

Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

January 2012 vol 13

January 2012 Programs

by Bill Boytim

Now is the time of year to do some shaping of your trees. One method of shaping is via pruning with consideration of how the tree grows. Some trees can take a very heavy drastic pruning and others wilt when you wave the pruning shears near them. There are pruning methods that will help develop the tree structure and esthetic appearance of your Bonsai.

Chuck Ware will be the featured speaker **Wednesday, January 11th** and provide concepts that are useful to developing and maintaining the fine appearance of your trees. As always Chuck will provide insight in how to use your tree's natural growth habits and how to use these plant characteristics to your advantage. Whether you want to refine a mature Bonsai or are looking at starting a new Bonsai masterpiece, Chuck's presentation will provide some good techniques to achieve your goals.

Chuck will also host the **Tuesday, January 17th** night member's workshop. Members can bring their trees and get some insight on how they can train their tree through selective pruning.

Please provide any program ideas that you would like to see in the coming year to Bill Boytim, 512 282 3580 or cbboytim@att.net.

Calendar of Events

**January 11th ABS Monthly Meeting
Reception**

**Hosts: Alisan Clarke and Pat Ware
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**January 11th ABS Monthly Meeting
Shaping via Pruning**

**by Chuck Ware
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

January 17th ABS Board Meeting

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

January 17th ABS Member's Workshop

**Workshop - Follow-up on Pruning
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm**



Mike Watson presides over the festivities at our December 2011 Christmas Party

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Mike Watson
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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.

John Muller is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". He may be contacted at 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.

President's Message by Mike Watson

2012 is upon us and with it comes the chance to do better than the previous year. I'm not talking about another set of resolutions that (in my case) usually don't make it past March, I'm talking about the quality of our trees. I have quite a few that look almost exactly the same as they did 3 years ago because I keep meaning to "get around to it". Granted, many of my bench warmers will never be bonsai but there are some that could be contenders if given a bit of attention. Sometimes I feel a bit overwhelmed when I look at those trees. I think to myself, "That tree has a loooooong way to go before it starts looking like a bonsai!" but I have to remember that every great journey begins with one step. Keep putting one foot in front of the other (or in this case: trim, wire, and bend one branch at a time) and the destination suddenly looks do-able. I know for a fact that 30 minutes spent with an "impossible" tree can be more gratifying than an evening of goofing off on Facebook.

Don't forget, the 2013 bonsai convention that we are co-hosting with the San Antonio Bonsai Society is going to be upon us all quickly. That means that every time we step outside and look at our trees we need to set some goals. Which trees can I whip into shape this year? What pot will I put that bonsai in this spring? What can I (realistically) do to improve those trees THIS year? Make lists, even if just mental ones (although I find my mental lists to not be worth the paper they're written on). In short, start getting ready yesterday.

But most importantly, Happy New Year everyone!



Decorated Tree at Christmas Party
Photo by Joey McCoy

**ABS General Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2011**

By Nan Jenkins, Secretary

Call to Order was at 7:00 pm at the Zilker Park Club House by President Mike Watson, who was gaily dressed in his kilt to celebrate the season. We began with everyone filling their plates with all the luscious food that was provided for the pot luck. Special thanks go to those who cooked the turkeys and ham, and to those who did the decorating. The members brought bonsai to decorate each table and we voted on the most wonderful decorated tree. Pat Ware won with her dramatic shohin juniper on a large two story rock.

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit presented a nominee for the board for the coming three years. According to the By-Laws of TTSBE, the board members are elected each year at the Austin Bonsai Society meeting in December. Each member of ABS is a voting member of TTSBE along with others who have joined from other clubs. The membership unanimously elected Irene Valdez from the San Antonio club as the new board member.

Elaine White, who is going off the TTSBE board after many years of work with the exhibit, told us some of the history of the organization. The beginning organizers were Elaine, Terry and Sheila Ward, and Candy and Mike Hansen, Alisan Clarke, Audrey Lanier, John Pittinger, and Bill Cody. The property that was purchased is owned free and clear at this point and the final phase of pond construction is about to begin thanks to a grant from Holt Cat and the Earthmover Contractors Association of Texas. When that is finished,

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(call for directions)

REMINDER:

DUES ARE DUE NOW!

**PLEASE BRING TO MEETING OR MAIL
TO TREASURER**

JADE GARDENS

HOME OF



Chuck & Pat Ware
Owners

Visa & MasterCard

12404 Ranch Road 12
Wimberley, TX 78676

(512) 847-2514

e-mail: bonsaijg@gmail.com

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

Bonsai Calendar

- Next Convention Meeting - Sunday Feb 12, at 1pm at Jade Gardens

- 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

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the land will be ready to begin construction of the buildings. TTSBE needs donations to cover the cost of diesel fuel for the earthmoving equipment: about \$15,000.

Alisan Clarke, 2011 president of TTSBE, then presented Elaine with gifts of a small wooden sculpture of the exhibit tree by Donna Dobberfuhl and a scroll painted by Alisan with many thanks for the work and dedication she has had with TTSBE. Without her investments of time, talent and treasure, TTSBE would not be as far along in

meeting the dream of creating the exhibit. Elaine will continue her involvement as the archivist for the organization.

Collin Murphy gave out one ticket to each member of ABS for the Christmas raffle of a Sarah Rayner pot and a beautiful stand, and two jars of skin cream donated by Sunny Huang. All prizes were awarded.

Adjournment was at 8:52. Thanks to everyone for a lovely evening, great food, and a fun time!

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Jenkins, Secretary

2011 ABS Programs in Review



January 2011
When and Why's

No Meeting due to inclement weather

February 2011



March 2011
Sharpening Tools



April 2011
Accent Plants



May 2011
Formal Displays



June 2011
3 Person Critique



July 2011
Maintaining Tools



August 2011
Collecting Trees



September 2011
Annual Auction



October 2011
Phoenix Grafts



November 2011
Container Soil



December 2011
Christmas Party

(Photos by Editor)

December 2011 Christmas Party



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

January 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.

The coldest nights usually come the last two weeks in January, but don't bet the farm on it. Just watch the forecasts and check the lows (ignore the highs, they are for people not plants). With all the new members in the club it might be time for a comprehensive review of cold weather care.

Your primary job in cold weather is to be sure your trees are well watered before going into a deep freeze. They will be losing water to evaporation but will not be able to replenish it if the soil is frozen. Protection from high winds is also necessary so the tops will not dry out. Sunlight is not necessary on deciduous trees when they have lost their leaves. In fact, it can be bad for the tree because it will heat up the trunk and soil and that could make the tree come out of dormancy too early.

Because the ground holds a more even temperature, I advocate placing the hardy trees on a well drained ground bed in a protected shady area. Then cover the pots with a shallow layer of mulch. You should know which trees have a greater need for water. If you are observant you know that some of the bonsai will dry out faster than others. By grouping these bonsai in a particular area of your winter storage you will be more certain to get them watered when they need it and be less apt to over-water the ones that stay moist longer.

Treat the evergreens in a similar manner but put them where they can get some sun. Evergreens do not go fully dormant so they can use a very light feeding during the winter. Maybe 1/4 the summer rate.

I keep my hardy trees on the benches until the temp goes below 25. Then I set the deciduous and more

tender evergreens on the ground below and between the benches until a temp in the teens is expected. At that point I will use old carpet and quilts to cover the benches. For the rest of the winter I leave them there. I lift the side covers around the deciduous trees for air circulation and uncover fully the evergreens when the temp rises. Sounds like a lot of work but I developed a routine that fits me and it isn't so bad.

The tender and semi-tender trees need real protection. The semi-tender (e.g. crape myrtle and pomegranate) get left out for some frost but no freezing. When freezing is expected they get put in a cool area. If they show growth again they go to the greenhouse. Its only a 6x8 greenhouse and doesn't give optimum growing conditions but keeps things from freezing (45F).

Tender or tropical trees that are kept indoors will be using more water to offset the lower humidity. Soil will also be losing water faster through its surface. Be sure to watch the indoor trees for insect problems. Most plant insects love a controlled atmosphere like the indoors. Spider mites seem to get the most attention here because they do great in a low humidity and the lack of foliage spraying. Scale can be an easily overlooked source of trouble. The flat green kind can be hard to spot on the underside of leaves or tight against the stem. Indoor trees need to be fertilized regularly and will require periodic trimming as they continue to grow through the winter.

Greenhouses are much the same as indoors. However, most greenhouses are kept more humid. The higher humidity is to the liking of aphids and fungal diseases. It may also result in your keeping the soil too moist with associated root problems. Use you standard insect controls that you used last summer. I use my organic foliar spray all winter.

Back to the outdoor trees. Any long warm spells during the month could activate some of the insect problems but as a rule there are no special needs to look for in January. Spraying with a dormant

oil spray will kill adults, nymphs, and eggs of any trying to over-winter on your trees. Some dormant sprays can be used on new growth but better results overall will be obtained if you do it before Valentines Day. A weak lime sulphur dormant spray will also get fungal spores and should be done before Feb 1 and not at all if any green is showing. Just be careful with the lime sulfur follow label directions closely.

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After tending to the daily needs of your trees, take time to study one or two thoroughly each day. January is an excellent time to start and remodeling projects that may be necessary. While the trees are dormant you have better view of the branch structure. Do any need to be moved or removed? Do any coarse branches need to be cut back to a smaller side branch for refinement? Any long straight branches need wiring to give them motion? Does the tree really need a drastic redesign? Also trim the twigs back while you have them there.

Styling can be done at this time but no repotting unless you are going to keep the tree from freezing after that. Repotting initiates new root development which is usually not very hardy.

ABS May Board Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2011

(Repeat due to no December Meeting)

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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