



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

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Calendar of Events

- **Wed January 9**
6:30pm - 9:00pm
The mystery of soil
by Chuck Ware
- **Tues January 15**
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Member's Workshop
Board Meeting
- **December**
No meeting/workshop

2018 Board of Directors

Simon Tse
President

Brandon Baldauf
Vice President

Mike Garza
Secretary

Gloria Norberg
Treasurer

Ruby Chaing
Member-At-Large

Daniel Lara
Member-At-Large

Pat Ware
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Alisan Clark
Pat Ware
Food

Alisan Clark
Chuck Ware
Trees

President's Message

By Simon Tse

What a wonderful year we experienced at Austin Bonsai Society! Record-setting annual show attendance despite the weather, high participation at the club auction, and lots of new members and Bonsai fellowship. The list goes on and we couldn't have accomplished all these without all the dedicated board members and volunteers. My most sincere gratitude to you all!

Thank you everyone who brought scrumptious pot-luck dishes to our holiday celebration! The food was marvelous and included a wide variety of choices with vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options! I would like to express my appreciation to Alisan, Lynn and Elaine for their preparation of the main dishes. Brandon Baldauf also did a great job leading the gift exchange.

In January, we are honored to have Chuck enlighten us about his scientific and humorous approach on soil mixes. You do not want to miss this!

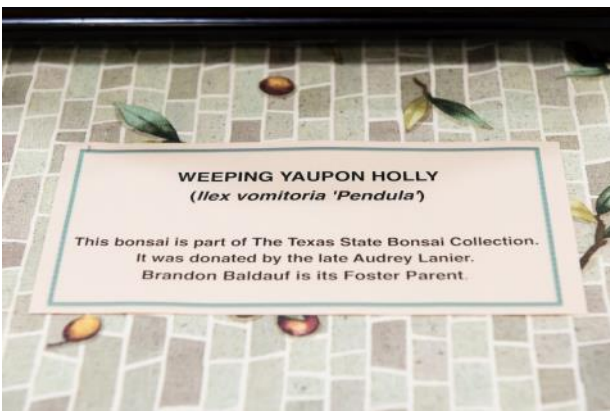
Our library catalog has been online for quite a while now; you can access the link here: <https://abslibrary.libib.com/> Feel free to email webmaster.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com regarding information and book reservations.

Happy Holidays,
Simon



Holiday Celebrations

Photos by May Lau



Holiday Celebrations

Photos by May Lau



Holiday Celebrations

Photos by May Lau



Holiday Celebrations

Photos by May Lau



Holiday Celebrations

Photos by May Lau



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ABS Library

<https://abslibrary.libib.com/>

Vice President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings ABS Members,

What a fun Winter celebration we had last month, thank you to everyone who helped make the event a success. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and that the upcoming celebrations are full of family and warm memories.

Looking back at 2018, we had quite a year of bonsai and club growth. A thank you to Ruby for being a member at large for the last two years. And a special thank you to Simon for being our club president for the last two exciting years! He has greatly helped set us up for future success.

One of the items I'm describing is a scholarship for the 2019 LSBF convention in Houston. The 2018 ABS board agreed to sponsor a new member of the society's registration cost. This is limited to the general registration fee and does not include any workshops or add-ons. For those who qualify and are already registered, you can enter.

To qualify, you must have joined ABS in 2018, paid your 2019 membership dues, attend the January 2019 meeting, and be able to attend the event.

To enter, please send Simon (webmaster.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com) an email describing your interest with a couple of sentences. We will draw the winner at our January meeting.

Cheers,
Brandon

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 Floridaana
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

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2018

Simon started the meeting at 7:30 pm
He welcomed all members and guests.

Alisan talked about AAGC - asked for a member to volunteer to be the club rep for AAGC - 50th Anniversary celebration for next year for Mr. Tadaguchi - asked for us to participate in tree event next year

Joey talked about the ABS Board Member nominees for the 2019 year and the club voted to confirm the nominees for next year

ABS Board for 2019:

- President: Brandon B
- Vice - President: Mike G.
- Secretary: Roland L
- Treasurer: Gloria N
- Member at Large #1: Pat W
- Member at Large #2: Lawrence P
- Member at Large #3: Chris

Everyone voted to elect the board nominees

Elaine spoke about the TTSBE board - members of ABS also voted for the TTSBE board - nominate Brandon B. to be on the board for TTSBE and Sally Connor from San Antonio to be on the board for TTSBE - club moved to elect the nominees for the TTSBE board - club voted to accept the nominees

Gloria - presented the budget for the 2018 year; club accepted the proposed budget for 2019

Terry and Sheila brought in a display tree; Joey brought in a display tree; Zerita brought in a tree; Ken brought in a tree; Chris brought in a tree

ABS Board Minutes

November 20, 2018

Meeting started at 7:05

Attendees: Simon, Pat, Gloria, Mike, Brandon, Chuck and May

Simon began the meeting talking about the club library, and possibly a Bonsai Focus club subscription; spoke about ABS online catalogue that our librarian maintains

Brandon asked May to continue to be the librarian for next year and she accepted; talked about late fees for people who don't return their checked out books

Spoke about possible Garden Rep Committee chair people

Board voted to ask Quoc to continue to be greeter

The board spoke about a possible mentorship program or asking experience members to be in contact with new members

Board spoke about numerous 2021 LSBF Convention details.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

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**Chuck
and Pat
Ware**

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December Bonsai

By John Miller

The state convention in Houston in April will be a joint convention with the American Bonsai Society. In addition to the 14 workshops they have 12 seminars at no extra cost to you. Those are staggered so that you can attend all of them. These are usually a great learning experience, a very different and very worthwhile experience for you..

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.

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 (preferably not in the ground). Add a dense mulch to the pot rim and then add a looser mulch on top.

Evergreen types especially and deciduous to a lesser extent 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

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New Members

Eliot Jarrett

Lynn and Joe Jelinski

Bill Cornelius

Welcome!

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.

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 to 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 on 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 diluted per directions and 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.

Recruiting Authors

With a nod of respect to John Miller, who has been diligently writing monthly columns for our newsletter, we would also like to take this time to invite interested members with knowledge and experiences of local Austin conditions to write articles for beginners and potential aspirants keen on raising bonsai. The Bonsai Notebook is looking for a new voice to author a column providing helpful reminders and tips dedicated to caring for bonsai. Be it a monthly routine or winter procedures, we'd like to welcome new perspectives and experiences to be shared in this newsletter. If interested, please contact Simon Tse at tse_simon@hotmail.com.

A warm thank you to John Miller for writing the latest columns. Even I, as the editor, may have taken these last months for granted and have been reminded that life is a charming companion that deserves to be appreciated every day. Thank you for your helpful words!

Bonsai Notebook

Austin Bonsai Society
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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.