

BONSAI NOTEBOOK

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

January 2017 vol 72



Calender of Events

- **DUES ARE DUE!!! Please bring dues January 11th!!!**
- Jan. 11 - Pests & Disease in Bonsai with Mike Hansen
- Jan. 17th - 7:00PM - Board Meeting
7:30PM Member Workshop - Ailing Trees
- Jan 13th - 16th - Kathy Shaner Seminar and Volunteer Days
- Febuary 8th - Cascades and Semi-Cascades
- Apr. 6-9 - LSBF Convention in Dallas

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2017 Board of Directors

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ZACH RABALAIS
Vice President

ROBERT NOWICKI
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Treasurer

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Member-at-large

KEVIN PATUREAU
Member-at-large

DANIEL (RETANA) LIM
Member at large

December Meeting Volunteers

JANUARY 11TH

FOOD:

ALISAN CLARKE

PAT WARE

JANUARY 11TH

TREES:

ALISAN CLARKE

CHUCK WARE

Happy New Year, Bonsai Friends!

What a terrific year we have enjoyed!

by Simon Tse

With the outreach effort we implemented last couple of years, we have expanded our Bonsai community with many new faces. Our past board members embarked on a journey of carrying out the heritage of the Bonsai vision as well as attracting new members. Austin's population increases on a daily basis and it represents tremendous opportunities for each one of us to reach out and bring in someone new. I would like to express my utmost appreciation to all our past board members: Jonathan Wood (President), Zach Rabalais (Vice President), Zerita Rogers (Secretary), Pat Ware (Treasurer), Angie Hewes (Members-at-Large), May Lau (Members-at-Large) for their invaluable advices, time and effort. In addition, we were embraced with volunteers and club members throughout our annual events; I want to say "Thank You" to everyone who has contributed and we will need your expertise and effort for this upcoming year.

Being an ABS board member and other Bonsai related organizations for the last couple of years provides insights and knowledge to better equip myself to serve as President of this prestigious club. It is my honor and privilege to be asked to serve and I look forward to working with our newly elected board. Let me introduce you to our stellar 2017 Board of Directors:

Simon Tse (President)

Zach Rabalais (Vice President)

Robert Nowich (Secretary)

Pat Ware (Treasurer)

Ruby Chaing (Member -at-Large)

Kevin Patureau (Members-at-Large)

Daniel (Ratana) Lim (Members-at-Large)



President Simon Tse working on a TTSBE bonsai. Photo by Joseph McCoy

We have prepared an exciting year of programs and we welcome Mike Hansen as our first presenter on “Pests and Disease Control”. Mr. Hansen recently recognized as a LSBF Legend (Lone Star Bonsai Federation) to honor his contributions on Bonsai locally and internationally. As most of you may know, repotting season is upon us and the ability to identify good/bad bugs as well as the knowledge to control disease guarantee the growth and longevity for our Bonsai. Please come and join us on January 11th to kick off 2017.

Cheers,

Simon Tse

*New
Members
Corner*

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

January Bonsai

by John Miller



Texas Cedar Elm by Joseph McCoy

An article like this one is very limited in the amount of detail it can present on a subject. I would recommend that you read what Jonas Dupich of Bonsai Tonight started Dec 6 with a very good series on his blog (<https://bonsaitonight.com/bonsai-blog/>) to cover minute details on selection, watering, difference between healthy growth and vigorous growth, etc. It is written so that you can see it in your backyard and not with calendar dates (usually useless in other areas) or just like he does in Calif. It is written especially for beginners but most of the more experienced people will learn a lot too with a lot of pictures of the details.

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 cant 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.

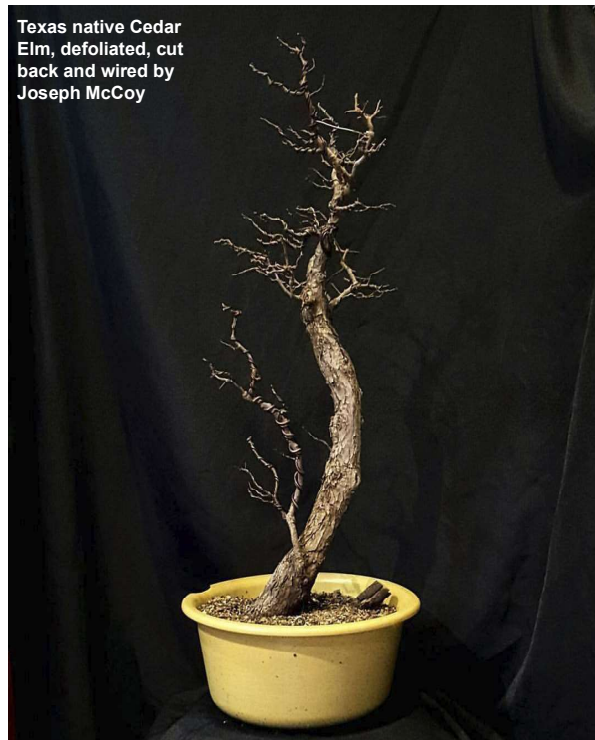
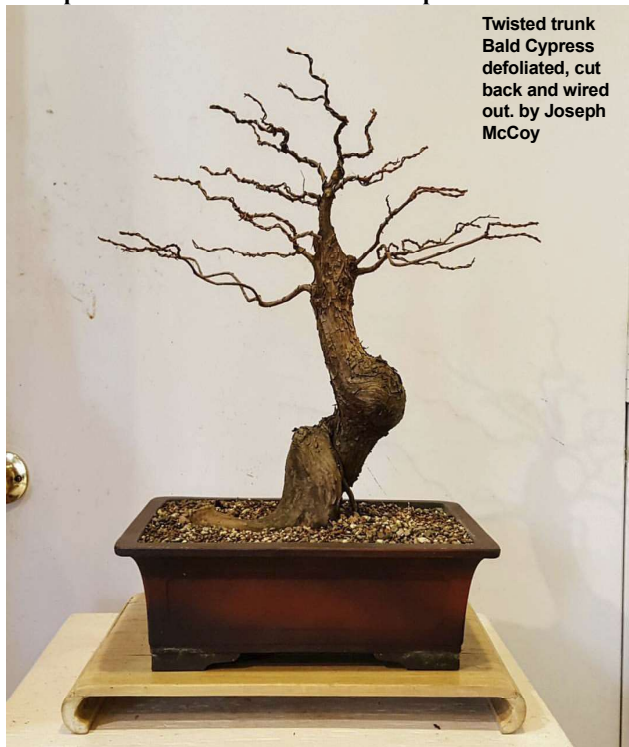
Evergreens do not go fully dormant. They slow their processes but still use sunlight and some nutrients. However they still need their roots protected to prevent alternate freezing and thawing. All outdoor trees, both deciduous and evergreen, need to have their soil moisture maintained and their roots 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. Watch your greenhouse for the sun heating it too much. Be sure to monitor them for aphids and other problems. They do not get enough light to actively grow - anyway. When the mame 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. Repotting is 'best' done when the tree is waking up indicated by buds swelling before they show any green.

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.

Vice President's Message

Welcome back everyone!

by Zach Rabalais

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season, and that your trees stayed warm during the 2-3 days of winter weather that we've had so far. Our normal club meeting will be starting again on January 11th, follow by our members workshop on January 17th.

The program for January will be on pest and diseases in bonsai. Mike Hansen will instruct us on what to look for when it comes to pest and diseases in bonsai and what to do to fix or prevent the problems that come with pests and diseases. This is a topic that a lot of people that are new to the hobby have many questions about so this will be a great opportunity to gain some insight on diagnosing and treating sick trees. Many bonsai hobbyists, especially those that are new to the hobby, loose trees and have no idea why because they do not know the warning signs of many of the common bonsai ailments.

The members' workshop on the following Tuesday will be titled «Analyze Ailing Trees.» If you have a tree that is looking weak, bring it into the workshop so that we can examine it and try to diagnose the problem. Hopefully we can help you return it to good health so that it can continue on it's journey to becoming a fantastic bonsai some day.

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Get Connected

ABS ON THE INTERNET:

Online Discussions

Picture and Video Sharing

Question and Answer Section

Upcoming Event Discussion

NO SPAM

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/austinbonsai/>

Or message Joey:

**jvmccoy@
sbcglobal.net**

FACEBOOK

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Terrific place for us to gather, chat, and talk Bonsai!

DUES DUES DUES!!

**DUES ARE DUE
JANUARY 1ST, 2017!!!!
\$30.00 INDIVIDUAL
\$35.00 FAMILY
PLEASE BRING CASH OR CHECK TO JANUARY MEETING OR MAIL TO PAT WARE**



Kathy Shaner Seminars

Enjoy the winter silhouette of your trees!

by Collin Murphy and Joey McCoy

Kathy Shaner Seminar
January 13th - 16th

Please join us in a seminar with one of the most exciting, knowledgeable and personable bonsai masters - Kathy Shaner. Kathy completed a full five year apprenticeship in Japan under bonsai master Yasuo Mitsuya and is the first non - Japanese and first woman ever certified by the Nippon Bonsai Association. She is the curator of the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt in California and advisor to The Texas State Bonsai Collection. Kathy is a fantastic teacher with the ability to make you part of everything, not just a note taker. Her seminars increase bonsai knowledge, raise skill levels and make the wonderful world of bonsai even more enjoyable. Kathy's seminars are ideal for beginning and veteran bonsaists alike and are informal from beginning to end. Kathy's theme for this seminar is: Repotting and Root Grafting

This seminar will be partly hands-on, in addition to the usual seminar format. If you bring a tree in need of repotting, you will repot it during the seminar, with help and guidance from Kathy. This is also an opportunity for root-grafting if appropriate for your tree. Maples, ficus and pines are ideal for root-grafting, elms are not. Most species that can be thread-grafted or approach-grafted can be root-grafted. This year we will again have an all-day, bring - your - own - tree workshop on Monday. This optional workshop is limited to six participants on a first

come basis. Work on any size material you like...styled or rough. Kathy asks participants in a prior workshop to bring a tree she has worked on to continue its development. Silent observation of the workshop is included in registration. Please register early. Space is limited.

Questions? Contact Collin Murphy at ckmurphy2000@gmail.com or at (512) 905-9364.

*Kathy Shaner TTSBE Volunteer Days
January 12 and 13, 2017*

As an addition to her wonderful seminar here in Austin, Kathy Shaner very generously carves out time to work on the collection trees of The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit with the assistance of local volunteers. It's a wonderful opportunity to help improve and upkeep the Exhibit trees under the guidance of a true artist. These are part of our "Foster Care" days where we often have a person who signs up to work on a specific tree several times a year, keeping its care consistent. We can all take the techniques learned on these collaborative days and use them on our trees, improving our own collection. If you are interested in attending this FREE event, helping out and learning new techniques, send an RSVP to Joey McCoy at jvmccoy@gmail.com

Lakeview Bonsai (Elaine's) Thursday Jan 12th, 9:30 - 4:00

Persimmon Hill (Terry & Sheila's) Friday Jan 13th 9:30 - 4:00

LSBF 2017 Convention

The convention will be held in DALLAS April 6th - 9th 2017

by Diane Lowe

In case you are new to one of these, it is a 3-day funfest for all you bonsai nerds and potential nerds. Our venue is the Sheraton Dallas North Hotel (www.sheratondallasnorth.com) located very near the Galleria shopping area. It is a 4- star hotel and the rooms all feature flat screen TVs, coffee pots, Internet access, and Sheraton's Sweet Sleeper bed. The food is great and the hotel lobby is bright and open with a comfortable bar right off the main area. With a nightly rate of \$99 per night it is just right!! Here is the line-up of what we have planned.

The convention unofficially begins on Thursday evening with our vendor preview night where all our vendors will be set up and ready to share their merchandise. This gives you a first look and opportunity to buy before the actual convention starts. We will have hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and a little light music to enjoy while you shop. Also happening next door will be the LSBF Club Challenge where teams from each club will be invited to participate in the initial styling of a tree to be later judged by our guest artists. This night is not open to the public, but only to full registrants and/or LSBF member club members.

Friday begins with morning workshops and the vendor area opens early in case you need any supplies for your workshop. You have your choice to participate in either the initial styling of a mighty and old Yaupon Holly with Juan Andrade (tree included), Bring Your Own Tree with Daisaku Nomoto, or a Ponderosa Pine with Bjorn Bjorholm. For the Ponderosa Pine, you can either bring your own ponderosa or purchase and work on one of the many trees that will be there for you to select from.

Our first fun raffle drawing happens after the workshops are over. Lunch follows and will feature our guest Michael Ryan Bell discussing the second part of his series on Japanese bonsai pottery during our group lunch. Ryan has quickly become one of the foremost experts on bonsai pottery and their history and appreciation. After lunch our exhibition hall opens for you to visit and admire over 50 beautiful display trees and companions. Look, study, photograph; you may even want to draw a few of them to practice your artistry.

The afternoon continues with three other workshops. Bjorn will do a Bring Your Own Tree (note: only 1 seat left as of this writing), Daisaku will conduct a Japanese Black Pine initial styling which includes the tree. These have a substantial base and are conducive to a literati style. And Juan will also lead an initial styling of a Taxus 'Densiformis' (Yew) which also includes the tree.

If you aren't part of the workshops, there will be a docent led tour of the exhibition that afternoon with an explanation of how trees were selected and the thought process behind each display. Of course our vendor area will be open throughout the day and a new round of raffle items will be available for viewing. Another raffle

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drawing happens early that evening to coincide with the cocktail hour. Soon thereafter, Bjorn will be in our exhibit area doing a critique of the highlights of the exhibits.

Our welcome dinner follows and after dinner the three guest artists take center stage and each work on an initial styling of some great material. You won't want to miss seeing them in action, as well as the interaction between them. It will be a fun, informal night with opportunity for questions and answers.

Saturday there is another round of workshops you can attend on Saturday. The morning provides two options; Juan is leading the initial styling of a Brazilian Raintree and Daisaku will lead the initial styling of a Japanese Maple 'Kashima'. Both include the trees. Unfortunately Bjorn's Shimpaku juniper workshop is already sold out. Three other options are available for the afternoon as well. Juan has a Bring Your Own Tree workshop and David Kruetz will lead an azalea workshop featuring a beautiful exposed root azalea. At the same time, John Borusheski will be conducting a scroll making workshop which is sure to be fun. It includes a background on the history of scrolls and all the materials to make your own scroll. You will leave with your scroll and the knowledge of how to make more scrolls to enhance your bonsai displays.

That same afternoon we also have another demonstration scheduled for full registration participants only. Bjorn and Daisaku again take the stage together for an interesting rock planting demonstration. It will be in a smaller room and Q & A is welcome. Both the vendor and exhibit areas are open during the day and two fun raffle events will also take place. Daisaku's exhibit critique begins in the early evening and it is always interesting to get a different perspective of our exhibit. Our Saturday evening auction begins after dinner and is sure to be a fun time. It is great to see what material is brought for the auctions and fun to see who goes home with which trees. The four trees from Friday night's and Saturday afternoon's demos will be a part of the auction and will surely generate a lot of interest.

Sunday begins with the last exhibit critique by Juan Andrade followed by a lovely brunch and the final demo by Bjorn. Bjorn's material will then be added to the final raffle drawing for the excitement of who will be the lucky winner of his creation.

The convention officially closes at noon as we bid our guests a fond farewell. As you can tell it will be a fun and busy weekend so we hope you will join us. The registration form can be found at www.bonsai-societyofdallas.com. Workshops are filling up fast so don't delay. Send your form in quickly and we hope to see you in April in Dallas.

Austin Bonsai Society P.O.Box 340474 Austin, TX 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 info contact the address above.

