



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

July 2018 vol 92

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Calendar of Events

- **Wed July 11**
7:30pm - 9:00pm
Black Pine techniques with **Dr. Hoe**
- **Tues July 17**
7:30pm - 9:00pm
ABS Member's Workshop:
Bring your own tree

2018 Board of Directors

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Food

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Trees

President's Message

By Simon Tse

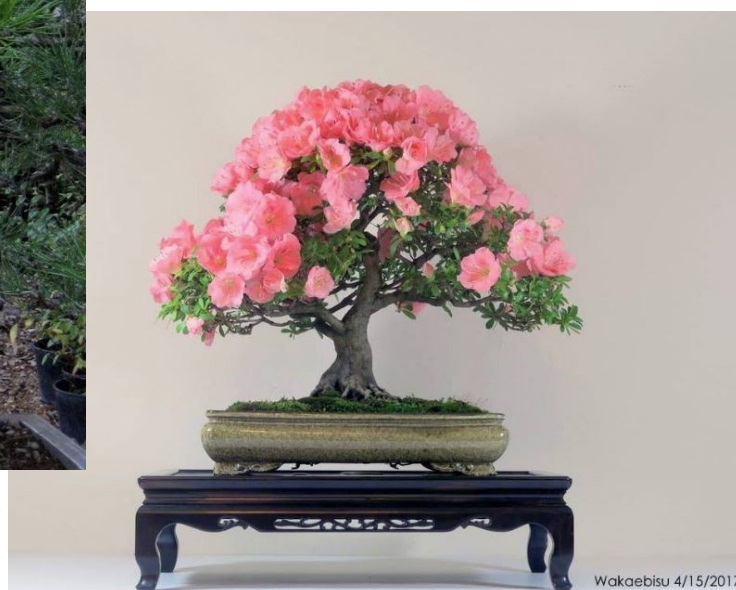
All this much-needed rain was a pleasant surprise this week! Hope your Bonsai and other plants have enjoyed the natural nourishment.

Our next meeting will feature Dr. Hoe, who is best known for his Azalea, Ficus, Elms and Black Pine. He is an accomplished engineer who is now applying his scientific mindset and skills onto creating outstanding Bonsai. Dr. Hoe will be showing us his Black Pine and share his experiences with all of us.

Last but not least, our annual auction is fast approaching! As you may know, this is our annual fundraiser and we rely strictly on donations from our members and non-members. We will also host a silent auction this year. Please contact me for more information.

Hope to see all of you in our next meeting!

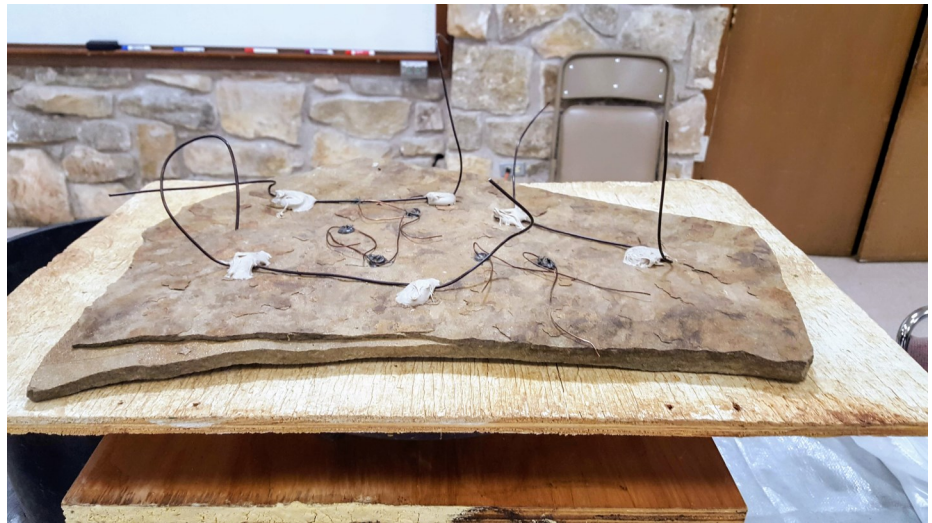
Cheers,
Simon



Wakaebisu 4/15/2017

June Meeting

The Austin Bonsai
Society welcomes
Joe Day



(Photos by Joey McCoy)



Our Vice President in action!

June Meeting

Final Masterpiece and
raffles winner!



Congratulations Marlon!



ABS Workshop

Saikei creation with
Yvonne Padilla



(Photos by May Lau)



ABS Workshop

Saikei creation with
Yvonne Padilla



(Photos by May Lau)



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Vice President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society Members,

What an exciting month June turned out to be for our members with both Yvonne Padilla and Joe Day coming into town to share their experience. Thank you to everyone who attended and prepare for the events as well as a special thanks to Chuck Ware for providing superb materials. Here in July, we will be hosting Dr. Hoe from the Houston Bonsai Society who will share his knowledge around Japanese Black Pine maintenance and care for Texas. I anticipate this to be a great follow up to the knowledge and approaches Juan shared with us in January.

At our last meeting, we unanimously voted for Austin Bonsai Society to commit to hosting and facilitating the 2021 Lone Star Bonsai Federation (LSBF) State Convention in Austin, Texas. Looking forward to putting on a good convention and having a fun time planning it out and making it happen. I'll be adding some more polish to a master plan and begin to socialize it everyone in upcoming months - be on the look out for a note!

Hope the summer is unfolding in favorable ways for everyone and that the summer rains are providing unexpected respite from the onset of the heat.

Cheers,
Brandon

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Board Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2018

- Meeting was shortened for board members to attend Yvonne's workshop
- Touched base on Convention committee
- Unanimously approved secretary and treasurer reports

June Bonsai

By John Miller

It would have been well worth a trip to Austin in May for the 3 person critique of Terry Ward, Mike Hansen, and Chuck Ware. Having three of that quality at the same table and talking about each tree was quite an accomplishment. I would have been fully awake all night.

If you are interested in doing indoor bonsai I would suggest you read Mary Miller's last newsletter. Pay extra attention to the words on Jack Wikle. Also some interesting info on Portulacaria Afra (Dwarf Jade). Bonsai Banter Issue #99 (Bonsai_Banter@bonsaimary.com)

At the Shohin meeting one said they had a severe infestation of thrips. A good site for bug info would be: <https://www.planetnatural.com/pest-problem-solver/houseplant-pests/thrips-control/>

July and August are the two most stressful months for bonsai in our area. Most healthy trees can take the full sun on their foliage. But

the high ambient temperatures and the heating effect of the sun on the pots and soil create temperatures on the roots that they are not designed to cope with. Trees with thin leaves like the Japanese maple, Acer Palmatum, that are under-story trees, will probably scorch in full sun. They can also suffer from chemical burn from some fertilizers and insecticides which can be more damaging in the heat.

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 that allows air flow is preferable to solid paper or foil. A solid cover or box over the pot would create an oven type enclosure. There should be room for air flow around the pot. A 30-40% shade cloth over pines, junipers, and elms and maybe 50% over maples would be ideal. And don't forget to provide protection on the west side from that

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New Members

Madhavan Nampoothiri

John J. O'Connor

Jorge Villanueva

Welcome!

mean afternoon sun.

Check your water practices. Normally I prefer to water heavily in the evening. That gives the plant all night to renew itself without losing most of its water to evaporation. Then in the early morning, they get a quick foliage spray and wetting the surface of the soil which may have dried out overnight. This was what I did while working. Be sure to do the double watering bit--water thoroughly so that the dry soil particles will get moistened and after a few minutes water again so that they will soak up water fully.

Pots out in the sun can get pot 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 120 degrees that will kill roots on most plants. An article by Dr. Bill Cody suggests that his experiments show that an afternoon watering at 2PM will go a long way to keep the soil temperature in a desirable range while a box close around the pot does little to protect it. Therefore I now try to water at 2pm to cool and refresh the roots and again after sundown to get the night started right.

When the humidity is low I mist my junipers in the evening. I believe the story that in the wild many desert junipers (like Texas Ashe) 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. Other species may get their foliage spray in the morning.

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. Preventative medicine is best,

spray or a regular schedule. By the time you see signs, 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) 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.

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.

As a rule we do not feed our trees enough. Since the mix we use has very little nutrient value, we must make up with our fertilizer practice. Water soluble fertilizers will be quickly washed out. The best "rule" I have heard was given by Matt Ouwinga who primarily grows trident maples.

Matt's rule:

- A. Apply organic fertilizer balls each 6 weeks. Discard old balls.
- B. Apply fish emulsion every two weeks.
- C. Apply liquid plant food on alternate weeks.

You can fertilize with most organic type

fertilizers without worrying about burning the roots in hot weather. Do not use hi-powered types tho, such as bat guano or one made with chicken manure in the heat. If you use chemical types follow the label. If they do not specify any temperature restrictions try using a weaker solution than normal. Without a lot of organic material in your soil you should use a weaker solution but more often to provide a more even feeding.

Many spring flowering plants will be setting buds for next years flowers. Azaleas will set theirs toward the end of July. If you prune tips after that you remove the new buds.

Now that night temperatures are staying above 60 degrees you should think about repotting some of the tropicals. Most tropicals do well with an annual repotting. I would emphasize to check the wires on your trees and also see that the drains are not blocked in any way. Especially check them after a rain to be sure that your pots have drained properly. Keep the

tropicals trimmed as they will be growing like crazy. However, if you want flowers on those that produce on the end of the twigs, bougianvilla-pomegranate-crape myrtle, you will have to forgo the bonsai shape to let them flower. These species should be pruned more drastically before the growing season starts so they can still be in a pretty good shape.

Your trees too keep growing and need their periodic beauty treatment. Keep the ends trimmed and the stray shoots cut out. Its not that bad when you can sit in the shade with a big lemonade and really enjoy being with your bonsai. That way you will have your tree ready for the fall show or you will be ready to enjoy it when the change of seasons give it pretty colors.

Recruiting Authors

With a nod of respect to John Miller, who has been diligently writing monthly columns for our newsletter, we would also like to take this time to invite interested members with knowledge and experiences of local Austin conditions to write articles for beginners and potential aspirants keen on raising bonsai. The Bonsai Notebook is looking for a new voice to author a column providing helpful reminders and tips dedicated to caring for bonsai. Be it a monthly routine or winter procedures, we'd like to welcome new perspectives and experiences to be shared in this newsletter. If interested, please contact Simon Tse at tse_simon@hotmail.com.

A warm thank you to John Miller for writing the latest columns. Even I, as the editor, may have taken these last months for granted and have been reminded that life is a charming companion that deserves to be appreciated every day. Thank you for your helpful words!

Bonsai Notebook

Austin Bonsai Society
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About Us

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, contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, TX 78734.