



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

June 2013 vol 30

June 2013 Programs

by Bill Boytim

What to do with my tree?

Do you have a tree and are not sure of how to take care of it? Do you have a tree and don't really know what type of tree it is? Do you have accent plants that are also unknowns? Have questions on how to style your tree or how to restore its vigor? The **June 12th meeting** will be a group brainstorming session to answer those questions about your plants. Please bring in your trees/ accent plants and the questions you have about your plants and ask the audience to provide the answers to your questions.

Many of our members have the information that you need on caring, identifying and styling your trees and now is a good time to receive this information and formulate a plan for developing your trees. There will be no formal panel during this session, one person will go at a time and solicit answers for their questions. This will also be a good time to develop a mentor within the Austin Bonsai Society.

The **June 18th workshop** will be a continuation of the **June 12th meeting** to answer your questions.

2013 Austin Bonsai Society Show was a really outstanding display of trees, accent plants and scrolls. We had visitors from Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston. Many have said the display was even better than the display during the 2013 LSBF Convention in New Braunfels. This display was the direct result of our members supporting ABS and showcasing their Bonsai artistry. I would like to thank all who helped bring the show to fruition. I would also like to thank those who acted as docents and provided insights on Bonsai to our many show visitors.

Calendar of Events

June 12th ABS Monthly Meeting
Reception Hosts: **Becki Drozd**
and **Ken Schroeder**
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

June 12th ABS Monthly Meeting
What to do with my tree?
by **Group brain storming**
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

June 18th ABS Board Meeting
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

June 18th ABS Member's Workshop
Workshop - Continue with - What to do
with my tree?
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



**Joey McCoy demonstrating - Bonsai Display
and Accent Plants**
at the **May 2013 General Meeting**
(Photo by Editor)

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

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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

We did it again! One more year with a beautiful exhibit to show off our trees, accent plants, viewing stones, scrolls and stands to the public. Thank you to everyone who helped in anyway. It is a big project for a few, but with many helping out, it is mostly fun and enjoyable. It was great to have the new supports for the background cloths and to have the new tatami mats for the tables. Both made the exhibit more beautiful. Thanks to Bill Boytim for the supports and to Alisan Clark, Lynn Haxton, and Pat Ware for all their work on the mat project. Those projects really made our trees shine and made the exhibit more professional in look.

I'm depending on all of you to help out with our program this month. Bring a tree or an accent plant no matter what stage they are in. We will help with identification, needs for sun, water, fertilizer, etc with the particular tree or plants. We will try to work together or in small groups (2-3) so everyone can have help. Bring your books that give information about trees. Long-time bonsai maniacs, please come to help out. Your knowledge will be valuable on Wednesday, June 12th and Tuesday, June 18th for the workshop. See you then! And happy potting of tropicals in June!

Nan



(Photo by Editor)

Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting

May 8, 2013,
No minutes available.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2013
Zilker Garden Club House

John Muller, Bill Boytim and Pat Ware were present. Meeting called to order at 7:12 by Bill Boytim.

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

1. Pat had several books that will be added to the lending library.
2. ABS money was placed into a two-year CD earning 5% interest.

Sufficient funds are available in checking account for upcoming ABS functions.

Meeting was adjourned due to no quorum at 7:30

Respectfully submitted by Bill Boytim,
substitute Secretary

A

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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

May 2013 ABS Program - Bonsai Display and Accent Plants



Annual ABS Bonsai Show



(Photos by Editor)

continued... **Annual ABS Bonsai Show**



More Images from the ABS Show provided by Joey McCoy
Copy and paste the IP address below into your browser
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/9290304@N06/sets/72157633833853082/>

(Photos by Editor)

June 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.

Join me in congratulating a couple of guys from our area in being elected to the Board of Directors of the National Bonsai Foundation, Howard Smith of Dallas and Alan Walker of Lake Charles Louisiana. Go to www.bonsai-nbf.org to read about it and also the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. And while you are there be sure to click on Peter Tea Bonsai Blog. Mr. Tea will be our Texas touring artist in 2014. On his blog he describes work he was assigned to do as an apprentice in Japan on "Zuiou", the 1996 Kokufu prize winner, a Japanese Black Pine.

If you think you need to leaf prune, you probably can still do it but need to be careful, it could turn hot in a hurry. I have done it on Shumard oaks successfully. Again never leaf prune the atropurpeum varieties of Japanese maples, they dont rebud very well.

When night temperatures stay above 60 degrees you can think about repotting some of the tropicals. I would wait another month tho for the buttonwood.

However, some tropicals can be leaf pruned all summer. The Ficus nerifolia especially benefits by leaf pruning and can be done more than once each summer. That will develop the heavy twiginess you see in the Ficus bonsai from the Far East.

As the summer progresses the growth of the deciduous trees will slow also. But you still need to keep an eye out for errant shoots. Keeping a clipper with you when watering would let you take care of most of them. Just like in the spring a shoot too long will thicken the twig too much. The major pruning chore is now transferred to the tropicals.

Tip pinching on some flowering species like the crape myrtle will result in fewer flowers but if you let it go they get out of shape. I prefer to try to balance the flower/design question by pinching early. This provides more growing tips to divide the energy and the resulting flower is shorter. Its less showy but more in scale.

Also If you have fruiting bonsai, you should reduce the number of fruit on the tree. The number one goal of the tree is to provide seeds for reproduction and it will starve itself in order to do so. Again, most fruit are too large to look good on a bonsai

You may think the days are relatively cool but the sun can still make the pot pretty hot. Not only does this dry out the soil very fast but the tree roots do not like a hot soil. A temperature I have heard given is that 120 degrees will kill roots on most plants. 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. Notice especially where the hot afternoon sun,

from 2pm to sundown, hits your bonsai area. If you use a cover of any kind be sure that the side of the pot is protected also. A loose weave cover is preferable to solid paper or foil.

Think of walking barefoot down an open sidewalk. Anything solid (such as a pot) will soak up the direct rays and get very hot. Its bad enough when the air temp goes over a hundred without the sun adding to it. You should do something to block the direct rays of the sun and put a bit of air, however thin, between the material and the pot and/or soil. Afternoon shade helps the foliage but the morning sun can heat up the pot too much. A solid cover on the soil is not very desirable as it makes it hard to water. Long fiber moss on the surface will protect the soil and let water thru. Cloth on top of the moss would work and can be extended out to protect the sides of the pot. Aluminum foil has been used and some have built wooden boxes the same size as the pot to set the bonsai in but these are not desirable techniques as they do not leave any air space.

Get to know you trees like your children. Which ones use more water and which ones stay moist between waterings. If some are difficult to keep happy you can try moving those to a cooler location (but be sure they get their sunlight). Another trick is to group these together so that you can hit them with a shot of water twice a day and not have to spent the time going thru all your trees.

Extended damp weather (if we have it) is good for fungal diseases like black leaf spot and mildew. Treat weekly with potassium hydroxide, or sodium hydroxide (baking soda), or a 1% hydrogen peroxide.

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. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and 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. Always read the label directions carefully and never apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods.

If ants, or any other creature, are building nests in the soil, the tunnels and cavities will prevent proper watering and result in loss of roots. After you get rid of the ants be sure to grab your chopsticks and work the soil down and eliminate any holes. You will probably need to add a little more soil on top.

The best way to fertilize bonsai is by using fertilizer cakes. The cakes provide a slow constant feeding each time you water. Cakes made with a cottonseed base will provide as acid ph when they break down which we need in any city water system I know of. Making your own is easy and much cheaper than buying them. I use chemical fertilizers such as Miracid or Peters a couple of times a month also. My main problem with chemicals is not knowing how many bad salts may accumulate in the soil and also in knowing that each time I water I am washing the chemicals out on the ground.

DRAFT
LONE STAR BONSAI FEDERATION MEETING
MINUTES

April 11th 2013

Attendees:

Jay Nolen – San Antonio Pete Parker – Houston
John Muller – Austin Shannon Gilliland – Longview
Versie Marks – Corpus Christi Yvonne Padilla – Corpus Christi
John Miller – Dallas Steven Hendricks – Ft. Worth
Mark Bynum – Ft. Worth Kevin Preston – San Antonio
Michael Denholm – Longview Vivienne Denholm – Longview
Gail Williams – Ft. Worth Howard Smith - Dallas

President Jay Nolen called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

1. Approval of minutes

Copies of the meeting minutes from January 19, 2013 were distributed. Steven Hendricks made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by John Muller. Motion passed.

2. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed (attached). Steven noted that all of the clubs have paid their dues. An additional \$100 will be provided to Houston for seed money to bring the total to \$500 as planned. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a) At the previous meeting a question was raised about whether or not LSBF needed language in the By-Laws to allow us to remove an individual member if a need arises. Mark Bynum reported that the Member section of the handbook contains language that prevents an individual from joining LSBF, so no changes are needed.

b) Mark Bynum distributed a document summarizing the results of several reviews of our current insurance (attached). The document is intended to provide background for a more thorough discussion at our next meeting.

c) We reviewed the future plan for conventions. Versie and Yvonne indicated that Corpus could not move forward from 2016 to 2015, so the Board agreed that there will be no convention in 2015. This will impact the financing of the Texas Tour speaker in 2016, a subject that will be addressed at a later meeting. This also leaves open the question of whether we will skip a convention every five years, or the four groups who are now hosting conventions will go to a four year cycle. Since the next skipped year would be 2020, no action needs to be taken for some time yet.

d) As we discussed how to handle the Texas Tour speaker in 2016, several items were raised regarding the Texas Artist list. It appears that a review of the list

and the program that supports their presentations at local club meeting is in order.

CONVENTION REPORTS

4. San Antonio/Austin 2013

It was reported that 145 people had registered for the convention at the time of the meeting. This makes this the largest convention since the 2003 convention held in New Braunfels. The organizing clubs feel that having the convention at the convention center has allowed for a less expensive convention for attendees which helps the attendance. The convention is less expensive because a caterer provides the food rather than the host hotel, attendees have a wider range of choices for hotels,

5. Houston 2014

The 2014 convention will be held at the Houston Marriott-Westchase. This is the same venue as the last convention in Houston, but Donald has arranged for additional space for the exhibit and for vendors. Planned artists are Peter Adams, David DeGroot, and Arthur Joura with Jim Doyle as an alternate if arrangements do not work out with one of the other artists. Current plans are for 12 workshops (nine with provided material and three BYOT). Material purchased so far includes cotoneaster, Green Mound juniper, shohin Black Pine, and wisteria. A brochure will be distributed at the banquet on Saturday evening. The organizing committee will hold their second meeting on April 23.

LSBF TOURING ARTIST

6. Pete Parker distributed the schedule for Cheryl Manning's tour this fall (attached). Given no objections to the schedule Pete will go ahead and make travel arrangements.

7. Howard Smith reported on the 2014 Texas Tour by Peter Tea. Howard is preparing to send out a draft schedule, but is wondering if we should extend the tour to allow for individuals to hire Peter for private work during the tour.

NEW BUSINESS

Jay appointed Versie Marks, Steven Hendricks, and Kevin Preston as the nominating committee for the LSBF Board officers for next year.

The National Bonsai Foundation has asked if they could put a blurb in the LSBF newsletter to raise money for the renovation of the Japanese pavilion at the Nation Arboretum in Washington, D.C. There were no objections from the Board.

Steven Hendricks made the motion to adjourn, seconded by John Muller. We adjourned at 5:38 PM. The next meeting of the Board will be on October 12 at a location to be determined.

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 by Editor)