



# Bonsai Notebook

[www.main.org/bonsai](http://www.main.org/bonsai)

*A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society*

*October 2010*

## October Programs

by Mike Watson

Kathy Shaner will be our visiting artist for the regularly meeting on **Wednesday, October 13th**. Kathy is one of the most renowned Bonsai artists of our times. To her, bonsai is not just an art or hobby, it is a way of life. In my first meeting with her, she cut through all of my confusion and trepidation and put me on the right path. Her techniques, which are always built on common sense and logical approach, will open your eyes to possibilities you had not imagined or thought were beyond your skills. If I had to say that I had a bonsai “master”, Kathy would be that person. Needless to say, I am excited to have her at our club and I implore everyone to come out. You don’t want to miss her!

Our workshop on **Tuesday, October 19th** will be another “Member’s Choice”. Bring anything that you have been meaning to work on but just haven’t gotten around to. I really enjoy these relaxed work sessions. The exchange of knowledge and camaraderie is not only fun, but I actually get some work done as well!

## Newsletter Editor Needed!

I have been nominated for a new role in the Austin Bonsai Society and need a volunteer to replace me as newsletter editor. Please contact me or any board member if you are interested in this position, which only requires a few hours per month.

-Collin

## Calendar of Events

**October 13th ABS Monthly Meeting Reception**

**Hosts: Mike Watson and**

**Jim Bauman**

**(Next months hosts: Sheila Ware and**

**Bill Boytim)**

**Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**October 13th ABS Monthly Meeting**

**Lecture/Demo with Kathy Shaner**

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

**October 19th ABS Board Meeting**

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

**October 19th ABS Member’s Workshop**

**Bring Your Own Tree**

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



*Roy Nagatoshi 'at September's workshop*

## Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

**Joey McCoy**  
President

**Mike Watson**  
Vice President

**Collin Murphy**  
Secretary

**Pat Ware**  
Treasurer

**Becki Drozd**  
Member at-Large

**Charlotte Cranberg**  
Member at-Large

**Nan Jenkins**  
Member at-Large

**Jim Trahan**  
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.

Collin Murphy is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". He may be contacted at [ckmurphy2000@yahoo.com](mailto:ckmurphy2000@yahoo.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 Joey McCoy

Oh, the cool days of Fall have arrived. My trees will be slowing down soon, but for now they charge right on – growing like crazy. Our Fall programs are also coming along and the next event is Kathy Shaner's visit to our club on October 13th. It's a great time to invite a friend and come and enjoy watching the skills of one of the foremost Bonsai teachers in America. You never know if you're going to win the raffle tree at the end of the evening (look what I did last month!).

Remember that next month on November 10th we'll have our annual Auction, so now is a good time to start cleaning out the Bonsai garden and deciding which items you no longer need and that could benefit the society. Some trees change hands several times over the years this way until they reach just the right person who can make a doggy caterpillar of a tree turn into butterfly!

The slate of officers is coming along for the year 2011, with a few openings remaining. Please consider joining the Board! Every person in our club brings a different skill set to the group and is needed. Think about how you could help out your club and try to get involved. Remember that Austin Bonsai is only as good as its active members!

Thanks to everyone who came and participated with Roy Nagatoshi last month, it was a terrific time! It's a shame that the workshop was nearly flooded at the end with that major thunderstorm, but what a great evening. Thanks go to Pat and Chuck for housing and transporting Roy, to Terry and Sheila for hosting the workshop and to Alisan and Collin for the demo trees! Also thanks to Victor for filming the demo. If you missed the fun, there are photos and video for everyone to catch up.

## JADE GARDENS HOME OF



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e-mail: [bonsaijg@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaijg@gmail.com)  
web page: <http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

**ABS September Board Meeting Minutes**  
by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. present were Pat Ware, Joey McCoy, Collin Murphy and Mike Watson.

Pat gave the treasurer's report. As of the end of August income over expenses is \$514.79.

Nan has the nominees selected for next year's board positions. They will be announced at the October general meeting.

Elaine White from TTSBE requested permission to sell two bonsai-related books on behalf of TTSBE at ABS meetings. One book is about Ashe Junipers and the other book is bonsai information for beginners. Commercial sales at ABS meetings requires board approval. The board voted unanimously to allow Elaine to sell these two books on behalf of TTSBE at ABS meetings.

The annual ABS auction in November was discussed.. It will be similar to previous years. Donors will have the opportunity to set reserves for any item they donate.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

## **MBP Bonsai Studio**

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(call for directions)



*Roy wiring a tree during the workshop*

**Roy Nagatoshi Demonstration**  
*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*



*Roy working on the first demo tree, a ficus*



*Joey won the ficus in the raffle*

**Roy Nagatoshi Demonstration**  
*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*



*Roy's second demo tree was a dwarf yaupon holly*



*Nan won the yaupon in the raffle*

## 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.*

Take a good look at your bonsai before you put them away for the winter. Is the foliage pretty ragged looking after our hot summer? Something you may get to try next year is a product with silicon in it which is supposed to make for stronger and thicker cell walls. Stronger cells in the leaves will help them withstand more heat and wind. There are probably several brands--one that I know about is Dyna-Gro Pro-tekt. It has a 0-0-3 formula with silicon so you could use it for a fall fertilizer if you desire. Check website [www.dyna-gro.com](http://www.dyna-gro.com).

Some may repot in the fall but I feel that it is counter-productive to do so. New roots are more prone to freeze damage if we get a bad winter. Repot at the proper time next spring which is when the buds swell and new growth is imminent. However, as Kathy Shaner (and Sylvia has said it too) has recommended that you remove the top 1/4 to 1/2 inch of soil and replace it with fresh soil. This will help eliminate weed seed that has blown in and may make watering easier.

Watch your watering now that the temperature is a little lower. Cut back on the watering but do not 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 and dry out the soil so you should water by checking the soil and not just on a given schedule.

If you have not checked your wiring yet this fall, you had better look at it. The fall growth can make the tree swell up and get bad wire marks in a hurry. If the tree/limbs do not stay where you want them, then rewire it placing the new wire in a slightly different path or possible wrap in the opposite direction.

While you are looking at the wires look also at the lower trunks. If there is any moss growing on the bark spray it with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. Moss may look aged but it rots the bark quickly.

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 over-wintering pupae. Be sure to cover all the cracks in the bark to get to the eggs. The organic spray that I use for all insects (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, 5% 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).

Feeding of deciduous trees should be discontinued for the winter. Evergreens and conifers will benefit from a low nitrogen feeding. Organic fertilizers are better as they will breakdown into nutrients more slowly as the season gets cooler and the trees activity slows also. Be sure to use one that supplies the 13 micronutrients needed. The organic spray given above can be used as a soil drench but dilute it a little more. Kelp is an excellent source of the essential minor elements needed by plants.

After the trees lose their foliage, you can study their trunk lines and branch structure. Any faulty styling and the general design features can be observed more easily and corrections planned. Look for crossing branches. Cut vertical growing twigs both growing up and those growing down. Reduce long internodes by cutting back and growing new extensions. Clean out heavy branch clusters that make the tree look too dense. Be particularly attentive to prevent the formation of heavy branches in the top part of the tree where faster growth often occurs. Work can be done now or later during the winter at your leisure but it is too easy to forget about it when the tree is in winter storage.

Winter quarters: Here in Texas more trees are lost in the winter due to drying out than to the cold. Of course that doesn't mean for you to leave the tropics out or to let the roots freeze on southern trees like the crape myrtle. Even in a greenhouse or sunny window the soil can dry out amazingly fast. The wind in winter has amazing drying powers too. So while protecting the roots be sure to give it a wind screen but make sure that you can check the soil for watering needs. (it helps here if you know which particular plants dry out faster and situate them together. Winter kill usually comes because the soil has frozen and the sun and/or wind is

removing water from the tops. The roots cannot obtain water to replenish the loss and the top desiccates to the point of death.

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.

And finally, look for some good potensai at nurseries who are clearing out their area to make room for the Xmas trees. Remember that stuff half dead may be great--you are only interested in the lower trunk so don't look at the green bushy top (after all it is merely junk to us).

## **ABS September General Meeting Minutes** by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He introduced new member Valerie Morris and guests Chris Rogers, Helen Engel and Peter Shipman.

He thanked Jimbo, Candy, and Victor for hosting. He also thanked Alisan and Collin for donating the trees for Roy's demonstration.

The TTSBE garage sale is September 25th from 8 am to 3 pm. Contact Elaine for donations.

Nan is heading the nomination committee for next year's board positions.

Joey then introduced Mike who reminded everyone that the next member's workshop is a bring-your-own-tree workshop. Mike then introduced Roy Nagatoshi who gave a lecture and demonstration.



*Kathy Shaner will give another lecture/demo during October's meeting*

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## **Bonsai Calendar**

**Kathy Shaner Demonstration**  
**The Maple Society**

<http://www.maplesociety.org/texas2010agenda>

**St Louis Shohin Seminar**

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

**ABS General Meeting**  
**2010 Conference**

**Collinsville, IL**

**October 13, 2010, 7:30 p.m.**  
**October 28 - 30, 2010**

**May 20 - 22, 2011**

*Know of an upcoming Bonsai event of interest to club members? Send the details to [ckmurphy2000@yahoo.com](mailto:ckmurphy2000@yahoo.com) and it will be posted here.*

# 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 \$25.00 for an individual and \$30.00 for a family membership.

For additional information, please contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, Texas 78734

