



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

December 2017 vol 85

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Calendar of Events

- **December**
No meeting
- **January 10, 2018**
Lecture / Demo with Juan Andrade with pines
- **February 3 - 4, 2018**
Trident Maple dig at MBP (ABS members only - P.11)
- **April 19 - 22, 2018**
LSBF Convention in Longview, TX at the Hilton Garden Inn
(<http://www.lonestarbonsai.org/2018-convention/>)

2017 Board of Directors

Simon Tse
President

Zach Rabalais
Vice President

Brandon Baldauf
Secretary

Pat Ware
Treasurer

Ruby Chaing
Member-At-Large

Kevin Patureau
Member-At-Large

Vacant
Member-At-Large

Holiday Party Volunteers

All Members
Food

All Members
Trees

President's Message

By Simon Tse

The annual potluck holiday party was a great success. My sincere appreciation to all the collaboration among members to contribute to regular, vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free culinary creations. We all had a wonderful time during the intense yet entertaining gift exchange. Hope you all enjoyed it!

Pat Ware, our longtime Treasurer, has passed on the baton to Gloria Norberg. I cannot express enough amount of gratitude on behalf on the club to all her invaluable contributions over the years! Luckily, Pat agreed to stay on the board to ensure smooth transition.

This year, the board decided to expand on our social media presence to have the opportunity to interact with broader audience. Our Twitter and Instagram presence allows us to present information instantly and effectively on all compatible devices. We are looking into additional channels to promote the art of Bonsai, however, website and email will certainly remain as a part of our official communications.

Meanwhile, Texas winter is quickly approaching and has already shown us some glimpses. We need to start protecting our bonsai when it reaches those risky low temperatures. A general guideline is provided once again within this newsletter for your reference. This article was written by one of our former ABS members and please reach out for questions or concerns.

Happy Holidays!
Simon



Holiday cheer!

ABS Holidays Celebrations

Enjoy!



(Photos by May Lau)





(Photos by May Lau)



Get Connected!

Join our online discussion page! NO SPAM!

[http://
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jvmccoy@sbcglobal.com

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Follow us on Instagram
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Vice President's Message

By Zach Rabalais

I hope everyone is having a good time over the holiday season and that your trees are ready for winter. We haven't really had any truly cold weather yet so no need to do the dance of shuffling trees in and out of the house unless you have some of the more tender tropical species and no greenhouse to put them in. Colder months are right around the corner though so make sure to prepare your trees for the upcoming months.

There is no Austin Bonsai Society meeting for the month of December. We will resume our normal schedule in January with a lecture on pines, but more on that in next months newsletter. I hope you all have a happy holiday season and look forward to seeing everyone next year.



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Secretary Update

Current Instagram is up to 1291 and we will do another fun giveaway at 1500.

Here are the notes from the November Meeting:

~~~~~

1) Nomination of board members - Quoc announced each of the board positions and our members voted unanimously to accept 2018 board.

2018 Board as approved by general vote:

President: Simon Tse (Re-election)

Vice President: Brandon Baldauf

Secretary: Mike Garza

Treasurer: Gloria Norberg

Member at Large: Pat Ware

Member at Large: Daniel Lara

Member at Large: Ruby Chaing

2) Approval of treasurer's budget for upcoming year.

Budget was unanimously approved.



**Holiday cheer!**

**JADE GARDENS**  
**HOME OF THE**

Owners  Chuck  
and Pat  
Ware

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<http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

## Secretary Update (continue)

### 3) Honorable Recognition of a member: Pat Ware

Presented by Simon Tse:

Pat's contributions to the Austin Bonsai Society and Bonsai world is invaluable. For the short period of time we have collaborated, in my humble opinion, it's truly an honor and privileged for such a talented, dedicated, organized and outstanding accountant to inherit one of the most important board position. She has devoted her skills and applied her wits diligently for over 20 years to keep this club going. She is not just a treasurer, she is the heart and soul of the Austin Bonsai Society. Pat has lived through most of the history, iterations and transformation of this club, she is our resources (super rolodex) for important contacts throughout Texas and beyond. From managing itineraries of visiting artists to communications to other Bonsai clubs in Texas, she is our voice and ambassador. She contributes on every single aspect on our day-to-day operation. Apart from above, Pat was also our newsletter editor back in the days, her newsletters has earned her a prestigious runner-up award from Bonsai Club internationals. She is truly a legend within the Bonsai community.

There will be no meeting in December 2017. Our next meeting will be in January 2018.

End of official business.

Note from the Secretary and 2018 Vice President:

What an exciting year the Austin Bonsai Society has experienced. We have made some major accomplishments at organizational levels as well as with the individuals who make up the group! When I look back at the year I am reminded of the new friends, strengthened relationships, knowledge learned, and all the new trees to tend to!

Organizationally, ABS supported TTSBE as they make amazing headway on the progression of the permanent Bonsai exhibit at Zilker. As a club, we have seen more interest in our passion for bonsai than in recent memory. A couple of examples include: i) raising more funds through our auction than in the last 7 years if not more ii) the swell of people who showed up for our annual show and iii) establishment of a social media presence, currently Instagram has 1170 followers. A great time to be part of ABS as we get the honor of continuing the rich tradition and history of this beautiful society. None of this would be possible without the support of every member. Thank you for being part of Austin Bonsai Society in 2017 and looking forward to carrying on the fun in 2018!

We have some really interesting activities coming up and being planned. As I transition from the Secretary to the Vice President, I get to help determine what the 2018 monthly meeting topic are to be. Thus far we have 2 visiting artists and potentially a 3rd. There are a couple of large scale club digs in the works as well as the pop up boxwood and local digs we coordinated last year. We have our annual show, a 2018 LSBF show in Longview, and a LSBF

## General winter protection guides for Bonsai/plants

### Need protection from cold weather

|                              |                                |                                   |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Aralia - all varieties       | Cardboard Palm                 | Okinawa Holly (Malpighia variety) |
| Barbados Cherry              | Ficus – all varieties          | Orange, Lemon – all citrus        |
| Bougainvillea                | Fukien Tea (never below 45F)   | Papyrus                           |
| Brush Cherry                 | Ivies - all varieties          | Satinwood                         |
| Burcera Fagaroides           | Jacaranda                      | Sea Grape                         |
| Bucida Spinosa (Black Olive) | Indoor Oak (Nicodemia)         | Sageretia                         |
| Bucida Burcera (Black Olive) | Ixora                          | Serissa (Snow Rose)               |
| Buttonwood                   | Jasmine – Duke                 | Texas Ebony                       |
| Calliandra (Powder Puff)     | Jaboticaba                     | Zamia Floridana                   |
| Carissa (Natal/African Plum) | Malpighias - Cocigera & Glabra |                                   |

### Semi-hardy

|                                  |                              |                                |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bamboo - in pot                  | Gardenia                     | Yaupon Holly – never below 25F |
| Blood Grass                      | Olive - Olea Europis         | Rosemary                       |
| Camellia (don't let buds freeze) | Podocarpus – never below 20F | Tallow                         |
| Hokkaido & Seiju & Catlin elms   | Pyracantha – never below 25F |                                |

### Need 6-8 weeks cold period

|                                 |                       |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Abelia                          | Ginkgo                | Pine                  |
| Althea                          | Grape                 | Pyrus Kawakami/Calley |
| Apple/Crabapple                 | Holly - most          | Pittosporum           |
| Arbovitae                       | Honeysuckle           | Plum                  |
| Azalea - Satsuki may be indoors | Jasmine – confederate | Pistachio             |
| Bald Cypress                    | Juniper – most        | Quince                |
| Barberry                        | Ligustrum/Privet      | Raphiolepis (Redbud)  |
| Camellia                        | Maples – all          | Spirea                |
| Chamaecyparis                   | Myrtle – all          | Spruce                |
| Cotoneaster                     | Nandina               | Sweet Gum             |
| Cryptomeria                     | Oaks                  | Viburnum              |
| Cypress                         | Osmanthus             | Willow                |
| Elms - Chinese & American       | Peach                 | Wisteria              |
| Forsythia                       | Persimmon             | Zelkova               |

Courtesy of Edith Sorge, former member of Austin Bonsai Society – 1989

Addendum and revised – 11/2017



## December Bonsai

*By John Miller*

The big thing this month is to make sure that the bonsai do not dry out and to protect the roots from freezing. Do not leave them up on their benches. Know which species should be left outdoors. They may be set on the ground. Add a dense mulch to the pot rim and then add a looser mulch on top. Water in a minute crack or chip can freeze and bust the pot.

Evergreen types especially and deciduous to a lesser extend should not have the root ball subjected to alternate freezing and thawing. That process tends to tear and damage the roots. Placing the trees on the ground and using a mulch will minimize this problem.

Deciduous trees should not be placed where they receive winter sun. After a period of dormancy, the heating of the tree could possibly cause it to break dormancy prematurely. If that happened you would need to keep it above freezing the rest of the winter. After they go dormant they have no need for any sunshine.

While they are dormant examine the twigs, branches, and trunks carefully for scale insects, Scale are sucking insects that usually cover themselves with a hard impervious shell that is very resistant to insecticides. Some are pretty small and look like specks. You might want to search online for something like 'scale insect bonsai' and get some pictures. Horticultural oils (available at garden stores) work good by filling their pores and smothering them. Oils can be applied now and you get a more thorough coverage while the trees are dormant. The only other way is to use a systemic insecticide (make sure it is labeled for scale) during the growing season.



New Members

**No new members**

Since the trees are not using as much water during dormancy it is easy to overlook checking on them. The low humidity usually found during winter helps dry the soil. Winter sun can be pretty hot and if it shines directly on the pot it will hasten the drying process. Winter will usually also be more windy. Therefore, however you bed down the trees, you need to check the dryness often. The same trees that needed more water last summer will also need to be checked more often during the winter. I think that more trees are lost during the winter by having the soil dry out than from the actual cold.

Especially watch the plants that will need repotting next spring. Pots full of circling roots do not have much soil to hold water but those that had a lot of organic matter in the soil mix may be soggy. Organic matter that has composted during the summer will be very fine textured and hold on to the water a long time and may also interfere with drainage.

Plants have different degrees of hardiness for their top growth and their roots. The reason being that the ground acts a large reservoir of heat and here in Texas seldom freezes more than an inch or two down. Therefore, plants like the pomegranate and crepe myrtle which are at the northern extent of their range outside will only be hardy to 32 degrees in pots.

Any plant that you are unsure of should be protected from freezing. This can be a problem because if they are not kept cool after they go dormant they will break dormancy and start to grow too soon. Growing without sufficient light causes long spindly growth which you cannot control. My best solution for this when I lived in town was to have a long platform with two wheels that I pulled into the garage on nights where freezing was forecast and kept outside at all other times.

The cold weather will keep any insect problems under control outside. You should use a dormant oil spray to kill over-wintering insets and eggs. A dilute spray of lime-sulfur can be used on deciduous trees if they have no green at all which will also control fungal spores but be sure to follow label directions carefully. You should watch for damage from rodent types, rabbits, squirrel, and rats. They will seriously prune branches and strip bark in short order..

A caution on lime sulfur--the same stuff we use on jin and shari. The liquid lime sulfur is pretty caustic so should be used with caution. If used as a dormant spray application should only be made to fully dormant plants, deciduous trees with tight winter buds, not on very warm days, and only when diluted as directed on the bottle.

Bonsai in greenhouses or indoor bonsai will need to be watched for the normal indoor problems. Low humidity, spider mites and scales are the biggest problems here. Trying to keep the humidity up by placing you trees on a humidity tray can possibly give you some soil problems, root rot or some other fungal disease. I basically use the same controls in the greenhouse that I use outside all year.

You can take advantage of the winter slowdown by getting pots ready for spring, clean and sharpen your tools, study what changes you would like to make on your trees and so forth. Making notes about what needs to be done on an individual tree is great but if you are like me

the notes and trees are usually a long way apart. If you place a colored stake or ribbon on the tree you will see instantly which one needs what done. For example, I am using red for needs repotting, purple-needs a new pot, yellow-serious pruning, orange-should be restyled, etc. These can be put on during the year if you make that kind of decision as you are doing general routine work.

Try to find some good material for enhancing your collection. It is hard to find decent material in a landscape nursery. If the club has a dig scheduled, be a part of it. There are many places where you can find one or two specimen to dig, in town as well as in the country. The problem is in finding a place with enough material to warrant taking the whole club. If you know of a possible location or have a friend with some land (it doesn't have to be very close) tell one of the officers about it. This comes under the heading of 'be an active member'. The rest of the group especially your program chairman will appreciate it.

MBP Bonsai Studio would like to announce our Beginning Bonsai Workshop on January 20 and 21. The class provides 2 trees with bonsai pots and a book. The class fee is \$165.

The second event is our annual trident maple dig on February 3 & 4. This is a dig your own tree from our field the cost for this event is \$25 per diameter inch measured at the ground level.

People can contact us to register for either event by calling us at 512-989-5831 or e-mail us at mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net.

Our address is MBP Bonsai Studio, 601 Kay Lane, Pflugerville, TX 78660.

## **MBP Bonsai Studio**

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# Bonsai Notebook

Austin Bonsai Society  
P.O. Box 340474  
Austin, Texas 78734



## Austin Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 340474  
Austin, TX 78734



## About Us

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, contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, TX 78734.