



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

May 2013 vol 29

May 2013 Programs by Bill Boytim

Bonsai Display and Accent Plants

In preparation for our **May 17 to 19 Show**, Joey McCoy will give a presentation on how to set up a Bonsai Display and how to use accent plants as part of the display at our May 8th regular monthly meeting. Please bring stands, bonsai, accent plants, scrolls, and viewing stones. This will be an interactive meeting with input from our members.

The **May 21st workshop** (this is an unusual month with the third Tuesday being over a week from our regular meeting) will be on different methods to propagate your plants. The featured method will be an air layer. Other propagation methods will also be demonstrated.

The Austin Bonsai Society will host their annual show on **May 18th and 19th** at Zilker Garden. **Friday May 17th** will be used to **setup** the display starting at 5:00 pm. Please meet at the garden center at 5:00 pm, the backdrops and other materials are already loaded and will be at the garden center at 5:00 pm no need to go to the storeroom this time. On **Sunday May 19th** at 5:00 pm we will need help to remove the displays and return the backdrops to the storage facility.

There will be a signup sheet for working the weekend and for those doing the demonstrations that will be passed around at the **May 8th**

Calendar of Events

May 8th ABS Monthly Meeting
Reception Hosts: Marlon Chen
and Ruby Chaing
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

May 8th ABS Monthly Meeting
Bonsai Display and Accent Plants
by Joey McCoy
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

May 21st ABS Board Meeting
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

May 21st ABS Member's Workshop
Workshop - Air Layering & other
Propagation
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



Bill Boytim demonstrating - Life in the Soil
at the April 2013 General Meeting
(Photo by Editor)

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 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.

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

Congratulations to Everyone who helped in any way to support the 2013 LSBF convention! It was a grand success! We heard rave reviews from many people. It was a lot of hard work, but looking back, I think it was all worth it.

Our biggest thanks go to Joey for his leadership as chairperson for the convention. And to all who chaired or helped with all the committees. We also deeply appreciate the San Antonio Bonsai Society who co-chaired with us. We need each other for this large an undertaking.

Now it is time to focus our attention on the ABS exhibit which happens in May. I remember the first time I dared to put a tree in the exhibit. It wasn't in any way a real bonsai, except for the pot! But just deciding to enter it helped me learn a great deal about how to prepare a tree, how to clean the pot and leaves, and how to risk having my creation on public view. It is good for us to do this. So I encourage all of you to find a tree or several, an accent plant, a stand, a scroll, or a viewing stone and bring it to the exhibit. You'll be amazed at how good it looks in a setting where everything is put together in a beautiful way. Take a risk. You'll be glad you did.

(BTW, be sure to come to the exhibit, volunteer to be a docent, etc. we have new goodies for the display. They beautify everything even more.)

Nan



(Photo by Joey McCoy at Convention)

Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting

April 10, 2013,
No minutes available.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2013
Zilker Garden Club House

Called to order: 7:07 PM

In attendance: Joey McCoy, Bill Boytim, Nan Jenkins, Russel Kohlert, Pat Ware and John Muller

Discussion on PVC pipe to fix our back-drops was had, and there was approval for approx. \$360 to do the repair.

The financial outcome of the Convention was not yet available, but all was considered profitable, well received, and successful.

The visiting Artist was discussed and more to come later.

A lost and found was established. Contact Joey with any inquiries.

We are looking for a storage space closer to Zilker Gardens. Any suggestions are welcomed.

Adjourned: 7:43 PM

Respectfully submitted by John Muller,

A

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Bonsai Calendar

- SSOT meeting schedule for 2013: *June 1* - Logstrum Workshop or Tropical with Stone;
Sept. 28 - Annual business meeting and panel critique.

- The 2013 Annual ABS will be May 18-19, 2013, at the Zilker Garden Club House

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

April 2013 ABS Program - Life in the Soil



Soil Water Retention

Water moves down through soil by gravity

Water moves up in soil by capillary action in small pore spaces

Water (a layer a few molecules thick) adheres to soil particles and is called hydroscopic water -this is important to soil life

Fungal to Bacterial biomass F:B

F:B 50:1 to 1000:1 Conifers

F:B 10:1 to 100:1 Maples, oaks, poplars

F:B 10:1 to 50:1 Orchards

Some plants change their requirements as they mature

Soil Particle Sizes

Bonsai Soil

Generally ranges from 12.0 mm to 1.6 mm (1/2 to 1/16 inch)

Compared to Ag Soil's range of 2.0 mm to less than 0.002 mm (5/64 to less than 0.0000786 inch)

Composed of mineral and organic material

With and Without Mycorrhiza



Mycorrhizal fungi spores. Courtesy Mycorrhizal Applications, www.mycorrhizae.com.



The pine on the left was treated with mycorrhizal fungal spores when planted; note the increased size of both the seedling and its root ball. Courtesy Mycorrhizal Applications, www.mycorrhizae.com.

(Photos by Editor)

Images from the Austin and San Antonio sponsored 2013 State Convention



(Photos by Joe 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.

May is the time to continue work on most species of bonsai, do leaf pruning if necessary, debud azaleas if too many buds, start repotting tropicals, plan for summer protection, and treat for spider mites again.

In general, May is the time you do leaf pruning 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.

I like to remove extra buds on azaleas so that the flowers have room to open fully. 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 until 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. Chemical controls may be used if you desire. A systemic type will be best for scale. Always follow the label directions explicitly. Do not use an oil based spray on buttonwood.

I use the foliar spray of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar (1 tablespoon each per gallon of water). Scale is the most difficult because it is usually covered with a waxy coating. 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. 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 your 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 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 dont 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 havent 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.

At a convention I once watched two good artists working on black pine, Roy had the student cut all needles to 1/4 inch. Boon had them pluck all old needles and left the 1 year needles full length. Both techniques will work if followed by the correct care for that technique. For this reason I dont say much on conifers in this column. Whichever way you do it you should learn the complete method of your instructor and not mix them. Dont change methods unless you have a very good reason. Then it may take a full year to get everything on track.



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)