



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

November 2015 vol 59

November 2015 Program

IT'S PARTY TIME!!

We are looking forward to our annual holiday party and hope you will all join us. As this is a "pot luck", please bring something that will feed 8 people. We already have Ham & Turkey and drinks, that should be enough for everyone.

A new "twist" for our annual event is a Chinese Gift Exchange, which is usually a lot of fun. Bring a fun gift with a value of not more than \$10.00, wrapped so no one will know what it is. We will then draw numbers and go in numerical order as to picking a gift - then the fun begins! If you do not wish to participate, you will still have fun watching the antics of the exchanges. Only those who bring a gift will be able to pick a gift.

Our theme for decorations will be Fall Color. If you have a tree that has fall color or a winter silhouette, and would like to share it with the group, please bring it as we will use it as the centerpieces for the tables. Also, if you should care to decorate the tree - ANY holiday is acceptable (remember, we are meeting ON Veterans Day!) but we will not be judging or giving any prizes. Just have fun.

Calendar of Events

Nov. 11: Annual ABS Holiday Party

Nov. 17: Board Meeting, No workshop this month

*****REMINDER***
NO MEETINGS IN
DECEMBER!!!!**

Jan 13 2016: Report Root over Rock

**Have a good holiday and Happy New Year,
see you in 2016.**



Kathy Shaner was the guest artist.
(Photo by Joey McCoy)

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Jonathan Wood
President

Jimbo Baumann
Vice President

Zerita Rogers
Secretary

Pat Ware
Treasurer

Angie Hewes
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Zerita Rogers
Member at-Large

May Lau
Member at-Large

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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

Hi Austin Bonsai Society Members,

What a great presentation last month by guest artist and bonsai master, Kathy Shaner. She has been coming to the Austin area for 20 years and our club was so fortunate to be able to learn from her during our main meeting time.... loved seeing so many member trees come in for evaluation and discussion. A number of us even took notes! Thank you to Pat Ware, the Board, and volunteers for coming together in preparation for our 2015 Holiday Party! Also, Thank you to Jimbo Baumann for 2 years of service to our club as Vice President. It has been a pleasure to serve alongside you, Jimbo, and your artwork gift to honor Kathy Shaner was a nice surprise!

Looking forward to the voluntary gift exchange... it will be so much fun! GIFT DESCRIPTION: - \$10 value - Something fun, not necessarily bonsai related - Wrapped or bagged - Not labeled "To or From" anyone. We will have a fun way to exchange these mystery gifts... so join in the fun :-)

Also looking forward to the display of Fall Color and/or Winter Silhouette bonsai. Join in by bringing a tree from your collection for an informal display around the party room. Also, members can bring in a festive holiday-decorated tree as part of the traditional decor. Any honors are for fun and not too serious :-).

Nominations for 2016 Board positions were announced last month. The Holiday Party meeting, November 11, 2015 will be the time to elect our new board members. Also please bring your ideas for future club programs/suggestions to briefly jot down during the party so we can pass them on to the new board.

Party Clean-up... "All Hands On Deck!" this year for the clean up of our evening. Please pitch in to help leave Zilker as spotless as we receive it at each meeting. Welcome new members! Keep coming to 2nd Wednesday meetings and monthly workshops to get to know future friends and mentors in the bonsai art. Reach out and say hi! Maybe even bring a friend or two who takes interest in bonsai to Wednesday meetings from time to time.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Wood, ABS President
Bonsai quote:

"If you can't find the front, instead find the back and then rotate it 180 degrees. - John Naka

PHOTO CORNER



Photos by Joey McCoy
 May Lau was the emerging artist at LSBF

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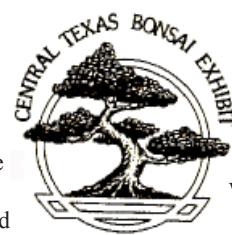
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

James & Terri Perciavalle

412-716-1250

email: perc8383@aol.com

ABS General Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2015
Zerita Rogers, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:24 by Jonathan.

Jonathan , recognized our hostess Nilda Garcia and May Lau Tse for their delicious food. Our guest for the evening was John and Brenda Richie from San Antonio.

Joey let everyone know of the upcoming event at Terry and Sheila Ward's home. This week-end, the Ward's will host a foster day-care event for plant care from 9:30am to 4:00pm.

Jonathan, recognized May Lau Tse, and family, for a beautiful job of designing our meeting name tags. Jonathan, also mention that our Holiday Party will be held in November.

Alisan Clark, mention that there was 20% discount at the Zilker Gift Shop. She also said, there will be a Silent Auction on November 5.

It was announced that Kathy Shaner has been coming to the Austin area for 20 years and that Jim Baumann had made a poster to commemorate the occasion. Individuals can purchase one for \$10.00 for Kathy to sign, with the proceeds going to ABS.

Quac Hoang announced the nomination for the Board of Directors for 2016. Nominations are Jonathan Wood, President; Zachery Rabalais, Vice President; Zerita Rogers, Secretary; Pat Ware, Treasurer; Members at Large, Angie Hewes, Simon Tse, and Mary Lau Tse. Jonathan asked for nominations from the floor. None came forward. Chuck Ware made the motion to close the nominations and Timmi Kuykendall seconded it.

Jonathan, introduced our guest artist Katy Shaner. She did a critique on a variety of plants. Which was very informative. Showing the type of pots that can be used for certain trees. Pointing out that dense tree growth will not allow sun light in, to promote growth. Softening the limbs of certain trees, before wiring, will make it easier to wire without breaking the limb. Wound callous can be repaired for improvement of tree appearance. Thread grafting was also explained. Using "Weed be Gone" in small amounts will promote root growth.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22pm

**ABS Board Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2015
Zilker Garden Club House**

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by President Jonathan Wood.

Present were Pat and Chuck Ware, Angie Hewes, Zerita Rogers, and Kevin Patureau.

Jonathan welcome Kevin who was there to observe our procedure for assisting the club in the near future.

The Board voted to accept the minutes for our September meeting.

Treasurer, Pat Ware presented the budget for 2016. There was an increase for the library, demonstration trees and a decrease in storage.

The Board discussed the idea of providing a budget for orientation to new members, but was tabled until the costs were known. Also mentioned was to increase charges for ads in our directory but was unanimously decided against doing so.

Jonathan discussed the Web, wanting the club to have management software as part of our program. It would be beneficial to the participation of non- members. Jonathan will put together a comparison proposal for the board to choose from.

Acquired name tags are now approved by the board and are supported by receipts.

Budget was approved by Zerita Rogers and seconded by Angie Hewes, and accepted by the board.

This year Holiday Party will be on Wednesday, November 11, 2015. Elaine will be bringing the ham. Alisan and Lynn will be doing the turkey. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. and we must be out of the parking lot at 9:30 p.m. Everyone needs to bring their dishes to serve 8 people.

Bring a Bonsai tree for the center piece for the tables. You may decorate your Bonsai tree with Christmas decorations or anything of your choice. Fall colors are OK. Even Bonsai without leaves.

We will have a White Elephant game. The maximum amount is \$10.00 for a gift. Just have it wrapped in any paper. There is no obligation, if you don't care to participate.

Jonathan adjourned meeting at 8:05

November Bonsai by John Miller

Maybe its time for a reminder that articles like this are always just guidelines. Each tree in your backyard is a special case and you should look at it individually each time you water. Be sure it is not getting stressed. Is it really healthy? Any signs of problems-- wilting, color ok, leaves good? Does it need attention immediately? If so place it aside and come back to examine it and take appropriate action. I have repotted deciduous trees in July but not in the normal manner. At an abnormal repotting special attention is needed during the repotting and for the aftercare.

Learn to think in terms related to plant characteristics instead of calendar periods (i.e. use 'when dormant' instead of October, 'candle growth' instead of April, etc). That will enable you to read bonsai articles correctly whether written in Japan Florida or wherever. Note that some tree cultivars (like the cork bark black pine) are notably weaker than the standards of the species and require different pruning and care.

You should have your winter quarters ready. Select one for deciduous trees that will be out of the sun. Air circulation is good but too much wind will desiccate them especially in freezing temps. Be sure you will be able to check their watering. Clean up all debris.

Most important is winter is to keep the soil moisture at a proper level. This sometimes is hard to do because the trees do not use as much water as when they are growing. However the cold winds will dry out the tops quickly. I believe that most winter damage in Texas is due to lack of water rather than to low temperatures. Mulch helps keep the roots warm and retards evaporation but it makes for difficulty in seeing if the soil is damp enough. Most soils with enough organic material to keep the tree happy in the summer will be too wet if watered daily in the winter and wet cold means root rot.

Before putting the trees into winter storage treat them for over-wintering insects and eggs. Dormant oil spray is good on trees with no green, foliage or buds. A dilute solution of lime sulfur is an old gardeners dormant spray for insect and fungus control. Use it on very cool days and dilute it 1 part lime sulfur to 20 parts water. Be sure to read the label on your bottle in case there are different strengths available. This solution should also be applied to benches tops, posts and the soil surrounding them (if you have gravel instead of grass) to eliminate hiding eggs and spores. If you have a greenhouse treat it also before the

weather gets too cold to put your plants outside or move them to one end while you treat the other end.

At this time of the year deciduous plants do not need fertilizer. Evergreens will continue a slow growth and will benefit for a light fertilizer feeding. Use one with a lower nitrogen (first number) like 0-10-10 or 8-8-8 at no more than 1/3 the recommended feeding rate.

Watering should be done with care during the cool and/or cold weather. Deciduous trees will use some water to replace what is lost to winds and evaporation. Evergreen trees will need a little more but not as much as in summer. The easiest way is to sort your pots into groups, those that dry quickly, those that are slower to dry, and those that seem to stay damp. This will let you water faster and yet not over-water the ones staying damp. Make a note to repot the ones staying too damp.

Repotting of hardy trees can be done anytime the trees are dormant. However it is safer to do that chore in the spring as the buds are swelling. New roots will start forming immediately upon repotting in order for the tree to absorb water. If you do repot in the fall you should protect the new roots from freezing during the winter. Do you need to change the pot? Making notes at this time while getting the trees ready for winter will give you 3-4 months to find the proper pot.

When trees go dormant which indicates a reduced sap flow they may be pruned, that is have major limbs removed. Trimming may also be done while the leaves are off the trees and you can see what you are doing. Evergreen types will probably still be active. Pruning them should be held until later. Foliage can be removed when half has turned color to remove some pathogens and to enjoy their winter silhouette.

BIG NOTE: If you have a tree that is weak and unhealthy you should not attempt to style it in any way, just get it happy by adjusting its soil, feeding, and getting rid of any parasites. Styling just adds to its stress and problems.

By this time any tropical you have should be under cover. Most do not like the temp below 50 degrees. All tropicals should be checked and treated for any insect problems since any insects will multiply fast when they get into warmer quarters. Spider mites and scale can be especially damaging if the plant is moved in the house where the humidity is low. foliage in January.

The semi-tropical plants like crape myrtle pomegranate, pyracantha, and some south Texas natives need to go dormant to stay healthy over a long time but they cannot take much cold on the roots. They will be killed by temps somewhere between 25 and 30 degrees. These I set down on the ground and mulch for light freezes and then bring into a protected area for the colder winter. Sometimes I will let them go dormant for a month and then take into the greenhouse to start early and I can enjoy their new foliage in January.

REMEMBER THAT WE VOTE ON NEXT YEAR'S OFFICERS

President:	Jonathan Wood
Vice President:	Zachary Rabalais
Secretary:	Zerita Rogers
Treasurer:	Pat Ware
Members-at-Large:	Angela Hewes May Lau Tse Simon Tse

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)