



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

March 2012 vol 15

March 2012 Programs by Bill Boytim

Bonsai styles include many that have more than one tree in the planting. In some cases the design is accomplished with all of one variety of trees in other cases it is done with more than one variety of trees. There are forest Bonsai containing numerous trees, John Naka's Goshin is one of the more famous forest plantings. There are the Saikei that include trees, rocks, plants, moss and results in a miniature landscape. Through the use of various sized trees and their placement, a realistic perspective is created in these multi-tree Bonsai.

At our **Wednesday March 14** meeting Chuck Ware will provide some insight on how to design and develop a multi-tree Bonsai. Members are asked to bring their multi-tree Bonsai to the meeting to help illustrate some of the various design styles that have been created in the past.

The member's workshop on **Tuesday March 20** will be conducted by Mike Watson and each paid up member will receive five Bald Cypress seedlings to create their own multi-tree Bonsai. Additional seedlings will be available for \$1.50 each. Suggested materials to bring to the workshop include: large pot, screen for the pot holes, wire to secure the trees, bonsai soil, Bonsai tools, and spray bottle with water. A sign up list will be available at the March 14 meeting.

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

**March 14th ABS Monthly Meeting
Reception**

**Hosts: Elaine White, Zerita Rogers & Audrey Lanier
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**March 14th ABS Monthly Meeting
Multiple Tree Designs**

**by Chuck Ware
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

March 20th ABS Board Meeting

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

March 20th ABS Member's Workshop

**Workshop - follow-up Multi-tree Bonsai
from General Meeting**

Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



**Elaine White demonstrates Root-over-Rock
at our February 2012 Meeting**

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 Mike Watson

Spring is in the air and I have the allergies to prove it! I must admit that I will miss the cold, quiet, lazy days of winter. But, as the new buds spring forth from my trees, so does my excitement for all things bonsai. My backyard has become a chaotic mix of new (and old) soils, pots, wire, clipped roots and branches, and newly potted trees. Hopefully, once the dust clears (pun intended), I will have repotted most of my trees that really need it. Buds are busting out all over so the short window of opportunity is quickly closing.

There's some fun stuff coming up in the next three months! First off is the annual Zilker Garden Festival on March 31st and April 1st. We always have a great turnout at our display and it's a blast to just hang out, work on trees, and talk to the curious folks who come in to see what it's up with these beautiful little trees. If you're not signed up as a volunteer for the exhibit, consider just coming down and hanging out with us for a bit. No commitment, just "the more the merrier"!

Second is the Dallas convention on the last weekend of April. I hope you've registered! I've never been to a convention in Dallas so I am looking forward to it.

Third is our own annual bonsai show in May. This event is always fun! Keep it in mind and start getting your show trees ready.



Root over Rock
Photo by Joey McCoy

AUSTIN BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

February 7th, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Watson at 7:28 pm at the Zilker Park club house. Mike thanked Joey McCoy and Phina Chen for the lovely refreshments. Deb Van Cleaf introduced the visitors, Eric and Maria Flaniken, and new members, Dario Octovians and Bob and Nancy Gordon. Joey McCoy announced that the next planning meeting for the 2013 convention will be on Sunday February 26th at 1:00 pm at Jade Gardens Nursery in Wimberly. All are welcome to attend. Becky Drozd announced that she is collecting things for the raffles at the convention. They can be brought to her at the meetings and she will store them. She also needs coffee cans, any size, for the tickets at the raffle. The raffle is the main place that our club will make money at the convention, so the more things we have the higher our take will be. Pat Ware announced that she needs volunteers for refreshments for August and November, and she got the volunteers. Alisan Clarke and Zerita Rodgers have the bags of products you need for serving, so please pick those up prior to leaving tonight.

Alisan asked if the club wants to do demonstrations of bonsai work at the pond society open houses this year. She needs to know by next month for the tour which will be in June. Call her if you want to volunteer.

The LSBF newsletter, "Texas Bonsai" is in the back of the room for us to pick up.

Bill Boytim introduced the program, Root Over Rock Bonsai, with Elaine White doing the demonstration. The workshop on Tuesday will allow us to practice the procedure. Bill will have the seedlings and we need to bring the rest; pots, soil, wire, cotton string, muck. Elaine put together a fine program with a sheet to give us instructions on the process.

Bill also announced that he has extra Bald Cypress seedlings if people want to take one home. They will be a part of the workshop on rafts at a coming workshop. More information will be in the newsletter.

Many of the new members and visitors won the raffle drawing. It was good to have them be a part of it.

Adjournment at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Jenkins, Secretary

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REMINDER:

DUES ARE *PAST DUE!!*

*DUES MUST BE PAID BY NEXT MEETING
TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
2011 DIRECTORY*

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12404 Ranch Road 12
Wimberley, TX 78676
(512) 847-2514

e-mail: bonsaijg@gmail.com

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

Bonsai Calendar

- SSOT meeting schedule for 2012:

March 31 Choose our LSBF/BSD Convention exhibit, plus a BYOT hands on workshop; June 23 Part II Diaza workshop; Sept. 15 Annual business meeting and panel critique.

- 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.

NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!

This will be the last ABS Newsletter to non-paid members, so please bring Dues payment to the March 14th General Meeting.

Zilker Garden Festival Tickets to be given to Members who have paid their dues no later than the March General Meeting.

Directories to be given to paid Members at the March General Meeting.

February 2012 ABS Root over Rock Workshop



(Photos by Marvin Chambers)

February 2012 ABS General Meeting - Root-over-Rock



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

March 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.

The mild winter has caused a mixup the normal time frame plants. Some break dormancy based on temperature and have already started growing. Those that rely on day length have stayed on their normal schedule.

Regardless of where you live in Texas, there are probably three things calling for your immediate attention. Repotting is still being needed; new growth is running rampant and needs to be controlled; and you must keep any tree to be exhibited at the spring shows well groomed. Throw on top of that an aphid invasion or some scale and you should be plenty busy.

After growth starts some species can take a couple degrees of frost but unless you know what your particular tree can take you should keep it from freezing. Also, newly growing roots are more tender. In this area you should keep the new foliage out of the strong winds however they should have some breeze to help harden the new foliage and to help keep insects and fungal diseases at bay.

By this time most of you have finished repotting the early breaking species. Late starting species like the yaupons and oaks might still be candidates for repotting this year.

In order to develop the ramification and fine twigs you want you must be pruning the new growth as its develops. Waiting until the shoots are three or four inches or longer results in coarse twigs with long internodes. These will have to be cut off and new ones developed if you are to have a

good bonsai.

Essentially there are two kinds of growing habits, those with leaves growing alternately on the twigs, e.g. elms, oak, and hawthorn, and those with opposite growing leaves, e.g. maple.

The alternate growing leaves start out with small leaves and each succeeding leaf will be larger and the internodes longer. Also each leaf will have a latent bud in each leaf axial. If you let the shoot grow to 4 or 5 new leaves and cut it back to 2 or 3, you will be keeping smaller leaves and also getting twice as many growing tips on each branch and each will be a finer twig. Keep this up and you will soon have nice development on the branches of your bonsai. In determining whether to cut to two or three, note the direction that you wish the end of the branch to take and cut to the leaf which has the bud on that side of the branch. Note: If last years twig has been let grow long it should be cut back to the first 2-3 buds and start over.

Tweezers are almost a necessity in working on maples. The opposite growing leaves clasp the new growing tip and will be extending from the old bud but on a lengthening stem. If the new tip is taken off as soon as the leaves separate, the result is that the leaves will be smaller and the stem will stop lengthening. Then two new tips will pop from the new leaf axials and you will repeat the tip plucking. Tweezers work much better for this job. I will sometimes separate the new pair of leaves from the new tip with tweezers but be careful not to bruise them.

Junipers should not be pinched. Junipers should be trimmed (plucked) with the fingers. As the new growth develops grasp the twigs with one hand spreading the foliage in a fan shape. Then with the other hand grasp the tips between the fleshy part of you thumb and finger and pull it off. Using fingernails or scissors will result in

continued... pg 6

brown tips on the junipers.

AS the weather warms up the insects will surely make their appearance. Use the foliar spray (1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar per gallon of water, weekly to control aphid, mites, caterpillars, etc. Spring usually means wet weather so weather for fungal problems such as blackspot. I usually only get it on hollies and elms. You can use a 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide or baking soda spray for fungal problems. Do not mix baking soda with the foliar spray.

Use fertilizers sparingly at this time. Most contain a healthy supply of nitrogen which causes too much lanky growth. So far I haven't had any problems using the foliar spray probably because organics need warmer weather to break down into plant soluble nutrients and therefore are not as stimulating in this weather.

Fertilizing is necessary once the trees start to grow. Too many trees exhibited do not have a good dark green foliage. Since we are using soil-less mixes for the most part, a different technique is required than used for most potted plants. Water soluble chemical fertilizers should be used at half strength and more often since they will wash out with the next watering. The same is more or less true with liquid organic fertilizers. The best technique is to use solid organic fertilizers. Fertilizer cakes on the surface is the best way. They break down slowly and a small amount is carried into the root zone each time you water. Pelletized organic material can be spread on the surface also but they tend to crumble and create an undesirable surface. Be sure that the material you use has a balanced formula and not high in nitrogen.

ABS May Board Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2011

Present: Nan Jenkins, Ken Lakin, Joey McCoy, John Muller, Pat Ware, Mike Watson

Call to Order was at 7:09 pm.

Treasurer's Report: At the end of January we had \$468.13 income over expenses. There was a question about the number of members we have, but that is not yet clear since all have not paid their dues.

Secretary Report: Approved with the correction of the spelling of Pat Ware's name in the beginning.

Old Business: Bill announced that the seedlings for the March workshop are here.

New Business: Timmi Kuykendall had heard from Yvonne Padilla wanting to know the dates when we want the LSBF visiting artist at our club. After much discussion, the decision was made to have him for one workshop on Sunday afternoon, hopefully at MBP Bonsai Nursery as we did last year. So Michael Feducia will be here on Sunday, September 30th, with the workshop time to be decided later when we know his flight schedule.

Pat reminded us that dues are due by the March meeting in order to receive the membership directory and be included in it.

Adjournment at 7:40.

Special Called Meeting

Austin Bonsai Society Board

February 7, 2012

Present: Bill Boytim, Nan Jenkins, Ken Lakin, John Muller, Pat Ware, Mike Watson, and guest, Charlotte Cranberg

Call to Order at 7:10.

The meeting was called to make a decision concerning a financial request that Charlotte brought to us from the Austin Area Garden Clubs. They are requesting a donation from all of the clubs to cover the costs of purchasing gifts certificates to raise additional money at the AAGC Festival. The money raised will be used to pay for security at club meetings.

After much discussion, Nan moved to give them \$100, seconded by Mike Watson. It was passed by a 5-1 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:25.

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

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