



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

September 2014 vol 45

September 2014 Program

by Jimbo Baumann

LSBF Visiting Artist -- Peter Tea

Well we all know the last two weeks of August are the real leaf burners of summer here in central Texas! But rain is in the forecast for September; as well as, an "El Nino" could be forming; and that is not all the good news, we have a Bonsai Visiting Artist, Peter Tea from the West Coast. Some of our members will be doing a "rain dance" your way to our Wednesday, September 10th program at Zilker Garden Center. Peter will be conducting a lecture/demo with a collected Texas Persimmon. Members please remember this demo tree will be given away at the end of the night to the lucky raffle ticket winner. Raffle tickets will be \$5.00 each.

This tree is a real beauty (see pictures), it was collected approximately 4-5 years ago and for the last few years it has been adding foliage and fruiting. As a native Texas tree soon to be a bonsai it has substantial rootage, a good flare and fluting to the trunk, and taper. This Texas Persimmon will be a real prize addition to someone's collection.

To show Peter a little of Austin and the cultural scene there will be a No-Host Dinner or "Pay Your Own Way" pre-lecture dinner at Shady Grove restaurant on 1624 Barton Springs Road at 5:30 pm. If you would like to get to know Peter over dinner at this Austin landmark please plan to join us.

In addition, there will be a member only registered workshop the night before, Tuesday September 9th at the Senior Activity Center at 3911 Manchaca Road. All six registration places have been taken; members of the club are permitted silent observation at the workshop.

Our Tuesday, Sep 16th Members Only Workshop, will include styling tips and techniques for a "bring your own tree" discussion. We have had many new members showing up for this informal workshop and it has been highly productive for some of our members.

And finally, just a little reminder our October 8th Meeting is our ABS ANNUAL AUCTION. We look forward to a busy fall season with the Austin Bonsai Society.

Calendar of Events

- Sept. 9** Visiting Artist Private Workshop (6 members) w/ Peter Tea
South Austin Senior Center 7pm
- Sept. 10:** ABS Monthly Meeting
Visiting Artist Peter Tea
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Reception Hosts: Candi Hansen and Mary Wilker
- Sept 16:** ABS Members Only Workshop and Board Meeting Zilker Garden Center 7:30pm
- Sept 20:** Texas Shohin Society
Persimmon Hill Bonsai
10:30am to 2:30pm
- Oct. 8:** ABS Annual Auction 7:30pm
- Oct. 11:** Houston Bonsai Society Fall Show
Mercer Botanical Gardens 9am-3pm



Persimmon Tree for Peter Tea
Photo by Chuck Ware

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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 Nan Jenkins

Hi Everyone,

I am really having a hard time convincing myself to go outside to check on wiring that may need to come off, or going out to water. Thank goodness there are two of us to handle that chore! This time of year I go out and wonder what I'm doing! Why did I get into this hobby?

I suspect I'm not the only one who feels that way. The dog days of summer are hard to get through sometimes. But I am sooo glad that we've had a cooler summer than usual. Then, about February, I can't wait for the new leaves to begin to pop out! I want to see the fresh greens and all the new ramification coming on. Even repotting sounds like fun in February!

Some of the true joys of bonsai are being in touch with the cycles of the seasons, the amount of moisture we are having, the temperatures all around our yards, and the joy of finding surprises from our trees and plants each day-- even during the dog days. Just today I found a bloom on another plumeria, and I found four baby bulbs that came from one plant in a kusamono accent plant. Those babies will show up at next year's exhibit as small accent plants that cost me nothing.

I hope you are finding joy in your gardening also. If we look hard, we will find the surprises waiting for us under a dead leaf, or behind a tree trunk. And don't delay those daily chores especially in the triple digit days. Your trees will thank you!

See you on September 10th! Or on the 9th if you are coming to the workshop with Peter Tea. This is going to be a great month since we have our visiting artist with us. In addition to the workshop and demonstration, Peter is available if you would like to hire him for private time during the day on Tuesday or Wednesday. Call Pat Ware to schedule that.

Happy Bonsaing!

Nan

Input to your Bonsai Schedule for Fall 2014

If some of you prefer working with smaller bonsai— Shohin size, consider the Shohin Society of Texas. This is a group of folks from around the state that collaborate in a “free organization” for just the love of Shohin (bonsai at eight inches or smaller).

The Shohin Society of Texas workshop on Saturday, September 20th is all about enhancing shohin size bonsai to show age or signs of struggle for survival in nature. It’s a hands-on/how-to workshop about carving including techniques for creating natural looking jin, shari, sabamiki and uro... damage caused by wind, lightning, fire, disease or other natural adversity. We’ll also choose program themes and workshops for our four 2015 meetings (this society meets 4 times per year).

Complete details will be in the September Shohin Society newsletter. If you are not already on our email list and would like a copy or just have questions contact Terry or Sheila at texshohin@sbcglobal.net or 512-280-5575.

The Shohin Society has no dues or fees and anyone interested in shohin size bonsai (up to eight inches in height) is welcome. Meetings start at 10:30 a.m. at Per-simmon Hill Bonsai, 12001 Red Hawk Cove in Austin. Come about 10 a.m. and have coffee and nibbles before we get underway. We usually finish by 2:30 p.m. Come to learn, share and enjoy shohin bonsai with friends from all over the state.

Bring a brown bag lunch or enjoy hot dogs and all the trimmings provided by our S.S.O.T. kitty. Vegetarian alternatives available by prior request. New folks are always welcome—from those that are “just beginning to bonsai veterans”. You are welcome to bring a friend to share the learning and camaraderie.

Many thanks to Terry for providing this summary and for hosting (Terry and Sheila) this “fun group”.

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<https://www.facebook.com/AustinBonsaiSociety>

JADE GARDENS

HOME OF



Chuck & Pat Ware

Owners

Visa & MasterCard

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Wimberley, TX 78676

(512) 847-2514

e-mail: bonsaijg@gmail.com

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

NEW MEMBERS (CORRECTIONS FROM AUGUST)

Victor Engel
8110 Ripplewood Drive
Austin, Tx. 78757
512-588-3033
brillig@gmail.com

Dan & Kirsten Howard
2405 Hunters Green Ct.
Austin, Tx. 78732
512-266-0914
Dan.c.Howard@sbcglobal.com

Peg Hollen & Marty
Klajnowski
m.klajnowski@twc.com

ABS Board Meeting Minutes August 19, 2014

Present: Nan Jenkins, President; Jimbo Bauman, Vice-President; Pat Ware, Treasurer; Members at Large Zerita Rogers, Deborah Van Cleave, and Russell Kohlert; and Angelina Hewes, Secretary

Nan calls to order at 7:02

Voted to accept last month's minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Received 5% interest on CD and Mutual bonds of \$489 in interest for the year. The Newsletter is the biggest expense we have. The Society has a negative \$89.57 balance for the month. Otherwise club is pretty healthy.

Upcoming Events: September program, Jimbo to introduce Peter Tea on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesday, there will be no non-members at the workshop and it will be bring your own tree, tools, and wire. No repotting will be done. On Wednesday, if members want to meet Mr. Tea for dinner (paying for their own meal) and visit, they can meet at the Shady Grove at 5:30 PM. This is a good way to meet the artist in an informal surrounding.

- Chuck brought in a Texas persimmon for Peter Tea to work on at meeting. It was bought for the club at our auction a couple of years ago. Raffle Tickets can be purchased for \$5.00 per ticket
- October is our annual auction. Members are encouraged to bring items and participate in the bidding as this is our clubs only fund raiser.
- Jimbo suggested field trips might also be interesting for October. Members could meet somewhere and go together to collect rocks and trees; also maybe visit local bonsai vendors.

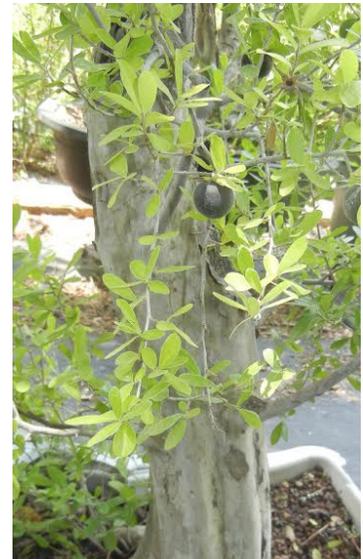
November is the science of soil by Chuck Ware. This is always a great program.

The December Christmas party will be with Walter Pall on Friday, December 10. He will not be pruning or shaping a tree, his program will be a talk about how to plan for the shape of your tree. We still haven't decided or found a place for the party. Faith Presbyterian Church has functions planned on Fridays and is not available. Nan will contact the Asian America's organization about possibly renting a place from them.

The Board Meeting adjourned around 7:59 p.m.

Angelina Hewes, Secretary

Persimmon tree with fruit for Peter Tea's presentation.
Photo by Chuck Ware



ABS General Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2014

Nan Jenkins, President calls to order 7:33

Welcomes everyone to meeting

Thanks to Deborah and Russell for Refreshments

New Members: None

Announcements:

Deborah. Peter Tea workshop is almost full. May have one spot open for the September 9 date.

Talked about the LSBS Newsletter line

Interesting items were on the board:

-Bonsai Banter@bonsaidmary.com by Mary Miller (monthly).

Tropical Green Sheets (\$36 including tax for a single copy) for FIA Tropical Bonsai Growers by Martha Goff. Email: marthagoff@comcast.net.

-Simon talked about the website map for members' addresses.

-October meeting will be ABS auction. Members are encouraged to bring in items to auction

Jimbo: Thanked everyone for coming. He announced the meeting would be informal and introduced Elaine, Chuck and Joey, the club's experts. They would be critiquing the trees members brought in for the meeting. He briefly talked about tropical. Pointed out that Texas tradition trees are maples and various deciduous trees.

Elaine: Nan brought an Algarita that she collected. The experts talked about its growth and possibilities for shaping the bonsai.

-Chuck discussed how changes in weather affect the growth of different species of trees in Texas, depending the region (temperature) where they're grown, and the soil they are growing in.

-Jimbo brought to the front one at a time members' trees each was discussed and critiqued by the experts. Suggestions were made on the pruning and shaping of each tree and each owner talked about the plans he/she might have for his/her tree.

-Some trees members brought in were:

Ficus – small leaf (40 year old)

Crepe Myrtle

Black Olive (tough trees)

Little leaf ficus

It was a very informative meeting and members got to see many of the trees other members are working on.

--Angelina Hewes

September 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 think plants are more attuned to the varying length of days than to temperature to set their life cycles-dormancy, flowering, etc. For example, the cedar elm sets buds in early August so they are ready to bloom with the first fall rain. That way its seeds have the best chance to get a root down far enough to survive the next summer.

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 (with care). 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 need to receive the minor elements a good fertilizer, such as the Espoma -tone fertilizers, includes in its mix for good color development.

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).

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.

Tips of the leaves turning brown are indications of a water stress problem. Look at the following areas.

a: evaporation--too much sun, too windy,
b: watering--gets too dry between waterings (staying too wet may cause root problems which thus prevent uptake of moisture).

c: soil or pots get too hot

d: water too alkaline

There is probably nothing you can do about the foliage this year. Problems that occur earlier in the year could be corrected by leaf pruning and growing new foliage. If you have these problems, determine the cause and try to correct for next year.

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 over the pots on the ground will minimize temperature extremes.

Check on the place you expect to winter your bonsai.

(1) Make sure that it is clean. Debris harbors insects and other plant pathogens. A strong lime-sulfur spray can be used to disinfect the area as well as your growing area after the trees are removed.

(2) Be sure that you will be able to check the water needs of the trees.

(3) It should be somewhat protected from winds but should have some air movement to help prevent molds from developing.

(4) Having it in a location where you can see the trees will allow you to enjoy the winter silhouette, i.e. the branch structure and twiginess, that is a great part of deciduous bonsai.

What is Bonsai? By Chuck Ware

“Bonsai” is the Japanese word meaning “tree in a tray” and is pronounced as bone-sigh. The art originated in China about 200 B.C.

The Japanese refined this art form and today it is practiced by people on every continent. The changes in the art reflect the regions, cultures, and plant material available to those involved in this international hobby.

Bonsai is the combining of artistic ability with horticultural expertise. No two people will design the same tree in exactly the same way; in the same sense that no two artists will paint exactly the same picture.

A tree planted in a shallow pot does not automatically become a bonsai. The plant must be pruned, shaped trained and kept manicured in the desired shape to be a bonsai. A bonsai may live to be very old and change from season to season as in nature. It should, over the years, become more beautiful and valuable.

Bonsai is a living art form with each tree constantly changing - a painting that is never quite finished - changing with the seasons and reflecting the climates where they grow.

Bonsai Notebook

Austin Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 340474
Austin, Texas 78734



CHRISTMAS PARTY ****CHANGE OF DATE** **AND VENUE****

December 12th, 6:30 pm
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
14311 Wells Port Drive
Austin TX 78728

More info coming soon!

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)