



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

January 2013 vol 25

January 2013 Programs by Bill Boytim

Zelkova on Tile Revisited

Our **Wednesday January 9th** meeting will feature our own Mike Hansen in a follow up to a previous presentation and workshop. In February 2010, Mike Hansen demonstrated a technique used to encourage the rapid development of the nebari. He used ceramic floor tiles and threaded a zelkova seedling through a small hole he drilled in the tiles. In the February members workshop each member had the opportunity to drill their own tile and thread zelkova seedlings through the tile. Planting and care instructions were provided. It is now several years later and time to see how the nebari created by this technique are progressing. Please bring your zelkova seedlings that were prepared using this technique and Mike will evaluate the progress and provide information on repotting and follow on care.

The **Tuesday January 15th** workshop will be a repeat workshop on drilling a tile and threading a seedling through the tile. It will also be an opportunity to evaluate your past seedling if you did not have the chance at the regular meeting. Please bring pots, soil, seedlings, and tile to the workshop to create your own or to repot your earlier planting.

The success of our club depends on having programs that are of interest to our members and potential members. The program chairman is talented but mind reading is not one of his strong points. Please provide any ideas you have on programs and suggested speakers to Bill Boytim, 282-3580 cbboytim@att.net as soon as possible.

Calendar of Events

**January 9th ABS Monthly Meeting
Reception**

**Hosts: Alisan Clarke and Pat Ware
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**January 9th ABS Monthly Meeting
Zelkova on Tile Revisited**

**by Mike Hansen
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

January 15th ABS Board Meeting

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

**January 15th ABS Member's Workshop
Workshop - Threading a Seedling through
the Drilled Tile**

Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



**Bill Boytim presides over the festivities at
our December 2012 Christmas Party**

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Nan Jenkins
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Bill Boytim
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Mike Watson
Secretary

Pat Ware
Treasurer

Russell Kohlert
Member at-Large

Zerita Rogers
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 Nan Jenkins

Greetings to everyone in the New Year, a year in which ABS is going to be a very busy group of people! For several years, I've told myself that I was not going to be president, not, not, not. So here I am, president! How did that happen?

It happened because I have spent my life working in non-profit volunteer organizations, and I know how very important volunteers are. In fact, they are so important that the organizations would not exist without them. Can you imagine Cub Scouts without den mothers? Churches without Sunday school teachers? Local charities without money raisers?

The reality is that none of the international, national, state-wide or local bonsai organizations would be here without volunteers who serve as officers, teachers or workers to put together shows, meetings, workshops and conventions.

It is an honor to be asked to do this job because I am not a bonsai expert. I've only been doing this for a few years and I know only a tiny bit about how to style a tree. I know a little more about how to run an organization and work with volunteers. So, I'm going to need your help this year. In fact, the whole of ABS is going to need your help this year. You don't have to be an expert. You don't have to know anything, really, about what you are volunteering to do, as there will be people who will help you learn.

In addition to our regular activities like meetings, workshops, and exhibits, we also have the privilege of planning, coordinating, and doing the work of making the state convention happen, along with our friends at the San Antonio Bonsai Exhibit. There will be many activities with which we need volunteers to help. Some of those require some level of expertise, but most of them just need someone willing to help out. I hope that all of you are planning to attend the convention in New Braunfels, April 12-14. I remember my first convention, which happened to also be the national convention. I learned so much! I met wonderful folks from all over our state and some from other nations and states. It was a total joy!

I look forward to this year. It will be a challenge, but I usually don't run from challenges because that's how I learn the most. So join me on this journey and let's have a lot of fun together!

Nan Jenkins

512-587-4506 Call to volunteer or ask questions.

ABS General Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2012

Zilker Garden Club House

The Call to Order was at 7:30 by President Mike Watson.

The first order of business was to elect the new board and officers for Austin Bonsai Society. Those nominated and elected are as follows:

President	Nan Jenkins
Vice-President	Bill Boytim
Treasurer	Pat Ware
Secretary	Mike Watson
Members at large	John Muller
	Zerita Rogers
	Russell Kohlert

The primary order of business was the Christmas/Holiday party where there were lots of wonderful dishes provided by the members, and the turkey and ham provided by the society. After we had all eaten all we could possibly eat, we voted on the best decorated trees that graced our tables.

Winners were: 1st place, Chuck Ware; 2nd place, Terry Ward; 3rd place, Dario Octaviano. Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who brought a tree for our table decorations.

Mike Watson expressed his thanks for all the support he has received this year as the president of ABS.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Jenkins, Secretary

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(call for directions)

REMINDER:

DUES ARE DUE *NOW!*

PLEASE BRING TO MEETING OR MAIL
TO TREASURER

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(512) 847-2514

e-mail: bonsaijg@gmail.com

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

Bonsai Calendar

- SSOT meeting schedule for 2013: Feb. 16 Flat Root/Root over Rock; Mar. 23 Convention Display, DYOT; June 1 Logstrum Workshop or Tropical with Stone; Sept. 28 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

ABS May Board Meeting Minutes

December 2012

(No December Meeting)

2012 ABS Programs in Review



January 2012
Shaping via Pruning



February 2012
Root over Rock



March 2012
Multiple Trees



April 2012
Kusamono/Accents



May 2012
Evaluated Trees



June 2012
Bonsai Basics



July 2012
Carving/Deadwood



August 2012
Scrolls for Bonsai



September 2012
Grafting/Tools



October 2012
Annual Auction



November 2012
Diaza for Suiseki



December 2012
Christmas Party

(Photos by Joey McCoy and Editor)

December 2012 Christmas Party



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

January 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.

On New Years Day many people make resolutions as to what they want to do or to not do or what to change or etc. I do not care to do this as such but I like to take the time when a project slows down to review its progress and to check to see if it is still a viable option or does its direction need to be altered. In bonsai we need to evaluate both our trees and ourselves. Wintertime gives us a good opportunity to do so, especially for the bare deciduous trees.

The coldest nights usually come the last two weeks in January, but don't bet the farm on it. Just watch the forecasts and check the lows (ignore the highs, they are for people not plants). Have some plans in mind in case we have some extreme weather.

Your primary job in cold weather is to be sure your trees are well watered before going into a deep freeze. They will be losing water to evaporation but will not be able to replenish it if the soil is frozen. Protection from high winds is also necessary so the tops will not dry out. Sunlight is not necessary on deciduous trees when they have lost their leaves. In fact, it can be bad for the tree because it will heat up the trunk and soil and that could make the tree come out of dormancy too early.

Tender or tropical trees that are kept indoors will be using more water to offset the lower humidity. Soil will also be losing water faster through its surface. Be sure to watch the indoor trees for insect problems. Most plant insects love a controlled atmosphere like the indoors. Spider mites seem to get the most attention here because they do great in a low humidity and the lack of foliage spraying. Scale can be an easily overlooked source of trouble. The flat green kind can be hard to spot on the underside of leaves or tight against the stem. Indoor trees need to be fertilized regularly and will require periodic trimming as they continue to grow through the winter. Be careful that plants in a sunny window do not get their leaves scalded.

Greenhouses are much the same as indoors. However, most greenhouses are kept more humid. The higher humidity is to the liking of aphids and fungal diseases. It may also result in your keeping the soil too moist with

associated root problems. Use your standard insect controls that you used last summer. I use my organic foliar spray all winter.

Back to the outdoor trees. Any long warm spells during the month could activate some of the insect problems but as a rule there are no special needs to look for in January. Check trunks and branches for tiny scales. Spraying with a dormant oil spray will kill adults, nymphs, and eggs of any trying to over-winter on your trees. Some dormant sprays can be used on new growth but better results overall will be obtained if you do it before Valentines Day. A weak lime sulphur dormant spray will also get fungal spores and should be done before Feb 1 and not at all if any green is showing. Just be careful with the lime sulfur follow label directions closely.

In January I would not recommend any feeding of outdoor trees. Any feeding might cause them to start spring activity before the end of the bad weather.

After tending to the daily needs of your trees, take time to study one or two thoroughly each day. January is an excellent time to start and remodeling projects that may be necessary. While the trees are dormant you have better view of the branch structure. Do any need to be moved or removed? Do any coarse branches need to be cut back to a smaller side branch for refinement? Any long straight branches need wiring to give them motion? Does the tree really need a drastic redesign? Also trim the twigs back while you have them there.

Styling can be done at this time but no repotting unless you are going to keep the tree from freezing after that. Repotting initiates new root development which is usually not very hardy.

Get a calendar of bonsai events in your club, city, and state. There are many opportunities such as LSBF sponsored events, the Shohin Society which meets 5 times in Austin, possibly a suiseki group being formed, etc. so that you need to plan which ones will give you the most help in your interests and at your level of development. The lecture events and books give you knowledge but without the practice under the guidance of a good teacher at the various workshops it will remain just that: knowledge without producing any results. The workshops develop the ability to foresee what will happen when you remove and relocate branches and to have the confidence to go ahead and do it.

Convention Chronicle #7

Tree Ring Circus – April 11-14, 2013 New Braunfels TX

Our website is now up and running: www.lsbfcconvention2013.com

I hope everyone had a terrific holiday season and got to enjoy friends and loved ones. One of the most enjoyable events for me each year is to see the extended Bonsai family across the state and region at our annual conventions. I can't tell you how much I truly enjoy them! For our upcoming convention we've put together an outstanding visiting artist line up (**Walter Pall**, **Colin Lewis**, **Erik Wigert** in multiple exiting workshops!), but we've added additional workshops and funshops with Texas talent that shouldn't be overlooked, and I'd like to introduce these hard working folks here. **Chuck Ware** will lead a workshop styling Parrot Beak, a beautiful tropical with a unique flower. **Terry Ward's** workshop will be with the Hillier Elm, a small, tight-leafed cultivar that is excellent for Bonsai. **Yvonne Padilla** will be working with Natal Plum "Boxwood Beauty", a variety that has tight round-shaped leaves and will make nice smaller bonsai. **Alisan Clarke**, trained in Japan, will teach Ikebana, an artform that works with balance, proportion and form. **Sheila Ward** gives Kusamono a delicate touch, and will lead participants in how to put together one of these beautiful plantings, often a companion to Bonsai, using her own handmade pots. **Donna Dobberfuhr**, an international sculptor and artist will teach her group how to look at our Bonsai, to find the lines & form, and style them with paper and pencil before cutting – a skill used by all the best Bonsai artists! **Bill Boytim** a tool and safety expert will have his students learning the best ways to clean and sharpen their Bonsai tools in a hands-on class. We also have **Peter Aradi**, a national suiseki scholar, who will give a critique and discussion on the Suiseki in the Exhibit. Registration begins Jan 1st, and don't forget that the cutoff for the early registration lowered rate ends March 15th.

Joey McCoy, Convention Chair



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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