



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

March 2008

March Programs by Joey McCoy

Our next meeting on Wednesday March 12th, we will have a discussion on the various insects and pests which invade our backyards and gardens, attacking our Bonsai. Jim Trahan, the current Austin Bonsai president and former insect exterminator knows his bugs! We're rapidly getting into the season when we'll start seeing all sorts of creepy-crawlies chomping and sucking away on our prized trees. Being armed with some knowledge on signs to look for, identification of specimens and ways to eliminate or control them will come in very handy soon. If you have a type of bug or insect bothering your trees, bring it along in a jar or bag to show to the group and to discuss. This should be a great learning experience on what to watch out for and how to cope with what nature can throw at us!

Tuesday March 18th will be a revisit of one of last year's workshops in which Donna Dobberfuhr will help us all in a Repot workshop of Grewia, The Lavender Star Flower. I was privileged to see Donna's large established Grewia she named "Mamasan" is in full flower recently, and it's a beauty to behold. Our own Grewia plants should soon have their first root-prune as we decide whether to pot them up to grow them out larger, or to maintain a more smaller Shohin-sized tree and place them in a Bonsai pot. Please bring in an appropriate sized pot (or a few to choose from) for your tree, soil, root cutters, and any other material you need to the workshop. If anyone has a Grewia at home, this is a good time to repot or do root-pruning on them, so bring along and join in the workshop.

Finally, on March 29-30th, the annual Zilker Garden Festival will be held at Zilker Park. The Austin Bonsai Society will have an educational display available to the public and needs volunteers to bring trees to show as well as have people on hand to guard the trees, demonstrate Bonsai skills and answer questions. If anyone is interested in helping out, please contact Joey at 656-7513. It really is a lot of fun, and you learn as much by sharing with the public as they do!

Calendar of Events

Mar 12 ABS Monthly Meeting Reception
Hosts: Terry and Sheila Ward, and Jimbo
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

Mar 12 ABS Monthly Meeting
Insects and Pests with Jim Trahan
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

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

Mar 18 Members Workshop
Grewia Repotting with Donna Doberfuhr
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

Mar 22 ABS/LSBF Committee Meeting
Grazin's BBQ
New Braunfels 10:00 am

Mar 29-30 Zilker Garden Festival
Zilker Botanical Garden
10:00 am - 5:00 pm



**PERSIMMON HILL BONSAI
STUDIO & NURSERY**

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

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President's Message

by Jim Trahan

It seems that repotting season has snuck-up on me. Most of my plants are pushing growth and it is already hot as blazes, but my junipers still have their bronzed winter coat. All of my other trees seem to have abandoned winter altogether and are pushing new growth for spring. The pecans, our version of Punxsutawney Phil, haven't pushed so there may be another cold snap. I am hardly ready at all.

Speaking of being hardly ready: the American Bonsai Society symposium needs raffle donations, registrations, exhibit trees, goodie-bag items... just about everything.

Raffle Donations

We need approximately three items per club member for the raffles. While bonsai-related items are preferred, anything with value will be accepted. I encourage you to be creative with your donations. Gift cards, rare books, pottery, collected trees all make excellent raffle items. If it is something that you would want to bid on then it is probably a good candidate for the raffles. Donated items are tax deductible! Please contact Mike Watson (512.731.7092) for more information.

Registrations

Registrations for the ABS symposium have been low so far. I can speculate on why registrations have been low, and that they will rapidly increase as we get towards June. Please take advantage of early registration so that you save money and we can plan attendance. To register, contact Pauline Muth (518.882.1039 / ABS@pfmbonsai.com).

Exhibit Trees

So far we have only one tree in the exhibit. If you have a high quality tree that you would like to display, please contact Jay Nolen (bonsai-jay@satx.rr.com) with a photo of your tree. All submissions will be considered.

The exhibit also needs docents. If you would like to volunteer as exhibit docent please contact me at 512.680.1446 or malhomme@austin.rr.com.

Goodie Bag Items

We need goodie-bag items en masse. Items that are useful for registrants such as notebooks, pens, bags, promotional samples, etc. are ideal. Please contact Joey McCoy at 512.656.7513 or jvmccoy@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Volunteers

We will need volunteers to assist at various stations of the symposium, standing in at the registration table for example. We hope that some of you that are not already on a committee will volunteer to help us take a break or stand in so that we can attend a seminar. Actually, I am certain that many of you will volunteer, but want to call attention to the fact that the volunteers will need help too.

This hardly covers everything that needs to be said but it is a good start. With your help we will make this event a success.

"Bonsai Notebook" is the monthly newsletter of the Austin Bonsai Society, Inc., and is provided to its members without cost.

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.

Articles may be submitted by the 15th of the month for publication in the next month's newsletter. Submissions may be sent by email to ckmurphy2000@yahoo.com or by postal mail to the Editor, in care of the Austin Bonsai Society, 14601 Montoro Dr, Austin, Texas 78728. Original articles for "Bonsai Notebook" may be reprinted if credit is given to the author and to "Bonsai Notebook".



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February 8, 2008

**YOUR NATIONAL BONSAI & PENJING MUSEUM
NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

The President's Budget for FY 2009 proposes to "downsize" the U.S. National Arboretum — which could cripple the ongoing operations of your National Bonsai & Penjing Museum.

THE FACTS

In 1927, Congress established the National Arboretum "for research and education concerning tree and plant life." The Agricultural Research Service, which operates the Arboretum, is ignoring this Congressional mandate and proposes to eliminate the "Education" part of the Arboretum's mission. ARS would do this by cutting 40 percent of the Arboretum's budget for its Gardens Unit and Education & Visitor Services Unit, which would result in a possibly fatal loss of staff and services. The National Bonsai & Penjing Museum is part of the Gardens Unit and it is dependent on the Education Unit for many services.

As you probably know, the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum is the first and finest museum of its kind anywhere in the world. It was created in 1976 with the construction of the Japanese Pavilion on the grounds of the National Arboretum to display the bonsai given by the people of Japan to the American people to celebrate our country's Bicentennial.

In 1982 the National Bonsai Foundation was incorporated and since that time, with your help, we have raised millions of dollars for this Museum. In collaboration with the Arboretum we have made the tree and stone collections among the best in the world. Together we built more than 10 structures within the Museum complex and are in the process of completing a courtyard project that will make the Museum totally accessible to every visitor. With generous contributions from across the nation, some of the facilities that we have built include: the John Y. Naka North American Pavilion, the Yee-sun Wu Chinese Pavilion, the Haruo Kaneshiro Tropical Conservatory, the Mary E. Mrose International Pavilion, the Yuji Yoshimura Visitor's Center, the Maria Vanzant Upper Courtyard, the H. William Merritt Entrance Gate, the Kato Family Stroll Garden, the Melba Tucker Demonstration Arbor, and the Rose Family Garden surrounding the Lower Courtyard.

If Congress approves these cuts in the Arboretum budget it will mean that the staff of the Museum will be cut, programs will be curtailed and pavilions will be closed. We cannot allow this to happen.

ACTION NEEDED

Please send a letter asking Congress to reject this short-sighted and harmful budget proposal and restore the funds needed to maintain the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. Your letter might include the following points:

- (1) You are a strong supporter of this Museum and its mission to educate the public about bonsai and penjing;
- (2) It is a unique treasure that must be preserved; and
- (3) It is part of our national legacy.

You should mail your letter to the Chairs of the Senate and House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees as follows:

The Honorable Herbert H. Kohl, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture
119 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture
2362A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

If you contact your own Representative and/or Senator in Congress, please ask him or her to contact the Chairs of the Senate and House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees shown above.

If you are not yet a member of NBF, there is no better time than now to join. We need you now more than ever before.

Thank you for your support!

Felix B. Laughlin
President

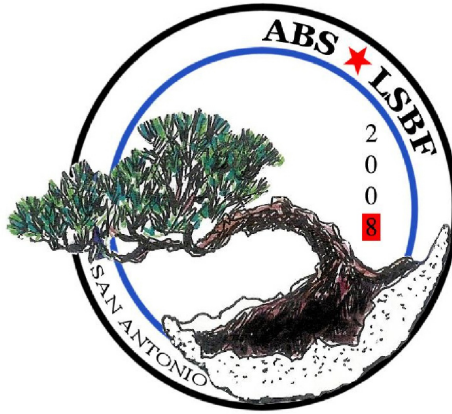
Repotting Workshop with Chuck Ware
Photos by Joey McCoy



Nebari Discussion with Mike Hansen
Photos by Joey McCoy



Special Announcements



ATTENTION ALL COFFEE DRINKERS

Your 3 pound coffee cans or similarly sized containers are needed for the 2008 Convention. The containers will be used to hold raffle tickets. The containers need to have lids into which a slot can be cut for the raffle tickets. If you have any extra lids for coffee cans, 10 are needed! Bring them to any ABS meeting.

RAFFLE ITEMS NEEDED

Donations of raffle items are needed for the upcoming convention. Raffle items don't necessarily need to be bonsai-related. Bring them to any ABS meeting. Raffle donations are tax deductible (SABS, 501c3 Non Profit).

ABS/LSBF 2008 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

2008 Convention Committee meetings will be held on the following dates at the time and address below:

March 22, April 26, May 24

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Granzins BBQ
954 W San Antonio St
New Braunfels TX 78130
(830) 629-6615

Hiro Yamaji Demonstration
Photos by Joey McCoy



Notes from AAGC
by Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

February 2008 AAGC Meeting

The Spring Festival was uppermost on the agenda. There is a need for volunteers for the following jobs: 1. Check in station, 2. Direct volunteers & musicians to the correct check in stations, 3. Holding and information booth, 4. Kids Corner-help with arts & crafts projects-face painting and 5. Water sales. If you can help please call Charlotte or Julie at the Garden Center. This is fun and a great way to make new friends and be part of a very worthy cause, the Zilker Botanical Garden. This festival pays for our employees and other expenses incurred in running the Garden Center for our meetings. There will be many musical shows going on during the festival.

A program is being set up for a membership program for the Friends of Zilker Botanical Garden. It is hoped this would be another way to raise money, especially from nonmembers who would like to support the gardens. Levels will be from \$40 to \$500.

We are trying to get members to sign up for Randall's "Good Neighbor Program" which gives a percentage of everything you buy to the Zilker Botanical Garden. Charlotte has information and sign up sheets. Please contact her. This costs you nothing.

Please report your hours to Charlotte. Especially keep count of the time you put in for preparation for the Zilker Festival and our Bonsai show.

Tickets are being distributed for the raffle at the Spring Festival. See Charlotte.

Charlotte Cranberg
AAGC Representative

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HOME OF



Chuck & Pat Ware
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Visa & MasterCard

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(512) 847-2514

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

Hiro Yamaji Demonstration
by Joey McCoy

Hiroyoshi Yamaji gave a demonstration of styling a Japanese Black Pine demo at MBP last Sunday Feb 24th to benefit TTSBE. An amazing transformation! MBP donated the tree and pot, Hiro gave his time and talent, and we all benefitted by the day. Elaine White won the raffle, and has donated the tree to the back to the Exhibit, so that we can all enjoy it. Quite a weekend!



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March 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.

Why is the subject of soil in your bonsai pot so important? Well you are trying to convince your plant that the world only extends a few inches out, that it is only a couple of inches deep, and that it should produce short fibrous roots instead of its natural long ones. But you keep telling it that it should be happy in this unnatural world and look like its giant kinfolk. So you need to give it the best subsurface environment you can.

If your area is subject to late freezes, check the forecasts and be sure to take precautions. Newly developing roots in either freshly repotted trees or in established pots can be tender to freezes. Trees with new sap flow will also be more tender. And of course the new foliage will not take as much cold or the strong winds that dry it and cause leaf burn.

On a clear night you can get frost on the leaves even though the temperature is above 32. Any overhead covering, patio, evergreen trees or a light cloth, will prevent that frost.

As the weather warms up the insects will surely make their appearance. Use the foliar spray (1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar per gallon of water) weekly to control aphid, mites, etc. Spring usually means wet weather so watch for fungal problems such as black spot. I usually only get it on hollies and elms. You can use a 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide (1 part of 3% h.p. and 2 parts water) for fungal problems. However I have damaged young growth on elms with it so I do not use it until after leaves mature a bit.

If you have been doing a good organic program the ladybugs will keep the aphids and other soft bodied insects in check. The praying mantis come along later on when the weather is warmer. I am seeing a lot of mantis egg clusters since I don't use chemical sprays.

Use chemical fertilizers sparingly at this time. Most contain a healthy supply of nitrogen which causes too much lanky growth. Organic fertilizer balls and the foliar spray are better because organics need warmer weather to break down into plant soluble nutrients and therefore are not as stimulating in this weather. They are also more consistent in feeding the tree each time you water.

Now you should get your tweezers and shears ready for the real job ahead. In order to develop the ramification and fine twigs you want you must be pruning the new growth as it develops. Waiting until the shoots are three or four inches or longer results in coarse twigs with long internodes. These will have to be cut off and new ones developed if you are to have a good bonsai. Tweezers are the preferred tool for this job. If you do the cutting at the right time the twig will still be soft and can be plucked with the tweezers. After a few tries you will be able to work faster with tweezers than with shears. I prefer tweezers with a dull point, sharp points catch the foliage and rounded points are too big.

Essentially there are two kinds of growing habits on deciduous trees, those with alternate growing leaves on the twigs, e.g. elms, oak, and hawthorn, and those with opposite growing leaves, e.g. maple.

The alternate growing leaves start out with small leaves and each succeeding leaf will be larger and the internodes longer. Also each leaf will have a latent bud in each leaf axil. Therefore if you let the shoot grow to 4 or 5 new leaves and cut it back to 2 or 3, you will be keeping smaller leaves and also getting twice as many growing tips on each branch and each will be a finer twig. Keep this up and you will soon have nice development on the branches of your bonsai. In determining whether to cut to two or three, note the direction that you wish the end of the branch to take and cut to the leaf which has the bud on that side of the branch.

Tweezers are almost a necessity in working on maples. The opposite growing leaves clasp the new growing tip and will be extending from the old but on a lengthening stem. If the new tip is taken off as soon as the leaves separate, the result is that the leaves will be smaller and the stem will stop lengthening. Then two new tips will pop from the new leaf axils and you will have to repeat the tip plucking.

Junipers should be trimmed with the fingers. As the new growth develops grasp the twigs with one hand spreading the foliage in a fan shape. Then with the other hand grasp the tips between the fleshy part of your thumb and finger and pull it off. Using fingernails or scissors will result in brown tips on the junipers. If the juniper still has needle foliage you can avoid being stuck by moving your hand toward the tip while grasping the twig. This, in effect, causes the needle to lie along the twig while you are holding it.

Now is the proper time to decide on your show trees and then give them plenty of TLC and grooming to be at their best at show time.

February 2008 ABS General Meeting Minutes
by Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

President, Jim Trahan called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM in the Austin Area Garden Center. He thanked hosts Joey McCoy and Marion & Phina Chen..

Guests Tom McGuire and wife Kiwe and 8 month old son were introduced.

Treasurer, Pat Ware urged members to write letters to their congress people to continue supporting the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum which is in danger of being cut. Pavilions will be closed if this happens.

Mike Hansen spoke to the group about goodie bags for the American Bonsai Society Convention in June in San Antonio and for items to raffle. Our expenses are paid by the raffle sales. Registration only pays for instruction and the hotel pays for meals. The raffle is our main source of income for this convention.

Joey McCoy introduced Mike Hansen who gave the program on nebari.

February 2008 ABS Board Meeting Minutes
by Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Vice President Joey McCoy in the library of the Austin Area Garden Center. Present were Pat Ware, Collin Murphy, Mike Watson and Charlotte Cranberg.

Program Chairman, Joey presented the programs for the year. They were discussed and will be printed in the year-book by Pat Ware.

Treasurer, Pat Ware reported \$516.28 for January.

Bonsai Society will have an educational display in the Greene Room of the Garden Center during the Spring Festival on the 29th and 30th of March. Joey will need volunteers and trees for this project. Please call him if you can help. You get to sit in the comfort of an air conditioned building and chat with people about bonsai. What could be more fun? Join us.

Volunteers are needed in other areas of the Spring Festival. Call Charlotte to volunteer.

Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

TTSBE Benefit Garage Sale
by Joey McCoy

Just a reminder that on Saturday March 8th, The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit will hold a Benefit Garage Sale at the home of Els Ulug here in Austin. We're looking for donated items to sell to help raise money for fencing and a new entrance to the property. Please drop off any clothing, electronics, toys, furniture, household items and any other gently used items of value. Els will be accepting donations dropped off at her home on Friday March 7th. We'll need some handy volunteers to help sort and price on Friday and to take in money on the day of the sale, and would love to have anyone come on down to help out! Also if you have any spare folding tables to lend for the day, it would be much appreciated.
Thanks!

Els Ulug
2600 Foxglen
Austin, TX 78704
512-707-9742
eulug@yahoo.com

Directory Additions

None

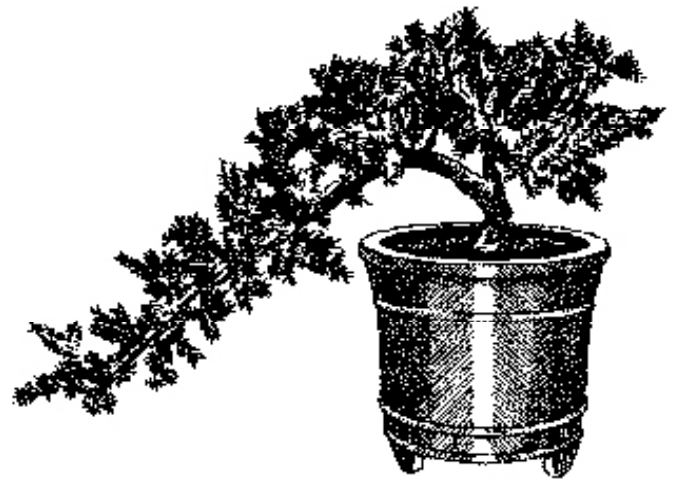
Directory Corrections

None

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

Bonsai Notebook

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Austin, Texas 78734**

