



# Bonsai Notebook

*www.austinbonsaisociety.com*

*A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society*

*July 2011 vol 7*

## July 2011 Programs by Collin Murphy

It's been so hot outside that our trees don't need much work right now. This is a good time to stay indoors and work on bonsai tools that need maintenance. Are your tools dull? Do you tear off the cambium when you use your concave cutters? Do any of your tools wobble or not open on their own? Come to July's meeting and learn how to solve those problems. On **Wednesday, July 13th** Joey McCoy will give a program on maintaining bonsai tools including sharpening and fixing other problems. Joey's presentation will cover additional material not covered in Bill's tool sharpening program earlier this year.

On **Tuesday, July 19th** we'll have a tool sharpening workshop. Bring your concave cutters, root cutters, knob cutters and similar tools, along with a dremel and sharpening/grinding bits. We'll have some extra equipment there too, so if you don't have a dremel but do have tools that need maintenance you can bring them.

## Calendar of Events

**July 13th ABS Monthly Meeting Reception**

**Hosts: Deborah Van Cleef and  
Bill Boytim**

**Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**July 13th ABS Monthly Meeting**

**Maintaining Bonsai Tools- with Joey McCoy**

**Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**July 19th ABS Board Meeting**

**Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm**

**July 19th ABS Member's Workshop**

**Workshop - Sharpening Tools  
with Joey McCoy**

**Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm**



**Three-Person Critique  
at our June 2011 Meeting**  
*(Photo by Joey McCoy)*

## **Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors**

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Member at-Large

**Joey McCoy**  
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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](mailto: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](mailto:jvmccoy@sbcglobal.net).

It's hot. I mean Africa hot. Summer started early this year, and may do so for years to come. I have been worrying over my bonsai so I've put up shade cloth and grouped my trees into classes of heat resistance. However, I remembered not to fall into the trap that has cost me trees in the short 5 years I've been keeping bonsai. That trap is to water your trees too much. When I'm outside for awhile I start to get thirsty and think, "My trees must need water too"! In the past I've immediately watered them all without regard. Now I give them a quick individual check. Some trees slow down their metabolism during hot weather and need less watering than usual. As we all know, most trees don't like to sit in a pot of wet soil for longer than they can make use of it, except for bald cypress, but that's a whole other topic!

The 2013 Texas Convention will be co-hosted by The Austin Bonsai Society and The San Antonio Bonsai Society. Although it's a bit in the future, your trusted board is beginning to get the ball rolling to make it a great convention. Meanwhile, I am going to try to get my trees to look more like bonsai. I advise we all try to do the same!



*Suiseki at State Convention  
(Photo by Joey McCoy)*

## ABS May General Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2011

By Nan Jenkins, Secretary

President Mike Watson called the meeting to order at 7:32. He recognized Becki Drozd who won the Joshua Roth Award for the outstanding young Bonsai artist at the Lone Star Bonsai Federation Convention in Corpus Christi in May. Becki received a set of Joshua Roth tools as the prize. The contest is for people who have been learning the art of bonsai for five years or less. They are required to style a tree at the convention which is judged by the master artists who are giving the programs.

Mike also thanked those who helped at the ABS Exhibit this year in setting up, taking down, bringing in trees, and being docents. It was a grand success.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Boytin announced that a former member, Janice Thompson died on June 7th.

We had two visitors/ new members: Gail Glick and Gerrit Clemence.

There is "unclaimed freight" from the exhibit: raffle items whose winners have not picked them up, and stands that were a part of the exhibit. Please claim your items or they will be in the next show raffle.

### PROGRAM

Colin Murphy introduced the program. It is a three-person critique of trees: Terry Ward, Donna Dobberful, and Chuck Ware. They looked at trees that members had brought in and gave helpful comments on what might be done to increase the beauty of each tree. It was a helpful and informative evening.

All raffle items for the evening were given away. And the meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nan Jenkins

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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>

## JADE GARDENS

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## Bonsai Calendar

- On Sunday, October 2 the LSBF visiting artist will be Erik Wigert. There will be a demo followed by a bring-your-own-tree workshop.

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

Know of an upcoming Bonsai event of interest to club members? Send the details to [jcm2austx@sprintmail.com](mailto:jcm2austx@sprintmail.com)



## ABS Annual Show - 2011



*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*





## June Meeting - 3 Person Critique



## LSBF Convention 2011 - in Corpus Christi



*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*

## July 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.*

Why are your trees stressed during July and August (and June this year)? Its not really the air temperature and low humidity. Rather it is the soil temperature in the pots caused by the suns rays directly on them. They will easily reach temps that kill the roots and evaporate any moisture in the soil. If that doesn't kill them, the stressed plants may succumb to spider mites and other bugs.

I cannot give you a precise to-do list since your backyard is different from mine but you should be sure that the sun does not hit the pots directly. If you use a cover of any kind be sure that the side of the pot is protected also. A loose weave cloth cover that allows air flow is preferable to solid paper or foil. Use a U-shaped pin to hold it there. Air flow results in evaporative cooling. A solid cover over the pot and box would create an even hotter oven type enclosure. A 30% shade cloth over pines, junipers, and elms and maybe 50% over maples would be ideal also. And be sure to provide protection on the west side from the worst afternoon sun.

An ideal watering might be to water at 2pm to lower the soil temperature and allow for evaporative cooling during the afternoon. Then water again after sundown so the trees renew overnight. And be sure to do the double watering bit--water thoroughly and then after a few minutes water again so that the dry soil particles will get moistened completely

A more practical approach for most would be to water heavily when you get home and then again more briefly in the morning. Include misting of the foliage in the evening. While watering you might check which soil mixes give you the best conditions for your backyard.

Trees may slow down in this weather but most bugs do not. Spider mites may do a complete cycle in as

few as 5 days.

The problem seems to be one of not understanding the abc's of insect control. The fundamentals are the same whether you use a chemical spray or one of the organic controls. (1) You must apply the control several times. For spider mites it is a minimum of three times on five day intervals in order to get those you missed or that hatched from eggs. If you go too long you need to add more sprays. (2) You must thoroughly cover the plant, bottom of foliage and the bark as well as on the top of the foliage. Hose end sprayers are very inefficient in this respect. They usually have too large of drops to cover properly, they cannot be directed properly, and they do not mix the chemical evenly. (3) You must read the label to determine if the control is proper for your need.

I prefer to use a pump-up tank sprayer. This unit has a short hose and a wand with the nozzle at a slight angle. Adjust the nozzle tip to give a fine spray, almost a mist, which comes out in a cone shape. This wand can be inserted into the foliage with the cone of spray covering both top and bottom of the leaf and also covering the twigs and limbs. I also prefer a weekly organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and 5% apple cider vinegar per gallon water) to control all insects.

When checking the results on your plants after spraying remember that the spray usually will not remove the 'evidence' of problems. The webs will still be there after the mites are killed, The shells of the scale will still be attached to the leaf or stem. These will have to be removed by hand, by a jet of water, or some other way.

The humidity in summer varies quite a bit but when it sticks around for a few days look for fungal problems to appear, mildew being the most prevalent. Foliage spraying in the morning will not be a problem because it dries pretty quickly. Treat with potassium carbonate which you can find at any nursery with a decent organic section. There are several chemical sprays available too.

A word of caution: some sprays will damage plants in hot weather and others will damage tender new



growth. Read your label.

When the humidity is low I mist my junipers in the evening. I believe the story that in the wild junipers open their stomata in the cool of the evening absorbing any dew that may occur and close in the heat of the

day to conserve moisture. The other species may get a foliage spray in the morning.

Continue to feed your trees during the summer. Organics such as fertilizer balls as best. I would be leery of using some of those made from chicken manure as the nutrients there leech out a pretty high rate (referred to by some as a 'hot' fertilizer. Read labels on your chemical fertilizers for any temp limits, chemical reactions usually are expedited by heat.

You still need to visit the barber shop or beauty salon and get you top worked on during the summer. Your trees too keep growing and need their periodic beauty treatment. Keep the ends trimmed and the stray shoots cut out. Its not that bad when you can sit in the shade with a big lemonade and really enjoy being with your bonsai. That way you will have your tree ready for the fall show or you will be ready to enjoy it when the change of seasons give it pretty colors.

Now that night temperatures are staying above 60 degrees you should think about repotting some of the tropicals. Most tropicals do well with an annual repotting. I would emphasize to check the wires on your trees and also see that the drains are not blocked in any way. Especially check them after a rain to be sure that your pots have drained properly. Keep the tropicals trimmed as they will be growing like crazy. However, if you want flowers on those that produce on the end of the twigs, bougianvilla-pomegranate-crape myrtle, you will have to forgo the bonsai shape to let them flower. These species should be pruned more drastically before the growing season starts so they can still be in a pretty good shape.

## ABS May Board Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2011

Present: Becki Drozd, Nan Jenkins, Timmi Kuykendall, Joey McCoy, John Muller, Collin Murphy, Pat Ware, Mike Watson.

Call to Order: 7:05

The minutes for May were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: We had a net loss of \$197.67 at the end of May, but that does not include the income from the exhibit which was deposited in June. We also paid the bill for the storage unit of \$912 in May. Joey passed out a list of the raffle sales at the ABS Exhibit. We had a total income of \$607.00 with \$100.00 budgeted in raffle expenses. There were a total in attendance on Saturday of 522 and Sunday of 628 for a total of 1150 for the two days. Pat had the dates and times availability of the club house for our 2012 meetings:

The Exhibit will be Friday, May 18, 2012, 4:30-9:30

Saturday, May 19, 2012, 9:00- 6:00

Sunday, May 20, 2012, 9:00-7:00

Christmas Party will be Wednesday, December 14, 2012, 5:30-9:30 in the main room only.

Regular meetings will be the second Wednesday, 6:30-10:00 (Meeting: 7:30-9:30)

Workshop meetings will be third Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 (Meeting: 7:00-9:00)

Timmi brought up the idea of having some fundraisers including selling bumper stickers and t-shirts. She will check on costs.

Pat presented possibilities of places to meet for the 2013 state convention. It is up to ABS to decide the place and date, and then San Antonio will be involved in the other committees and decisions. After looking at several possibilities, Nan moved and John seconded that we go to the New Braunfels Convention Center. The board unanimously approved. Possible dates:

1st Choice April 12-14, 2013, 2nd Choice April 5-7, 2013, 3rd Choice April 19-21, 2013

Motion to Adjourn was at 8:25 by Timmi, seconded by Colin.

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

