



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

October 2012 vol 22

October 2012 Programs by Bill Boytim

Annual auction will be held at the **October 10th** meeting. The annual auction is the biggest fund raiser of the year for the society. We need both donors and bidders to make this a successful event. Please bring plants, bonsai materials and supplies and other items to the meeting to support ABS. Only cash or checks will be accepted for payment at the auction, we do not have the ability to take credit or debit cards.

Chuck Ware will serve as the auctioneer. Volunteers will move the items for Chuck during the auction. The front row of tables will be used to support the auction with an elevated turntable in the center near the podium. Items being auctioned will be displayed on the turntable during the bidding process. Items awaiting bidding will be moved from the back of the room to the table to the left of the podium and items with successful bids will be on the table to the right of the podium. Pat Ware will be stationed at the table to the right of the podium to record the bid price and the bidder's number. Please arrive early so that your items can be displayed and so that you can register and get a bidders number from Pat.

Please fill out the auction item labels (passed out at the last meeting and also available at the auction) with as much detail as possible. Items entered into the auction will have all the auction proceeds go to ABS. There will be no prorated bids between donor and ABS. If you have an item that you think should have a minimum bid, please annotate the label with this information and the minimum bid. Items with a minimum bid, that do not receive at least the minimum bid, have the option of the donor taking the item back or agreeing to the bid that was offered.

The **October 16th** workshop will be on maintaining bonsai tools, good time to recondition the tools you buy at the auction.

Calendar of Events

October 10th ABS Monthly Meeting Reception

Hosts: **Bill Boytim & Joe Trochta**
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

October 10th ABS Monthly Meeting Annual Auction

Zilker Garden Center 7: 00 - 9:00 pm

October 16th ABS Board Meeting

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

October 16th ABS Member's Workshop Members Workshop - Maintaining your Bonsai Tools with B. Boytim

Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



**Grafting/Tools and Equipment with Boytim/
Watson/McCoy - September 2012 ABS 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

Fall is definitely in the air! Most days are still a little hot but these cool nights are really nice. I've said it before but I'll say it again, this is my favorite time of the year. I get that nostalgic feeling and start craving apple cider with cinnamon and pumpkin pie. My bonsai can feel it too but instead of cider, they are craving low nitrogen fertilizer. I like to start giving them a nice 0-10-10 MorBloom (made by the Alaska brand) around the beginning of September. This will beef up the health of your trees without making them want to push new growth. Some of my trees are tempted to put out new leaves because of the break in the heat but I don't want them getting too carried away with that trend. I must stress that this is what I (and some other folks I know) do for their trees. If you have a different routine that works for you then stick with it. I've learned that what works for some bonsai growers doesn't necessarily work for all. I once read that feeding your trees sugar water in the late summer months would make the fall colors more attractive. I tried it once and all I got were a bunch of ants! I have since learned to be cautious about doing everything I read.

Autumn also means Auction! Look through your trees with an honest eye and see what you can live without. Freeing up space on your benches is always a good excuse to buy some new material. Be sure and bring your checkbook as well as your trees!



(Photo by Joey McCoy)

AUSTIN BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

September 12, 2012

Zilker Garden Club House

The Call to Order was at 7:30 by President Mike Watson.

Alisan Clarke **announced** that Austin Bonsai Society is participating in the Zilker Open House for newcomers to the Austin Area on September 28th, 10:00 to 5:00. Set up is 9:00-10:00. She invited anyone who wants to join her at the booth or to help set up or take down. She said it is a fun day of visiting with new people in our area.

The labels for the auction are available at the back table. Be sure to bring your trees to sell and your money to buy new ones! Cash and checks will be accepted but no credit or debit cards.

There are places available for the Michael Feduccia workshop on September 30th at 4:00 pm at MBP bonsai studio in Pflugerville. Call them for directions.

Bill Boytim **introduced** the program to be given by Bill, Mike Watson, and Joey McCoy on grafting. Each of them talked about different kinds of grafts and the tools needed to do them. The types of grafts presented were Approach Grafts, Thread Grafts, Veneer Grafts, and Peg Grafts. The program was very interesting and helpful for those who are interested in helping their trees look more balanced, older, or who just want to try something new. The book that Bill recommended was "The Grafter's Handbook," by RJ Garner. It is available from Amazon and perhaps other places as well.

Several people won items in raffle and all items were given away.

Adjournment was at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Jenkins, Secretary

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601 Kay Lane

Pflugerville, TX 78660

(call for directions)

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

- San Antonio Bonsai Society is holding their auction on Thursday November 8th at 7pm at the Lions Field Center at 2809 Broadway.
- SSOT meeting schedule for 2013: Feb. 16 Flat Root/Root over Rock; 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

Convention Chronicle #4

****April 11-14, 2013 New Braunfels, TX****

I'd like to tell everyone about our visiting artists for Convention. The "Tree Ring Circus" as it has been dubbed has three major headliners.

Walter Pall from Germany has been practicing Bonsai for over 30 years. He has advanced the ideas of a naturalistic form when styling Bonsai and also a holistic approach to the eternal struggle with fertilizer, soil substrate and watering. Walter's discussions are always lively and entertaining.

Colin Lewis originally from England, now living in Maine has been involved with Bonsai for almost 40 years and is the famous author of many Bonsai books including the fantastic "Art of Bonsai Design" which should be a must-read for all enthusiasts. Colin believes that Bonsai as an art form here should reflect the Western ideals we have and not just be a copy of another culture's aesthetics.

Erik Wigert from Florida has become an energetic voice representing a new wave of skilled Bonsai artists. Erik specializes in tropical species and is well versed on their care and culture. His is a name that will only grow in the coming years. In addition to the visiting artists, we will have programs by our local talent here in Texas. After all, we need to represent and appreciate our own masters. Among those scheduled to teach at the 2013 Convention: Terry Ward, Chuck Ware, Sheila Ward, Yvonne Padilla, Donna Dobberfuhl.& Alisan Clarke. So save the date and come to enjoy the Bonsai camaraderie!

Joey McCoy



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

September 2012 ABS General Meeting on Grafting and Tool Maintenance



(Photos by Editor)

October 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.

Time to take a good look at your tropicals. Before going into the dry low light conditions most of us have for winter quarters they need to be vigorous, pruned and free of problems. Give them a good feeding preferably with an organic fertilizer. If you use a water soluble type use a low dilution and feed every 2-3 days. Prune all new growth back to the trees best shape. Keep any new growth pinched to 2-3 leaves. Use your desired insecticide and/or fungicide now and again just before you take them in.

Remember that some tropicals do not like to go below 50 degrees while others are only semi-tropical and will take a frost but do not want their roots frozen. The buttonwood is an example of the first group and the crepe myrtle would be in the second. Here in the Dallas-Ft Worth area we will probably not see a freeze until late in November but there may be some cool nights in October. I prefer to leave the tropicals out as long as possible. I want the semi-tropicals to go dormant and then put them in a cool location to stay dormant all winter.

Get your wintering space clean and in good condition. If you wait until the temperature drops, you get too rushed and omit some of the little housekeeping duties. Start now by making sure that the area will be free of insects and other vermin

Kathy Shaner suggests removing the top half-inch of soil and replenishing it with new soil. This will remove weed seeds that have blown in and will make next year's job easier. Of course if you plan on repotting next spring it isn't necessary.

Feeding of deciduous trees should be discontinued for the winter. Evergreens and conifers will benefit

from a low nitrogen feeding. One such mix might be 70% cottonseed meal and 30% bonemeal. Being organic, this will breakdown into nutrients more slowly as the season gets cooler and the trees activity slows also. The organic spray given below can be used as a soil drench but dilute it a little more. Kelp is an excellent source of the essential minor elements needed by plants

Insects will continue to be present. Cooler (but not cold) days mean a resurgence of the aphids. Mites will also still be around and will jump into action during a warm spell. Scale also can be a problem. Treat with a light horticultural oil which will kill the adults and also wipe out the eggs and overwintering pupae. Be sure to cover all the cracks in the bark to get to the eggs. The organic spray (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water) will work on evergreens and will also give them some nutrients. The dead scale will probably have to be removed physically. A soft toothbrush works for me (I sometimes need to wet the branch to loosen the scale).

When the leaves start turning the sap has quit for the year and you may check the branches and twigs to see if any need to be trimmed. Cutting back any protruding branches will keep them from snagging and possibly breaking other trees when you put them down close together. Don't cut the buds off the spring flowering plants unless absolutely necessary if you want flowers next spring.

Some may repot in the fall but I feel that it is counter-productive to do so. New roots are more prone to freeze damage if we get a bad winter. It has been stated that the key to safe repotting is to minimize root disturbance and to exclude severe root pruning. This seems to me to be a recipe for developing root problems, poor drainage leading to root rot and the inability of the old soil to hold enough water to last all day. No heavy pruning will lead to the lack of refinement and a top heavy tree. I would recommend that repot at the proper time next spring which is when the buds swell and

continued... pg6

new growth is imminent.

Winter quarters: Remember that here in Texas more trees are lost in the winter due to drying out than to the cold. Of course that does not mean for you to leave the tropicals out or to let the roots freeze on southern trees like the crape myrtle. Even in a greenhouse or sunny window the soil can dry out amazingly fast. The wind in winter has amazing drying powers too. (Ask your grandmother about hanging the wash and letting it dry while it is frozen stiff.) So while you protecting the roots be sure to give it a wind screen and make sure

that you can check the soil for watering needs. (it helps here if you know which particular plants dry out faster and so you can situate them together. Winter kill usually comes because the soil has frozen and the sun or wind is removing water from the tops. The roots cannot obtain water to replenish the loss and the top desiccates to the point of death.

For the beginners, plants like the cedar elm, oak, maple that are hardy much further north can be set on a clean gravel bed. When the real cold (26 or lower) gets here cover the pots with 3-4 inches of a fairly loose mulch. Plants that grow south of Dallas, crape myrtle, firethorn, some azalea, need to have more root protection. I like to let them get frostbit but bring them in before freezing. Of course the tropicals need to be babied.

All this is basically talking about the broadleaf deciduous trees. Evergreens do not go fully dormant in winter and need to be exposed to sunlight. Some broadleaf types like boxwoods slow way down but still need sunlight. Some leave the needled evergreens on top of benches all winter but I prefer to give the roots the same basic winter protection of deciduous trees but they have a higher water need.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes September 18, 2012 Zilker Clubhouse

Present: Bill Boytim, Nan Jenkins, Joey McCoy, John Muller, Pat Ware

Call to Order was at 7:06 pm.

Bill Boytim **announced** that we still have openings for the Michael Feduccia workshop on Sept 30th at MBP.

The **annual auction** will be our October meeting on the 10th. The trees need to be marked with the labels that have been sent out and are available on the website. Each tree auctioned is a total donation, but members can put a minimum bid on a tree and if that isn't reached, then the owner may take the tree back or accept the bid. Chuck Ware will be our auctioneer. We will also send an announcement about the auction to the San Antonio club in case some of them would like to come.

The storage unit has been rented until December 1st.

Treasurer's Report was given by Pat Ware. As of August 31st, we had a net income for the year of \$383.32. Our main money raising event is the auction, so that increase will come in the October report.

Move to adjourn at 7:45.

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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