



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

November 2011 vol 11

November 2011 Programs by Collin Murphy

It's November already and the weather is finally cooler. Even though we had 100 degree days just a few weeks ago, repotting time will be here in only a few months. We only get practice repotting a few times per year. Once repotting begins it's easy to hurry through it and forget about some of the basics. On **Wednesday, November 9** our own Chuck Ware will give a presentation on container and soil selection. Chuck always gives a practical and entertaining program and I'm looking forward to hearing what he has to say.

On **Tuesday, November 15th** we'll have an open workshop. Most of my trees have come out of their summer dormancy and need some maintenance before winter. Bring whatever you have that needs pruning – but no repotting at this time. It's too late for repotting tropical and too early for everything else.

Calendar of Events

**November 9th ABS Monthly Meeting
Reception**

**Hosts: Connie King & Sunny Huang
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**November 9th ABS Monthly Meeting
Container and Soil Selection**

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

November 15th ABS Board Meeting

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

**November 15th ABS Member's Workshop
Workshop - Bring whatever needs**

**Pruning, No Repotting
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm**



**Donna Dobberfuhr provides pointers on
Phoenix Grafts
at our October 2011 Meeting**

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Mike Watson
President

Collin Murphy
Vice President

Nan Jenkins
Secretary

Pat Ware
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Becki Drozd
Member at-Large

Timmi Kuykendall
Member at-Large

John Muller
Member at-Large

Joey McCoy
Former President

November is my favorite month of the year. Thanksgiving is coming up and I get to practice the "attitude of gratitude". I have a lot to be thankful for and I have to admit that I lose sight of that during the more hectic months. One thing I am really grateful for right now is the cooler temperatures of autumn! I get to relax a bit from the frantic water management that we have all experienced this summer. Sure, I lost a few trees but I think I came out pretty lucky. November also means that I have just attended Kathy Shaner's annual seminar in October and that my love for Bonsai has been renewed. My eyes are always opened wider and questions answered further with every visit she makes. If you would like to find out more about attending her seminars talk to Collin Murphy, who will be hosting her seminars in the future.

Our annual election of board members is coming up next month. We will be announcing the nominees at the November meeting and will also be accepting nominees from the members. This means that, if you feel like being part of the board (or know someone who would like to) you can announce the nomination at the meeting. I highly recommend becoming a board member for as long as you can. You really get to see how the club works and you get to play an active part in our future growth and improvement. If someone asks you to become a nominee, consider doing it. You will really be doing the club a favor!

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.

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.



Donated Item at the Annual Auction

ABS General Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2011

By Nan Jenkins, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm with President Mike Watson presiding. Guests present were Rob Lauber, Tom Leach, And Su Yiian Tsing. The president thanked the refreshment committee of Carl and Noreen Quisenberry and Jimbo for their refreshments.

Announcements:

Joey McCoy announced that the next meeting of the 2013 Convention committee will be at Jade Gardens in Wimberley on November 13th at 1:00 pm. All members of ABS are invited to join in the planning process. This meeting will discuss the theme and logo designs.

Charlotte announced via Alisan Clarke that the entry fee at Zilker Gardens is only for visitors, not club members of any of the various garden clubs. This will help offset expenses to keep the gardens in good shape.

Shari Larkin announced that she has pictures of the pinging that she won at the national convention in San Antonio. It has recently been placed at their new home in this area.

Program:

Collin Murphy introduced Donna Dobberfuhl who presented a program on phoenix grafts. This was a follow-up to her program last year on the grafts. Collin ran the raffle where all the goodies were given away.

Adjournment was at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted

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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

HOME OF



Chuck & Pat Ware
Owners

Visa & MasterCard

e-mail: bonsaijg@gmail.com

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

12404 Ranch Road 12
Wimberley, TX 78676
(512) 847-2514

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

Announcements!

The Nominating committee are submitting the names of Bill Boytim for VP and Ken Lakin for Member at-Large for the 2012 Calender Year Board. The nominations will be formally presented at the November General Meeting with voting taking place at the December Meeting.

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Irene Valdez has been nominated by San Antonio BS to be a Member of the board of TSBE. Nominations of any member of LSBF will be entertained from the floor at the November ABS Meeting. Please contact Els Ulug for additional info.

October ABS Workshop



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

October 2011 General Meeting



(Photos by Joey McCoy)

November 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.

You may need to reconsider your preparations for taking you bonsai into winter this year. If they were damaged with the high temperatures they may be growing new roots or the new foliage may not get sufficiently hardy. If you had damage I would suggest you work on the safe side and give those trees a little more protection and care. New roots would require closer attention to watering.

Have your winter quarters clean and ready so that you can put your trees there quickly in the event a freeze is forecast. But don't put them there too soon as they are easier to care for up on the bench. Some use an unheated garage. I prefer to set the pots on a gravel area on the ground. This utilizes the ground heat to keep the roots from freezing as hard. The pots can then be covered with a loose mulch for insulation. Do not cover the ground with plastic, it will hold puddles of water.

Watch the weather so you can protect tender and semi-hardy plants. I prefer to keep them outside as long as possible but you should remember that frost, which can damage tender leaves, can occur at temps in the upper thirties. I watch the dew point temp which is when the moisture condenses out of the air. Clear nights with no wind along with that low dew point really spell trouble.

Most important is winter is to keep the soil moisture at a proper level. This sometimes is hard to do because the trees do not use as much water as when they are growing. However the cold winds will dry out the tops quickly. I believe that most winter damage in Texas is due to lack of water rather than to low temperatures. Mulch helps keep the roots warm and retards evaporation but it makes for difficulty in seeing if the soil is damp enough. Most

soils with enough organic material to keep the tree happy in the summer will be too wet if watered daily in the winter and wet cold means root rot. Try to position them so you can check the soil. If you are not watching the soil in their pots you may either get root rot fungus or it dries out, either way - you have a finished (for you beginners that reads dead) bonsai. It is easier to care for if you have them under roof, that way you know you need to tend to watering.

Fall is an important time in controlling pathogens. Try to get any eggs, over-wintering insects, and fungal spores. A horticultural oil spray should be applied (but not on buttonwoods) during the winter to control scale. It will also get any over-wintering insects or eggs. This purpose is what lime-sulphur was first used for, and some Japanese still use it, but the oil is safer on bonsai and may be used on evergreens where the lime-sulphur should not be used. Again, do not use oil based spray on buttonwoods.

After moving the bonsai, it would be a good idea to spray the benches with a stronger lime-sulfur to kill insect eggs and mold spores. If you will be putting the trees back under them for the winter, move the trees away and spray them. It would be good to have enough cold to stop the insect activity on the trees so you will not re-infest the area when the trees go back to await cold weather.

By this time any tropicals you have should be under cover. Most do not like the temp below 50 degrees. All tropicals should be checked and treated for any insect problems since any insects will multiply fast when they get into warmer quarters. Spider mites and scale can be especially damaging if the plant is moved in the house where the humidity is low.

The semi-tropical plants like crape myrtle pomegranate and pyracantha need to go dormant to stay healthy over a long time but they cannot take much cold on the roots. They will be killed by temps somewhere between 25 and 30 degrees. These I set down on the ground and mulch for light freezes

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and then bring into a protected area for the colder winter. Sometimes I will let them go dormant for a month and then take them and some shohin into the greenhouse to start early and I can enjoy their new foliage in January.

The general wisdom is that dormant trees need no fertilizer. However, as long as the soil is not frozen there will be some root activity. I do not add any fertilizer to dormant trees but I will leave the organic fertilizer cakes on until spring in case they happen to get some good out of them. The organics will not break down much in cold weather anyway. Evergreen types (e.g. pines junipers yaupons and live oaks) however continue some activity and therefore can use a small amount of low nitrogen fertilizer

BIG NOTE: If you have a tree that is weak and unhealthy you should not attempt to style it in any way, just get it happy by adjusting its soil, feeding, and getting rid of any parasites. Styling just adds to its stress and problems.

Fall and winter is the proper time to do wiring, styling, and plucking work on pines. Repotting is saved until growth starts in the spring and candle pruning in summer. Other conifers may also be worked on.

When trees go dormant which indicates a reduced sap flow they may be pruned, that is have major limbs removed. Trimming may also be done while the leaves are off the trees and you can see what you are doing. Evergreen types will probably still be active. Pruning them should be held until later.

Take advantage of the slowdown in bonsai care to determine your repotting needs. Do you need a different pot? Do you need to get more soil components? How about mixing some potting soils for your needs? (Be sure to label the use of each type of mix so you won't forget what is what).

ABS May Board Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2011

Present: Charlotte Cranberg, Becki Drozd, Joey McCoy, John Muller, Collin Murphy, Pat Ware, Mike Watson.

Call to order: 7:15 pm

The LSBF is proposing judged shows at future conventions. It's still only in discussion at this point and details are few but the proposal is to raise the bar for the quality of trees in the convention displays and to promote pride and esteem for the winners of the different awards. More will be announced later.

It was pointed out that we forgot to announce the 2012 board member nominations for the upcoming election. We have decided to announce the nominees at the November meeting as well as accept nominations from the members. The election will be held at the annual Christmas party in December. We also need to find a representative for LSBF as soon as possible.

Due to the reduction in the number of local bonsai vendors we are discussing the future of the monthly club raffle. Two proposals were brought up and discussed. One proposal would be to have the raffle every other month. The other idea is for members to bring in trees, pots, or other bonsai related items in order to supplement the material from our remaining vendors. No decision was made yet.

John Muller noted that the company that prints our newsletter would like to use pictures of member's bonsai trees for their advertisement in our monthly Bonsai Notebook. It would be like "Tree of the Month". You may have noticed this in the last couple of issues. The board agreed that it looked very nice and fit in well with the newsletter.

Board adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Watson, Temporary 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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