

TTSBE BOARD

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- Director: Jonathan Wood
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PLEASE NOTE FIVE NEW BOARD MEMBERS JOINED THIS YEAR. ALL WITH DIVERSE TALENTS THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMPLETION OF THIS EXHIBIT.

www.ttsbe.org

COME WITH ME INTO THE FUTURE

Photo by May Lau



COME VISIT THE FUTURE HOME OF THE TEXAS STATE BONSAI EXHIBIT

KATHY SHANER'S TTSBE
"foster tree" workshops
Persimmon Hill,
Monday
Oct 19th (9:30-4:30)
Lakeview
Tuesday
Oct 20th (9:30-4:30)
Contact Joey McCoy to be
included, Its FREE!!

THANKS TO ALL THAT HELPED

By
Quoc Hoang

On March 15th, 2015, 8 brave volunteers made their way through the undergrowth at exhibit area in Zilker Botanical Gardens to survey existing trees. These trees have a diameter of at least 8 inches and will be kept in place in the exhibit area. The location of the large trees were triangulated and circumferences and species noted. At least 50 trees were surveyed and measured throughout the area and at least five different species were identified. Their locations have been mapped out. This information will assist in the determination of future buildings, fence lines, and potential shade trees for bonsai trees on display.



The closing on the land in Mustang Ridge at the title company on Friday Aug 14th. I signed my name more times than a rock star that day. Big thanks to Jonathon Wood for all his work!!

Joey

The photo includes Board Member of TTSBE, Zilker Horticultural Board, the Zilker Conservancy, the AAGC Garden Clubs and Grounds, as well as Austin PARD staff. all touring the site.
Story on page 4



Future home: Zilker Botanical Gardens Austin Parks & Rec Dept. meeting

By Joey McCoy

On the morning of July 31st, TTSBE board members Joey McCoy, Alisan Clarke, Elaine White, & Nan Jenkins were joined by Lynn Haxton (providing survey and CAD expertise) and Joe Yura (head of *Zilker Horticultural Committee*) in the first meeting with the ***Austin Parks and Recreation Dept (PARD)*** representatives to go over the plans to put in the Bonsai exhibit at the Botanical Gardens in the heart of Austin.

We brought a prepared bonsai, a Boxwood donated by Greg Setter, as well as photos of many of our exhibit trees (taken by talented photographer and board member May Lau), and gave the members a brief history of bonsai and why it is important to the local community as well as the entire state. We talked about the number of trees currently in the collection as well as future projections.

Lynn and Alisan showed and explained the work we have done at the site already to get to this point in large poster sized prints: the rainwater study, the tree survey, topography, and a proposed garden plan with buildings and trails.

Nan passed around folders prepared for the meeting with the site map as well as photos of possible structures including a docent house, greenhouse and workhouse, and showed examples of bonsai benches and poles.

Joe Yura spoke about how our group has the support of the committees at ***Zilker*** and fielded questions about us being in the garden. He spoke about how our project fits with the area and esthetics of ***Zilker***.

The next step is for us to get together practical numbers for the ***PARD*** members for a meeting in 2 weeks where we will all walk the site and discuss it on the ground. They want to be on the property and see our vision.

In all the ***Austin PARD*** team seemed genuinely intrigued and happy with our proposal and we are taking steps to meet the application process. There are still many steps ahead, but we are getting there!



Message from the TTSBE Chair

By Joey McCoy

Our shift from planning the exhibit at the property at **Mustang Ridge** to building it in the **Zilker Botanical Gardens** in the heart of Austin has been quick, but has required lots of planning and prep. Here is a time-line on how it all came about:

- **May 2014.** Plans were put on hold at the **Mustang Ridge** site after experiencing 2-3 floods that surpassed the 100 year floodplain, costs of construction on the site skyrocketed and we fell into a quagmire of problems with our Permitting.
- **June 2014.** TTSBE Board decided to explore other options and began looking to other sites including the **Zilker Botanical Garden**.
- **October 2014.** We met with the **Zilker Horticultural Committee** for the first time and presented our proposal for a bonsai garden in a section next to the **Taniguchi Japanese Gardens**.
- **January 2015.** Kathy Shaner was brought to walk the site with board members and she gave pointers on designing a bonsai exhibit in the space.
- **April 2015.** The **Zilker Horticultural Board** approved our project and we received a signed Letter of Intent from the Chair.
- **June 2015.** Sale negotiations of the **Mustang Ridge** land began.
- **July 2015.** First meeting with **Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD)** to propose building the bonsai exhibit at the Botanical Gardens.
- **August 2015.** We closed on the sale of the **Mustang Ridge** land, with the final payments coming to TTSBE in the following year.
- **August 21 2015.** TTSBE walked through the site at **Zilker** with **PARD** staff and **Zilker** leadership (who are all excited to see this project a reality).
- **September 2, 2015.** TTSBE met with Austin PARD representatives to go over the cost estimates and talk about unplanned expenses. PARD will research the availability and cost of utilities to the area for TTSBE.

We are following all the steps which makes this a long-term and permanent project in our public garden. The job of narrowing down the financial and budgetary numbers are being worked on and we have more meetings with city **PARD** staff coming up.

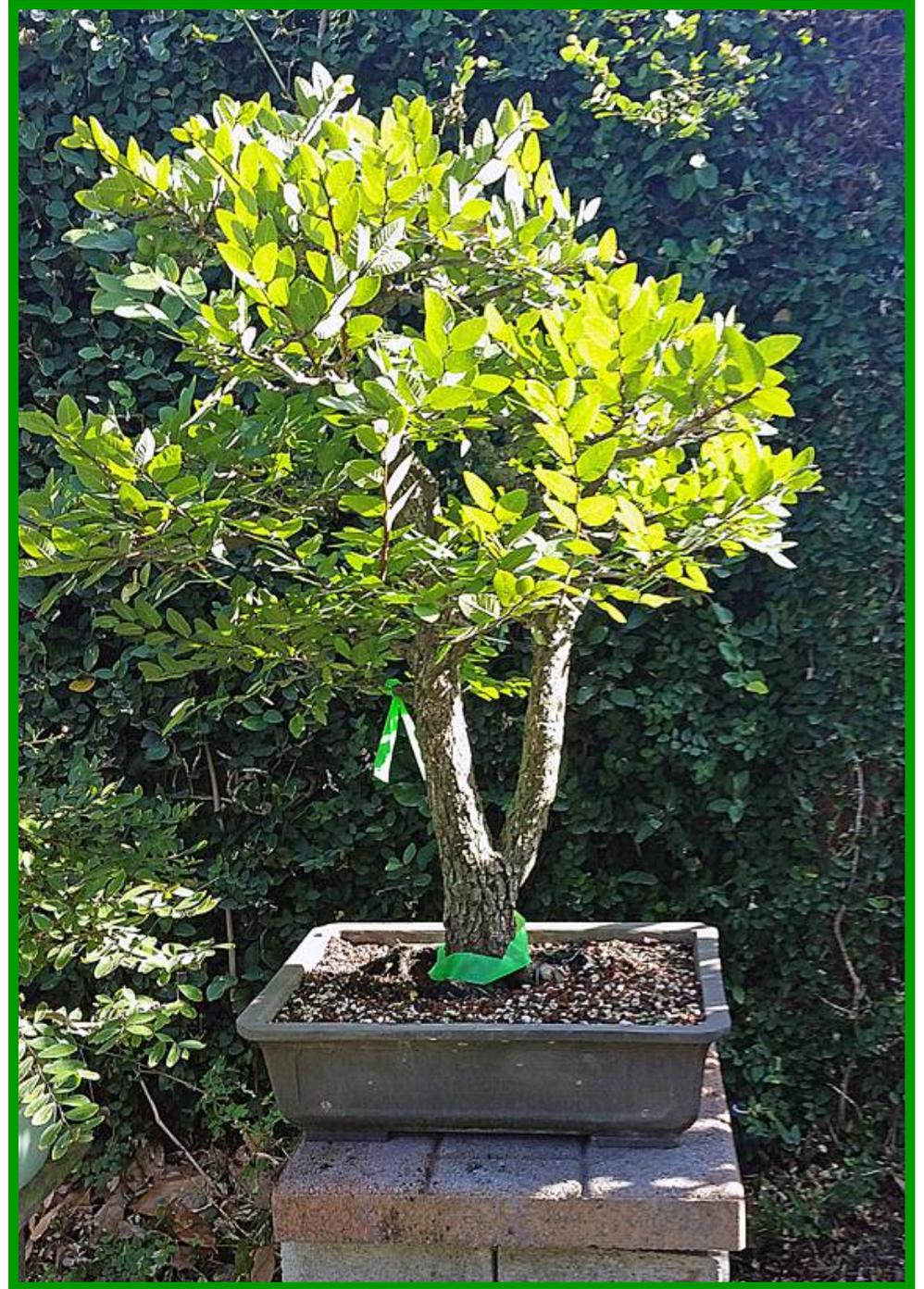
This report is for all of you, our supporters, our bonsai family. **Know** that we have been and continue to work hard for this **Exhibit**. We have a dedicated team who have not given up and have been flexible enough to adjust when obstacles threatened to block the dream.

If you have a skill set which would help us in this project, we would love to hear from you!

Contractor, project manager, plumbers, electricians, interior layout/design, garden design, stone/brick mason, woodworker, solar, landscape tree trimmers, fencing and probably more that I can think of right now... Anyone who would like to lend their talents to the exhibit to help make it the best bonsai exhibit would be much appreciated! **Oh, and does anyone have skills in grant writing??**



The image was cropped to show some objects around the bonsai to give the sense of the size of this donation. The four trees in this brief edition of the TTSBE newsletter are recent donations from Donald Green's estate. They were selected by Hurley Johnson on behalf of Diane, Donald's lovely wife and companion. We miss you Donald, prune on workshop companion, prune on...DD



Again, note the objects around the bonsai, a Cypress and an Elm donated from the Donald Green Estate.



The CMU (concrete block) is just under 16" long, use that as a guide and the size of this weeping cypress is about 40" tall.

photographs by D. Dobberfuhr

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit board is happy to announce the ***election of 5 new board members***.

They are ***Quoc Hoang, May Lau, Simon Tse, Jonathan Wood, and Elaine White***. All of these are members from **Austin Bonsai Society**. Quoc joined ABS a couple of years ago and brings enthusiasm and a willingness to help out where he can. Quoc works in scientific research in Austin. May and Simon joined ABS the same year. Many of you may already know Simon as he is the webmaster for **ABS**, and **TTSBE**. His tech skills are so very welcome! May is a professional photographer who has been making the bonsai portraits on the website to show off the beautiful trees that **TTSBE** has in the collection. She is also an excellent bonsai artist with just a few years of learning. Her artist's eye is evident. Jonathan is the **ABS** president this year and is a hard working, organized person. His expertise is in real estate so he has been especially helpful in the conversations about the negotiations on selling the land in **Mustang Ridge**. Of course, you know Elaine as she has been a board member before, and the owner of a bonsai nursery at one time. She has worked tirelessly on this project for 15 years. In addition to the new members, Joey McCoy, Alisan Clark, Nan Jenkins (ABS), Donna Dobberfuhl, and Ryan Odegaard (SABS) are members of the board.

WELCOME TO ALL THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

We have a long way to go with our planning, but things are looking up for **TTSBE** and the future of the exhibit, **AND** if you have skills that might be helpful, please talk with one of the board members, THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION IS LOCATED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER.

THE BEST WAY YOU CAN HELP!!

By Nan Jenkins, TTSBE board member

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit board of directors are extremely grateful for the wonderful donations made by every Bonsai club in Texas. I cannot fully express the joy that gave us nor the encouragement that the donations brought to us.

As you know from reading other articles in the newsletter, things have really changed since last year, and just maybe the donations brought about the movement in energy that has led to the level of excitement at this point.

We are now asking you to continue your generosity, either by your club participation and/or your personal giving monthly. I've done that for several years now, and I'm amazed how much money it has been. It is called being a ***sustaining member***, and even public radio and TV stations have found out how substantial regular giving can mean in the annual budget planning.

There is one more huge benefit of both clubs and individual giving. We are on the verge of being able to apply for grants. If we can say that we are financially supported by all the Bonsai clubs and their members in the ***Lone Star Bonsai Federation***, that will bring more attention to our application, and show that we have great support, worthy of the grant!! You can send your donations to:

Ryan Odegaard, TTSBE treasurer
25515 Stormy Rock
San Antonio, TX 78255

OR

Use the form on the back of the newsletter

OR

Go to: www.ttsbe.org donate page

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, Inc.



Make checks payable to:/Send donation to:

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, Inc., /TTSBE Treasurer, Ryan Odegaard, 25515 Stormy Rock, San Antonio, TX 78255
Or visit the website donation page:
www.ttsbe.org

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CARD TYPE: _____ # _____

EXP: Month _____ Year _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I wish to pledge

TO
THE BUILDING THE EXHIBIT
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS
THE FUTURE IS NOW!!

**THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!!!**

**The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit is a non-
profit 501(c)3 organization, your donations
may be tax-deductible.**