



# Bonsai Notebook

*www.austinbonsaisociety.com*

*A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society*

*January 2011*

## January 2011 Programs

by Collin Murphy

The seasons have flown by for me! I have neglected my trees and let them grow shaggy and shameful. Now winter is here and I am faced with trees whose branches have become unruly. Do I leave them alone and deal with them later or cut them off now? Should I wire them? Some books tell you to cut in winter, some say cut in spring. Oh, the agony!

On **Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>** our own gentleman bonsai master, Chuck Ware, will guide us through this prickly passage and show us the whens and whys. Chuck's presentations are always informative, thought provoking, and



**An ABS Christmas Tree displayed**

## Calendar of Events

**January 12th ABS Monthly Meeting Reception**

**Hosts: Alisan Clarke and Pat Ware**

**Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**January 12th ABS Monthly Meeting**

**When and Why?**

**with Chuck Ware**

**Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**January 18th ABS Board Meeting**

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

**January 18th ABS Member's Workshop**

**previous "Juniper Raft"**

**Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm**

downright entertaining. I'm looking forward to it and to seeing you all there.

For our member's workshop on **Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>** we will take a look at our previous "Juniper Raft" project. I know it says "repot" in the schedule but it may not be time yet. Bring them to the workshop and we will evaluate their progress. You might as well bring tools and soil just in case. Of course, you can bring anything else you would like to work on and, as usual, you're always welcome to just come and hang out.

## Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

**Mike Watson**  
President

**Collin Murphy**  
Vice President

**Nan Jenkins**  
Secretary

**Pat Ware**  
Treasurer

**Becki Drozd**  
Member at-Large

**Tammi 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 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](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

It's amazing to think of how much can happen in a relatively small amount of time. Six years ago I went into a grocery store and saw a "Bonsai Tree" for sale for \$35. I was just looking for something to cheer up my cubicle at work. I decided that I could make something better (and cheaper, ha ha). I discovered Persimmon Hill Bonsai and met Terry and Sheila Ward. I proceeded to buy a ficus, get some tools and books, join an online forum, and then discovered the Austin Bonsai Association. My first meeting at the ABS was life changing! I was amazed at the fellowship and camaraderie and decided that I wanted to be a part of it.

Fast forward to 2011 and I find myself president, filling the sizable shoes of Joey McCoy, Jim Trahan, and all of the others who have built this amazing group. Collin Murphy (who started about the same time as me) is our new VP and program chair. He has created some wonderful trees and inspired me very much! I am looking forward to the programs that he (and you) have in store. This club has always surprised me in it's ability to surprise me!

I'm looking forward to the year ahead and especially what you all have in mind for the club. If you have any ideas, improvements, criticisms, jokes, or whatever, please feel free to let me know.

Here's to a great year in 2011!

Michael Watson



**Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner**  
(Photos by Joey McCoy)

## ABS December General Meeting Minutes

by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Dinner began at 7:00 p.m. At 8:20 p.m. Els announced the new TTSBE board member nominees: Nan Jenkins, Timmi Kuykendall, Kevin Preston and Connie King. The new TTSBE board members were unanimously approved. Joey thanked everyone for bringing food. Joey also recognized the following individuals:

Mike Watson - VP and programs

Pat Ware - our hardworking treasurer

Collin Murphy - Secretary and newsletter editor

Nan Jenkins, Becki Drozd and Charlotte Cranberg - Members at large

Carl Quisenberry and Pat Ware - LSBF representatives

Jimbo - Librarian

Deb Van Clear - Greeter

Charlotte Cranberg - Zilker Garden Council representative

Becki Drozd - Raffle and web master of our new web site!

Elaine White - Publicity

Joel Sarchet and Rand Road - printing newsletters

Bill Boytim - repairing and helping keep our show equipment ready

Russell - Zilker guard for most of the year and all-around great guy

Alisan Clark - all around great worker, decorator and coordinator  
Our wonderful vendors in the Austin area, our source for all things Bonsai

All our members who are always there to help out setting up and cleaning up after, putting together our May show

All our members who have given programs throughout the year, giving their time and talent. Let's keep Mike Hansen in our thoughts, and wish the best for him.

---

## ABS December Board Meeting Minutes

by Collin Murphy, Secretary

The meeting was not held this month, but the monthly meeting will resume in January 2011.

## 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)

There is a new change at Zilker Garden Center to improve security. The main gate will be start closing at 8 p.m. and will not reopen until our meeting is over. If anyone arrives late they can use the call box at the main gate to summon one of the new Zilker guards to open the gate.

Alisan is sponsoring a dig on the property of her home in January. More details will be provided soon.

The latest TTSBE newsletter is available online at

<http://www.ttsbe.org>.

## 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

LSBF Convention

Corpus Christi

May 14 - 15, 2011

St Louis Shohin Seminar

Collinsville, IL

May 20 - 22, 2011

<http://www.stlbonsai.org/events.htm>

Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show

May 28 - 29, 2011

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



**Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner**  
*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*



**Reviewing past Christmas Parties**  
*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*



**The Christmas Party was enjoyed by All**  
*(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.*

I thought that last months virtual tour program was one of the best we have offered for beginners to learn some of the things needed to keep the bonsai healthy. My suggestion for you is not to try to copy the ideas completely but to consider them all and adapt them to fit your back yard or apartment balcony. Each location has different needs.

My most unforgettable January calamity in recent years was having two catlin elms and a trident cut and stripped by a packrat for his nest. The two elms took some time but they recovered. The trident never did. I now keep outdoor rat poison blocks scattered among the trees. I like blocks rather than pellets since they are easier to pick up come spring.

Other outdoor pest problems will depend upon the temperature. If there are many warm days spider mites, scale, and aphids may show up. Use the same controls you did last summer

Indoor plants will have the same pest you had last summer and maybe some more since any eggs will hatch and they usually love the warm indoors. So keep your eyes peeled when you are watering.

Watering tends to be a bonsai growers biggest problem in winter. It is difficult to determine how dry the soil is when they are put close together in winter storage. That could be another argument for having a porous well-draining bonsai soil which is very difficult to over water. Just remember that the water will evaporate quickly when the warm winter sun hit's the pots and more so if there is a little breeze.. Too much water could cause root rot, fungus or other damage.

January is an excellent time to do styling work. Deciduous trees are bare so you see the real tree and are not confused and misled by foliage. Examine the branch structure and decide if you need to reposition any branches. If the trees has been styled for some time, you may need to reduce the length of some branches by selectively cutting back a larger secondary branch and developing a smaller branch. This also gives you more movement in the branch. Remove vertically growing twigs and branchlets. Do you need to develop more ramification. If so make a note to go on a rigorous tip pruning when growth starts next spring.

Evergreens may be worked on altho the best time would have been last fall. Their sap flow is now at a minimum so they will not bleed too much.

Do not do too much work on spring flowering plants like azaleas, their buds were set late last summer or fall and you will be losing some blooms. Most later bloomers (wisteria and crape myrtle) generally have their blooms on new growth so you can style them now.

Greenhouses can be a great source of bonsai enjoyment in January. Of course, there is always the tropicals that stay green the year around and will therefore need a bunch of care. I let my small elms and maples get a month of cold, hopefully they get to 25 a couple of times to be really dormant. Then between Christmas and New Years I bring them into the greenhouse and can do their repotting in January and enjoy the flush of new foliage before the bigger trees are needing anything.

The cheapest but best way to upgrade your collection is to join on the club digs. You obtain several years work in a morning. Most digs are scheduled in the late winter which get them at close to the optimum digging stage. If you have doubts about the care after you get home just ask any of your fellow collectors. They all like



continued from 6...

to share techniques. Collected trees are faster than the other way that I like, grow your own from cuttings. Cuttings do not take any care at all the first year, just put them under the bench and hit them with water when you do the bonsai on top.

The only way to learn bonsai is to do it. You cannot get the 'why' out of a book. You need to have someone help you with the styling and he should point out not only what he is doing but why she is doing it. All clubs work hard on having good programs but the real learning is by taking advantage of any workshops offered, both by local club personnel and by visiting artists that the club brings in. When you go to your clubs local show spend more time with the trees (go around several times, you will see something different each time) and less time gossiping. I got most of my beginners knowledge following the two club 'experts' around the room and eavesdropping on their



critiques (mostly of their own trees). The LSBF state convention each year offers a concentrated weekend of study. I still like to watch a master work and listen to his comments. There will always be something slightly new or different or a different approach that will be more clear. Wiring or repotting in itself might be boring but the presentation is never boring.

So plan on doing Corpus on May 13-15. See you there.



**More enjoying the Christmas Party**  
*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*

# 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

