



# Bonsai Notebook

[www.austinbonsaisociety.com](http://www.austinbonsaisociety.com)

*A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society*

*March 2013 vol 27*

## March 2013 Programs

by Bill Boytim

### Insects

On **Wednesday March 13th**, Wizzie Brown from the Travis County Agri-Life Extension Service will present a program on insects that attack our plants. She has her B.S. in Entomology from Ohio State University and her M.S. in Entomology from Texas A&M University. Wizzie is the Extension Program Specialist with the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. She will have a presentation with photographs and control suggestions. She will also answer your questions.

Wizzie Brown has appeared on the Central Texas Gardener many times. She is the resident insect and arthropod expert for The Travis County Extension service.

**Tuesday March 19** Workshop Bring your insects in and look at them under a microscope. Help in identifying your insects will be provided.

## Calendar of Events

**March 13th ABS Monthly Meeting**  
Reception Hosts: Nan Jenkins ,  
Timmi Kuykendall & Russell Kohlert  
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

**March 13th ABS Monthly Meeting**  
**Insects that Attack our Plants**  
by Wizzie Brown  
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

**March 19th ABS Board Meeting**  
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

**March 19th ABS Member's Workshop**  
**Workshop - Identifying your Insects**  
**Under a Microscope**  
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



**Bill Boytim demonstrating - Approach graft,  
Thread graft, Cleft graft  
at the February 2013 General Meeting**

## Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

**Nan Jenkins**  
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**Bill Boytim**  
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**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 inc

hes. 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).

## President's Message by Nan Jenkins

Whew! What a month it has been! I've been potting and repotting, trimming and wiring a bit. I'm really glad we had that coldish spell toward the end of the month since that slowed things down a little bit. At least my peach tree isn't blooming yet, nor is the Mexican Plum. I'd like to see some fruit on them this year.

Now that most of my repotting is done, I'm thinking about convention and our ABS auction in September. I'm trying to decide which trees I am ready for someone else to work on, which ones I want to keep, and which ones I just need to plant in the yard. I am in the process of working toward better trees, so those decisions don't necessarily mean fewer trees in the yard, but at least, the ones I have will be ones that "speak to me" in terms of what I might do with them.

I'm also thinking about my pots and which ones of those I really don't like that I'd be willing to give away. I started gathering better pots a couple of years ago, so I have several starter bonsai pots that just may end up in the convention raffle or at our auction.

If you have been saving things to add to the raffle for the convention, bring them to this meeting! Becki is busy cataloguing what we have and deciding how to put them in the raffle. If you want to wait to bring your trees that you are giving away, please give her a list of them so she can decide where to raffle them. But don't wait until the very last day. That isn't fair to Becki. Also, if you have things to put in the goody bags, please bring those things also.

It's going to be a fast trip between now and convention. I hope you have all submitted your registration since the price goes up March 15th. It's going to be FUN!

Nan

**Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting  
February 19, 2013,  
Zilker Clubhouse**

Present.: Nan Jenkins, Russell Kohlert, John Muller, Pat Ware,  
Joey McCoy

Call to Order was at 7:05 pm.

The minutes were approved as presented in the Bonsai Notebook.

Pat Ware presented the treasurer's report. She said that we still have about \$1000 in the convention fund, so that is going well. Report approved as received.

There was discussion about the Emerging Talent Contest at the convention, which will be on Thursday evening and is only for people who have been in bonsai work for seven years or fewer. John moved and Nan seconded that we pay the registration fee for our elected representative. There are only a few people who are qualified because of the time limitations and membership in ABS. Nan will contact some of them to see who would like to participate in this contest.

We discussed ideas for upcoming programs for 2013. The April 10th meeting will be with Walter Paul who will do an assessment of trees that we bring in. The number allowed will be announced later. The board also recommended that we have one or two meetings that deal with beginners' issues since it has been a little while since we did that. Bill Boytim will choose when to do those programs.

We discussed the Zilker Fest. Alisan Clarke has volunteered to take the lead on this to be sure that we will have a display and information present for this very important opportunity to share our art with others. We will be in the green room, where we can display trees, do some trimming and wiring, and visit with the many people who come by to see what we do. Alisan needs several people to help out. You can come for an hour or two to be at our booth and visit with people. Experience is not necessary! It is a fun time, and pretty laid back. There is free parking, and a free T-shirt for four or more hours of work.

Adjournment was at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nan Jenkins, acting secretary

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## **REMINDER:**

**DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE!**

**THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER  
IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR  
DUES!!!!!!!!!!!!**

PLEASE BRING TO MEETING OR MAIL TO TREASURER

## **JADE GARDENS**

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

## **Bonsai Calendar**

- SSOT meeting schedule for 2013: **Mar. 23** - Convention Display, DYOT;

**June 1** - Logustrum 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](mailto:jcm2austx@sprintmail.com)*

## February 2013 ABS Program - Approach graft, Thread graft, Cleft graft



*(Photos by Joey McCoy and Editor)*

February 2013 ABS Program - Approach graft, Thread graft, Cleft graft, continued



*(Photos by Joey McCoy and Editor)*

## 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.*

By this time most of you have finished repotting. Late starting species like the oaks might still be candidates for repotting this year. I like to repot yaupons and olives a little later, mid-March or so. Since I am two weeks or more behind Dallas I have only done a few but will have many done in the next two weeks before our meeting.

If your area is subject to late freezes, check the forecasts and be sure to take precautions. Newly developing roots in either freshly repotted trees or in established pots can be tender to freezes. Trees with new sap flow will also be more tender. And of course the new foliage will not take the cold or the strong winds that dry it and cause leaf burn.

On a clear cold night you can get frost on the leaves even tho the temperature is above 32. Any overhead covering, patio, evergreen trees or a light cloth, will prevent that frost.

Now you should get your tweezers and shears ready for the real job ahead. In order to develop the ramification and fine twigs you want you must be pruning the new growth as it develops. More twigs mean smaller leaves also. 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. Tweezers are the preferred tool for this job. If you do the cutting at the right time the twig will still be soft and can be plucked with the tweezers. After a few tries you will be able to work faster with tweezers than with shears. I prefer tweezers with a dull point, sharp points catch the foliage and rounded points are too big.

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

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 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 have to repeat the tip plucking. Tweezers work much better for this job. I will sometimes help the new pair of leaves to separate from the new tip but be careful not to bruise them.

Junipers should be trimmed 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 brown tips on the junipers. If the juniper still has needle foliage you can avoid being stuck by moving your hand toward the tip while grasping the twig. This in effects causes the needle to lie along the twig while you are holding it.

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, etc. Spring usually means wet weather so weather for fungal problems such as black leaf spot. I usually only get it on hollies and elms. You may use a 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide for fungal problems.

If you have been doing a good organic program the ladybugs will keep the aphids and other soft bodied insects in check. The praying mantis come along later on when the weather is warmer. I am seeing a lot of mantis egg clusters since I dont use chemical sprays.

Use fertilizers sparingly at this time. Most contain a healthy supply of nitrogen which causes too much lanky growth. So far I havent 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.

Now is the time to pick out your show trees and make sure they get plenty of TLC and grooming to be at their best at show time. Take one to the LSBF convention exhibit in New Braunfels in April.

**Convention Chronicle #9**  
**Tree Ring Circus – April 11-14, 2013 New Braunfels TX**  
**www.lsbconvention2013.com**

**Hello all my Bonsai friends and family! I hope everyone is taking advantage of the early Convention registration rates that go until March 15th. If you are a long-time conventioneer, we're working hard to make this a terrific time that you've come to expect. If you are a first time attendee, please come and find out what everyone talks about each year! We are so lucky to have a yearly state convention like we have, so come to experience it, support it, and help it to grow.**

**We have two Hotels in the area with special Bonsai convention rates: The Faust (which is also the "home" hotel) with rooms starting at \$59 a night and Schlitterbahn Resorts with rooms starting at \$45 a night. You must ask for the special Bonsai convention rate. See our convention website for more info.**

**In addition to the workshop in native Cedar Elm, there is a workshop in a terrific species called a Hillier Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica* 'Jacqueline Hillier'). These are compact, dwarfed elms with tight leaf inter-nodes resembling a herringbone pattern. The leaves are delicately pointed and smaller than most species. They would be great trees for any level of experience, and would be a good choice for a beginner as they are robust growing and can withstand a lot of training. Expect small sized finished Bonsai from this workshop**

**The Saturday night auction, with valuable Bonsai and items available to the highest bidder, just received another fantastic bid item: a signed Fender Squire Stratocaster guitar autographed by Creedence Clearwater Revisited (2 of the 3 original living members of Creedence Clearwater Revival). In addition, the band is donating a CD and T-shirts as well. Do we have some music collectors out there??**

**Joey McCoy**  
**Convention Chair**

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**ABS General Meeting Minutes**  
**February 9, 2013**  
**Zilker Garden Club House**

Minutes are not available for the February General Meeting.

# 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



Tanuki Workshop  
*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*