



Bonsai Notebook

www.main.org/bonsai

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

September 2010

September Programs

by Mike Watson

Roy Nagatoshi will be our visiting artist for the regularly meeting on **Wednesday, September 8th**. For those of you not familiar with this talented man, Roy has practically grown up with bonsai. Though born in the United States, he spent his early years in Japan. After junior high school, he and his family moved to California where Roy's father practiced the art of bonsai and eventually opened "Fuji Bonsai Nursery". Roy helped conduct classes with his father and has been giving lectures and demos around the

ROY NAGATOSHI Bring Your Own Tree Workshop

**September 7
7:00 p.m.**

Persimmon Hill Bonsai

only a few open spots left...

Contact any board member for more
information

Calendar of Events

September 7th Workshop with Roy Nagatoshi
Persimmon Hill Bonsai 7:00 - 9:00 pm

September 8th ABS Monthly Meeting Reception
Hosts: Candy Hansen and
Victor Engel
(Next months hosts: Mike Watson and
Jim Bauman)
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

September 8th ABS Monthly Meeting
Lecture/Demo with Roy Nagatoshi
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

September 18th Shohin Society of Texas
Annual Business Meeting and Three
Person Panel Critique
Persimmon Hill Bonsai 10:30 am

September 21th ABS Board Meeting
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

September 21th ABS Member's Workshop
Bring Your Own Tree
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

country since 1976. I am excited to have him at our club. This is an event you won't want to miss!

Our workshop on **Tuesday, September 21st** will be "Member's Choice". Bring anything that you have been meaning to work on but just haven't gotten around to. I know I have quite a few.

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Joey McCoy
President

Mike Watson
Vice President

Collin Murphy
Secretary

Pat Ware
Treasurer

Becki Drozd
Member at-Large

Charlotte Cranberg
Member at-Large

Nan Jenkins
Member at-Large

Jim Trahan
Former President

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.

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 Joey McCoy

I'm really looking forward to September because one of the most well respected Bonsai artists in America is coming to Austin: Roy Nagatoshi. Roy was introduced to Bonsai over 50 years ago and not only runs a successful nursery in California, but is a terrific teacher as well. For those with Pop Culture on the brain (and I'm one of those!) he's the one who provided the Bonsai for the film Karate Kid III, the one where Daniel and Mr. Miyagi open a Bonsai business. We're having a "bring your own tree" workshop on Tues Sept 7th at Persimmon Hill. Everyone is welcome to come and watch, but if you'd like to take part there may still be a spot open. Contact Pat Ware ASAP! When parking at Persimmon Hill, please do not park on the grass, thanks! There will be a meet-the-artist dinner before the main meeting Wed Sept 8th at the Shady Grove starting at 5pm. Come to meet and eat, talk and share! And be prepared to buy some raffle tickets for his demo tree he'll be styling later during the meeting.

The club is still looking for a volunteer to be the refreshment chair for 2011. It's basically organizing things so that each month our refreshment hosts can provide the snacks. If you think you can help out, please see me.

Each year we're lucky to have a couple of sites to dig potential Bonsai. If you know of a piece of land and it looks like there may be some Bonsai-worthy plants, inquire if we could hold a Spring dig. Don't be afraid: most people won't mind us digging a few of the stunted plants in a field or along a fencerow. Let a board member know if you find a potential spot that we could use. It's only through our eagle-eyed members that we're able to locate those future Bonsai out there waiting to be found!

I'd also like to encourage our members to bring Bonsai to our meetings. These can be for questions about care or styling (in the refreshment time 7-7:30), or can simply be to display. We often have visitors who love to see Bonsai, and showing off our trees is the best way to gain a following. Another thing we should do is outreach, talking to garden groups or others about Bonsai. I'm giving two talks in the next month. You never know if someone in the audience will be the next important member of the club!

ABS August Board Meeting Minutes
by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. present were Pat Ware, Joey McCoy, Collin Murphy, Becki Drozd and Nan Jenkins.

Pat gave the treasurer's report. As of the end of June our income over expenses is \$269.63.

The board discussed demo trees for the upcoming Kathy Shaner and Roy Nagatoshi demonstrations. Alisan is donating a large twin-trunk ficus for Roy's demonstration.

Several members will be having dinner with Roy Nagatoshi the evening of his demonstration on September 8th. We will be meeting at Shady Grove on Barton Springs at 5:00 p.m.

From now on, soft copies of the newsletter will be distributed by sending a link to the article on the ABS website instead of sending the newsletter as an attachment.

Nan volunteered to head the nominating committee for next year's officer positions.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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(call for directions)

REMINDER

**CHUCK & PAT WARE
ARE CELEBRATING
THEIR 45th ANNIVERSARY
AND ARE HAVING AN
OPEN HOUSE
SEPTEMBER 19th
2 pm to 6 pm
NO GIFTS
PARK IN THE FIELD**

TTSBE GARAGE SALE

No not this month—in September, but keep us in mind as you do your Spring housecleaning! You do DO Spring housecleaning, don't you??

Or whenever the mood strikes to get rid of those things that you're not using!

We need all of your good 'ole stuff!!

Tropical Repotting with Elaine White
(Photos by Joey McCoy)



Tropical Repotting with Elaine White
(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.

September, football, and back to school makes us think summer and the heat is over. That is usually not a good assumption. There will usually be very hot days with us from time to time through October. Don't let your trees get caught unawares.

The following is copied from a nursery bulletin re organic sprays. You can apply them to bonsai, chinch bugs are beetles, Bt for any worm type larva, Liquid seaweed is the basis for my foliar spray for insect control. Also look in the organic's section for fungal controls.

"In terms of pest control, chinch bugs are a major lawn pest of St. Augustine in the heat of the summer. If patches look brown and dry even though turf is getting enough water, check for chinch bugs. Treat for chinch bugs with Spinosad, insecticidal soap or other insecticides recommended by your garden center. Treat your lawn for white grubs early in the month. Spray Bt (Thuricide) for tent caterpillars and webworms. Apply horticultural oils or other recommended insecticides for thrips, scale, spider mites, mealy bugs and lacebugs, which can all be a problem in the heat. Spray liquid seaweed on tomato plants to control spider mites."

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 especially at the junction with the trunk. You need to check them periodically over the winter also. Winter growth will usually be pretty slow but can occur, especially on the evergreens. To remove the wire I usually 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. Sylvia and Kathy Shaner says to unwrap it so that you do not overlook a coil and ruin that branch. Whichever way you go take care to do it methodically and to do it right. If you need to reapply some wire take care. Remember that the branches will be more brittle when the sap is not flowing.

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 but on hot days you better check twice. So check each one separately and water as often and as much as the individual tree requires. It is easy to keep the soil too wet and develop root problems.

Tips of the leaves turning brown are indications of a water stress problem. Look at the following areas.

- a: evaporation--too much sun, too windy,
- b: watering--gets too dry between waterings (the soil staying too wet may cause root problems which thus prevent uptake of moisture).
- c: soil or pots get too hot
- d: water too alkaline

There is probably nothing you can do about the foliage this time of year. Problems that occur earlier in the year could be corrected by leaf pruning and growing new foliage. If you have these problems, determine the cause and try to correct for next year.

You should help the plant slow down and get ready for winter by not applying nitrogen fertilizer about 90 days before the first freeze. This would be the first part of September in the Dallas-Ft Worth area. The reason is that nitrogen causes new growth to occur and it will not have time to mature before a freeze occurs. You may fertilize with one with a formulation like 0-10-10. 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.

Make sure that your tropicals are in good health and growing vigorously. That will help them withstand the change of climate when you bring them indoors.

Two things you can do now. You should prepare your winter quarters and you should study your evergreen trees to determine if you need to do any restyling later on this fall.

Check on the place you expect to winter your bonsai. Make sure that it is clean and that you will be able to check the water needs of the trees. It should be somewhat protected from winds but should have some air movement to help prevent molds from developing. Having it in a location where you can see the trees would allow you to enjoy the winter silhouette, i.e.

the branch structure and twiginess, that is a great part of deciduous bonsai. Treat the greenhouse to kill any lingering bugs, eggs, or fungi.

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 to control them. Horticultural oil spray may also be used. If we should have a stretch of damp weather you should be watching for fungal problems, leaf spot, mildew, etc. Treat fungal diseases 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. (Organic spray: 1 tblsp each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, molasses, and 5% apple cider vinegar in one gallon of water)

Pruning and trimming can be done any time that there is not a lot of sap flowing. 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. Pruning spring blooming plants (azalea) may remove buds that have already formed.

ABS August General Meeting Minutes by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He introduced guests Julie Green, Rasta Shake, Reggie Leuty and Linda Harris.

Alisan Clarke reminded everyone about the TTSBE garage which will be during the 4th weekend of September. TTSBE is seeking donations to sell at the garage sale. If you have any donations contact any TTSBE member or bring them to a club meeting.

Joey reminded everyone about the upcoming Roy Nagatoshi workshop. There is currently one place left in his workshop.

Joey also reminded people about the upcoming picnic in San Antonio on August 12th.

Next year is the club's 40th anniversary. If anyone has any ideas for an anniversary commemoration, such as an event or tree, contact Mike or Joey.

Mike then introduced Elaine White who gave a program on repotting tropical bonsai.

JADE GARDENS
HOME OF



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

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Bonsai Calendar

Roy Nagatoshi Workshop

Roy Nagatoshi Demonstration

Kathy Shaner Demonstration

The Maple Society

<http://www.maplesociety.org/texas2010agenda>

St Louis Shohin Seminar

<http://www.stlbonsai.org/events.htm>

ABS Members Workshop

ABS General Meeting

ABS General Meeting

2010 Conference

Collinsville, IL

September 7, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

September 8, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

October 13, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

October 28 - 30, 2010

May 20 - 22, 2011

Know of an upcoming Bonsai event of interest to club members? Send the details to ckmurphy2000@yahoo.com

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

