

BONSAI NOTEBOOK

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

March 2017 vol 74



Calender of Events

- Wed. Mar. 8 Cascades & Semi-cascades with Chuck Ware
- Tues. Mar. 21 7:00pm Board Meeting
7:30pm Members Workshop - Helping w/Cascades, etc.
- Apr. 6-9 LSBF Convention in Dallas
- Wed. Apr. 12 Kusamono presented by Sooncheng Cheah

OUR NEWS

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March Meeting Volunteers

**MARCH 8TH
FOOD:**
ELAINE WHITE
ZERITA
ROGERS

**MARCH 8TH
TREES:**
DANIEL LIM
DANIEL
PINTAURO

March Update

by Simon Tse



President Simon Tse at the club dig. Photo by May Lau

Bonsai enthusiasts are being challenged once again with the typically warm February. We have been so busy repotting and racing against time to ensure all bonsai have received their tender loving care. I hope your repotting is going well.

Iwould like to say thanks to Nilda, who provided such generosity and hospitality during our 2nd annual bonsai dig. For those who couldn't attend, we have another opportunity for an urban boxwood dig this coming weekend (March 5th). Space is limited, so please reserve a spot with Joey (jvmccoy@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

As I have mentioned in the previous newsletter, we have an exciting program lineup. Bob Pressler from Kimura Bonsai Nursery in California is going to perform a demonstration on a Blue Alps Juniper. Jonas Dupuich who studies with Boon Manakitivipart, a founding member of Bay Island Bonsai is also coming to Austin for a demo and workshop. Last but not least, Soon Cheah from Houston will provide an exhilarating Kusamono program. With all these outstanding programs/workshops, Austin Bonsai members will enjoy priority signup. It is never too late to join or invite friends who are interested in exploring the world of Bonsai.

Cheers! Simon

March Bonsai

by John Miller

The lack of a real winter this year has caused problems with doing tasks on a calendar schedule. You will need to observe your trees and adjust to their needs. Also you will need to be on the lookout for a late freeze sneaking in. Be ready to protect newly growing plants,

new roots are especially tender. Some species (chinese elm) break dormancy in response to temperatures while others (cedar elm) seem to respond to the length of daylight and wait.



March will see you working to control new growth, continuing your repotting, disbudding azaleas, and working (i.e. enjoying) on spring bonsai exhibits. You just may have time problems if other members of the family want to get out of the house to go Easter shopping or whatever and you have to go with them.

You may continue repotting on deciduous species until you see a tiny bit of green on the tips of the swelling leaf bud. Be sure to keep the newly repotted tree out of the wind and late morning or afternoon sun. Broadleaf evergreen species will -

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Chuck
and Pat
Ware

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<http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

New Members Corner

Maria & Anna Teixeira
mariateixeira@aol.com

Michael Turner
mjtur56@gmail.com

Myra & Chad Kettering
liquidartist05@gmail.com

generally be okay to repot later on. Yaupon do better if you wait until it warms a bit more. Even tho its gets quite warm now, we can expect a freeze in March so you may have to protect trees that have started growth and those that have been repotted this winter.

Bonsai work depends on whether your tree is in the development or ramification stages. In development you let the branch grow to thicken, then cut back to a bud to change direction and let that grow again and repeat. In ramification you have your branch structure and need to develop fine twigs and fruiting spurs, a much more detailed and slower work. My articles are slanted toward ramification.

Keep your shears handy (and sharp) so you can keep the new growth on your trees pruned. The shoots of species with alternate leaf growth (like elms) should grow only to 5-6 leaves and be pinched back to 2 or 3 (depending on which direction you wish the new growth to take). Shoots of trees with opposite leaf growth (maples) should have the new tip pinched (tweezers work better than scissors for this) as soon as you can see it. Doing this regularly is the only way to keep the leaves and internodes small and give you nice twiginess.

Anytime there is new tender growth, the spring bugs like aphids will show up. 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 more mantis eggs since I dont use chemical sprays.

Warm humid days favor the development of fungal diseases such as leaf spot on elms and yaupons. Again the organic program will work on them as well. If hydrogen peroxide is used as a fungicide it should be diluted to a 1% strength (normally 1 part H₂O₂ to 2 parts water).

Fertilizing is necessary one the trees start to grow. Too many trees exhibited do not have a good dark green foliage. Since we are using soil-less mixes for the most part, a different technique is required than used for most potted plants. Water soluble chemical fertilizers should be used at half strength and applied more often since they will wash out with the next watering. The same is more or less true with liquid organic fertilizers. The best technique is to use solid organic fertilizers. Fertilizer cakes on the surface is the best way. They break down slowly and a small amount is carried into the root zone each

time you water. Pelletized organic material can be spread on the surface also but they tend to crumble and create an undesirable surface. Be sure that the material you use has a balanced formula and not high in nitrogen.

The original foliar feed formula given by Howard Garrett is one tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water. Chelated iron and epsom salts can be added at 1 tablespoon per gallon. Always make sure you use a fine spray and cover top and bottom of leaves and the trunk. A commercial mixture is sold under the name of 'Garrett Juice' which you should be able to find at organic nurseries such as but it doesn't seem to have the insect control capability that the original formula does. It is fine as a fertilizer though.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2016: Bonsai Inspiration from Trees In Nature Photo Contest!



May Lau (Best of Show) and John Muller with Jonathan Woods (Past President)

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Or message Joey:

jvmccoy@

sbcglobal.net

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Terrific place for us to
gather, chat, and talk

Bonsai!

Vice President's Message

Potting season!!

by Zach Rabalais

Potting season is well underway here in central Texas. I'm sure that this is keeping all of you very busy rushing to re-potting your trees. Before you know it spring will be here and everything will be nice and green, at least for a month or two until the summer heat hits. We hope that you can take some time out of your repotting to visit us for the March meeting.

The topic will be Cascade and Semi-Cascade style bonsai. There is nothing quite like the image or a cascade or semi-cascade tree. They are the ultimate survivors, hanging on to the sides of cliffs and mountains, often surrounded by nothing but barren rock. It is a very striking image to see a very old tree by clinging to the side of a cliff. This is the image and the feeling that we are trying to duplicate when we create a cascade bonsai. We hope to see you at the March meeting to explore this style of tree further. As always, we encourage members to bring in trees of their own, either in cascade style or otherwise, to show and discuss.



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Lights! Camera! Bonsai Action!

by **Jonathan Wood**

KLRU Television shot a segment today about Austin Bonsai with Joey, Elaine, Zel and I...it's amazing how much detail goes into setting up the shots to film around a beautiful, private bonsai garden! We gave info on clubs like the Austin Bonsai Society, and non profit exhibits like The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit. Airs in April or May 2017 on Central Texas Gardener TV Show. Enjoy some photos from the filming!



LSBF 2017 Dallas Convention

April 6th - 9th 2017

by Sylvia Smith, Convention Chair



If you wondered why we chose the material we did for our bonsai convention, wonder no more. Here is a highlight of our available workshop trees!

Brazilian Raintree: It is a tropical, with a sinuous, exfoliating trunk that develops with age. The foliage folds its leaflets in half at night as if in prayer. This incredible specimen pictured, started life out not looking like much, but with time and good care developed into the beauty you see now. Follow the link below to see how it was accomplished, then sign up to add one to your collection!

<http://www.bonsaiempire.com/inspiration/progressions/brazilian-rain-tree>



Before



After

Yaupon Holly: Very hardy trees that back bud readily and develop relatively fast. What more could you want from bonsai....except about a 5" or larger trunk base like the ones we have to for our workshop. How is this for a before and after transformation?! Check out this link to learn more about this great species.

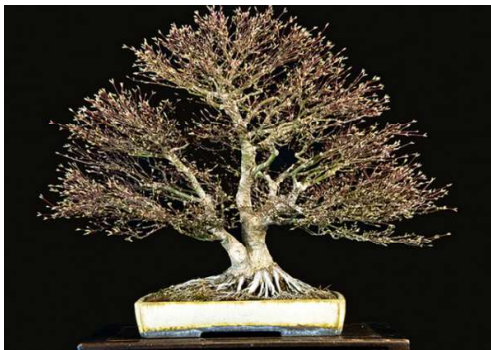
<https://bonsaitonight.com/2016/07/26/developing-yaupon-holly-bonsai-a-tale-of-when-not-to-cut/>



Dwarf Yew: They have the potential for nice deadwood, readily bud back and develop quickly. It is difficult to find a nice shohin specimen but we've got them. Tony Tickle has a good example of the progression of a yew on the web using the link below. Our workshop trees have amazing root bases making these great candidates for awesome shohin trees!

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/yamadori.co.uk/2013/08/05/progressive-styling-on-the-tall-yew/amp/>

BONSAI



**Kashima Maple - Kashi-
ma maple by Bill Vala-
vanis. Need we say
more? How about the
tiny leaf and its beautiful
color?**



**Exposed Root Azalea: These Japanese imports are pretty
much ready to style, pot and show! David Kruetz is the
go-to-guy when it comes to azaleas. He imported these
and they were in quarantine for 2 years. Since then he
has cared for them and gotten them acclimated to our
climate. Sign up soon for his workshop before these
beauties are all gone too!**



**Literati Black Pine: We start with JBP that are strong, hardy
conifers with aged bark at 15-20+ years. Below is a picture from
Bill Valavanis' blog from the 33rd Nippon Bonsai Taikan-ten
Exhibition. Literati style trees depict grace and with the right
material, age and beauty. Our workshop trees (left) have great
nebari, good trunk girth and enough back budding to start
styling and preparing to groom into a fine show worthy literati!**

**So, don't delay. Register for the convention, sign
up for any of these workshops and you will go home
with fine bonsai to add to or start your collection!**

ABS General Meeting Minutes
February, 2017
Robert Nowicki, Secretary





ABS Board Meeting Minutes
February, 2017
Robert Nowicki, Secretary

Austin Bonsai Society P.O.Box 340474 Austin, TX 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 info contact the address above.

