



# Bonsai Notebook

*www.austinbonsaisociety.com*

*A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society*

*December 2011 vol 12*

## **December 2011 Programs** by Collin Murphy

This month we will have our annual Christmas party. On **Wednesday, December 14th** during our regularly scheduled meeting time we will have our traditional potluck dinner. Everyone should bring a side dish or dessert that can serve at least 8 people. The club will supply the main dishes. Also, it's always helpful when people show up earlier to help set up.

There will be a tree decorating contest this year. Each member can bring one decorated bonsai tree for the contest. Everyone will be able to vote for their favorite tree and the winner will receive a prize. There will also be a raffle. Save your money for Christmas shopping - everyone will receive one raffle ticket at no cost (families will receive 2 tickets).

There will be no member's workshop in December. Save your energy for January when Chuck Ware is giving another entertaining and informative program on pruning deciduous bonsai.

## Calendar of Events

**December 14th ABS Monthly Meeting Reception**

**Hosts: Traditional Potluck Dinner  
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**December 14th ABS Monthly Meeting Tree Decorating Contest**

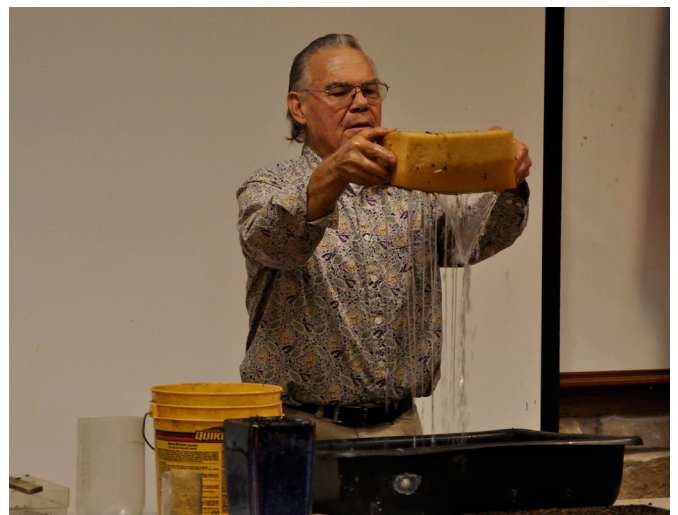
**by Members and Guests  
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**December 20?? ABS Board Meeting**

**Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm**

**December ABS Member's Workshop**

**Workshop - No Member's Workshop  
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm**



**Chuck Ware demonstrates the perching level of Bonsai Pots  
at our November 2011 Meeting**

## Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

**Mike Watson**  
President

**Collin Murphy**  
Vice President

**Nan Jenkins**  
Secretary

**Pat Ware**  
Treasurer

**Becki Drozd**  
Member at-Large

**Timmi Kuykendall**  
Member at-Large

**John Muller**  
Member at-Large

**Joey McCoy**  
Former President

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.

John Muller is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". He may be contacted at [jcm2austx@sprintmail.com](mailto:jcm2austx@sprintmail.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](mailto:jvmccoy@sbcglobal.net).

## President's Message by Mike Watson

Happy Holidays everyone! It's December and, once again, I'm astounded that it's arrived so quickly. It seems like just last week I was complaining about the heat. Now that it's cold I couldn't be happier. My trees are safely set on the ground out of the north winds and ready for their winter hibernation.

December also means it's time for our annual Christmas party! It's always a good time and I'm looking forward to seeing you all there.

Many of you may have heard that Lawrence Cranburg (husband of our fellow member Charlotte Cranburg) recently passed away. He was a great man and I often saw him at our Christmas parties. He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Charlotte.



From our Annual Show

## ABS General Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2011

### By Nan Jenkins, Secretary

Call to Order was at 7:35 pm at the Zilker Park Club House by President Mike Watson.

Pat Ware **announced** that there are registration packets and information for the 2012 Lone Star Bonsai Federation Convention in Dallas in the back of the room. Mike offered our thanks for the tasty refreshments to Charlotte Cranberg and Sunny Huang.

**Election of officers** for the following year was held. Nominees presented were:

President: Mike Watson      Vice-President: Bill Boytin  
Treasurer: Pat Ware      Secretary: Nan Jenkins  
Members-at-Large: John Muller, Timmi Kuykendall,  
Ken Lakin

Joey McCoy moved to approve the nominations by acclamation. Alison Clarke seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Joey **announced** that the next meeting dealing with the 2013 LSBF state convention will be held on Sunday, November 13th at Jade Gardens in Wimberly at 1:00. We will decide on the artists to invite, the trees to have in the workshops, and other decisions. There are still volunteers needed for some of the convention committees. See Joey for details.

Collin Murphy introduced the program for the night: Chuck Ware talking about soils, pots, transplanting, etc. Chuck did his usual fun and informative presentation with great audience participation and pleasure. Thank you Chuck.

Becky Drozd held the raffle and all items were joyfully carted away by the winners.

Adjournment was at 9:05.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nan Jenkins, Treasurer

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(call for directions)

LSBF (Lone Star Bonsai Federation), of which all members of the Austin Bonsai Society are members, has a website which might help members understand the organization better.

Please go to: <http://www.bonsai-lsbf.com>

## JADE GARDENS

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e-mail: [bonsaijg@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaijg@gmail.com)

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

## Bonsai Calendar

- The 2012 state LSBF convention is in Dallas on April 27 - 29, 2012.

- The 2013 state LSBF convention will be April 11-13, 2013, at the New Braunfels Convention Center.

Know of an upcoming Bonsai event of interest to club members? Send the details to [jcm2austx@sprintmail.com](mailto:jcm2austx@sprintmail.com)



## Editor's Note

Hope you read the article in the Austin American Statesman, Sunday December 4, 2011. Our own Elaine White and Alisan Clarke shared their and our dream to have a permanent location for the Texas State Bonsai Exhibit. Hope their outreach will provide the needed exposure to bring this project to fruition. Thank you Elaine, Alisan and all who have helped move our passionate endeavor forward.

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### November 2011 General Meeting



*Library Items for your  
Bonsai edification*



*The demonstration Tree shown at  
the Meeting*

*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*



## November 2011 General Meeting



*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*

## December 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.*

This article may look strange to some since it is strictly from my head. I do not have access to my files right now.

And that may be good since this past summer and continuing into fall has not been a good experience for most. I did not lose any trees to the heat per se. I missed getting water in one pot for some reason and lost that one. I believe that our greatest problem this summer was not the 100+ degree daytime temperature. I feel that the biggest stress on the trees was that the night temperatures stayed above 80 degrees. The trees had no time to recover.

For the first time in 40 years, I managed to work on my planned schedule. Some days when I would have been forced off I was saved by my 10 year old grand-daughter Raven who stayed with us the entire summer. I trust her to do it more than any adult available out here in the boonies. She also turned into a very good and efficient leaf pruner this year.

My desired schedule which is based upon observations by myself, articles and experiments researched by Dr. Bill Cody, and some discussions with Mark Bynum is to water at 2pm and then again at sundown. Foliage was usually misted also especially the junipers. The 2pm watering resulted in the trees roots being cooled to water main temperature and the tree being thoroughly refreshed at the start of peak afternoon stress. Evaporative cooling of

the soil and the pot covering helped also. The sundown watering then was able to recool the roots and the evaporative cooling helped counteract the lack of nighttime cooling.

Note: the watering does not negate the need for protecting the plants from full mid-summer sun or the need to cover the pots loosely to minimize soil heat buildup. There is nothing magical about the above schedule. It just recognizes the plants needs and tries to fill them. Work schedules seldom allow for perfect horticulture practices. You just have to work hard to minimize the stress. A soaker hose drip watering system would help. I used to go out before going to work and do a 15 min spray over all the bonsai using a very fine droplet spray. Other things might be devised to help.

The nice thing about December bonsai is that, outside of watching the watering, there is nothing that just has to be done in December. Anything that could be done in December could also be done in November or put off to the new year.

Some of the mundane chores that could be considered result in you having an easier time next year. They result in cleanliness and pathogen control and being ready for repotting. Cleanliness and pathogen control sometimes go hand in hand.

Remove the top half inch of soil (more or less depending on size) from your pots and replace it with fresh soil. You will remove last years weed seeds and spent or decayed fertilizer. That will allow for better and easier water penetration. Especially important if you are not repotting that tree.



continue ..pg6

Many pathogens over-winter on the trees. A dormant spray can go far to help control them next summer. For deciduous trees a dormant spray strength of lime-sulphur will get into the bark crannies and kill both insects, eggs, larvae, mites and fungal spores. Just be sure that you protect the soil from the caustic spray drips. A dormant oil spray may be used and will handle insects and eggs fairly well but it does not have the seeall-killall effect of the l-s.

A good many commercial bonsai nurseries will strip the entire area clean and use a stronger lime-sulphur spray on the benches and any hard surfaces. Maybe even on the ground under the benches especially if they have too much fungal type problems.

For evergreens, do not use the lime-sulphur. Use the dormant oil spray. Any summer oil spray may be used, it is merely a lighter version oil spray that does not (usually) damage foliage in warm weather. Be sure to observe your evergreens closely for any problems that may be lurking quietly but doing their dirty work.

Now is the time to check your supply of akadama, pumice, lava, or any other potting materials you need. If you mix different sized soils using equal parts APL, you will be ready for all to come. Just add a handful of something if you need to alter for some special plant, e.g. I usually add a bit more akadama for chinese elms.

## **ABS May Board Meeting Minutes**

November 15, 2011

Present: Nan Jenkins, Timmi Kuykendall, Joey McCoy, John Muller, Collin Murphy, Pat Ware.

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 by Vice-President Collin Murphy.

The minutes were approved as printed in the Bonsai Notebook.

**Old Business:** The 2012 Budget was presented by Pat Ware. The total budget is for \$6112.00. Nan moved approval, seconded by John, and passed unanimously by the board.

The monthly treasurer's report was presented by Pat. We are still showing that we are in the red because of the convention costs to the convention center, but that will be resolved this month. Erik Weigart's workshop was a loss of \$163.74 covered by the budget for 2011. The report was approved.

**New Business:** Zilker is beginning refurbishing of the club house so there will be no heating or air conditioning in the building for the Christmas party in December. We are advised to dress warmly or coolly depending on the weather. It will be on our regular meeting night of December 14th with set up at 6:30 and the Christmas dinner Pot Luck at 7:00. Each member is invited to bring trees to decorate the tables. Each member will receive one raffle ticket to put in the pot for the raffle. Everyone is invited to come, bring a guest if you like, and bring either what you signed up for or, if you did not sign up, bring any dish for the pot luck.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Jenkins, Secretary

# 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



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