



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

May 2012 vol 17

May 2012 Programs by Bill Boytim

Our featured speaker for our **Wed. May 9th** meeting is Warren Hill. Warren Hill was first introduced to Bonsai in 1960 while living in the Los Angeles area of California. Warren's formal Bonsai studies and training has been with a wide variety of Japanese Sensei (teachers) which include such notables as John Yoshio Naka and Saburo Kato. Since 1974 Warren has conducted lectures, demonstrations and workshops for numerous State, National and International Bonsai organizations.

In 1996 Warren was selected by the Federal Government, U.S.D.A., Agricultural Research Service, to be the Supervisory Curator for the United States Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C. During his tenure at the Museum, Warren was named as an advisor to the National Bonsai Foundation, Washington, D.C. On September 30, 2001 Warren retired after serving as head of the Museum's Staffing and Operations for five years.

After leaving Federal Service, Warren and his wife Sharon relocated to Sharon's home State of Tennessee. He established Tree Haven- Warren Hill's School of Bonsai. Warren maintains a busy teaching and appearance schedule throughout the Nation.

In addition to his busy teaching schedule, Warren has authored numerous articles on Bonsai and Horticulture for State, National and International publications. Notables include American Bonsai Society Journal, Bonsai Clubs International Magazine and Pacific Horticulture Journal.

Ten member trees will be evaluated by Mr Hill with comments on styling and general evaluation. There are still a few slots available, cost is \$15 per tree. There will be no raffle at the meeting. Prior to the meeting you are invited to have dinner with Mr. Hill at the Shady Grove restaurant on Barton Springs Road. We will meet at 5:00 pm at the Shady Grove.

Calendar of Events

May 9th ABS Monthly Meeting Reception

Hosts: Connie King

& Becki Drozd

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

May 9th ABS Monthly Meeting

**A few Member trees will be evaluated
by Mr Warren Hill**

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

May 15th ABS Board Meeting

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

May 15th ABS Member's Workshop

**Workshop - Member's tree grooming
for ABS Annual Show**

Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



Sheila Ward demonstrates Kusamono/Accent Plants at our April 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

As I'm writing this, it is one day away from the 2012 Dallas Bonsai Convention. I'm really looking forward to being there and seeing friends both from here and from afar. Seeing as we have a convention next year, it's also a good chance to take mental notes of what we need to do or not do. Take a look at the bonsai in the display and see if you can get ideas for your own trees, I know I will be. Most importantly though, it's a fun time and a great opportunity to learn!

We don't need to wait for the convention to apply our new found knowledge and ideas however. On May 19th and 20th we will hold our very own annual bonsai show. This is the highlight of the bonsai year in my opinion. We get to show our trees at their best and it will be a terrific rehearsal for our convention. If you don't have a bonsai that you want to show, consider bringing some accent plants or suiseki! Mostly it's a way for the club to teach the community about the art of bonsai. We always need volunteers to act as docents and also to help with the setup on Friday, May 18th and tear down on Sunday. Setting up is fun because you can learn how to make a display work with the materials at hand. Challenging and fun... I can't wait!



Photo by Joey McCoy

AUSTIN BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

April 11, 2012

The call to order was at 7:31 by president Mike Watson. We welcomed guests: Cecilia Small Cook, Merrit Boytim, Lenka Chladova, Ken Schroeder, and Margaret, Nate and Mason Jensen.

Charlotte made an announcement regarding the Zilker Festival. She said thanks to all those who helped at our booth or other festival booths. We did a total of 90 hours. Because of the increase in ticket prices, the number of people was down and some of the vendors were upset about that. All will have to be reviewed for next year. We were reminded to purchase bonsai stamps at the post office.

Mike Watson said that there are still places at the workshops at the Lone Star Bonsai Federation state convention in Dallas and encouraged all to register and attend.

Our annual exhibit will be May 19-20 at the Zilker Club House.

Bill Boytim announced that the speaker for the May meeting will do a program dealing with refining trees for exhibition. Members can sign up to be one of the 10 trees that will be looked at. The trees need to be in bonsai pots and already somewhat refined.

The speaker for this evening's meeting is Sheila Ward demonstrating Kusamono preparation.

These are not accent plants but accent type plants in a container of a size that can stand on its own and needs to be shown separate from the trees. The workshop next Tuesday will be an opportunity for members to do their own kusamono.

The raffle was held and all winners went away happy.

Adjournment at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Jenkins, Secretary

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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>

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

Bonsai Calendar

- SSOT meeting schedule for 2012:

June 23 Part II Diaza workshop; Sept. 15 Annual business meeting and panel critique.

- Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show May 19 & 20, 2012

- 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

April 2012 ABS Workshop - Kusamono/Accent Plants



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

April 2012 ABS General Meeting - Kusamono & Accent Plants



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

May 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.

In the Dallas area, May is the time you do the leaf pruning job if you have to do it. If you have kept the new growth pinched properly, you have been getting the ramification usually attributed to leaf pruning. The only good reason for leaf pruning is to replace foliage that has been damaged by wind or insects. On some individual plants that have large foliage, the new foliage will sometimes be smaller. Leaf pruning should be done after the spring foliage has matured and supplied the tree with enough nutrients to produce a good crop of new foliage. It must be done well before the summer heat causes the plant growth to slow or stop. I consider the very latest time in this area to be Memorial Day. Leaf pruning is done only on very healthy trees and never on the atropurpeum type of Japanese maple (Bloodgood is one). The tree should be fertilized 7 - 10 days before the operation. Cut the stems of those leaves that have them (maples) or cut across the leaf about 1/16 inch from the twig if leaves are attached direction on the twig (elms). It will not need as much water until the new foliage has developed.

When the azaleas finish bloom remove all seed pods and do any reshaping that is necessary. You have 2-2 1/2 months (that is mid-July) to work on them. They will start setting buds for next years flowers at that time.

When the nighttime temp stays above 60 degrees it is time to start repotting the tropical material. Since there are so many different requirements for tropicals I will not try to cover their individual needs here. But in general, I like to put them in shade and mist them until the new growth starts.

Warm humid days are favorable for fungal growth. Watch for mildew, black leaf spot on elms and

yaupons, among other. As an organic control you can use baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) or better use Potassium bicarbonate that you can get at a nursery. Hydrogen peroxide in a 1% solution (mix 1 part of the normal 3% commercial product with 2 parts water) can be used on mature foliage. It may burn tender foliage but its only by-product is water.

If you have insect problems you will need to apply your control, whatever you use, several times. For example, spider mites may go thru the cycle from egg to adult to egg in as little as 5 days. Therefore you should spray 4 times 5 days apart. Other insects will have a different cycle but that schedule should take care of almost everything.

Aphids, spider mites, and scale continue to be the most prevalent insects. The foliar spray of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar (1 tablespoon each per gallon of water) is all the control I use for them. Scale is the most difficult because it is usually covered with a waxy coating (the scale). You may need to use a horticultural oil mixed as directed on the label. Be sure that the direction you read is for summer use as some have two dosages given, one for dormancy (usually the first and strongest) and one for summer. Do not use an oil based spray on buttonwood. Always check to see if your plant is included on the label. Please note: the commercial organic spray sold as Garret Juice does not do the same as the above mixture. Use it as a fertilizer only.

If you see damage to the foliage or the plant is not doing well, look for other problems and if you dont recognize the culprit ask you favorite nurseryman for help.

Start checking your pots to see if the sun is heating them up. Our summer sun shining on dark pots can make the soil temperature soar and kill the roots. Try putting your hand on the pot. Roots are living organisms and cannot take high temperatures any more than you can. Heating also dries out the soil making you water more

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often. Any number of ways of keeping the pots cool will work, the requirement being to prevent the sun from getting to them. An inch or more of air space around the pot is desirable. I do not care for the aluminum foil methods because I don't care to have the light reflected into my eyes. A simple cloth with a slit to go around the trunk works fine, weight it down with a rock.

Remember all the work that you did in the spring? Keep the new growth trimmed so that you haven't wasted your time. While trimming or watering check the wiring periodically and remove it before it damages the branch. If the branch springs back some rewire it.

If you are not on a regular organic foliar/drench feed schedule be sure to use fertilizer cakes with supplemental feeding with a good liquid fertilizer, one that includes the minor elements. Most bonsai I see are malnourished. The liquid water soluble fertilizer gets washed out with the next watering and the tree starves until the next infrequent feeding. There are a number of fertilizers in pellet or cake form on the market or you can make your own.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2012

Minutes- Present Ken Larkin, John Muller, Mike Watson, Pat Ware, Bill Boytim, Joey McCoy. Call to Order 7:10 pm.

Minutes: no corrections to March minutes.

Treasurer's Report: ABS had a profit of \$578.26 for the year as of March 31.

New Business: Treasurer will look at new possible investments due to the low return with current Edward Jones account. Contract for food vendor for 2013 convention was signed and a \$300 deposit was made to hold vendor for the convention.

The next 2013 Convention meeting will be on June 3, at 1 pm at Jade Gardens in Wimberley.

Warren Hill will be featured speaker at the May meeting. An informal pay as you go dinner will be held with Warren Hill at the Shady Grove, starting at 5:00 pm. Ten member trees will be evaluated with suggestions for styling by Mr Hill. Each tree will cost \$15.

Current printer of the newsletter may change, looking at going all electronic.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36.

Submitted for Nan Jenkins by
Bill Boytim



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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