



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

November 2013 vol 35

November 2013 Programs

by Bill Boytim

Selecting, Identifying and Repairing Bonsai Pots

On **Wednesday November 13th**, Alisan Clarke will provide a program on selecting Bonsai pots, identifying the makers of Bonsai pots (what to look for in buying a pot) and how to repair flaws in your Bonsai pots. Alisan recently helped Kathy Shaner teach these skills in weekend Bonsai program.

Alisan has studied both art and Bonsai in Japan, she is an instructor in Japanese Flower Arranging, she teaches art at the University of Texas, she has her own art studio and travels during the year to teach classes in other parts of the United States. She does art restorations and brings a very diverse array of artistic talents with her.

There will not be a members workshop in November. There will be a board meeting on **Tuesday November 19th** at Zilker.

December Meeting Changes. Due to the Trail of Lights starting earlier in December, we will not be able to use Zilker for our normal December meeting. The December meeting has been moved both in date and location. We will meet on **Friday December 13th**, at Faith Presbyterian Church. The Church is located on Oltorf about 1/2 block West of I35. We will start setup around 5 pm and hope to be finished by 9 pm.

Calendar of Events

November 13th ABS Monthly Meeting
Reception Hosts: Joe Trochta,
Sheila Ward
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

November 13th ABS Monthly Meeting
Selecting Pots and Repairing Pots
with Alisan Clarke
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

November 19th ABS Board Meeting
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

November 19th ABS Member's Workshop
Workshop - No Activity
this Month
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



**Chuck Ware presides as Auctioneer at our
2013 October ABS Meeting**
(Photo by Editor)

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Nan Jenkins
President

Bill Boytim
Vice President

Mike Watson
Secretary

Pat Ware
Treasurer

Russell Kohlert
Member at-Large

Zerita Rogers
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 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 Nan Jenkins

Hello Everyone,

Isn't the weather beautiful! And all that rain! Wow! I hope that none of you were in the badly flooded areas. I feel for those people. Cleaning up after a flood has to be one of the hardest recoveries from natural disasters. In the two rains, I think we got at least 14-15 inches of rain. I can hear the grass growing as I type, even if it is cool outside.

Speaking of cool, I hope you have all your black olives, buttonwoods and Brazilian Raintrees protected. They don't like temps below 60 degrees. The rest of the tropicals need temps above 50 degrees, so this is the time—in fact before the next cold front comes in.

We have learned that Zilker Park will be closed for all regular meetings during December for the Trail of Lights. I don't want to get into all that traffic anyway!! So we are moving our meeting. There are announcements in this newsletter, so please look for them, cut them out and put them on the fridge so you don't forget. Our Christmas party is always a lot of fun with delicious food. We have a potluck Christmas meal, bring trees to decorate the tables, and this year we will have a special event. We are going to have a silent auction for the picture of John Naka that Cheryl Manning gave us. It will be framed and ready for hanging. So save your coins and bills and come ready to put your name on the list. We'll see who really wants this wonderful picture.

In November, we will have our regular meeting in the usual place. But there will be no workshop meeting because of Thanksgiving. We will have the board meeting on November 19th however.

See you all on the 13th for a great workshop about Bonsai pots. There are some bonsai folks who only collect pots. Did you know that?

Nan

**Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting
October 15, 2013**

No minutes available.

Christmas Party

**December 13th, 2013, 5:00 set up and
6:30 potluck served
Faith Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall (building to the east of
the front parking lot)
1314 E. Oltorf, Austin TX78704
Half a block west of I 35 on Oltorf**

MBP Bonsai Studio

Importers, Retail & Wholesale

Your source for:

High quality Yagimitsu & Ryukoh tools

Organic Bonsai Fertilizers

Imported and Domestic Trees

Bonsai Pottery, Soils and supplies

Classes & Seminars

Open Tuesday Through Sunday



ph: 512-989-5831

e-mail: mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net

601 Kay Lane

Pflugerville, TX 78660

(call for directions)

888-352-1604



Marine Canvas & Upholstery

(interior & exterior)



Toucan Canvas

Austin, Texas

Email: info@toucancanvas.com

www.toucancanvas.com

Repairs, new builds, parts, care & cleaning products

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

- SSOT meeting schedule for 2014: Feb. 15 - Combining trees with stones/creating fused trunk style shohin;
 - Mar. 22 - Selecting bonsai and designing our display for the April L.S.B.F State Bonsai Convention;
 - June 7 - Hands-on/how-to workshop to create your own shohin size bonsai pot(s);
 - Sep. 20 - Annual business meeting and hands-on/how-to workshop about carving shohin including techniques for creating jin, shari, uro and more.
- LSBF 2014 Convention - Houston
The 2014 convention will be held at the Houston Marriott-Westchase.

LONE STAR BONSAI FEDERATION MEETING MINUTES

October 12th 2013

Attendees: Jay Nolen – President
Versie Marks – Vice President
Steven Hendricks – Treasurer, Ft. Worth delegate
Pete Parker – Secretary, Houston delegate
Yvonne Padilla – Corpus Christi delegate
John Miller – Dallas delegate
Mark Bynum – Ft. Worth alternate
Howard Smith – Dallas alternate
Linda May – Corpus Christi alternate
Pat Ware

Unable to attend:

Kevin Preston – San Antonio delegate
John Muller – Austin delegate
Shannon Gilliland – Longview delegate

President Jay Nolen called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

1. *Approval of minutes*

Copies of the meeting minutes from April 11, 2013 were distributed. Steven Hendricks made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Yvonne Padilla. Motion passed.

2. *Treasurer's Report*

Copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed. Steven noted that Pete had just submitted expenses in the amount of \$1038.09 for Cheryl Manning's airfare and luggage fees. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

3. *Old Business*

a) Our discussion of LSBF insurance continued. Chuck Talley had hoped to be at the meeting, but was unable to attend due to business. Chuck and Mark Bynum have reviewed the LSBF insurance and have concluded that there are some gaps in our coverage and that we may be able to cover our needs for less than what we are currently paying. Our main needs are for liability coverage for conventions and the Texas Tour artists. We are currently paying around \$1500/year for insurance. An informal check with an insurance company indicated that we might be able to get term insurance to cover a convention for around \$400.

In the past, when we have considered expansion of LSBF into surrounding states, insurance has been one of the issues that kept us from expanding since insurance is handled by state. Consequently, our insurance covers only activities in Texas.

For the January meeting, Yvonne will discuss this whole issue with our current insurance agent. Mark will put together additional detail on a proposal for insurance going forward.

4. *Convention Reports*

a. New Braunfels 2013

Joey McCoy is working on the final report from the 2013 convention. He was unable to complete the report for this meeting due to the fire next to his jewelry store.

b. Houston 2014

The 2014 convention will be held at the Houston Marriott-Westchase. This is the same venue as the last convention in Houston, but Donald Green, the convention chairman, has arranged for additional space for the exhibit and for vendors. Planned artists are Peter Adams, David DeGroot, and Arthur Joura. Peter Adams is quite ill at present, so Donald is working with him and his family to understand the appropriate path forward. An alternative artist has been identified that will fill in if Peter is unable to make it. Current plans are for 12 workshops (nine with provided material and three BYOT). Material purchased so far includes Green Mound juniper, shohin Black Pine, and wisteria. The gentleman who has sold satsuki azaleas at the last several conventions will conduct a workshop for those who purchase azaleas from him.

c. 2015

There will be no state convention as such in 2015. The board surfaced some alternative ideas and agreed to discuss in more detail at our January meeting.

5. ***LSBF Touring Artist***

- a. Feedback on Cheryl Manning's visit was unanimously positive.
- b. Howard Smith reported on the 2014 Texas Tour by Peter Tea. Howard is preparing to send out a draft schedule.

6. ***New Business***

- a. Joey McCoy forwarded Jay an email from the Shreveport bonsai society President. Shreveport would like to explore becoming part of LSBF. Discussion of this will be deferred until we have resolved our plan for insurance.
- b. The nominating committee comprised of Versie Marks, Steven Hendricks, and Kevin Preston presented the following slate for officers for the upcoming two-year term:

President – Mark Bynum

Vice-President – Howard Smith

Secretary – Pete Parker

Treasurer – Kevin Preston

John Miller moved to accept the slate of officers as presented, seconded by Jay Nolen. Motion passed.

c. It was noted that the newsletter is running somewhat late, but is currently at the printer being printed. Part of our agenda for January will be how best to help Bill get the material he needs for the newsletter.

d. There were 12 attendees at the convention brainstorming meeting held in June. Mark Bynum and Yvonne Padilla are using the thoughts from that meeting to generate a convention handbook.

Steven Hendricks made the motion to adjourn, seconded by John Miller. We adjourned at 2:07 PM.

The next meeting of the Board will be on January 18 at a time and location to be determined.

(Inclusion requested by Pat Ware)

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.

Learn to think in terms related to plant characteristics instead of calendar periods (i.e. use 'when dormant' instead of October, 'candle growth' instead of April, etc). That will enable you to read bonsai articles correctly whether written in Japan Florida or wherever. Note that some tree cultivars (like the cork bark black pine) are notably weaker than the standards of the species and require different pruning and care.

Looking at old records can turn up some surprising facts. There is only one month of the entire year, in the Dallas records, that the high temperature did not reach 90 and that month the record high was 89. Surprisingly that month was November not January.

All of this means that you should have your winter quarters ready. Select one for deciduous trees that will be out of the sun. Evergreens will need some sun but some protection from the hotter winter days, a bit of a problem. Air circulation is good but too much wind will desiccate them especially in freezing temps. Be sure you can check their watering. Clean up all debris.

Winter is also a crucial time in control of many insects. Killing them now means the tree will be able to get started in the spring before they develop sufficient numbers to do damage. Before putting the trees into winter storage treat them for overwintering insects and eggs. Dormant oil spray is good on trees with no green. A dilute solution of lime sulfur is an old gardeners dormant spray for insect and fungus control. Use it on very cool days and dilute it 1 part lime sulfur to 20 parts water. Be sure to read the label on your bottle in case there are different strengths available. This solution should also be applied to bench tops, posts and the soil surrounding them (if you have gravel instead of grass) to eliminate hiding eggs and spores. If you have a greenhouse treat it also before the weather gets too cold to put your plants outside or move them to one end while you treat the other end.

At this time of the year deciduous plants do not need fertilizer. Evergreens will continue a slow growth and will benefit for a light fertilizer feeding. Use one with a lower nitrogen (first number) like 8-8-8 and apply at 1/3 the recommended feeding rate.

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. This is another place the akadama in the APL mix will help

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.

Repotting of hardy trees can be done anytime the trees are dormant. However it is safer to do that chore in the spring as the buds are swelling. New roots will start forming immediately upon repotting in order for the tree to absorb enough water. If you do repot in the fall you should protect the new roots from freezing during the winter. Do you need to change the pot? Making notes at this time while getting the trees ready for winter will give you 3-4 months to find the proper pot.

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 a bit active. Pruning them should be held until a bit later.

By this time any tropical you have should be under cover. Most do not like the temp below 50 degrees. All tropicals should be checked and treated for any

continued... pg 6

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. The roots will be killed by temps somewhere between 25 and 30 degrees. These I set down on the ground and mulch for light freezes and then bring into a protected area for the colder winter. Sometimes I will let them go dormant for a month and then take into the greenhouse to start early and I can enjoy their new foliage in January.

Plan your spring repotting tasks so you will have the necessary pots and other supplies. Take advantage of low prices when nurseries are clearing out space for Xmas tree sales. You can sometimes find some bargains there especially if you remember that a tree with broken/dead tops may make nice bonsai starter material.

The dormant season is also a very good time to study your deciduous bonsai. You can see clearly the structure and where improvements should be made. Remove any wire that is tight or where it has done its work and the branch stays in position. Work can be done more leisurely over the winter. Take care not to damage the small buds.

November is when I consider the start of the fiscal year for two needle pines which include the Japanese black pine, Scots pine, and others. This process is needed to develop the twiginess and to get the needles short and keep them that way. Junipers and most other conifers (not the bald cypress) may be included. However I question the desirability of keeping them on the benches over winter because of the possibility of the sun heating the roots too much and causing them to break dormancy or get their roots active. That would cause problem if the temp later falls to 10 degrees.

**BS Board Meeting Minutes
October 9th, 2013
Zilker Garden Club House**

No minutes available.

**Chrysalis Gift Shop
at the Austin Area Garden Center
Members only sale
20% Discount!**

**Be an early bird-support the Garden
Center and buy your Christmas gifts here!
We have lots of new merchandise, including
great gardening books.**

**We will be open from 6:30-7:30 pm for our
clubs:**

**Butterfly Forum- 10/28
Orchid Society - 11/5
Master Gardeners- 11/6
Daylily Society-11/7
Organic Gardeners- 11/11
Iris Society- 11/12
Bonsai Society- 11/13
Pond Society- 11/18
Rose Society - 11/19
Garden Club of Austin & Cactus &
Succulent Society - 11/21**

(Inclusion requested by Nan Jenkins)

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 Joey McCoy)