



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

October 2013 vol 34

October 2013 Programs by Bill Boytim

Annual auction will be held at the **October 9th Meeting**. The annual auction is the biggest fund raiser of the year for the society. We need both donors and bidders to make this a successful event. Please bring plants, bonsai materials and supplies and other items to the meeting to support ABS. Only cash or checks will be accepted for payment at the auction, we do not have the ability to take credit or debit cards.

Chuck Ware will serve as the auctioneer. Volunteers will move the items for Chuck during the auction. The front row of tables will be used to support the auction with an elevated turntable in the center near the podium. Items being auctioned will be displayed on the turntable during the bidding process. Items awaiting bidding will be moved from the back of the room to the table to the left of the podium and items with successful bids will be on the table to the right of the podium. Pat Ware will be stationed at the table to the right of the podium to record the bid price and the bidder's number. Please arrive early so that your items can be displayed and so that you can register and get a bidders number from Pat.

Please fill out the auction item labels with as much detail as possible. Items entered into the auction will have all the auction proceeds go to ABS. There will be no prorated bids between donor and ABS. If you have an item that you think should have a minimum bid, please annotate the label with this information and the minimum bid. Items with a minimum bid, that do not receive at least the minimum bid, have the option of the donor taking the item back or agreeing to the bid that was offered.

The **October 15th workshop** will be on maintaining bonsai tools, good time to recondition the tools you buy at the auction.

Calendar of Events

October 9th ABS Monthly Meeting
Reception Hosts: Mike Watson,
John Muller
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

October 9th ABS Monthly Meeting
ANNUAL AUCTION
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm

October 15th ABS Board Meeting
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

October 15th ABS Member's Workshop
Workshop - Members only
Tool Maintenance
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm



**Cheryl Manning provides a demonstration at
our 2013 September ABS Meeting**
(Photo by Editor)

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

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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 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.

President's Message by Nan Jenkins

Fall in Texas is here! We may not have beautiful maple tree forests, but we can look at our bonsai maples and get a taste of what New England looks like about now. I got to be in New Hampshire one year when the color was abundant. It was beautiful. I love autumn, but I wish it lasted a bit longer in Texas.

John Miller always has a lot to say about how to keep our trees in this climate, although you always need to remember that he lives in Dallas, and that is somewhat different from here. It's time to clean out the greenhouse. I decided to move my most sensitive trees to the covered porch this past weekend. Raintrees and Buttonwoods really don't like it colder than 60 degrees! I have been given a reprieve this week, but one never knows when the weather will turn with a cold front, and I don't want to need to clean up and move trees both in one day! Not a fun thing to do.

So get out there and get things ready, cause colder weather is acoming! And while you are doing that, pick a few trees that you are tired of, are frustrated with, are ready to part with and bring them to the auction on the 9th. That is always such a fun night. Bring your money too, so that you can pick up a few trees to expand your collection. I think that about half of my trees have come from someone else. It is really fun to know their history and who has been training them in the past. I had one where I was the third, and now the fourth stylist has it. Sold it last year. I think that's cool!

Have a wonderful month with this gorgeous weather and cooler temperatures. That makes for very happy trees!

Nan

Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting

September 11, 2013

No minutes available.

2013 Kathy Shaner Seminar October 18th - 20th Buda, TX

- * Seminar *
- * Grafting Workshop *
- * Bring-your-own-tree Workshop *

Registration available in August. To be notified when registration is open, email ckmurphy2000@gmail.com

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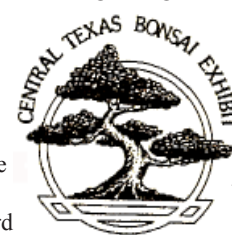
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Bonsai Calendar

- SSOT meeting schedule for 2014: TBA

- LSBF 2014 Convention - Houston

The 2014 convention will be held at the Houston Marriott-Westchase.

Know of an upcoming Bonsai event of interest to club members? Send the details to jcm2austx@sprintmail.com

Cheryl Manning Workshop at Zilker Gardins - September 10, 2013



(Photos by Joey McCoy and Editor)

Cheryl Manning Demonstration at 2013 September ABS Meeting



(Photos by Joey McCoy and Editor)

October 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.

Now is the time to start your trees toward their winter siesta. If you wait until the temperature drops, you get too rushed and omit some of the little housekeeping duties.

When the leaves start turning the sap has quit for the year and you may check the branches and twigs to see if any need to be trimmed. Remove any wire that is too tight. Rewire if necessary. Cutting back any protruding branches will keep them from snagging and possibly breaking other trees when you put them down. Don't cut the buds off the spring flowering plants unless absolutely necessary if you want flowers next spring.

Remove the top half-inch of soil and replenish it with new soil. This will remove weed seeds that have blown in and will make next year's job easier. Of course if you plan on repotting next spring it isn't necessary.

Do you need to change the pot? Making notes at this time will give you 3-4 months to find the proper pot.

For the beginners, plants like the cedar elm, oak, maple that are hardy much further north can be set on a clean gravel bed. When the real cold (26 or lower) gets here cover the pots with a fairly loose mulch. Plants that grow south of Dallas, crape myrtle, firethorn, some azalea, need to have root protection. I like to let them get frostbit but bring them in before freezing. Of course the tropicals need to be babied.

All this is basically talking about the broadleaf deciduous trees. Evergreens do not go dormant in winter. Some broadleaf types like boxwoods slow way down but still need sunlight. These broadleaf evergreens need the basic winter protection of deciduous trees but have a higher water need.

Cut back on the watering now that the temperature is a little lower but don't allow the trees to dry out. Trees require less water during the shorter days and lower temperatures. However you need to remember that

the wind can still stress the trees so water by checking the soil and not just on a given schedule.

Pests on deciduous trees are not usually of much concern in the fall since the leaves are about to fall anyway. Scale must be taken care of with an horticultural oil spray. On evergreen plants most problems are done for the year. Mites can be a problem if we get a few warm days in a row. The organic foliar spray with seaweed (kelp) will not only take care of them but will be beneficial to the tree as well. Insects will continue to be present. Cooler (but not cold) days mean a resurgence of the aphids. Mites will also still be around. Scale also can be a problem. Treat with a light horticultural oil which will kill the adults and also wipe out the eggs and overwintering pupae. Be sure to cover all the cracks in the bark to get to the eggs. The organic spray (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water) will work on evergreens and will also give them some nutrients. The dead scale will probably have to be removed physically. A soft toothbrush works for me (I sometimes need to wet the branch to loosen the scale shell).

Repot in the fall? The 'best' time to repot is when active growth begins. The plant tells you that conditions are right and it will respond immediately. However, your own schedule, business or personal events, or other reasons you may have to do it. Repotting means new root growth and new roots are usually very tender. You will need more protection for them and watch your watering carefully. This year I will be doing some repotting during the fall and/or winter.

Take a critical look at some of your trees. As time goes on with only refinement pruning the branches and twigs will grow beyond your original design. You may need to do some heavier pruning. No heavy pruning will lead to the lack of refinement and a top heavy tree with branches out of proportion. Do the rejuvenating pruning this fall and repot at the proper time next spring.

Creating some shohin bonsai can lead to some winter enjoyment. Since they do not take much room you can find a space in the house or a small greenhouse.

Let them go dormant for a short period and you can take them in and have new growth in a very short time. Small elms are especially good for this. Then set back and enjoy your little fellows in the house while the winter wears on.

Time to take a good look at your tropicals. Before going into the dry low light conditions most of us have for winter quarters they need to be vigorous, pruned and free of problems. Give them a good feeding preferably with an organic fertilizer. If you use a water soluble type use a low dilution and feed every 2-3 days. Prune all new growth back to the trees best shape. Keep any new growth pinched to 2-3 leaves. Use your desired insecticide and/or fungicide now and again just before you take them in.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes
September 17th, 2013
Zilker Garden Club House

No minutes available, because no meeting was held.

Members Workshop
September 10th Tuesday 2013

Well a good time was had by ALL !!!!! Well, at least those 16 trusty members who came to the Tuesday Members Only workshop with Cheryl Manning.

We had a great time and everyone shared that they had learned a great deal—workshop participants and observers. This workshop was a “Bring Your Own Tree” styling workshop. This workshop involved the participants bringing their own tools and their own material. New club members were excited to see how a workshop was conducted and the variety of tools they should buy for their tool kits. It is always good to start with the basic of tool sets and add a piece as your collection grows and requires the tool variety to care for your bonsai.

Cheryl provided insight to each participant that broadened the depth and understanding of each species of tree and the type of tool necessary for the styling techniques recommended. Participants had brought both styled trees searching for a new look, collected trees showing some promise for the future, and pre-bonsai to the workshop. Species included Japanese Boxwood, Cedar Elm, Red Berry Juniper, Buttonwood, to name a few.

Cheryl shared her knowledge freely and discussed carving techniques, wiring, root development, and changing the angles for a more professional looking bonsai. Short term and the long term development plan was discussed with each participant.

All in all, we are very fortunate to have “The Visiting Artist” as part of our fall series of programs and we hope to see more of you involved with the program.

Provided by,

Deborah VanCleaf

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)