

Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

July 2013 vol 31

July 2013 Programs

by Bill Boytim

Tropical Tree Care with Elaine White

In case you have not noticed we are now having many 90 plus degree days (and a few 100's for good measure). This is the ideal time to work on your tropical plants and give them several months of ideal growing time to recover prior to the chilly days of fall and winter.

Elaine White will be presenting the **Wednesday July 10th** program on tropical tree care. Elaine previously operated Lakeway Bonsai out of her beautiful Lakeway residence. Elaine has many outstanding tropicals in her collection and also maintains the tropicals that are part of The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit collection. Her many years of experience in producing elegant tropical bonsai provide her with an extensive knowledge of caring for these trees and creating artistically crafted Bonsai.

Tuesday July 16th workshop will be a hands on tropical re-potting session. Please bring your tropicals that need re-potting along with some fresh soil.

Remember that Wednesday Nights are Blues on the Green in Zilker.

Calendar of Events

July 10th ABS Monthly Meeting
Reception Hosts: **Bill Boytim**
and **Deborah Van Cleaf**
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

July 10th ABS Monthly Meeting
Tropical Tree Care
with **Elaine White**
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

July 16th ABS Board Meeting
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

July 16th ABS Member's Workshop
Workshop - Hands on tropical
re-potting
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



**Els Ulug demonstrating - at ABS Annual Show
in May 2013**

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

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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 Nan Jenkins

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to hot as a fish in a frying pan summer in central Texas! The extended spring was very nice, but now we are back to reality. That means checking your trees carefully for sufficient water, placing them in at least partial shade, covering the pots to keep the sun from baking them and the roots, and simply paying close attention to them to check for bugs or beginning problems that you didn't expect.

If you are new to this process, don't hesitate to ask one of the longer time members for advice. A good place to do that is on our blog at austinbonsai@yahoo-groups.com. Lots of people read it and you can get questions answered by several people. You'll probably find that others have the same question. There will be no spam coming your way from our blog.

I am looking forward to our meetings this month. I mostly have tropical trees, so I've been repotting like crazy lately. Elaine always has helpful information. And, you can bring a tree to the workshop on the third Tuesday in July and get some very helpful and individual help. It meets in the small room at the back of the Zilker park building where we usually meet.

I love going to our meetings. We have such an interesting group of people who are so generous with sharing their knowledge. It always makes me feel good to see and talk with them. I hope I see you on the 12th!

Nan



(Photo provided by Joey McCoy)

Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting
June 12, 2013,
No minutes available.

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2013 Kathy Shaner Seminar
October 18th - 20th
Buda, TX

- * Seminar *
- * Grafting Workshop *
- * Bring-your-own-tree Workshop *

Registration available in August. To be notified when registration is open, email ckmurphy2000@gmail.com

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Bonsai Calendar

- SSOT meeting schedule for 2013:

Sept. 28 - Annual business meeting and panel critique.

- LSBF 2014 Convention - Houston

The 2014 convention will be held at the Houston Marriott-Westchase.

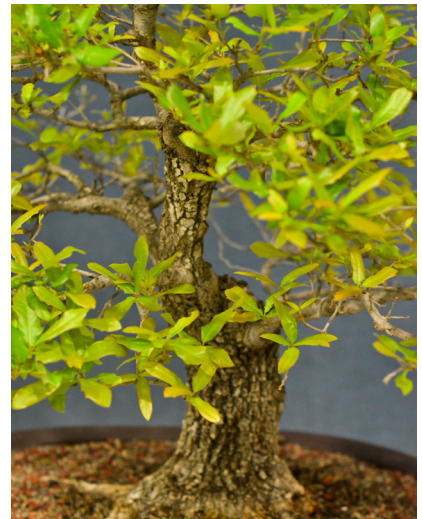
Know of an upcoming Bonsai event of interest to club members? Send the details to jcm2austx@sprintmail.com

Annual ABS Bonsai Show - May 2013



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

LSBF Annual Bonsai Convention



(Photos provided 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.

July and August are the two most stressful months for bonsai in our neck of the woods. Most healthy trees can take the full sun on their foliage. But the high ambient temperatures and the heating effect of the sun on the pots and soil create temperatures on the roots that they are not designed to cope with. Trees with thin leaves like the Japanese maple, Acer Palmatum, that are understory trees, will probably scorch in full sun. They can also suffer from chemical burn from some fertilizers and insecticides which can be more damaging in the heat.

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 cover that allows air flow is preferable to solid paper or foil. A solid cover or box over the pot would create an oven type enclosure. There should be room for air flow around the pot. A 30-40% shade cloth over pines, junipers, and elms and maybe 50% over maples would be ideal. And don't forget to provide protection on the west side from that mean afternoon sun.

Check your water practices. Normally I prefer to water heavily in the evening. That gives the plant all night to renew itself without losing most of its water to evaporation. Then in the early morning, they get a quick foliage spray and wetting the surface of the soil which may have dried out overnight. This was what I did while working. Be sure to do the double watering bit--water thoroughly so that the dry soil particles will get moistened and after a few minutes water again so that they will soak up fully.

Pots out in the sun can get pot pretty hot. Not only does this dry out the soil very fast but the tree roots cannot live in a hot soil. A temperature I have heard given is 120 degrees that will kill roots on most plants. An article by Dr. Bill Cody suggests that his experiments show that an afternoon watering at 2PM will go a long way to keep the soil temperature in a desirable range while a box close around the pot does little to protect it. Therefore I now try to water at 2pm to cool and refresh the roots and

again after sundown to get the night started right.

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.

Also watch for signs of insect problems. The spider mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, and mealy bugs. Preventative medicine is best, spray on a regular schedule. By the time you see signs, the damage is already done, especially from spider mites. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and 5% apple cider vinegar per gallon water) to control all these. You can use some of the other organic controls or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully. Do not apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods. A hose end sprayer does not work very well, its droplets are too large and you have little control over where it goes. Use a pump sprayer with a fine spray and cover both top and bottom of leaves.

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 be attached to the leaf or stem. These will have to be removed by hand, by a jet of water, or some other way. A soft toothbrush works good on the scale shells. There is no damage from this leftover evidence but it prevents you from seeing any new infestation that may occur.

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. Black spot will show up if the foliage stays wet very long. Foliage watering in the morning will usually 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.

As a rule we do not feed our trees enough. Since the mix we use has very little nutrient value, we must make up with our fertilizer practice.

Water soluble fertilizers will be quickly washed out.

The best “rule” I have heard was given by Matt Ouwinga who primarily grows trident maples.

Matt’s rule:

- A. Apply organic fertilizer balls each 6 weeks. Discard old balls.
- B. Apply fish emulsion every two weeks.
- C. Apply liquid plant food on alternate weeks.

You can fertilize with most organic type fertilizers without worrying about burning the roots in hot weather. Do not use hi-powered types tho, such as bat guano or one made heavily with chicken manure unless you use them very lightly. If you use chemical types follow the label. If they do not specify any temperature restrictions try using a weaker solution than normal. Without a lot of organic material in your soil you should use a weaker solution but more often to provide a more even feeding.

Many spring flowering plants will be setting buds for next years flowers. Azaleas will set theirs toward the end of July. If you prune tips after that you remove the new buds.

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.

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.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

June18, 2013

Zilker Garden Club House

Russel Kohlert, Nan Jenkins, Pat Ware and John Muller were present. Meeting called to order at 7:03 by Nan Jenkins.

The following items were discussed and did not require a formal vote:

1. Come this October we will be looking for help filling several Board positions. And in the meantime we would like to **find someone to fill-in with the Secretary duties**. It would be a great opportunity to temporarily see what the Board Secretary does. So, please consider it, and let Nan Jenkins or Bill Boytim know if your are interested. They can be contacted if you just have some questions.

2. We discussed the dates and activities for the Traveling Artist, who is Sheryl Manning of California. The date is Wednesday September 10th. More to come as her visit be comes more solidified.

3. **The Treasure’s Report:** We have a balance of 2,140.71, mainly as a result of the State Convention. There were 125 Full Registrants and 255 in total who attended the Event.

4. We are discussing methods to increase our membership. One of the ideas is to have an open workshop for non-members. Provide Bonsai material, pot and wire. The initial workshop would be hands-on shaping, and a follow-up workshop would be to pot the tree. Our hope would be to increase awareness in our Club and promote membership. There would be a nominal charge for the supplies and material.

Other ideas are being solicited, so please share.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43

Respectfully submitted by John Muller,
substitute 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



Spotlight of the Month
(Photo provided by Joey McCoy)