



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

January 2015 vol 49

January 2015 Program

by Jimbo Baumann

Well another new year and a wonderful collection of programs and events are planned for the Austin Bonsai Society (ABS) group in 2015. On WED, JAN 14 at 7 pm we will be resuming our monthly regular meetings with an in demand program on Bonsai Styling with Raft Technique. We hope to see you at 7 pm and a reminder to bring a membership renewal of \$30.00 for an individual or \$35.00 for a family membership.

To kick off this year we are going to develop a tree in the raft bonsai style. In Japanese you may have read this style as “Ikadabuki”. The raft styling technique can be used for conifer or deciduous trees and mimics the natural process of a tree falling to its side when toppled by erosion and / or other weather – environmental conditions. It is a popular style and inspires creativity with many bonsai artists. The raft style lends itself to many varieties of tree material, in central Texas, you may wish to experiment with juniper, quince, ficus, yaupon holly, elm (Chinese and Cedar), etc.

If you wish to read more about this style and other bonsai material we urge you to utilize the online bonsai magazine, <http://ofbonsai.org/>. You may find this electronic journal very user friendly and an interesting supplement to our club meetings and workshops, and our own ABS Website which as an archive has an immense catalogue of articles, photos, and newsletters to supplement your bonsai education.

In addition, to our regular monthly meeting we will be resuming our “Members Only” Workshop on Tuesday, 20 January featuring Design Your Own Raft techniques. Many of our senior members will be on hand to guide and help our newer members. This program starts at 7:30 pm and is in the green room of the Garden Center.

In 2014 the ABS Board elected to purchase some very high quality plants from long term member, Joe Trochta. There are six each, ficus (different varieties) and Texas ebony. We will be planning a workshop focused on these tropical varieties later in 2015, so stay tuned for more information.

And finally, your board members and long term supporters wish you the very best in 2015 and hope your bonsai development is fun, fruitful, and spent in fellowship with our ABS group.

Calendar of Events

Jan 10: LSBF Board Meeting– Houston, TX

Jan 14, 7pm: ABS Members Meeting, Raft Styling
Hosts: Alisan Clarke & Pat Ware

Jan 17/18: Beginner Bonsai Class at MBP Bonsai
see website for details: www.mbpbonsai.com

Jan 20, 7pm: ABS Board Meeting/ Members Workshop

Jan 24: Forest Bonsai Class www.mbpbonsai.com

Feb 21: Shohin Society of Texas/Persimmon Hill Nursery Workshop

Feb 21/22: Trident Maple Dig www.mbpbonsai.com

TBD: The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit Inc.



Walter Pall at the ABS Holiday Party

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

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 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.

Lizzie Chen is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". She may be contacted at lizziechen09@gmail.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 Jonathan Wood

Let's start this President's message with a heartfelt thank you to outgoing Austin Bonsai Society Board. Many of the activities of the club are carried out behind the scenes by veteran members and newcomers alike. Special acknowledgement to Nan for carrying the torch for us the past few years and sharing her care and enthusiasm with us! Thanks also to our programs director, Jimbo, who has generously agreed to stay on board to help guide us with event organizing... a big job! Deb Van Cleaf and Pat, thank you for staying on board to keep the details of our club running smoothly! Welcome Zerita, Angie, and May as well! The new Board and I are looking forward to upholding past ABS traditions while being open to club member ideas to make this a great year!

We all are grateful to Mr. Pall for his time here with us in Austin and Central Texas. It says a lot about the quality of bonsai in Central Texas to have an internationally-renowned European master, like Walter Pall, share his "Tree Inspiration" and humorous musings with us! It was great to see so much learning at the workshop and again at the dinner lecture! Alongside others, I had a blast learning about carving with Walter and even got his autograph! .. well, why not, right? Bonsai is fun after all.

Special thanks to Pat and Chuck for helping coordinate the itinerary and house our guest artist. Also thanks to Terry and Shiela for hosting the workshop. For those who helped set up and take down the banquet space we are very grateful for your time. Also, thanks to those who brought the scrumptious pot-luck items shared with the attendees... quite an elegant assortment! Nan's festive decorations and Alisan's floral arrangements brought the holiday spirit up a notch or two! Mike, Candy and others, thanks for your thoughtfulness in delicacies for the alternative diet! Thanks to our photo contributors like Joey and May as well! These group dining events are wonderful for our fellowship, our sense of contribution, and feeling of belonging to such a wonderful group of caring people sharing similar interests... it's like a home away from home for some of us.

The program calendar and guest artists coming up in 2015 are sure to be engaging and peak the interests of bonsai enthusiasts of all experience levels. It's an exciting time to be a part of the Austin Bonsai Society. Look for details coming soon.

In the year ahead, we can look forward to the continued sharing of knowledge among members. Those of us only in the early years of the bonsai arts have so much wisdom available to us -- just remember to reach out to a few folks at general or workshop meetings and ask! We can get in-person help and guidance from those eager to pass on pointers and their extensive depth of knowledge.

If I have missed thanking anyone, please let me do so at the next opportunity. Volunteers, service, and enthusiasm make this a well-oiled machine!

Happy Styling, Jonathan

ABS Membership

Members, we are looking forward to a fruitful program in 2015. We are expecting the support of Lone Star Bonsai Federation (LSBF) with the Visiting Artist Series and a Learning Seminar. At the present time the Visiting Artist Program will be sometime in the summer months and the learning program (rather than a convention) LSBF Seminar in the fall months in Houston. Your Austin board members have been actively planning some programs for 2015; however we would like to hear from each of you as to the styling techniques, plant / tree varieties, and /or bonsai development you are interested in or wish further refinement. Please send your comments or whisper in the ears of Jonathan Wood, Jimbo Baumann, Deborah Van Cleaf, Pat Ware, Angelina Hewes, or Zerita Rogers.

The ABS Board attempts to maintain the program and materials for our club in a cost effective manner and takes great care to review options before the commitment of funds. We do not mail out renewals or requests for the membership fees.

Please help us by bringing your renewals to the January program this month or mail to our treasurer, Pat Ware at Austin Bonsai Society 12404 Ranch Road 12 Wimberley, TX 78676. It would be greatly appreciated and would help to keep our club costs down while spending money on speakers and programs rather than postage.

Thank you for your continued support and membership.

*****DUES ARE DUE!!!*****

\$30.00 individual \$35.00 family of 2

**BRING DUES TO MEETING OR
MAIL A CHECK PAYABLE TO ABS
TO:**

**Pat Ware
12404 Ranch Road 12
Wimberley, Tx. 78676**

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e-mail: mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net

601 Kay Lane

Pflugerville, TX 78660

(call for directions)



<https://www.facebook.com/AustinBonsaiSociety>

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12404 Ranch Road 12

Wimberley, TX 78676

(512) 847-2514

e-mail: bonsaijg@gmail.com

web page: <http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

Rest In Peace Bennie Badgett

It is with heartfelt sadness that we tell our membership that our long time member and a past president and friend, Bennie Badgett, died on December 13, 2014. Many of the newer members didn't have the opportunity to know this gracious man and some others met him at our New Braunfels Convention. He was best known for his azaleas and maples but, although a very private person, was always willing to impart knowledge.

LONE STAR BONSAI FEDERATION MEETING MINUTES
October 11, 2014
Mercer Botanic Gardens, Houston

Attendees: Mark Bynum – President, Ft. Worth delegate
Howard Smith – Vice President, Dallas delegate
Kevin Preston – Treasurer, San Antonio delegate
Pete Parker – Secretary, Houston delegate

Jonathan Wood – Austin delegate

Yvonne Padilla – Corpus Christi delegate
Alan Walker – Lake Charles delegate
Dolores Plaisted – Shohin society delegate
Versie Marks – Corpus Christi alternate
Terry Dubois – Houston alternate
Sylvia Smith - Dallas

Unable to attend:

Lowell Tilley – Baton Rouge delegate
Shannon Gilliland - Longview delegate
Nan Jenkins – Austin alternate
Jerry Riley – Dallas alternate
Bill Jacobson – Ft. Worth alternate
Don Pearson – Lake Charles alternate
Mike Denholm – Longview alternate
Donna Dobberfuhr – San Antonio alternate
Alisan Clarke – Shohin society alternate

President Mark Bynum called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM.

The Board discussed the need to provide handbooks for our new member clubs. We would like to convert the handbooks to an all-electronic format to facilitate updates and generation of new copies of the handbook.

Action: Jonathan Wood will investigate the process and cost to scan the handbook, including the ability to use optical character recognition to capture at least the by-laws in an editable format.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

President's Report

Mark noted that we have added two Louisiana based clubs to LSBF; Lakes Charles was approved on July 13, and the Bonsai Society of Louisiana based in Baton Rouge was approved on August 5.

Vice-President's Report

Howard informed the Board that the final payment to our old insurance company had been made.

Treasurer's Report

Kevin distributed the Treasurer's report (attached). The report shows a nice increase in our balance for 2014 due to the reduction of expenses and the successful convention. Kevin is projecting a small deficit for 2015 since there will not be a convention.

The board agreed to add \$300 to the 2015 budget to cover web hosting and technology development.

Pete moved to accept the budget as amended. Howard seconded. Motion passed.

Secretary's Report

Pete distributed the updated board contact information. It was noted that the .pdf file that had been distributed did not contain all of the updates.

Action: Pete will redistribute both the worksheet and .pdf contact info list with updates from this meeting and the correction to the .pdf file.

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Pete distributed the "Significant Motions List" update covering 2009 to the present. It was noted that the list contains decisions made outside of our formal meetings, so the title is no longer appropriate.

Action: Pete will change the name of the file to "Record of Decisions" and will distribute a new title sheet for that section of the handbook.

Newsletter Report

Mark reported on behalf of Bill Jacobson. Bill is leaving bonsai for other pursuits. This means that we need both a new newsletter editor and a new web master.

The next edition of the newsletter is ready except for the final 2014 convention report.

Mark is temporarily taking over maintenance of the website until a new web master is identified.

There has not been as much activity as desired on the LSBF Facebook page. Clubs are requested to put their events (exhibits, auctions, ...) on the page.

Committee Reports

Convention handbook committee – Mark and Yvonne are nearly finished with editing the handbook.

Historical Committee – Currently there are no members for this committee. John Miller wrote the "History" section of the handbook. Mark is asking for a 3-5 member committee to update this section and to product a list of Presidents and convention sites. It was noted that Robert Baran of the Phoenix Bonsai Society maintains a section of their website on the history of bonsai. That website is at www.phoenixbonsai.com.

Action: Mark will recruit members for this committee.

Convention Reports

2014 – The Houston convention went well and cleared over \$13,000.

2016 – Versie reported on the 2016 convention which will be held in Corpus Christi. No artists have been contracted as yet. The Corpus club is in the process of gathering workshop materials.

2017 – Dallas and Ft. Worth have agreed to co-host the 2017 convention.

2015 Symposium – Howard has been in communication with Matt Reel about the 2015 1 ½ day symposium we are planning. Matt recently completed a 7-year apprenticeship with Shinji Suzuki. Matt is interested in being the artist for the symposium.

It was agreed that we would move the symposium to the Houston area.

Howard's current thinking is that the program will emphasize bunjin style and display. Both subjects are strengths of Mr. Suzuki. A notional program includes a bunjin PowerPoint presentation and demonstration, a display PowerPoint presentation and demonstration, maybe a bring-your-own-tree workshop on bunjin style, a smallish display, vendors, raffles, an auction, and two dinners.

The symposium will likely start Friday afternoon and end Saturday night.

Howard estimated the cost for such an event at \$6800 with income of \$3100 from all sources other than registration.

A notional registration fee of \$60 will cover the gap.

The Board agreed to move the time frame to the Fall of 2015.

Texas Tour Artists

Kevin has contacted Jim Vanlandingham, Rodney Clemmons, and Arthur Joura regarding the 2015 tour. It was suggested that he may want to consider Mike Hagedorn and Owen Reich as well. The timetable for the tour will be affected by our decision to have the symposium in the fall, so Kevin will look at doing the tour earlier in the summer.

Action: Kevin will make a recommendation for the 2015 Texas Tour artist at the January board meeting.

LSBF Texas Artist Program

The Texas Artists program and list of artists has not been updated since 2009. The board discussed the general parameters of the program and agreed to pursue a slight more flexible program than what we have had previously. More specifically, we agreed that when a club uses their first Texas Artist in a calendar year, they will be reimbursed \$100 by LSBF. Artists will be asked to specify the fee that they charge for making a presentation. Travel expenses will be left to be negotiated between the host club and the artist.

Action: Pete will assemble a template for information regarding each artist.

Action: Each delegate will seek out potential Texas Artists in their home club, collect the information on each artist, and send that to Pete to be collated.

New Business

Mark would like to review and update the by-laws over the next year. He will lead the effort.

The question of whether we should have an LSBF table/exhibit at each convention was tabled. We have previously discussed the possibility of having a business card sized ad for LSBF in the local club newsletters. Bill Jacobson has prepared copy for such an ad. Mark will review and revert to the board.

We discussed the resource list in the handbooks and agreed that we should make no effort to maintain it. With the addition of the Louisiana clubs, our geographic center is now Houston. The next board meeting will be on Saturday, January 10 and will be held in Houston.

Action: Pete to arrange meeting location for January 10 meeting.
The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

**Photos by Joey McCoy
with Walter Pall**



**Austin Bonsai Society (ABS) General Meeting Minutes
Friday 12 DEC 2014**

Well twas' the night before or make that; it was a few Fridays before Christmas when the ABS group met at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church for their annual Holiday Potluck. Our featured artist and guest was not Santa but a tall German bearing bonsai wisdom and sharing with us "Bonsai Tree Inspiration Talks". As Walter Pall, talked to us, he also talked to the trees and gave guidance to over 20 trees brought by members. It was one of the most entertaining presentations for our group in many years and many of the members shared the fun nature along with excellent education. Walter reviewed and discussed over 20 trees from boxwood, black pine, juniper, ficus, rain tree, hornbeam, Bahama black olive, bouganvilla. He primarily focused on styling techniques that would capitalize on the natural growth patterns of each tree variety. He talked extensively about the development of the bonsai tree aesthetics by diminishing the optical weight to focus on the trunk and nebari.

A special thank you to Nan Jenkins, Timmi Kuykendall, Wards, and the Wares. Nan and Timmi shared (their church) the venue with us and to Chuck and Pat Ware for hosting/driving/transportation of Walter during the Texas leg of his USA trip. Walter also presented to the San Antonio Bonsai Society (SABS) during his USA trip and conducted workshops. Six of our members joined together on the afternoon of the 12th at Persimmon Hill Studio (thank you for hosting to the Wards—Terry and Sheila) for a collaborative discussion and workshop with Walter. And finally, a special thank you to Joey, MayLau, and Jonathan for their expert camera and video work. Walter gave us permission for utilization of the visual material and you should see this later via website and newsletters.

In addition, to all the festivities and special lecture we had some business focus of the meeting. The 2015 Budget was presented by treasurer, Pat Ware. Some discussion was done and it was passed by the membership. See elsewhere in the newsletter. Also, the final election of officers was completed and approved (voted by attendance) by our membership. The slate of officers was posted at the NOV meeting, printed in the NOV newsletter, and finalized at this meeting.

Many thanks to our outgoing 2014 Board of Directors—Nan Jenkins, Jimbo Baumann, Pat Ware, Angelina Hewes, Russell Kohlert, Zerita Rogers, and Deborah Van Cleaf. And welcome to our new 2015 Board Members—Jonathan Wood, Jimbo Baumann, Pat Ware, Deborah Van Cleaf, Angelina Hewes, Zerita Rodgers, and May Lau. In addition, thank you and continued support for our Webmaster—Simon Tse, Austin Area Garden Center delegate—Alisan Clark, Newsletter Editor—Lizzie Chen, Exhibit Chairperson—Jimbo Baumann, and LSBF delegates—Jonathan Wood and Nan Jenkins. We are still in need of a Librarian and Publicity person.



Photos by May Lau

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.

You should be looking at bonsaitonight.com. Starting in Nov Jonas has been doing articles on pest control with some great pictures. Be sure to click on the major references he gives. The latest (Dec 16) is on the spider mite and his cousins. The next 5 weeks should be good for dormant oil and lime sulphur dormant sprays, especially so if you had any problem last year. Kill the over-wintering eggs, pupae, or adults. Be sure what you use is labeled for your species of tree and to follow label instructions carefully.

It would be nice to be able to put your trees into 2 or 3 groups--outdoor trees, indoor trees, flowering trees. But nature has not done anything so simple. Some outdoor trees survive a lot of cold and others want to go dormant but can't have their roots frozen at all. Your job is to learn their foibles and work around them.

In general, you start by knowing that deciduous trees will go dormant and stay that way until something awakens them. Some are temperature sensitive, they go dormant when the temp drops in the fall and awaken when they get warm. These should be kept in a shady area to keep them cool. Others are sensitive in the change in day length: they go dormant when daylight gets short and will break buds when they sense the days getting longer. These are not so hard to care for.

Evergreens do not go fully dormant. They slow their processes but still use sunlight and some nutrients. However they still need their roots protected to prevent alternate freezing and thawing.

All outdoor trees, both deciduous and evergreen, need to have their soil moisture maintained and their roots protected from deep freezes. Since their sap flow is diminished, they cannot replace moisture lost to winds so they should be protected from a lot of wind. The plants can be protected by using ground heat to minimize the low and high temps. Set the pots on the ground and cover with mulch.

For those with tropicals care at this time depends on your facilities for giving them heat and light, the two things usually in short supply in January. I merely try to keep mine alive with the greenhouse at 50 degrees. Be sure to

monitor them for aphids and other problems. They do not get enough light to actively grow anyway. When the same size shohin elms have had a month of dormancy I bring them into the greenhouse before the temps get to the lower twenties. They respond by starting growth so I have them for 'soul food' through January.

Styling can be done at this time but no repotting unless you are going to keep the tree from freezing after that. Repotting initiates new root development which is usually not very hardy.

A better approach would be to study one or two thoroughly each day making notes on what needs to be done. January is an excellent time to start any remodeling projects that may be necessary. While the trees are dormant you have better view of the branch structure. Do any need to be moved or removed? Do any coarse branches need to be cut back to a smaller side branch for refinement? Do any long straight branches need wiring to give them motion? Does the tree really need a drastic redesign? You can also trim the twigs back while you have them there. You can also decide if that tree will need to be repotted this spring, is the present pot good or should you find a more appropriate pot for it.

Indoor trees will be using more water to offset the lower humidity. Soil will also be losing water faster through its surface. Be sure to watch the indoor trees for insect problems. Most plant insects love a controlled atmosphere like the indoors. Spider mites seem to get the most attention here because they do great in a low humidity and the lack of foliage spraying. Scale can be an easily overlooked source of trouble. There is usually more severe problems with plants that have been kept outdoors in summer than brought in without any treatment. Indoor trees need to be fertilized regularly and will require periodic trimming as they continue to grow through the winter.

Tender or tropical trees that are kept indoors will be using more water to offset the lower humidity. Soil will also be losing water faster through its surface. Be sure to watch the indoor trees for insect problems. Most plant insects love a controlled atmosphere like the indoors. Spider mites seem to get the most attention here because they do great in a low humidity and the lack of foliage spraying. Scale can be an easily overlooked source of trouble. The flat green kind can be hard to spot on the underside of leaves or tight against the stem. Indoor trees need to be fertilized regularly and will require periodic trimming as they continue to grow through the winter.

Warm greenhouses are much the same as indoors. However, most greenhouses are kept more humid. The higher

humidity is to the liking of aphids and fungal diseases. It may also result in your keeping the soil too moist with associated root problems. Use your standard insect controls that you used last summer. I use my organic foliar spray all winter. Again [bonsai tonight.com](http://bonsai.tonight.com) will help you understand what to do. Jonas prefers the organic approach but covers other methods as well.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT from Texas State Bonsai Exhibit (TTSBE)

Your current TTSBE board has an exciting announcement! The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit (TTSBE) began in 2000 with a group of dedicated, hard-working people who dreamed of seeing a permanent living museum of Bonsai containing the important Heritage Trees of our Texas artists. It has been a long road with many turns and twists, but the dream of the Exhibit has kept TTSBE board members always looking forward. The property in Mustang Ridge, which was obtained to hold the Exhibit, has not worked out for various reasons, and TTSBE's board members have been working relentlessly to develop alternate plans for some time.

The Zilker Botanical Gardens was approached with the idea and they invited TTSBE to reconsider establishing a partnership with the Gardens to form a full-time Exhibit within the park grounds. In early November, TTSBE board members presented a concept for the site along with one of our Exhibit trees to the Zilker Horticultural Committee Board with widely positive responses. We have met with them and walked the entire park looking at various places where the Exhibit could be featured. The consensus was that the ideal location is the undeveloped area directly across from the Isamu Taniguchi Oriental Garden.

With volunteers, we recently began tagging undesirable landscaping on the site, and have marked others for pruning. The next step for us is to map the desirable existing landscape trees to develop and submit a detailed proposal outlining the placement of buildings, architectural features, and bonsai display areas for approval.

We will keep the Austin Bonsai Society up to date on the process, and will be looking for volunteers as projects come up. Thank you all for the patience and support all these years!

Happy Holidays from the TTSBE Board Members.

Bonsai Resolutions

from the Bonsai Banter

Just in case you haven't included bonsai in your new year's resolutions, here are a few suggestions:

Build those bonsai benches you promised yourself last year (or was it the year before?)

Sort and clean your bonsai pots - again.

Clean and sharpen your tools often.

Give away or sell bonsai that will never be the tree you intended.

Make plans to attend at least one bonsai convention in 2015. You owe it to yourself!

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)