



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

May 2008

May Programs by Joey McCoy

It's hard to believe that May is already upon us! This month, our program for **Wednesday May 14th** is going to be a critical look to our Bonsai called "**More Than One Way**" **starring our friends Terry Ward, Chuck Ware and Mike Hansen**. This is how it works – we are to each bring in a Bonsai. These can be beginner trees to advanced & styled but which may have design deficiencies or maybe it's something which doesn't quite "work" for whatever reason. Our three-panel design gurus will look over said tree, and offer a wizened opinion on how you have more possibilities in every piece of material than you might at first think. This is a great exercise in looking at material and seeing several styling possibilities in each piece. Even if you don't plan on changing your particular tree, you might learn to look at material in a whole new way. I encourage everyone to come and participate, this is a fun program!

On **Tuesday May 20th** we will have the opportunity to have a **Member's Workshop in styling a Catlin Elm led by Jay Nolen**. Cost is \$10, a tree will be provided, you bring your own tools and wire. Space is very limited, but as of this writing, there are still some spaces available. If interested, please contact me at jvmccoy@sbcglobal.net or 656-7513. Everyone is encouraged to come, and if you have a Catlin Elm Bonsai, bring it to show the group! These are a fantastic species to use as Bonsai as they ramify very quickly and have tiny leaves when pruned often. This is a great opportunity to own one of these trees. Catlin Elm is:

Ulmus parvifolia, var 'Catlin', is a sport of the common Chinese elm. It is partly evergreen in mild climate and evergreen in the south. Its leaves are a 1/4" to 3/4" long and are a shiny dark green, lanceolate and smaller than zelkova. John Catlin, a landscape designer in California, found this sport on an *Ulmus parvifolia* or Chinese elm in a nursery in about 1953. Jim Barrett named it Catlin Elm to honor the man who found it and to separate it from the Chinese elm.

On **May 17th-18th** The Austin Bonsai Society holds its **Annual Show**. On that Saturday and Sunday (10am-5pm

Calendar of Events

May 14 ABS Monthly Meeting Reception

Hosts: Collin Murphy, Nan Jenkins, and Timmi Kuykendall)

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

(Hosts for June's reception: Bill and Nancy Moore, Bill Boytim)

May 14 ABS Monthly Meeting

More Than One Way with Terry Ward, Chuck Ware, and Mike Hansen

Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

May 17 - 18 Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show

Zilker Garden Center 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

May 20 ABS Board Meeting

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

May 20 ABS Members Workshop

Catlin Elm Workshop with Jay Nolen

Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

May 24 ABS Convention Committee Meeting

Granzin's BBQ

New Braunfels 10:00 am

both days) we get the opportunity to show off our trees as well as educate the public about our art. Friday May 16th from 4pm-8pm will be the show setup to put together the displays, and to bring our trees. Bring along your Bonsai, and if possible a stand, an accent plant or suiseki. If you only have a tree to bring, this is fine too. Every tree doesn't have to be perfect or "finished", it's just good to be able to have trees from all our members. We'll need volunteers all weekend to keep an eye on the Bonsai, sell raffle tickets, answer questions, and hand out flyers, etc., so please come and help out. This is when we put on our face to the public and I'd love to have full participation from our membership!

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Jim Trahan
President

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Charlotte Cranberg
Secretary

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Collin Murphy
Member at-Large

Mike Watson
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“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.



**PERSIMMON HILL BONSAI
STUDIO & NURSERY**

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

President's Message by Jim Trahan

The next two months will be especially busy for the club and we need everyone that is able to volunteer.

The annual club show is this month and is always a fun event to attend, even if you are not showing your trees. Over the years I have enjoyed the wonderful feeling of camaraderie when we work together to setup the exhibit. We will also need docents for the exhibit, which is another fun volunteer opportunity. There are no special skills needed other than enthusiasm.

Docents Needed for the ABS Symposium: if you are not attending a class and would like to be a docent please contact me at **680-1446**. This is a great way to meet well known bonsai artists and fellow enthusiasts from around the country.

Registration for the ABS Symposium ends this month. If you have not already registered, you will need to do it soon. ABS is also offering single day registration for those that cannot attend the entire weekend but have a day of classes they you like to attend.

I encourage every member to bring a tree for the club show. Unlike many bonsai exhibits this one is not judged and is really a public celebration of our art. Like some hidden concubine, many of the finest trees in the club are never seen outside of their own garden. The joy of art is sharing, not comparing. If you have trees that you are proud of, that you wish to share, please bring them to the club show.



A Japanese Boxwood on display at April's monthly meeting reception.

Air Layering and Grafting with Bill Boytim

Photos by Joey McCoy



Bill finished his presentation by demonstrating an air layer of a Japanese maple.

JADE GARDENS
HOME OF

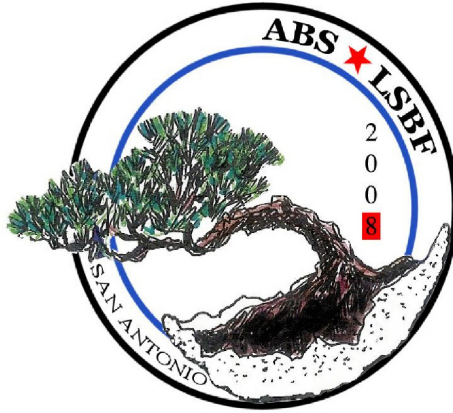
Chuck & Pat Ware
Owners
Visa & MasterCard
e-mail: bonsaijg@wimberley-tx.com
web page: <http://www.wimberley-tx.com/~bonsaijg>

12404 Ranch Road 12
Wimberley, TX 78676
(512) 847-2514



This bonsai was recently reported stolen from Florida. For more information please see www.bonsai-bsf.com.

Special Announcements



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).

CHANGE IN REGISTRATION POLICY

In response to the wishes expressed by several members of LSBF affiliated clubs, the Board of Directors of ABS has agreed to allow Saturday-only Registrations for the Seminar.

Cost is \$150

To include: 2 classes on Saturday

1 lunch and 1 dinner on Saturday

1 breakfast on Sunday morning

Goodie Bag

If staying at the El Tropicano Hotel please note the new phone number for room registrations 1-866-293-1842. Each Registrant will also receive a commemorative Seminar shohin bonsai container.

Those coming in Friday night may opt for the Mexican dinner and festivities and pay for the additional meal at the Registration Desk.

Send Registration Forms to ABS as before and mark it as a Saturday only Registration. Remember the seminar classes will be filled on a first come, first served basis. So don't delay to get your registration mailed A.S.A.P.

ABS/LSBF 2008 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES (LAST MEETING!)

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

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

Show Preparation with Jim Trahan

Photos by Joey McCoy



Jim gives some styling tips for a collected cedar elm.



Jim gives some ideas about placement and orientation.



Jim and Sunny discuss stands.

MBP Bonsai Studio

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ph: 512-244-3240 or 1-888-627-7883

e-mail: mbpbonsai@hughes.net

601 Kay Lane

Pflugerville, TX 78660

(call for directions)

April 2008 ABS Board Meeting Minutes

by Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

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

The Exhibit trees for the convention in San Antonio in June were discussed.

Treasurer, Pat Ware reported expenses of \$197.40 over income for March.

Mike wants raffle items for the convention. Bring anything people might want, not necessarily bonsai related. Plants, books, tools, dolls, toys, just get something nice and in good condition to Mike. Bring your items to the May meeting and call Mike first if you are bringing anything large. His number is 731-7092. Call him if you have a question.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 as Jim was presenting the program for the study group.

Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

April 2008 AAGC Meeting Minutes

by Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

Terry Ward opened the meeting with a short presentation on progress in the Taniguchi Japanese Garden. He mentioned the 3 stones representing earth, sky and water that have been placed in the garden. He showed pictures taken a year ago in the garden to indicate the changes made since. Also, he showed a picture of an azalea planting that is what we expect long term from our plantings. Terry said he will be happy with the changes if we notice things have improved but the actual work would not be apparent. That is in the Japanese tradition.

There was a lot of discussion on the Zilker Festival last weekend. It was very successful from many points of view and it looks like we may gross over \$100,000.00.

The next "Down The Garden Path" will be published July 15th. Bob Beyer wants your article submitted no later than June 15th. He would like more general gardening tips, and horticultural articles rather than articles on club events.

See Charlotte about advertising in the publication. 1/8 page is \$75, 1/4 page is \$100 and 1/2 page is \$150. Those are very

reasonable rates for a newsletter which reaches a very select group of 3,000 gardeners.

Don't forget to give your hours to Charlotte.

Charlotte Cranberg, AAGC Representative

April 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 hostesses Connie King and Charlotte Cranberg

Guest Victor Ingle was introduced.

President Jim announced that the board approved raffling off a 2 night stay in the Tropicana River Walk Hotel for Austin Bonsai Society members at the ABS-LSBF Convention. One submission per room. Save your receipt and give it to Pat Ware to be entered in the raffle.

Mike Hansen reported that the Lady Bird Johnson Wild Flower Center has asked us to put on a show of native Texas bonsai this summer at the center. It will run from June 29th to August 31st. Two members of the Wild Flower Center will be assigned to take care of the bonsai which will be rotated out every week. Mike says he will need 8 large bonsai for the display plus 8 in reserve. He is asking for anyone with a native bonsai to contact him.

Candy Hansen asked for volunteers to help vendors unload at the ABS-LSBF convention in San Antonio. Also, people to work for security on Thursday and Sunday. Contact her if you can help.

Joey McCoy introduced Bill Boytim who gave the program on Layering, Grafting and Plant Growth. Bill is a real scientist. I have never been as fascinated in this subject or gotten as good an understanding of the whole picture as I got from Bill's presentation. You didn't have to be interested in layering to get a lot out of this program.

Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

Directory Additions

None

Directory Corrections

None

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.

In the Dallas area, May is usually the time you do the leaf pruning job 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 usually be smaller. Leaf pruning is done only on very healthy trees. 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 to be Memorial Day. The tree should be fertilized 7 - 10 days before the operation. Cut the stems of those leaves that have them (maples) or cutting across the leaf about 1/16 inch from the twig if leaves are attached direction on the twig (elms). The tree will not need as much water until the new foliage has developed.

If your azaleas have not bloomed yet consider removing a few buds where they would result in crowded blooms. 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 to mid-July) to work on them. They will start setting buds for next years blooms 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 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 when it breaks down.

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 since there may be a few eggs or bugs you miss. 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. The foliar feeding of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar (1 tablespoon of each per gallon of water) is

all the control I use for them. Scale is the most difficult because it is usually covered with a waxy coating (the scale). 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. Do not use oil on buttonwood or any other plant not included on the label. You might try a neem oil spray which is supposed to be an organic systemic.

Please note: the commercial variation of my spray that is sold as Garret Juice does not do the same as the above mixture. It is erroneously labeled as the original formula Garret Juice.

If you see damage to the foliage or the plant is not doing well, look for other problems and if you do not 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 shining on them and letting some air circulate around them. I do not care for the aluminum foil methods because I don't care to have the light reflected into my eyes and it is usually applied to tightly around the pot. A simple cloth with a slit to go around the trunk works fine. A good use for old rags.

Remember all the work that you did in the spring? Keep the new growth trimmed so that you haven't 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.

Potting season will soon be on us. The tropicals this time. You can start repotting them when the nights stay warm. One nice thing about tropicals, they give you a long repotting season by starting with those that take cooler weather and going into summer with some of the ficus and buttonwoods.

Its time to consider becoming more proficient at your hobby. The LSBF-ABS convention in San Antonio will give you 4 classes plus associating with bonsai people. And you can learn all the rules but without practice you will not be able to perform. You need practice to learn to recognize the line of the raw material you are starting with. You get this practice and experience by taking part in your clubs various study groups, beginners classes, and workshops. If you are not a beginner, try teaching some beginners. The teacher always learns as much as his students by trying to verbalize what he is attempting to teach. Visit conventions especially the local state convention and discuss trees with others who share your like for a particular style or species.

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

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