



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

September 2012 vol 21

September 2012 Programs by Bill Boytim

Grafting is used across the horticultural industry to propagate new plants, to effect the growth habits of a plant, to place multiple fruit varieties on one fruit tree, and to a lesser extent to repair injury to trees from storms, rodents and deer to name a few of its applications. In Bonsai grafting is used to add a needed limb to an area that will not bud back, or to change the texture of the foliage from a coarse needle to finer needle in evergreens. Now is not the best time of the year to do most grafting procedures, but it is an excellent time to get ready to graft in the early months of 2013. Many plants such as boxwood can still be propagated at this time of year to produce rooted cuttings/plants for thread and approach grafting in early 2013. Some of the requirements to graft include having the right tools and equipment, having the desired plant materials to provide grafting material, having a plan on what and where you want to graft, and having some time to dry run the procedures on non critical trees.

The **September 12th** program will be in three parts, the first will introduce the equipment and supplies that are generally needed for grafting. The next two parts will cover some Yaupon Holly grafts and techniques and the final part will cover some boxwood and other tree specie grafts. Joey McCoy will conduct the third part, Mike Watson will do the Yaupon and Bill Boytim will cover the tools and equipment.

The **September 18th** and October 16th workshops will be on maintaining and sharpening your Bonsai tools. This will be a good opportunity to learn how to sharpen a grafting knife and to maintain your other tools. Several members will provide help during these workshops and needed sharpening equipment.

The October 10th meeting is our annual auction. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire plant materials to use in future grafting. So as you absorb the information during the September meeting start thinking ahead to which of your trees would benefit from grafting and what type of plant materials you will need to acquire at the October Auction.

Calendar of Events

September 12th ABS Monthly Meeting Reception
Hosts: Mike Watson & John Muller
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

September 12th ABS Monthly Meeting
Grafting/Tools and Equipment
with McCoy/Watson/Boytim
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

September 18th ABS Board Meeting
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

September 18th ABS Member's Workshop
**Members Workshop - Maintaining/
Sharpening your Bonsai Tools**
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



**Supporting Scrolls for Bonsai with Alisan Clarke-
August 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

As we bid farewell to August I am relieved to say that this summer hasn't been so bad. Sure we hit 100 a few times but all in all, not bad at all. I had a couple of minor tree casualties from heat but nothing like last year. Now we head into September and I am already getting those first hints that fall is just around the corner. The days are getting shorter and my Trident maples are starting to get some red leaves already! A quick note, if you are a fan of trident maples and want to see some old full sized trident trees, there are some growing at the corner of 3rd street and Red River. The Austin Convention center offices are located there in an old historic building and I'm betting those maples have been there quite a while. If you like barbecue (not you Joey!), Iron Works Barbecue is right around the corner. That's how I happened to discover these great trees. Even better, they are full of seeds right now so... free trident seeds for the adventurous!

Don't forget to bring raffle items and coffee cans for next year's convention. It's right around the corner!



(Photo by Joey McCoy)

**AUSTIN BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL
MEETING
August 8, 2012**

Program Chairperson, Bill Boytim, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He thanked Victor Engel and Jim Bauman for the refreshments. There were no visitors or new members at this meeting.

Announcements: The Lone Star Bonsai Federation Visiting Artist will be Mike Feduccia, who comes here on Sunday, Sept 30th. We will have a workshop beginning at 4:00 at MBP Bonsai Studio, 618 Kay Lane, Pflugerville, TX 78668. There will be a limited number of participants, but all may come and observe.

Joey McCoy announced that the next LSBF convention meeting will be held at Jade Gardens in Wimberley at 1:00, September 9th. We need some additional volunteers for convention committees: Raffle and Goodie Bag committees. Joey also announced that The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit needs a webmaster. If you would like to do it, or know someone who would, please contact Joey. All members of ABS are also members of TTSBE and are invited to participate in the activities of the group.

Bill introduced the program. Alisan Clarke and Ruby Chasing presented the program on making scrolls for bonsai displays. The program was very helpful and informative. Ruby also showed us some of her Chinese knots that can be used with scrolls or other decorative ideas. Alisan announced that the workshop will be on Tuesday, August 21st, where we will be able to make two scrolls for ourselves. There will be an \$8.00 fee for supplies.

The raffle was held and many people got some lovely items.

Adjournment was at 9:20.

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>

JADE GARDENS

HOME OF



Chuck & Pat Ware
Owners
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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:**

Sept. 15 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 #3

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

The 2013 LSBF convention is shaping up to be quite an event. One of the workshops we're planning is Lagerstroemia indica, Crepe Myrtle. The variety we have is a medium dwarfed variety with brilliant Fuchsia colored flowers. The cultivar variety is not known because they were collected in Austin from a construction site. Due to years of open ground growth, they all have nice trunks with movement and lots of branches to work with. Crepe Myrtles are an important flowering species in the south, giving us riots of color during the otherwise crispy summer heat. The beautiful smooth peeling bark reveals tones of pink, beige, and gray, and with time will develop a "muscling" look from the living veins underneath. They heal wounds well, can take as much heat as our summers can throw at them and are deciduous giving the option of a winter silhouette. They're great trees, and I'm sure this workshop will be a sellout!

Next Convention meeting is Sunday September 9th at 1pm at Jade Gardens in Wimberley. Everyone is welcome to attend, we will be discussing our progress so far and will answer any questions.

Joey McCoy
Convention Chair



Crepe Myrtle
(Photos by Joey McCoy)

Supporting Scrolls for Bonsai - 2012 August Workshop



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

August 2012 ABS General Meeting on Supporting Scrolls for Bonsai



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

September 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.

Coming in from triple digit temperatures so what do I write about? Why getting ready for temperatures in the teens naturally. Will be a while before you will be moving them but taking three months to plan your winter quarters beats trying to do it right overnight. Bonsai in Texas should be a year around sport, you don't need to cover them completely like up north. Try to put them where you can see some of them. Just remember that they will still need water and evergreens will need some sun. Pots should not be sunk into the soil because of drainage problems and possible worms and other soil critters. Deciduous trees do not need winter sun and in fact do better without it, less desiccation and less possibility of breaking dormancy too early in the spring. I think deciduous trees are more enjoyable when bare.

Note: A lot of the information in these articles pertain to bonsai that has been shaped and is in a refinement stage. For instance, on trees being developed you would not use twig cutting after 4-5 leaves but would let those branches grow to get thicker and then cut back pretty severely and let grow again to get taper and better bends and angles.

There will probably still be some days with pretty hot temps. So as the sun changes its angle make sure that the pots do not get too hot in the afternoon sun. Also watering now becomes harder. As trees slow their growth they do not take as much water. Neither will they transpire as much on the cooler days. So check each one separately and water as often and as much as the individual tree requires.

Help your trees go into dormancy. Cut back on nitrogen fertilizers from those outdoor trees now. They would need less water as they quit active growth but on warm days trees with green foliage will still transpire and need that water. Most tropicals have a dormant season also but it is caused by dry conditions rather than cold. These types need to be hardened also by cutting the fertilizer to halt active growth and give them lighter watering. This will enable them to withstand the transfer to the greenhouse better.

The general rule of thumb on fertilizers is to stop giving nitrogen early in September and fertilize with one that has a formulation like 0-10-10. The reason is that nitrogen causes foliage growth to occur and will not have time to mature before a freeze occurs. The other two, phosphorous and potassium, help the general hardiness of the plant and can be applied now. Evergreens, both needled and broadleaf, and tropical species that will be kept growing thru the winter will benefit from a low nitrogen fertilizer.

Check the trees you still have wire on. When the cooler days get here some trees will expand their branches and get wire cuts rather quickly. You need to check them periodically over the winter also. Winter growth will usually be pretty slow but can occur, especially on the evergreens. Cut the wire off. You can easily break the branches trying to unwrap the wire and its just not worth trying to save the wire. Be sure you do not overlook a small piece of wire. It would cut into the branch very soon. If you need to reapply some wire take care.

There is not too much to be done on deciduous trees at this time. Bugs and other problems are usually not a matter of concern since the foliage will be dropping soon. Evergreens and tropicals will still need to be watched for their insect problems, especially the spider mite which will be active into fall. Use the organic spray formula

continued... pg 6

to control them. If we should have a stretch of damp weather you should be watching for fungal problems, leaf spot, mildew, etc. Treat fungal with potassium bicarbonate, (baking soda-sodium bicarbonate- will work about as well). I would be okay with using a 1% hydrogen peroxide solution at this time of the year for fungal control.

The organic spray formula is one tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water. This supposedly can be used as a foliar feed but I only consider it an insecticide.

Pruning and trimming 'can' be done any time that there is not a lot of sap flowing but is usually advisable to do it during dormancy. Sap flow is indicated by the foliar activity of the plant like in the spring. If your tree went into summer dormancy which occurs during hot weather then the cooler weather might result in a larger sap flow in late summer or early fall. If your plant gets a flush of new growth it would be advisable to postpone large pruning cuts for a while. Basically let your tree tell you when it is ok to operate.

If you will be participating in any fall or winter shows you should select which trees you want to use and give them close attention. Clip any stray branches or twigs. Keep any growing twigs trimmed. Clean the soil and pot. Select the stand and decide on an accent plant. Make sure the accent plant reflects both the normal habitat of the tree and the season. For example, once for a December exhibit I used a dead clump of little bluestem grass, dug and planted in sand, as an accent for a bare cedar elm.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2012

Zilker Clubhouse

Present: Bill Boytim, Nan Jenkins, John Muller, Mike Watson, Joey McCoy

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Watson at 7:08 pm.

The decision about possibly moving our rental unit was made to extend the time at the present unit for three more months while we continue to try to find another unit closer to Zilker park that is the right size, temperature controlled and of a similar price.

There was continuing discussion regarding the visiting artist, Michael Feduccia, who is from Florida. He will be arriving on Sunday afternoon, September 30th. The workshop will be at MBP Bonsai Studio 4:00- 8:00 in the evening. There will be a limit of 8 participants who will bring their own trees for guidance on continuing the bonsai process. The cost for the workshop, which will only cover expenses to the club, will be \$30.00 per person.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:37, so that the board members could also go to the scroll workshop.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Jenkins, Secretary
Adjournment was at 7:40.

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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ADDRESS: 8906 Wall Street, Suite 507
Austin, Texas 78754

PHONE: 512 719 9999 FAX: 512 719 9997

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