



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

June 2009

June Programs by Mike Watson

What a beautiful display we had for the show this year! It would not have been a success without the help of all of our dedicated members. I want to thank all of you for coming together and making my job easy! I am proud to be a member of such a great club.

Suiseki is the art of taking a stone and displaying it in a way that both brings out its beauty and evokes a feeling of a setting in nature. A mountain, a waterfall, an island... these



*A Cedar Elm on display during
the annual show*

Calendar of Events

June 6 Shohin Society of Texas Meeting
Tropical Tree Workshop plus Swap & Sale
Persimmon Hill Bonsai 10:30 a.m.

June 10 ABS Monthly Meeting Reception
Hosts: Sunny Huang and Sheila Ward
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm
(Hosts for July's reception: Deborah Van Cleef
and Becki Drozd)

June 10 ABS Monthly Meeting
Suiseki Display with Peter Aradi
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

June 16 ABS Board Meeting
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

June 16 ABS Members Workshop
Bougainvillea with Els Ulug
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

are just some of the scenes we can create. In combination with bonsai something magical can be achieved.

For our **monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 10th**, we will have an esteemed guest from San Antonio, Mr. Peter Aradi. Mr. Aradi is an accomplished aficionado in the art of suiseki. He will speak to us about these stones and show us the best way to display them. If you have a suiseki, or are interested in this ancient art form, please do not miss out on this opportunity!

The subject of our **member's workshop on Tuesday, June 16th**, will be Bougainvillea and will be led by our own Els Ulug. Bougies are beautiful, summer loving plants and now is the time to work on them. Of course, you do not have to own one to attend. If you have other material that you would like to work on, or just want to hang out, please come!

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.

Collin Murphy is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". He may be contacted at ckmurphy2000@yahoo.com.



**PERSIMMON HILL BONSAI
STUDIO & NURSERY**

Terry & Sheila Ward **Austin, Texas**
512-280-5575 - phbonsai@sbcglobal.net - By Appointment

President's Message by Joey McCoy

Each year our group pulls together to put on one heck of an exhibit, and this last May was no exception! This was **Mike Watson's** first year as Exhibit Chair, so be sure to thank him for such a great job! Of course it wouldn't have happened without all of the great trees, accent plants, stones and accessories brought by our members.

I'd really like to thank

-All the workers who generously came to pick up all our show equipment from storage and drive it down to Zilker.

-All the people who helped set up the show.

-Each person who volunteered during the show, meeting the public, selling raffle tickets and watching our trees.

-The people who brought refreshments, food and drinks that we all enjoyed.

-All the folks who helped take down the show, carefully and quickly disassembling the parts and boxing everything up. Everything moved quicker and more smoothly than I can remember in the past.

-Our fearless volunteers who drove the equipment back to storage and rearranged everything, putting it all now into a smaller unit to help to save the club money!

Congratulations also some of our raffle winners: Julie Proshek, Roberto Ainslie, Connie King, & Deb Van Cleaf

We may have had a deluge of rain on the first day, but it didn't seem to dampen our spirits (pardon the pun). It's always a magical time to be able to show off our trees in a formal or semi-formal setting, and I had many comments from the public on how nice it all looked.

ABS May General Meeting Minutes

by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and thanked Collin Murphy, Nan Jenkins, and Timmi Kuykendall for hosting.

Joey then introduced new member Julie Proshek, and guests Rochelle Bridges, Jim Bridges, and Helen Prochek.

Joey reminded everyone about the show this weekend and the need for trees to exhibit as well as volunteers. The show will be setup on Friday. During the show on Saturday and Sunday at least 3 volunteers will be needed at any given time. The roles are for door clicker, raffle ticket seller, and docent. Volunteers are also needed Sunday to help break down. The show hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

TTSBE is accepting donations for their booth at the show.

Joey introduced Mike Watson who also discussed the upcoming show and invited everyone to attend.

Mike then introduced Bill Boytim who gave a program on bonsai stands, just in time for the show!

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web page: <http://www.wimberley-tx.com/~bonsaijg>

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.

Bonsai Calendar

SSOT Quarterly Meeting
BCI Annual Convention
World Bonsai Convention
SSOT Quarterly Meeting
California Shohin Seminar

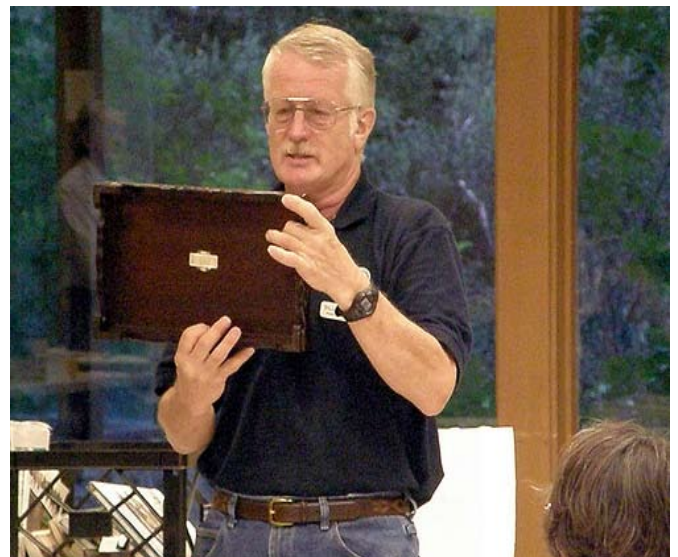
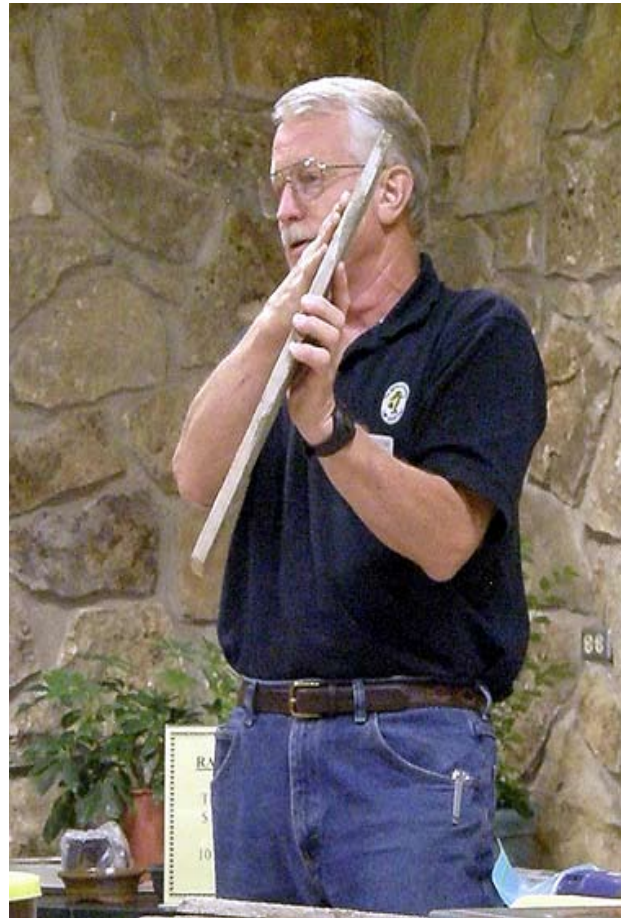
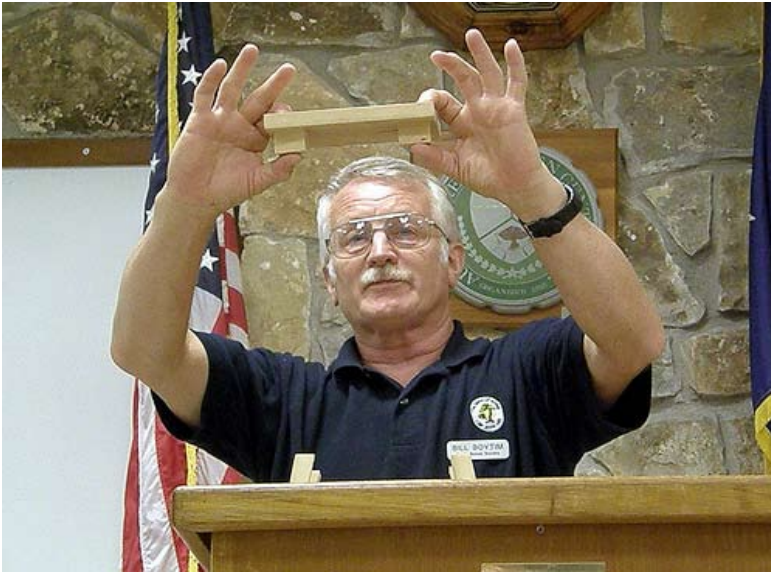
Persimmon Hill Bonsai
New Orleans, LA
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Persimmon Hill Bonsai
Santa Nella, CA

June 6, 2009
June 19 - 21, 2009
July 7 - 13, 2009
September 19, 2009
February 5 -7, 2010

Know of an upcoming Bonsai event of interest to club members? Send the details to ckmurphy2000@yahoo.com and it will be posted here.

Bonsai Display Stands with Bill Boytim

Photos by Joey McCoy



Bill showed several different types of stands and also gave tips on how to create stands

Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show

Photos by Joey McCoy



Ulmus crassifolia



Crataegus



Ulmus parvifolia



Acer palmatum

Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show
Photos by Joey McCoy



Cotoneaster



Pinus thunbergiana



Pinus thunbergiana



Celtis sinensis

Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show
Photos by Joey McCoy



Acer palmatum

Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show
Photos by Joey McCoy



Suiseki

Member's Workshop: Yaupon Hollies

Photos by Joey McCoy



Chuck gave styling advice to members who brought in their Yaupon and other trees.

Directory Additions

TTSBE CALL FOR DONATIONS

TTSBE will be vending at this year's annual show this month. The annual show provides a great opportunity for fundraising.

TTSBE is asking for bonsai-related donations that will be sold during this year's show. If you have an item you wish to donate, please contact Alisan Clarke or any other TTSBE board member.

*Julie Proshek
1811 Palma Plaza
Austin TX 78703
(512) 477-2626
julieproshek@aol.com*

*Rebecca Coucke
402F Spinnaker
Lockhard TX 78644
rebeccacoucke@att.net*

*Kevin Preston
27925 Bonn Mountain
San Antonio TX 78260
(830) 438-2140
ccpi1980@gvvc.com*

June 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.

If ants, or any other creature, are building nests in the soil, the tunnels and cavities will prevent proper watering and result in loss of roots. After you get rid of the ants be sure to grab your chopsticks and work the soil down and eliminate any holes. You will probably need to add a little more soil on top.

This year has been pretty weird. I had a freeze in the middle of April. You might still be able to leaf prune if you need to but be careful, it could turn hot in a hurry. Remember do it only on healthy vigorous trees. Put the tree in a semi-shaded location out of the wind until new foliage appears. Again never leaf prune the atropurpeum varieties of Japanese maples, they do not rebud but will usually come out again next spring.

However, some tropicals can be leaf pruned all summer. The Ficus nerifolia especially benefits by leaf pruning and can be done more than once each summer. That will develop the heavy twiginess you see in the Ficus bonsai from the Far East.

When night temperatures stay above 60 degrees you can think about repotting some of the tropicals. I would wait another month tho for the buttonwood. I am going to work on some Grewia that need it but missed earlier due to convention and flu. I will strip all the leaves and then repot. Ask me next month how they did.

It is important to continue the twig pruning of your trees on a regular basis. While doing this chore look at the tree to see if there is a need to do some refinement pruning. Refinement pruning is a deeper pruning to replace a branch that has grown too long or too big with a smaller one. This is usually done with the secondary or tertiary branches not the primary branch coming from the trunk. I prefer to do this refinement pruning on deciduous trees in the winter when I can see the branch structure. But on bonsai like the yaupon hollies I like to do it at this time when the tree is actively growing so that any winter dieback is apparent. Trees that weep a lot from cuts such as maples or pines should not be done at this time.

The extended cool and damp weather is good for fungal diseases like black leaf spot. Hot and damp bring other fungals like mildew. Treat with potassium bicarbonate or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda). After the foliage is

hardened a bit you can treat with a 1% hydrogen peroxide (1 part 3% peroxide to 2 parts water) weekly.

Also watch for signs of insect problems. The spider mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, and mealy bugs. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and cider vinegar per gallon water) to control all these. It also get any caterpillars and even bagworms. You can use some of the other organic controls like horticultural oil or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully and DO NOT apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods.

It does not do much good to spray if you do not do it correctly. Hose end sprayers have too coarse a spray and usually do not cover very good. All pathogen controls must be sprayed with a sprayer that has a nozzle which produces a fine spray in order to cover the entire leaf surface, top and bottom. You must get all them bugs or they come right back. And you need to spray on a regular basis. Any bugs or spores hiding in cracks will repeat the infestation.

Even if the days are relatively cool the sun can still get the pots pretty hot. Not only does this dry out the soil very fast but the tree roots cannot live in a hot soil. A temperature I have heard given is that 120 degrees will kill roots on most plants. I cannot give you a precise to-do list since your backyard is different from mine but you should be sure that the sun does not hit the pots directly. If you use a cover of any kind be sure that the side of the pot is protected also. A loose weave cover is preferable to solid paper or foil. Leave an air space between the cover and pot and soil.

Most plants in pots will not enjoy a full day of 90 plus sun. Partial shade should be provided. A shade cloth awning is the best as it will protect in the middle of the day. A shade cloth on the west side will protect from the late afternoon sun. This is the worst sun as the temperature is already high and the drier air makes the rays more intense.

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AAGC Board May Meeting Minutes

by Charlotte Cranberg, AAGC Representative

This is the 40th anniversary of the Taniguchi Japanese garden. Mel mentioned our own Terry Ward and praised him for being a mentor for the garden and donating some prize specimens, some from his and Sheila's own private collections. He wants to see them properly cared for in the future and more attention paid to that garden.

Mel would like to have some volunteers to work on an anniversary celebration for next fall. Volunteers are now officially valued in Texas at \$20.80. (This would be a great opportunity for Bonsai Society to volunteer and get some publicity for the club and Bonsai.)

The Planning and Design Division of PARD (Parks and Recreation Dept.) is proposing that the Zilker Botanic Garden be declared a "no pet zone". The proposal will be presented to the Parks Board in June.

The gift shop sold \$20,000 more in April '09 than in April '08.

Because APD is cutting back and will no longer cover the parks, PARD is employing Park Rangers. The current PARD budget is 2.8 million dollars short from last year. There will be no massive changes or lay offs for Zilker, but it will be harder to replace employees and AAGC may have to foot the bill for police help at the next Zilker Festival, which will cut into our profits.

\$20,000 will be spent in June on a professional tree service to get the trees in shape. We have been getting freebies in the past and it will take around 5 years of work to get the trees taken care of. This project has been in the works for a long time and is finally coming to fruition.

Donna Friedenreich, our new president and the past chairman of the Dino Exhibit said that she will have a written statement in the fall detailing all expenses and profit for the Dino Exhibit.

Donna said that there are 5 openings for chairmen for the next Zilker Festival. This is our main fundraiser so we need to get volunteers. Openings are for the Chairman of the Festival, Back Gate, Holding Area, Raffle, Water Sales, On Site Vendor Coordinator and Logistics Coordinator.

Laura said we are applying for a \$6000 grant from the Parks Foundation for a retaining wall for the fern bed.

C-3 (Austin City Limits) gives 3.2 % of their take to the Parks Foundation every year. Only publicly held parks can apply.

New officers were installed and a barbecue lunch followed.

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(call for directions)

ABS Board May Meeting Minutes

by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present board members were Joey McCoy, Mike Watson, Collin Murphy, Pat Ware, Nan Jenkins, Carl Quisenberry, and Noreen Quisenberry.

Joey provided a summary of the show income and expenses.

To date income over expenses is \$466.02.

The lease on the storage facility expired last month. The lease was renewed but for a smaller unit. The cost of the new unit is \$56 per month.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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 \$25.00 for an individual and \$30.00 for a family membership.

For additional information, please contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, Texas 78734

