



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

May 2014 vol 41

May 2014 Programs by Jimbo Baumann

Proper Display- Japanese, Chinese, Texas with Terry Ward

The Display and Showing of Bonsai and Accent Items” including scrolls, kusamono, suiseki” by the Austin Bonsai Society on **Wednesday, May 14** at 7 pm at the Zilker Botanical Garden (2200 Barton Springs Road).

Free lecture and demonstrations by Terry Ward using all accent display items with Bonsai. Hands-on is encouraged by members so please feel free to bring any plants, trees, etc. for the lecture / demo. Guests are welcome.

Calendar of Events

May 14 ABS Monthly Meeting

**Proper Display- Japanese, Chinese, Texas
Reception Hosts: Angiew Hewes & Ruby Chaing
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

May 16 Set up for Annual Show

**May 17 & 18 Austin Bonsai Society Show
Zilker Garden Center**

**May 20 Board Meeting/ Members Workshop--
New Member Invitation**



**Jonathan Woods, Emerging Artist at LSBF
State Convention in Houston, TX.**

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

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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 inc

hes. 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 Nan Jenkins

Greetings everyone,

Are you enjoying this time of year as I am? Except for all the pollen in the air, it is my favorite. I love going outdoors each morning to see the surprises. Bluebonnets, irises, honeysuckle, ladybugs, caterpillars, mockingbirds, cardinals, and on and on. Each day there is always something new.

The same is true with our trees. I watch for the signs of new growth. I love the look of new leaves, the bright greens of an elm or the beautiful reds of a maple. Some of them even have flowers, even tiny flowers that only last a short while that you really have to watch to see. Of course, that also means watching for wire that needs to be removed ASAP.

All that looking and watching also helps me find the trees that look good enough to take to the exhibit. I start paying more attention to them. Some I move to an area where I only use rain water on them to keep those new leaves looking pristine.

We need everyone to help us with the exhibit. We need your trees. They don't have to be perfectly styled, but they do need to be in a bonsai pot. We need accent plants, stands, scrolls, and helpers. The opportunities are for set up on Friday at 5:00, being a docent during the show times on Saturday and Sunday, and take down on Sunday at 5:00. We provide pizza for dinner on Friday for our workers, and snacks the rest of the time. It is a fun time as we all work together to make a beautiful show for the people to see. Be sure to invite your friends and family to come see what we do. We even have demonstrations so people can see a bonsai being created.

We will have all the details at our meeting this month. You do not want to miss it. You will understand a lot more about what goes into making a bonsai exhibit afterwards. See you then.

--Nan



Tropical Bonsai School

By Pedro J. Morales

Year 1

May 27th – June 1st

Classroom portion

Tues, Wed and Thursday

Evenings 6 PM – 9 PM

Hands –On work

Friday, Sat. and Sunday

9 AM – 5 PM

Year 2

June 24th – June 29th

Classroom portion

Tues, Wed and Thursday

Evenings 6PM- 9PM

Hands –On work

Friday, Sat. and Sunday

9 AM – 5 PM

Held at “Timeless Trees” in Rosenberg, TX.

Six days of intensive instruction, lecture, videos, and hands-on work with the world renowned Bonsai artist Pedro Morales. All supplies included, and Lunch on Fri, Sat and Sunday.

The best instructional value in the U.S.

\$375.00 per class

Contact Hurley Johnson to sign up, 832-526-5962 or hurley@all-tex.net



Austinites at the LSBF State Convention. Photo by Joey McCoy

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.

I hope your backyard was better behaved than mine. Due to the cold winter (I did not have any temp above 80 from the middle of Nov until Apr 1 and a freeze on Apr 15), the trees that break dormancy due to rising temps and those that sense longer daylight got mixed up and all came out in a 10 day period. Some oaks came before some chinese elms and maples mixed in there too. There was not enough time to keep them properly pruned.

Anyhow, we must assume that they will now fall into a 'normal' routine and proceed with the usual May bonsai care, maybe modified a bit.

Leaf pruning would normally be done in May only on very healthy trees. However if your trees broke late you should make sure that they have sufficient food and light and time to make and store enough energy to produce a healthy set of new leaves. The new leaves need to have time to mature before the heat sets in. If in doubt do not leaf prune this year.

If you have flowering or fruiting bonsai, they should probably not be pruned until June so they will develop the necessary flowers and the fruit will need a lot of foliage to support the tree while the fruit grows. Azaleas usually have too many buds and should have some buds removed to allow room for the flowers to open fully.

Repotting season is getting close for tropicals. Generally they may be done whenever the night temperatures stay above 60 degrees. The repotting of tropicals is done when they are in active growth. Be extra vigilant to prevent the roots from drying during repotting. Place the repotted tree in an area with good light but little direct sun. It should have good air flow but no wind until it show new growth.

A good organic program takes care of both the feeding and the insect problems. The trick is to be sure

to thoroughly cover the plant including all the leaf axils and do it on a regular basis.

The standard horde of pests will be knocking of your door any day now if they are not already at the dinner table. Pale leaves would indicate spider mites. Aphids and woolly scale are easy to see but you need to look for them. Small caterpillars are easy to miss until you see holes in your leaves. My overall cure for these is an organic foliar spray of one tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and apple cider vinegar in a gallon of water. It will not only feed the tree but take care of any vermin there. Be sure to spray the under sides of the leaves and the leaf axils too. Use a hand or pump up sprayer to get a fine spray to cover all top and bottom of leaves, a hose end sprayer doesn't cover good enough. This is also true if you want to use commercial chemical sprays.

Fungal diseases can show up with damp weather. Leaf spot can be serious on Catlin and chinese elms and on hollies. Mildew can be a problem when the weather turns warm. There are organic fungicides available, baking soda is one. Check an organics nursery or publications. A 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide (dilute the standard 3% store bought stuff 2 parts water to each part peroxide) is also recommended but it can injure tender new foliage

Most Americans do not fertilize their bonsai properly. We are addicted to quick and labor saving techniques. Chemical fertilizers tend to fall in that bin. Plants can only utilize a small amount of nutrients at a time. Organic fertilizers break down slowly by microbial action. When you water over an organic fertilizer you wash those nutrients into the soil constantly providing the required small amount of food. Water soluble chemical fertilizers give a large quick dose of food. However our bonsai soils do not captivate the fertilizer as well as dirt or commercial planting mixes. The next time you water you wash all nutrients away and the tree starves until the next feeding. I do not like loose organic fertilizers because they tend to wash into the top layer of soil and reduce the air space and keep the soil too moist. Ball type fertilizers do not do that.

Be sure to keep the pruning utensils going, do not let the growth get coarse. Ideally you would never let the new growth on developed branches get more

than 5 leaves and prune it back to 2 or 3 leaves.. Also develop a habit when pruning of checking the wire you may still have on the tree. Remove it before the branch grows into the wire. Wire marks can never be fully removed.

If in spite of your efforts a tree gets dehydrated from being in high winds or from lack of watering some special care will be needed. If the tree was recently repotted that compounds the problem. First move the plant to a protected area out of the sun and winds and mist the foliage, branches and trunk.

Treatment would depend on how much damage you have to the foliage. If the leaves are dried, and go easy on the watering until new growth starts. Do not pull the dead leaves off because you may damage the latent buds. You may cut the leaf stem if you desire. No fertilizer until the plant starts growing again. If the leaves are mostly green with only damaged tips continue normal care. If the tree is not stressed too much you can then leaf prune later and obtain new foliage.

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Photos by Joey McCoy



More photos by
Joey McCoy from LSBF
State Convention



Joey McCoy wins Best Broadleaf Evergreen tree at LSBF Convention

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)