

BONSAI NOTEBOOK

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

November 2016 vol 70

November 2016 Program By: Zach Rabalais

The meeting for November will be our annual party! We will be sending out invitations through email like we did last year to give everyone a chance to RSVP. Since the party is a pot luck, we encourage all of our members to bring a dish to the meeting that will feed around 8 people. There will be a list attached to the invites that are sent out that will have suggestion for items that we still need for the party, so if you're not sure of what you would like to bring, make sure to check the invite while you are RSVPing so you can get some ideas.

There will also be a group gift exchange. If you would like to participate in the gift giving and stealing, make sure that you bring a small gift of your own. Bonsai themed gifts will of course be the main thing that you might find in your present, but your gift can be anything that you like.

Other things that will be happening at the party will be the announcement of the winner of the photo contests this year. There is still time to submit your entries so if you have a great picture of a tree in nature that gives you bonsai inspiration, make sure to send it in. We will also be passing around suggestion cards at the meeting like we did last year so get some ideas ready and let us know what you would be interested in seeing during next years meetings. I hope to see you all there!

CALENDAR

- NOVEMBER 9:** ANNUAL ABS HOLIDAY POTLUCK PARTY
6:30PM
HOSTS: EVERYONE!
- NOVEMBER 15:** BOARD MEETING 7PM
NO MEMBERS WORKSHOP
- NOVEMBER 24:** HAPPY THANKSGIVING
- DECEMBER:** NO MEETINGS-HAPPY HOLIDAYS
- JANUARY 11:** PESTS & DISEASE IN BONSAI W/MIKE HANSEN



Chuck's presentation on soil.

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

**Austin Bonsai Society
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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**

Thanks to Chuck Ware for his presentation on soil in October. I got a deeper understanding of the water table within our pots and how various soil particle sizes and bonsai container shapes have a direct impact on how much water stays in a pot at each watering. Took lots of notes during this demonstration!

The LSBF Corpus Christi Convention was real treat! Such great presenters like Jason Schley, Ed Trout, and Joe Day... and great company like members from our club who attended! The Corpus Christ bonsai Club did a fantastic job hosting us in a hotel right on the beach! The showroom and exhibit trees made a superb impression upon attendees. Visiting artists even made special comments about the quality of shohin and shohin display, feeling they stood above many other parts of the country. The TTSBE delegation displayed a large specimen ficus, donated by Andy Graham of South Texas, that a handful of us repotted earlier this year. It was amazing to see the show-stopping tree that just a few months earlier had been hoisted in air to its new pot! Maybe the before and afters will make it into this newsletter but they are likely in the TTSBE blog. Andy Graham was a dinner mate of ours during a few meals at the convention. It was so neat to hear of how his bonsai interest began in his teenage years and has stayed with him ever since. I guess bonsai really is a lifelong pursuit for many of us!

Also, our Austin delegation Bonsai team won 2nd place in the LSBF state styling competition! Our 3 person team included Joseph McCoy, Quoc Hoang, and myself. In our short 2 hours we rotated every 10 minutes and completed the phases of selecting the front, removing unnecessary branches, creating jins, wiring main branches, detail wiring out to the tips and creating foliage pads. Our tree had a naturalistic style and was left with enough juniper foliage to remain healthy beyond the initial pruning and wiring. A real honor to work alongside Quoc and Joey for the competition!

Our Holiday Party is happening November 9th... It will be so nice to spend time with our bonsai friends and family. Can't believe our year is coming to a close! As a club we have accomplished a great deal of quality programs and I can't wait to see what our future board has in store for us in 2017!
Happy Styling!

Jonathan Wood, Austin Bonsai Society President 2016

"Bonsai is horticulture, first and foremost. No matter how beautifully formed, a dead stick in a glob of mud is not bonsai. After the requirements for the living organism have been set, it is time to look to expression." -- Cheever, "The Tableau of Bonsai," Bonsai Journal of The American Bonsai Society (Summer 1992)

PHOTO CORNER

Austin members at the State Convention in Corpus Christi



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13292 POND SPRINGS RD. NW AUSTIN, TX 78729



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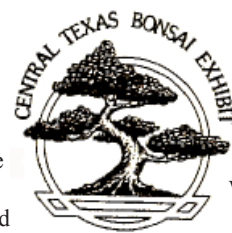


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HOME OF



Chuck & Pat Ware

Owners

Visa & MasterCard

12404 Ranch Road 12

Wimberley, TX 78676

(512) 847-2514

e-mail: bonsaijg@gmail.com

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

ANN DIAZ-WEINER

ann.weiner88@gmail.com

**ABS General Meeting
October 12,2016
Zerita Rogers, Secretary**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by President, Jonathan Wood.

This evenings hostesses were Els Ulug and Becki Drozd were recognized by Jonathan.

Jonathan also welcomed this evening guests.

Joey McCoy announced the nomination for next year's Board of Directors. Nominations are Simon Tse, President; Zachary Rabalais, Vice President; Pat Ware, Treasurer; Robert Nowicki, Secretary; Members at Large, Ruby Chaing, Kevin Patureau, and Retana Lim. Jonathan asked for nominations from the floor. None came forward. No motion made to close the nomination.

Pat Ware, Treasurer announced that income over expensive was \$4,528.53. Also, the Annual Auction yielded \$2,479.00, down some from last year.

Next, Pat announced that Lizzie Chen will no longer publish our Newsletter. We appreciate the wonderful job she did for the club. We had two to volunteer to take her place – Daniel Pintauro and Daniel Lim.

Our Annual Party will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016. Elaine, will be preparing the ham. Zerita, will be doing the turkey. Set up starts at 6:00.

Dinner will be at 7:00, and we must be out of parking lot at 9:30.

Jonathan, asked that if you intend to participate in the gift exchange have the gifts wrapped. The maximum dollar amount to spend is \$15.00. There is no obligation to partake.

Everyone who will be attending needs to bring a dish that will serve 8 people. If you were not present for the signup sheet at last meeting and would like to come, it also applies.

Bring a Bonsai tree all decorated for the Holiday. They can be placed on each table for atmosphere. The member will vote for the winner.

TTSBE: Joey McCoy asked that we save the date October 30,2016. Elaine, will be having a Bonsai sale at her home on tropical and varies plus other species. Everyone will be notified by e-mail.

LSBF: Joey, announced that Mike Hansen was honored at the Corpus Christi Convention as one of The Legends of the Lone Star Bonsai Federation. He will be featured in their Newsletter over the next few years. Congratulation Mike Hansen, a well deserving honor to be recognized for all you have done for ABS.

Pat reminded us that we will have a workshop on October 18, 2016, but that there will be no workshop in November and December. There will be no meetings in December.

Jonathan, introduced Chuck Ware for this evenings program on the Mysteries of Soil.

Chuck Ware always does a great job on his subjects. He is entertaining with lots of humor. He told of a story that was televised and described a vineyard in Tuscany. The claim is that playing Mozart's music has a positive effect on the outcome of productivity. Another plus, is the negative effect the music has on insects. They dislike the music and it's a source of irritation to them.

Chuck gave the following dissertation on SOIL. When dealing with soil consider soil mass. In small pots Bonsai soil begins to change its composition. Organic or Inorganic soil can control the chemical changes taking place in the soil. Soil variety is necessary and depends on the type of tree. Organic soil mixture is a way for dispersing nutrient and moisture for potting plant to thrive. Organic matter over time will break down and harm drainage. Inorganic components contain little or no organic matter, they absorb less nutrient and water than organic soil but great drainage and aeration. There is no perfect soil and in a mixture there are lots of variables. Depending on climate conditions experts have an idea what is better for each region. As Chuck said, understand the physical characteristics of various soils. Using the right components for the area, you will have a healthy plant. Don't forget good aeration, water retention and drainage will go a long way to producing a good root system.

Jonathan adjourned the meeting at 9:20PM.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2016
Zerita Rogers, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by Jonathan Wood.

Present were Jonathan Wood, Zachary Rabalais, Simon Tse, Zerita Rogers.

Zerita voted to approve the minutes of our last meeting which was a meeting which was accepted by the board.

Pat sent a copy of the Treasurers Report. The total Income over expenses for the month is \$4,528.53. Pat also submitted the budget for the board's approval.

The board voted to approve the budget with the discussed change if Treasurer approved the proposed increase of Monthly Program expense from \$350 to \$600.

Items of discussion by our board is the upcoming Annual Party.

The positioning of tables to make it more efficient for doing the gift exchange. With more than one person helping, correct table positioning would save time and would allow us to comply with Zilker time restrictions.

Next was the Photo Contest which began last year will be voted on by members. The photo that wins will have the honor of being in our Newsletter.

The Board was very pleased to hear that at the Corpus Christi Convention Jonathan Wood,Joey McCoy, and Quoc Hoang received second place in a cooperative styling competition among seven teams from around the State.

There is a proposal for partnering with American Bonsai Society by LSBF for an Austin Convention in 2020. A committee will be chosen later.

One of the last items for the Board was discussing some of the programs ABS may address in 2017.

President, Jonathan Wood, closed the meeting by a motion from Simon Tse at 8:03.

2016 ABS Annual Holiday Party

Wednesday, November 9th 2016

7pm

Austin Botanical Gardens

RSVP: (An Evite Link has been sent out by separate email. Please select yes, maybe, or no to indicate attendance, along with # of guests). Members are still invited to attend even if they do not formally RSVP.

\$10-\$15 Member Secret Gift Exchange (Optional): The more participants, the more FUN! If you would like to participate (we hope you will), bring a gift as follows: *Wrapped/bagged - Not labeled To or From anyone.

Pot-Luck Dinner: Members who've signed up bring a scrumptious dish, to share with the attendees. Plan for food to arrive between 6:00 and 6:30. Dinner is served at 7:00.

Presentation of Photo Contest Entries: Natural trees that inspire bonsai artistry to be displayed and appreciated during the evening. Members may vote on photos for special recognition.

Display of Festive, Decorated Bonsai: This tradition by displays pre-decorated bonsai in the spirit of ANY theme or holiday: ie Halloween, Christmas, etc. Members cast a secret vote for their favorite trees. This is for FUN and not too serious.

Informal Bonsai Display featuring Fall Color/Winter Silhouette: Members are asked to bring a tree from their collection that is showing a fall color, defoliated winter silhouette, blooms/blossoms. Stands and accents are not required but may accompany your display.

Election of 2017 Officers and Approval of Budget takes place at the party.

Simple Club Survey: Please bring your ideas to quickly jot down regarding future Club Monthly programs and general suggestions :-).

Guests: All Austin Bonsai Society Members are invited, along with their close family members/ significant others. Young children do not typically do well with this kind of event. If you have a concern about inviting someone, please email the coordinator.



*Houston
Bonsai Society*

Day of Bonsai & Annual Fall Exhibit

Saturday, November 12th
9 AM to 3 PM
Mercer Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
22306 Aldine Westfield Road
Humble, TX 77338

BONSAI EXHIBIT

open to all members and the public

Exhibit trees will be judged for awards in 2 categories, beginners and experienced.
HBS members, beginners or long time artists, please bring 1 or 2 of your most prized bonsai.

DONALD GREEN

Bonsai Exhibit

Please bring the bonsai acquired from Donald's estate for this exhibit
to honor our beloved Donald.

Demo by visiting artist Pedro Morales
Introduction to Bonsai lecture by Scott Barboza
Study groups, BYOT workshops, and vendor booths
plus the chance to enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow bonsai lovers.

For more information, please contact HBS Publicity Director Ken Cousino at 832-483-6036.

www.houstonbonsaisociety.com

NOVEMBER BONSAI BY: JOHN MILLER

Have you ever had the statements “The strength of a juniper is in its foliage” and “The strength of a pine is in its roots” explained? The meaning is critical since all pine and juniper styling and care is based on these concepts. When I sat in on some workshops at the convention in Corpus it came to me that I had never heard the meaning before. It has to do with how those types of trees have developed in nature to be able to repair damage they have received.

The juniper, with its scale leaves, manufactures food whenever healthy foliage receives sunlight. Even in winter it can make a little food and consequently has not had a need to store a large quantity of energy in its roots. That is also why in styling it you need to be sure the tree has some healthy foliage with plenty of growing tips on each branch.

Pines have had to replace shoots and branches, whether lost to ice and snow in mountains or to wind and waves in lower seacoast elevations. They must have a ready source of energy to grow new candles and therefore store that energy in their roots. You can safely remove all two year old needles and style in the fall.

Now that we are going into the repotting season 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.

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.

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

SAN ANTONIO ANNUAL AUCTION

Auction, Auction, Auction!!

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.

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. 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.

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It's auction time in San Antonio. The San Antonio Bonsai Society is having their fall auction on November 10th from 7pm to 9:30pm at the Lion's Field Senior and Adult Center at 2809 Broadway St San Antonio, TX 78209.

All Austin Bonsai Society members are welcome to attend. Check with other members to consider car-pooling but pick the person with the biggest!

Congrats to the 2nd Place Winners at the Corpus Christi State Convention

Check out Joey's before and after tree



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