



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

September 2015 vol 57

September 2015 Program

by Jimbo Baumann

This month is our annual auction and our only fundraiser.

We depend on the money we make here to fund our programs and our guest artists. So we encourage ALL members to donate items that we can auction AND to come support the club by generously bidding on the items being auctioned. For those donating, the tags to put on each item is located in another part of the newsletter so be sure to fill one out for each item. For those buying, remember to bring your checkbook OR cash, we do not have credit card service.

This allows us all to thin our collection by giving others the opportunity to enhance that which we have started (or hadn't started). But a good time is had by all.

Calendar of Events

Sept. 9 ANNUAL AUCTION

7:30pm//Don't forget CASH and your checkbook

Hosts: Mike & Emily Bourdreaux/Angie Hewes

Sept 20: Monthly Board Meeting

7:00pm

Sept 20: Members Only Workshop

7:30pm, Bring what you won at the auction to work on

Oct 9/10: LSBF Bunjin Seminar in Kingwood, TX



Auction from last last fall.

(Photo by Joey McCoy)



Elain talking about ficus last month.

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Jonathan Wood
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Jimbo Baumann
Vice President

VACANT
Secretary

Pat Ware
Treasurer

Angie Hewes
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Nan Jenkins

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 Jonathan Wood

Hi Austin Bonsai Society Members,

It's club Auction time Sept 9th! The annual auction is the main way we raise funds to bring in guest artists, support lecture-demos, host Tuesday night workshops and more. Bring some bonsai items to donate... leave with some new opportunities! I can't wait to see what will be on the auction block this September! Remember : cash or check this year and photo ID for bidding guests.

Special thank you to Elaine White for her detailed ficus presentation in August. I learned so much, took notes, and now have a handy ficus reference sheet to add to my growing knowledge of tropicals. What a great set of display trees! Also, thank you to Joe Trochta for his generous offering of the Texas Ebony and Ficus pre-bonsai material! Beginners and returning members have shared in both the learning, and the joys, of styling and repotting. Thank you also to the veteran members who stood by to help the newer members! Looking forward to seeing these trees develop even further over the years. This is one of the more sentimental aspects of our bonsai pursuits... taking care of the treasures passed down from member to member.

Nominations for 2016 Board positions are taking place, nominating committee chair is member Quoc Hoang. The 2016 slate of proposed Board members will be presented in October and voted on by the general Austin Bonsai Membership at the November pot-luck party. If you are interested in a Board position please contact Quoc or email me and I'll pass the info along.

A note about clean-up after our meetings and workshops: it is our club's job to leave Zilker facilities as clean or cleaner than how we found them. We all pitch in to sweep and clean table tops/floors on our way out each meeting. Let's continue to pride ourselves on spotless tables and floors :-).

Welcome new members! Keep coming to 2nd Wednesday meetings and monthly workshops to get to know future friends and mentors in the bonsai art. Reach out and say hi! Maybe even bring a friend or two who takes interest in bonsai to Wednesday meetings from time to time.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Wood, ABS President
Bonsai quote:

"Bonsai is not the result: that comes after. Your enjoyment is what is important." — John Yoshio Naka

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



Photos by Joey McCoy

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web page: <http://www.bonsaiehibittexas.com>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Daniel Lim and Robert Nowicki

214-789-5198

txbonsaiboys@gmail.com

LONE STAR BONSAI FEDERATION MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2015, Katy, Texas

President's Report: The health of LSBF appears good based on current activities and financials. Some progress has been made since the previous meeting on both the review of the LSBF By-Laws and the convention handbook.

Treasurer's Report: Kevin reported that, as of June 13, 2015 we have \$13,204.91 in the treasury.

Secretary's Report: Pete distributed a new contact information sheet (attached).

Newsletter Report: Currently planning to issue two electronic newsletters each year. The next will emphasize the October learning seminar.

Website: A new webmaster is needed. Austin has identified a candidate for this position. Mark will make contact.

Facebook Page: The Facebook page was recently updated.

Committee Reports: Historical committee – John Miller has agreed to chair this committee. There has been little progress so far.

Texas Tour Artists

2015 – Owen Reich is the LSBF touring artist in 2015. Kevin distributed copies of the final schedule. The Board expressed their thanks to Kevin for all of his work scheduling the tour.

2016 – Kevin proposed Rodney Clemons as the 2016 touring artist. He was unanimously accepted. Kevin has agreed to schedule and provided a tentative schedule. Since we are asking additional clubs to join LSBF, Kevin will put the scheduling on hold for a few months.

The Board discussed what would happen if a new club joined LSBF at a time after the touring artist schedule for the year was set. A motion was made and seconded to the effect that, "If LSBF cannot accommodate a new member club in the next touring artist schedule, then the new club's initial dues will be applied to the following year." Motion passed unanimously.

LSBF Texas Artist Program: The Board nominated several individuals to be on the LSBF Artist List. Pete will approach those nominated regarding any additional information they would like to add to the list. Once that is complete Pete will distribute the list.

LSBF Suppliers List: The Board discussed who should be eligible to be on the Suppliers list. It was agreed that vendors who are close to a local club, but are not members of the club can be on the list. Mark will solicit the Board members for candidates for the Suppliers list.

LSBF Membership: In addition to the clubs in neighboring states, Mark will approach the Houston Chinese Bonsai Society regarding membership in LSBF.

Convention Reports

2016 – Versie reported that the convention will be held from October 13-16 at the Emerald Beach Hotel in Corpus. This is the same hotel as last time. Artists being considered include Joe Day from Mobile, Alabama, Jason Schley from Florida, and Ed Trout. For workshop material, the club has crepe myrtle, dwarf jade, bougainvillea, and powder puff. They are actively looking for sets of black pines, buttonwoods and neea buxifolias. The convention logo is being developed. Fliers will be ready in time for the October Learning Seminar.

2017 – Fort Worth and Dallas have agreed to co-host the convention in 2017. Sylvia Smith and Mark Bynum will co-chair. Bjorn Bjorholm has been booked for the convention. No venue as yet. Workshop material is being assembled with 4 or 5 sets of material already in hand.

2018 – San Antonio and Austin are discussing whether or not they will act as joint hosts and venue. Kevin will have the answer for the LSBF Board in October.

2015 Symposium – Howard distributed the flier for the October Learning Seminar. He will distribute the electronic version to the Board. The website for the event should be up and running in late June.

There will be a "bunjin only" exhibition of around 20 trees. Prizes will be limited to Best in Show and two runners-up.

Raffles will be held Friday before dinner and before lunch on Saturday.

There will be an Emerging Talent Contest, which is being organized by Hurley Johnson.

New Business: Mark appointed a nominating committee for officers for the next two years. The committee is Shannon Gilliland (Chair), Versie Marks, and Nan Jenkins.

The Board discussed whether or not LSBF was providing adequate seed money for the conventions. Pete Parker moved to raise the seed money to \$1000. Seconded by Yvonne Padilla. Motion passed. Kevin was instructed to provide \$1000 seed money to Corpus Christi for the 2016 convention.

The next meeting will be held at the October Learning Seminar.

BUNJIN AND DISPLAY: THE REEL DEAL

It is time to get in your registration for the LSBF seminar, October 9-10 in Kingwood, Texas. After September 9th, it will cost you \$10 more for registration and to sign up for workshops. There is an azalea workshop and a BYOT workshop. Nan has registration materials at the sign in desk or you can download them from the Austin Bonsai Society web page or the LSBF webpage.

In addition to the demonstration on designing a bunjin (literati) style bonsai, we will have a workshop on how to best display bonsai.

Matt Reel did a 7 year apprenticeship in Japan with a well respected bonsai master. A big part of his assignment was to set up displays at various exhibitions. He will teach us the techniques to put together a show that will be outstanding.

We 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 (at least by Oct. 5th) and she can get them to the raffle master. Bring a list of what you are donating and a value of each item.

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 80-20% split of the money on your trees. 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!

-Nan Jenkins

Item_____

Donor_____

Approx. Cost_____

Item_____

Buyer #_____

Final Bid_____

Item_____

Donor_____

Approx. Cost_____

Item_____

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Buyer #_____

Final Bid_____

Item_____

Donor_____

Approx. Cost_____

Item_____

Buyer #_____

Final Bid_____

September Bonsai by John Miller

There is no way you can rely on the calendar to plan what you need to do for your bonsai. In April, May, June this year I probably had three days total that all my trees needed watering. And only a few more that they really needed to be checked. Then from July 5 to August 24 (7+weeks) there was not a drop of rain and a lot of temps above 100. You just have to know what needs to be done and then do it.

When it rains days on end, tilt the pots to aid drainage and to make sure they are not stopped up. When it is hot and dry, maybe water 2-3 times a day and protect plants and especially the pot from direct sun.

It is probably not late enough for the bonsai to go into their pre-dormancy slow down period. If they are still growing, continue twig pruning and other summer care. If air layers have developed roots they may be separated and potted.

In Sept and Oct there will still be some days with pretty hot temps. So as the sun changes its angle make sure that the pots do not get too hot in the late afternoon sun. Also 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. So check each one separately and water as often and as much as the individual tree requires.

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. You need to check them periodically over the winter also. 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. Work from the outside end of the wire back so that you do not overlook a small piece of wire. If you have trouble seeing each twist of the wire don't cut, just unwrap the wire (with care). If you miss a turn of the wire you will make an unsightly bulge and the limb will probably have to be cut off. If you need to reapply some wire take care to not follow the same path.

Help your trees go into dormancy. The general rule of thumb on fertilizers is to stop giving nitrogen early in September and fertilize with one that has a formulation like 0-10-10 or 0-0-10. They will need less water as they quit active growth but on warm days trees with green foliage will still transpire and will have need of that water. Most tropicals have a dormant season also but it is usually caused by dry conditions rather than cold. These types need to be hardened also by cutting the fertilizer to halt

active growth and give them lighter watering. This will enable them to withstand the transfer to the greenhouse better.

Fruiting bonsai spend a lot of energy growing fruit. They should not be allowed to fruit heavily each year. They benefit from a light fertilization at this time. Flowering bonsai especially need to receive the minor elements. Get a good fertilizer, such as the Espoma plant-tone fertilizers, that include them in their mix for good color development. They should be listed on the label.

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. If we should have a stretch of damp weather you should be watching for fungal problems, leaf spot, mildew, etc. Treat fungal 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.

The organic spray formula is one tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water. Spray top and bottom of leaves and trunk thoroughly on a regular basis (7-10 days). If you miss getting scale in their vulnerable crawler stage, you may have to go to a systemic.

Pruning and trimming 'can' be done any time that there is not a lot of sap flowing but is usually advisable to do it during dormancy. Sap flow is indicated by the foliar activity of the plant like in the spring. If your tree went into summer dormancy which sometimes 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.

Two other 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. Bonsai in Texas should be a year around sport, you don't need to cover them completely like up north. Try to put them where you can see some of them. Just remember that they will still need to be watered and evergreens will need some sun. A mulch cover over the pots on the ground will minimize temperature extremes.

Don't wait for the freezing weather to be forecast to 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. Being 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.

Do not be in a great hurry to put your trees in winter quarters. Keep them where you can enjoy them as long as possible. That way you experience the color change and all that occurs in the fall. Know when the freeze can be expected and then listen to the weather forecasts and put them down in the place prepared before hand.

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)