertilizers

Imported and Domestic Trees

Bonsai Pottery, Soils and supplies

Classes & Seminars

Open Tuesday Through Sunday



ph: 512-989-5831

e-mail: mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net

601 Kay Lane

Pflugerville, TX 78660

(call for directions)

REMINDER:

DUES ARE DUE NOW!

PLEASE BRING TO MEETING OR MAIL
TO TREASURER

JADE GARDENS

HOME OF



Chuck & Pat Ware
Owners

Visa & MasterCard

12404 Ranch Road 12
Wimberley, TX 78676

(512) 847-2514

e-mail: bonsaijg@gmail.com

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

Bonsai Calendar

- Next Convention Meeting - Sunday Feb 12, at 1pm at Jade Gardens

- 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

for our club for the convention. The profits will be equally divided between ABS and the San Antonio Bonsai Society who is co-hosting with us. Bill Boytim announced that next month the price goes up for registration for the state convention in Dallas. Also the workshops are filling up. If you do not have a registration form, go to the Dallas Bonsai Society website and follow the links for the convention forms.

Mike Watson introduced Chuck Ware who presented a program on pruning deciduous trees,

emphasizing the differences between the types of trees. It was very encouraging, supportive and informative.

Becky held the raffle during which all items were given away. Adjournment was at 9:02.

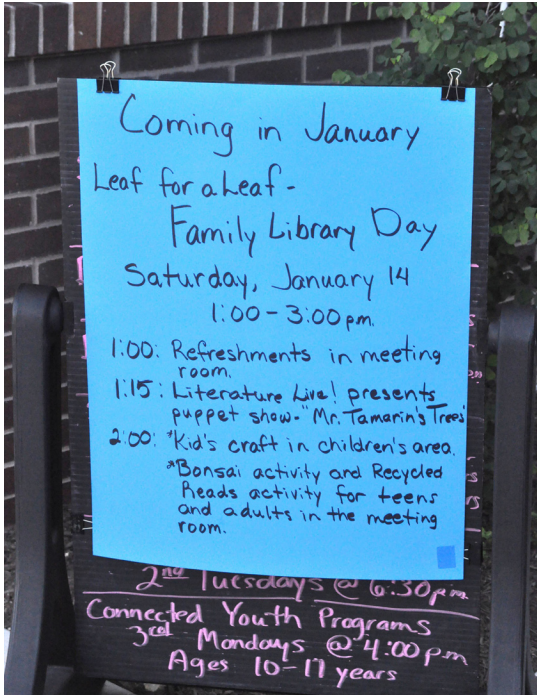
Respectfully submitted,
Nan Jenkins, Secretary

January 2012 ABS Program and Workshop



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

Leaf for a Leaf at Family Library Day with Mike Watson



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

February 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.

This winter has been very mild so far. If it continues you need to watch your bonsai in case they come out of dormancy early, a good probability. If that happens you will need to repot earlier than normal. You will also have to have a plan for how to protect them in case of later freezes. The 10 day forecasts on the computer may not be fully accurate but at least they give you a 'heads up' but be sure to enter your local zip or city.

February is when repotting will generally get underway. It helps if you do some preliminary work. Get a sufficient amount of materials for whatever is your favorite mix or mixes. Then sift them into sizes you need (I like 3 sizes, small for shohin, medium for mid size trees and large 1/4" for the bigger bonsai). Then you can premix three different sizes of soil. At repotting then I will often adjust the mix for the particular tree I am working with by adding an extra bit of one ingredient or other in order to adjust water retention to suit that tree.

The best time for repotting is when the plant has activity. For deciduous that would be when the buds just start to swell. Evergreens are a little more difficult but observation will tell you. Best does not mean that you cannot do it at other times. If you have a lot of trees or if you work prevents you from repotting then you can do it earlier or even later but you may need to do some extra care. For example, deciduous trees repotted in Jan will need the new roots protected by setting on the ground and mulching good (think about the nursery trade planting yard trees in early winter).

Wire removal---Repotting is a very good time to check all your trees for wires and wire damage. Sometimes you wire one or two branches to adjust

them a bit and forget that you did. Start at the tip of the branch and completely remove that wire before going to the next so you don't inadvertently leave loops on the branch.

The newer wisdom on azaleas is that you also repot them at this time. The roots will be reestablished by blooming time. This is much easier on the tree than waiting until after bloom when the temperature will be hot. (An aside note: later on, before blooming starts, you will be removing a lot of excess buds anyway which will reduce the stress on the tree at that time).

When new growth appears, keep it pinched so you keep the internodes short and develop a compact set of twigs on the branches. On alternate leaved species (e.g. elms) pinch when the shoot gets 4 or 5 leaves. Fingernails or shears can be used. If the twig gets too long it will be tough and you have to use shears. On opposite leaved trees (maples) pinch the central shoot as soon as it can be distinguished from the two leaves. To do this really right you need to use pointed tweezers.

Spring flowering plants will have their buds set on last years growth so pruning them will remove some flowers. Those that bloom later in the year will generally bloom on this years growth. Pruning them will reduce the amount of flowers. In some cases such as crape myrtle, tip pruning of the branch will result in no flowers at all. In these cases you must decide which is most important, ramification or flowers. A compromise would be to prune the branch shorter than you normally would and then let it bloom on new growth which will at the proper length, at least for the first flowering of the season.

When the growth starts the tree will need fertilizer. However, use one that has only a small amount of nitrogen (the first number). The tree is naturally programmed to grow rapidly at this time so you don't need to encourage it further. Feed lightly to maintain a healthy green foliage. Trace minerals should be added to help with both the foliage

ABS May Board Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2011

color and the color of blooms.

If you have not used an horticultural oil, the time is fast running out. The oil would be used to kill scale and overwintering mites and other boogers. When new growth starts oil might damage the tender foliage. When new growth starts, the problems to look for are the above mentioned mites but especially aphids and mealy bugs. These can be controlled as well as giving the plants the required fertilizer by using an organic spray (1 tablespoons each of liquid kelp, liquid fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water). All these are available in any organic nursery.) If leaf spot, mildew or any other fungal problems appear, use a 1% hydrogen peroxide solution (dilute the normally available 3% using 1 part peroxide and 2 parts water), a baking soda spray, or a commercial fungicide.

I have not used the commercial organic spray sold as "Garret Juice" but I have had reports that it does not work well as an insecticide.

What can you do on cold rainy days? Think about upgrading and improving your bonsai knowledge and your collection. Go to your computer and log on to www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com and register to see 3 of the best American bonsai artists of today. Do a workshop or two, you cannot learn bonsai out of a book, you need the whys as well as the where-to-cuts. Other possibilities would be the opportunities your local club offers and in many cases are ignored. An exhibition should be a learning event for you, not just a show. Each tree there has a problem or two that have been cleverly concealed or the artist has drawn your eye away to some good feature.

See you in Dallas in April

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm. Present were Mike Watson, Bill Boytim, John Muller, Pat Ware, Becky Drozd, and Joey McCoy.

Pat Ware presented the board with the 2011 financial report which had been audited by Bill Boytim and Connie King. A motion was made and seconded to vote for acceptance of the report as is. The vote was called and the motion was approved unanimously.

Joey McCoy announced that all chair positions had been filled for the 2013 bonsai convention in New Braunfels. He also said that there are goody bag items in the storage shed that were left over from the 2008 convention we had co-hosted with the San Antonio Bonsai Society. We can use some of them for the 2013 convention.

Becky Drozd, who is the raffle chair for the convention, noted she is asking the members of our club to start donating items for the convention raffle. Any trees that will be donated can either be kept by the donor until before the convention or can be kept and cared for by a volunteer.

Bill Boytim discussed several program and workshop ideas for the club this year. Some really good ideas were brought up but there are still a few workshops and programs left to fill. He also noted that no members have contacted him with ideas or requests for things they would like to do or see.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted by Mike Watson.

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

Printing provided by

Ranch Road®

A CREATIVE SOLUTIONS CO.

ADDRESS: 8906 Wall Street, Suite 507
Austin, Texas 78754

PHONE: 512 719 9999 FAX: 512 719 9997

WEBSITE: WWW.RANCHROAD.COM

follow us
on facebook