

BONSAI NOTEBOOK

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

September 2016 vol 68

August 2016 Program By: Zach Rabalais

The meeting on September 14th will be Austin Bonsai Societies annual auction. There will be many great items available to bid on so get ready for a fun night of bidding. Just about anything and everything bonsai related will be up for grabs. Trees, pots, tools, stands, books, and many more items will be available.

We ask each club member to donate auction items and bring them to Zilker by 7:00PM on auction night. If you have any items big or small that you aren't using bring them to the auction to help us raise money for the Austin Bonsai Society. This auction is our primary fundraiser each year and helps raise the funds needed to bring in guest touring artists and provide educational programs to our members. The auction will start at 7pm and go on until 9:30pm so make sure you show up with your donations early so we can get things started on time.

Cash or check is preferred, but we will have the option this year to pay by credit card. Credit cards will have a small service fee attached to the transaction to cover processing fee on each transaction we make.

CALENDAR

- SEPTEMBER 14:** ANNUAL AUCTION 7:30PM
HOSTESSES: ANGIE HEWES/ EMILY & MIKE BOURDREAUX
TREE HOSTS: NONE DUE TO AUCTION
- SEPTEMBER 20** BOARD MEETING 7PM
MEMBERS ONLY WORKSHOP: 7:30PM
(BRING A TREE TO WORK ON)
- OCTOBER 12:** MYSTERIES OF SOIL WITH CHUCK WARE
- OCT 13-16:** LSBF CONVENTION, CORPUS CHRISTI



Owen Reich's presentation last month.

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

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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 Jonathan Wood**

Looking forward to a wonderful bonsai auction this Sept 14th at Zilker. How about arriving a little early around 6:30 to set up your donations for the auction and give members a chance to preview the items. Can't wait to see you all there!

Wasn't Owen Reich a great artist to have visit our Society again this year? I was quite impressed by the finished pyracantha, which looked happily styled in its new form. Owen was able to deliver a lot of information and reasoning behind decisions, which were helpful to beginner and advanced bonsai artists.

A thought I've had lately is about how beautiful a second flush of growth can be following a season of summer rain. Joey mentioned this on social media and I couldn't help but agree! It is fun to see my deciduous trees waking up again after summer dormancy, to put on shades of bright green and red tinted foliage. Quite fascinating that the trees can enter a summer dormancy while waiting for the cooling temperatures and rains of the fall season. My trident and other Japanese maples have been putting on new growth and buds that are quite spectacular to witness!

Happy Styling, Jonathan Wood ABS President

"Learn to work with traditional forms and then forget them. When you master the form try hard to get soul into your tree. Don't try to make your little tree look like a bonsai, try to make your bonsai look like a tree - as John Naka said." - Excerpt from 2013 Brazilian interview with Walter Pall

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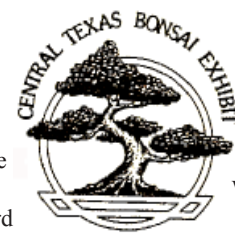


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e-mail: bonsaijg@gmail.com

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Connie Rorie
connie@danrorie.com
512-328-1879

Andrew McClintock
almclintock13@gmail.com

**ABS General Meeting
August 10, 2016
Zerita Rogers, Secretary**

Meeting called to order at 7:20 PM by President, Jonathan Wood.

The President complimented Board Members for a job well done, and said he was happy that he had the pleasure of working with them.

Our guest this evening was Owen Reich. At the conclusion of Owen's work, the completed tree will be raffled. Jonathan asked, if there was anyone else who would like to buy a ticket.

Jonathan recognized our guests: Whitney Roberson, Austin Hernandez, and Andrew McClintock.

Pat Ware, stated that the club was doing well and "in the black".

Alisan, announced that Audrey Lanier Estate, still has some Bonsai accessories for sale. Interested people should go to Audrey Lanier home, 4005 Ridgewood Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Jonathan, mentioned we still needed items to donate for the upcoming convention in October. Gloria has already donated a book. Other acceptable items are Pots, Tools, Books, DVD's, Magazines, or Stands. Nan will be the person who will be spear-heading the donations.

Next, was the mention of a Bonsai article written by freelance writer Carolyn Lindell of the Austin American Statesman, which appeared in the Saturday July 30, 2016 Newspaper.

Also, Jonathan asked if there was anyone who would like to attend the Convention in Corpus Christi on October 13-16, 2016. Pre-registration packages are available.

Refreshment was provided by Candy Hansen and May Lau Tse.

Tree hosts were Ruby Chaing and Quoc Hoang. Other members also brought plants. Each person was asked to give the background of their trees.

Zachary, introduced Owen Reich, this evenings guest who was encouraged to share some of his many accomplishments.

Traveling artist Owen Reich did a superb job on a "Demonstration of a Tree". The tree that he worked on was a *Pyracantha* (aka) Firethorn and his focus was how to manage the energy flow within the tree. Basic technique is pruning the top and outer portion of the tree thoroughly, forcing the tree to distribute growth to its inner and lower portion. Defoliate, cutting off tips promote back budding. Wiring *Pyracantha*: use new branches early enough as they will become stiffer with age and become more difficult to shape. Use caution when wiring younger branches as they are fragile for up to two years. New shoots respond well to movement. Bend the branches as you are wiring. One of the biggest threats to *Pyracantha* is fire blight. Once the tree has this disease it will never be cured. Prevention is the best cure for any problems so always wash hands and your tools before or after handling your Bonsai. Lime Sulphur can be used to control scale. Designing a tree looking for strong and weak branches. Remove branches growing up. Sustainable branches are not removed especially on older trees. Deadwood should be cleaned prior to treatment, removing soft oxidized material with wire brush either manually or with power tools of some form. Once completed the wood should be dried as much as possible before treatment with PC Wood Petrifier or Paraffin Wax.

September's host will be Angie Hewes, and Emily and Mike Boudreaux.

September is our Annual Auction. It's a great time to acquire some lovely Bonsai trees. Don't forget to bring you check book, cash, or credit card.

Simon, now has the capability of accepting any credit card on sight but will confirm approval before release of merchandise. Still preference is for cash or check.

Congratulation to Daniel Pintaura-Tabares, for winning the *Pyracantha* raffle, designed by our guest, Owen Reich.

Meeting was adjourned by Jonathan at 9:20PM.

Let's go to Corpus Convention! October 13-16, 2016

by Joey McCoy

The LSBF State conventions we have are such a unique learning opportunity for bonsai! We get a crash course in styling different species, trying out new techniques and tools to make our own bonsai better and get to learn from some of the best teachers in the country. In addition there's the formal exhibit with exhibit critiques by the artists, a huge vendor area, twice daily raffles, a bonsai goodie bag, demonstrations, great food and entertainment. Oh, and did I mention it is right on the beach? All of this is also happening with the single biggest gathering of bonsai artists in the state – making those connections and renewing these friendships in invaluable. If it is your first convention, you will most likely go home with more raffle prizes than the seasoned vets – somehow it always works out that way! Corpus was my first convention many years ago, and I went home with a dragon's-hoard of goodies which everyone said was my beginner's luck of the draw. I still have many of those trees in my collection and even now still marvel at what a great time I had. So, register to come to the convention! If you can register before Sept 13th, there is a break in the cost. We all need to support our State conventions, I can tell you from experience it is a hard event to put together and you really sweat it out hoping that the registrants will sign up. Go to www.lonestarbonsai.org to find the registration material. Luckily Austin is usually present with a nice large group of friendly faces. Here's a photo of some of our group in the previous Houston convention – a great time! Hope to see you all there in October!



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Donor _____
Approx. Cost _____

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Buyer # _____
Final Bid _____

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Approx. Cost _____

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SEPTEMBER BONSAI BY JOHN MILLER

Two 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.

Check on the place you expect to winter your bonsai.

- (1) Make sure that it is clean
- (2) 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.
- (5) A mulch cover over the pots on the ground will minimize temperature extremes. But be sure they will drain freely.

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.

Late hot weather can make for problems later on. If it lasts too long trees may continue their fall growth into November. Then they will not have sufficient time to harden before the first (hard) freeze early in December. Some may receive a little damage. Just keep your eye on the forecasts and protect your trees to the best of your ability. Remember that even a thin cloth over the tree on the ground can raise its temperature a few degrees.

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.

Always check the trees you still have wire on. When the cooler days get here some trees will expand their branches and get wire cuts quickly. You can cut the wire off or unwrap from the end. 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 or following each twist of the wire don't cut, just unwrap the wire (with care). If you miss a turn of the wire you will create 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. Flowering or fruiting trees may be fertilized 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 the minors 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.

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 MAY LAU