



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

July 2015 vol 55

July 2015 Program

by Jimbo Baumann

It was regretful that the weather caused us to cancel the members' workshop and that the Texas ebonies didn't get repotted. That will be rescheduled at a later date, our board is working on that.

We are fortunate to have the well-known artist, Owen Reich as our guest for both a workshop and a lecture demo this month - his bio appears elsewhere in the newsletter. He is the traveling artist sponsored by the Lone Star Bonsai Federation, of which our club is a member. For those signed up for the workshop on Tuesday, July 7th, you will have an exciting experience that is well worth your time. At the general meeting Owen will have selected a tree that he will discuss and work on. The tree will be raffled off so bring your wallets and buy lots of tickets.

Prior to the Wednesday night meeting we are having dinner with Owen at the Shady Grove Restaurant, on Barton Springs Road, at 5:30 PM. Anyone who wishes to meet him informally, for a pay your own way dinner, please do so. It is nice way to meet the artist first hand.

Because of this two-day event, we will not have a members' workshop meeting this month.

At this July meeting, we need our beginners to sign up for the Ficus Workshop that will be held in August. This program will be similar to the Texas Ebony program we held last month. This program will be led by Elaine White.

Start looking at what you may have to donate to our annual Auction, which will be in September; and of course, start saving your money so that you can purchase those items you cannot "live without".

Calendar of Events

July 7: LSBF Visiting Artist, Owen Reich Workshop

7pm, Green Room at Garden Center

July 8: Meeting & Lecture/Demo by Owen Reich

Hosts: Quoc Hoang & Gloria Norberg

5:30pm: Dinner at Shady Grove Restaurant

7:00pm: Social Time

7:30pm: Meeting Starts

July 21: NO MEMBER WORKSHOP

Board Meeting TBA

Aug 12: Ficus Workshop--sign up at July meeting



Chuck Ware presenting on ebony.

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

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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.

Lizzie Chen is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". She may be contacted at lizziechen09@gmail.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 Jonathan Wood

Owen Reich is just around the corner and the ABS schedule will be a little different this July. July 7th at 7:00 is the Owen Reich workshop for members who reserved a \$40. bring your own tree session. Wednesday, July 8th, is the General Meeting. Wednesday July 8th is the General Meeting for all members to attend during which we will have a lecture demo by Mr. Reich and raffle off the tree. Remember to bring extra cash to buy some raffle tickets! No workshop on Tuesday July 21st.

The Tx Ebony stylings went well... it was heartwarming to see long term members working alongside newer members, sharing insight, resources, and tools. Also, thank you very much to Chuck Ware for the excellent overview of Texas Ebony and guiding our newer members toward sculpting Texas Ebonies that member, Joe Trochta, cultivated for a number of years. It was great to have Joe join us for the presentation and to have a chance to know the lineage of where the trees came from. It is always meaningful for me to know where my trees came from. It is something I write down on a simple records sheet for each of my trees when I remember to do so. Also, it means a lot to the club members that Chuck went the extra mile to bring in pre-bonsai as well as finished bonsai to show the progression of Texas Ebony over time, which gives us more vision for our future trees. Thank you Chuck and Joe!

Beyond the excitement of July, think about getting ready for our Ficus lecture/workshop in August 2015. Sign up will be available at the July 8th meeting to reserve a ficus tree for a limited number of slots.

Can't be said enough... Welcome, welcome, welcome, to our new members! Reach out and say hi! Keep coming to 2nd Wednesday meetings and monthly workshops to get to know future friends and mentors in the bonsai art. Maybe even bring a friend or two who takes interest in bonsai to Wednesday meetings from time to time.

We are looking for a member to help be our club Secretary. We can show you the ropes :-). Also, we are always looking for folks to help set-up and take down/clean up at our monthly events so feel free to pitch in any time.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Wood, ABS President

Bonsai quote:

"Bonsai to me: a little tree in a container that touches my soul. If it speaks to my soul much, it is bonsai art. It does not matter at all how it does it, as long as it does it." - Walter Pall, Master Bonsai Artist

NEWS CORNER

2015 Kathy Shaner Seminar
October 16-18th
Buda TX

Seminar
Home-cooked Dinner
Bring your own tree Workshop

Registration available in July. To be notified when registration is open, email:
ckmurphy2000@gmail.com

MBP Bonsai Studio

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Your source for:

High quality Yagimitsu & Ryukoh tools

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Imported and Domestic Trees

Bonsai Pottery, Soils and supplies

Classes & Seminars

Open Tuesday Through Sunday



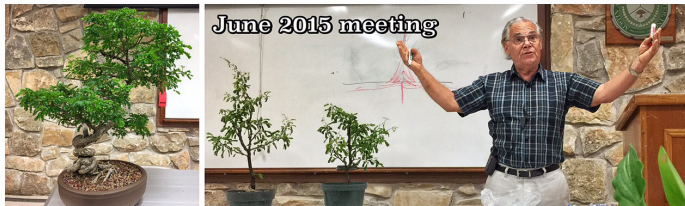
ph: 512-989-5831

e-mail: mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net

601 Kay Lane

Pflugerville, TX 78660

(call for directions)



Texas Ebony Workshop with Chuck Ware

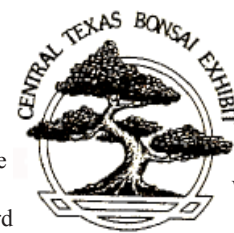


Photos by
May Lau

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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mjtur56@gmail.com

David Olguin

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Ben Rosenblatt

512-712-4122

brosebudd1@gmail.com

Owen Reich Bio

Most of my life I've lived in the Southeastern part of America. I'm drawn to the mountains and have spent a great deal of time in the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountains. Deciduous trees and broad leaf evergreens have always held the most interest for me and my mind goes straight to maples, fruit trees, and winter flowering species when it comes to bonsai. The plant nerd in me likes the less commonly used species without a doubt. This area of bonsai is where I hope to have the greatest impact by sharing techniques for their creation and maintenance.

From my college days until about 5 years ago, I was most interested in rare and unusual cultivated varieties of plants. This interest has been tempered by my love for nature and a realization with a few exceptions, truly good bonsai should resemble the colors, textures, lines, and shapes commonly observed in nature. Kusamono on the other hand allows me to grow the weirdest most obscenely variegated plant with extra large flowers :). Bonsai is the only thing I've found that you cannot fully master every aspect of in one, let alone many, lifetimes. This art-form is a passion worth pursuing.

Face to face instruction should never be discounted. A great deal of bonsai work is not only visual, but tactile. The feel for proper technique must be gained over time with qualified teachers. I strongly support the concept of study groups that meet regularly. The best bonsai in the world are worked on a little at a time over the course of the year. Now, after completing my first two years of a formal apprenticeship at Kouka-en, I'm ready to share what I've learned so far in Japan as well as all the horticultural insight gained from past experience. The best way to describe my teaching style is laid back and practical.

The most important thing when working with bonsai is that this activity should be fun.



LSBF EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

The informational flyer for the LSBF Educational Seminar is in this issue of our newsletter. It is going to be a fun time as we learn about bunjin style and about display techniques. The hotel price is good, and you will get to see and meet many folks who are bonsai enthusiasts from Texas and eastern Louisiana. Plus, it is only one night! There is only one workshop, so if you want that personal attention on a tree you already have, sign up early! There will also be two demonstrations, where you will get a lot of information.

The emphasis on one style is to let us learn more in depth information. We are hoping to have at least two exhibit trees from each club, which need to be registered ahead of time. Of course, everyone understands that when we are dealing with living material, things can change at the last minute!

We also need to get at least 15 items from each club for the raffles. Anything associated with bonsai or Asian arts is wonderful: trees, pots, tools, stones, figurines, pictures, scrolls, etc. please get them to Nan as soon as possible and she can get them to the raffle master.

We will also have an auction of any style tree or pot. They must be worth at least \$100.00. And you can do a split of the money raised. Please consider this if you have a good tree that you feel you can't work with any longer, or that you want to pass on.

I hope to see many of you on October 9-10 in Kingwood, Texas!

Check out the flyer below and their website for more details and news.

www.lonestarbonsai.org



**Photos by
Joey McCoy**

Bunjin And Display: The REEL Deal



LSBF Educational Seminar
October 9 - 10, 2015
Beginning at 1:00 PM

Kingwood Community Center
4102 Rustic Woods Drive
Houston, TX 77345

La Quinta Inn
(\$85 per night, LSBF rate)
22790 Hwy 59 N
Kingwood, TX 77339
(281) 359-6611

*B*unjin style. Bonsai display. Both are elegant and beautiful art forms because of their simple elegance. But neither are easy to achieve with success. This year, in lieu of the usual convention, the LSBF board is proud to present a special educational seminar focusing on bunjin style bonsai and formal bonsai display.

Our headliner for this event, Matt Reel, apprenticed in Japan with the distinguished bonsai professional Shinji Suzuki for over seven years. Mr. Suzuki has one of the finest visions for the nuances of bonsai artistry, so who better to teach Matt the subtleties of bunjin and display. Amongst the many daily apprentice tasks working under Mr. Suzuki, Matt set up the ever changing displays in the prestigious Taikan Bonsai Museum in Obuse. We look forward to a wealth of learning as Matt performs demonstrations and workshops, as well as leading us through a critique and discussions. Hope to see all of you there! Seminar cost is \$75, workshops are separate.

July Bonsai

by John Miller

July and August are usually the two most stressful months for bonsai in our neck of the woods but this year has been different, so far. Keep an eye on the weather forecasts and be ready to change your habits.

Going into July and August and usually later you will need to keep your bonsai as cool as possible. That means no sun on the pot and soil where the roots are. Without going into a lot of detail some considerations you will be looking at.

1. Shade cloth. 40% for pines, junipers, tridents. 50% for less tough plants. 60% on the west side.
2. Water schedule. At 2pm to cool the soil, at sundown to cool soil and refresh overnight, morning as necessary. This is optimum. You must adjust that schedule and soil mix to work with your schedule.
3. Soil covering. Chopped long fiber sphagnum to retain moisture also helps keep soil cooler.
4. Protect from late afternoon sun. Low humidity lets the full force of the heat come thru.
5. Consider foliage misting especially on junipers. Many species in the wild open stoma at night to take in dew. Some broadleaf plants do foliage feeding, usually for localized needs in the area of the leaf.
6. Keep insects under control especially the sucking ones-mites and scale.
7. Pot protection. Shade sides of pot. Use old cloth, shop towels, make boxes to fit. Some air circulation around the pot should be allowed.

We usually do not fertilize our bonsai enough. However during these hot days you need to exercise care. Slow release organics are best. Chemical fertilizers may burn roots if the soil temperature (remember the sun factor) gets too warm, probably like upper 90s or more, be sure to read the label for guidance. Most recommendations are to feed the trees with organic fertilizer balls. Many are available commercially or you can make your own, depends on how many bonsai you have. Even with the fertilizer balls I like to give a feeding with a liquid fertilizer every other week also.

Also watch for signs of insect problems. The spider mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, bagworms, and mealy bugs. Preventative medicine is best, spray on a regular schedule. By the time you see signs of bugs, the damage is already done, especially from spider mites. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and 5% apple cider vinegar per gallon water) applied weekly to control all these. You can use some of the other

organic controls or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully. Do not apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods. A hose end sprayer does not work very well, its droplets are too large and you have little control over where it goes. Use a pump sprayer with a fine spray and cover both top and bottom of leaves, trunks and all twigs. Most controls, whether chemical or organic, must be done on a regular schedule for good control. If you wait until you see damage it is usually too late.

When checking the results on your plants after spraying remember that the spray usually will not remove the 'evidence' of problems. The webs will still be there after the mites are killed, the shells of the scale will be attached to the leaf or stem. These will have to be removed by hand, by a jet of water, or some other way. A soft toothbrush works good on the scale shells. There is no damage from this leftover evidence but it prevents you from seeing any new infestation that may occur.

Be careful when pruning the spring flowering species. They will set buds for next years flowers in the fall. The Kurume azaleas set their buds in July and the Satsuki a little later in August. You need to find out if your particular flowering tree blooms on new or old wood and when it sets buds so you can keep it in shape and yet will not prune next years flowers off.

Tropicals, buttonwoods, fukien tea, serissa, fig, etc., should be repotted during the summer while they are growing strong.

When the humidity is low I mist my junipers in the evening. I believe the story that in the wild junipers open their stomata in the cool of the evening absorbing any dew that may occur and close in the heat of the day to conserve moisture. The other species may get a foliage spray in the morning.

The humidity in summer varies quite a bit but when it sticks around for a few days look for fungal problems to appear, mildew being the most prevalent. Black spot will show up if the foliage stays wet very long. Foliage watering in the morning will usually not be a problem because it dries pretty quickly. Treat with potassium carbonate which you can find at any nursery with a decent organic section. There are several chemical sprays available too.

If you use the Boon technique for growing pines, now is the time for removing the candles, earlier on bigger trees later on smaller ones.

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



Spotlight of the Month
(Photo by Joey McCoy)