



# Bonsai Notebook

[www.austinbonsaisociety.com](http://www.austinbonsaisociety.com)

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

November 2017 vol 84

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## Calendar of Events

- **Wednesday, November 8**

6:00 pm Set Up

6:30 pm ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

- **Tuesday, November 21**

7:00 pm Board Meeting

- **January 10, 2018**

Lecture / Demo with Juan Andrade with pines

- **April 19 - 22, 2018**

LSBF Convention in Longview, TX at the Hilton Garden Inn

## 2017 Board of Directors

**Simon Tse**  
President

**Zach Rabalais**  
Vice President

**Brandon Baldauf**  
Secretary

**Pat Ware**  
Treasurer

**Ruby Chaing**  
Member-At-Large

**Kevin Patureau**  
Member-At-Large

**Vacant**  
Member-At-Large

## November Meeting Volunteers

All Members  
*Food*

All Members  
*Trees*

## President's Message

*By Simon Tse*

The annual potluck holiday party is almost upon us and I hope you can all join us and celebrate this year of Bonsai fellowship. An invitation email was sent for those who prefer to sign up online. For the rest, I am here to assist and please email/call/text if you have any questions. We do have vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free members so please label your culinary creations appropriately. Prepare a dish which is sufficient for 8 people. Our club will provide turkey, ham and drinks.

We will also continue our gift exchange tradition. It was a fun event with great memories and twists. Bring a wrapped gift for less than \$15 and you are ready to participate. It doesn't need to be bonsai related but encouraged if possible.

We do not have a fall exhibition/show but if you have a bonsai which has a fall color or a winter silhouette, please bring it as we will gladly use it as the centerpieces for the tables. Also, if you should care to decorate the tree - ANY holiday is acceptable.

We will have our members vote for the upcoming board. The nomination committee has reached out and recruited new board members. I am looking forward to collaborating with all the board members.

Meanwhile, Texas winter is approaching and has already shown us some glimpses. We need to start protecting our bonsai when it reaches those risky low temperatures. A general guideline is provided within this newsletter for your reference. This article was written by one of our former ABS members and please reach out for questions or concerns.

Hope to see you all at our next celebration on November 8th.

Cheers, Simon



**Happy faces at the  
October meeting**

## ABS October Meeting

Our visiting artist this month was Jonas Dupuich, who also held a workshop the day before.



### The tree before and after the demonstration

*(Photos by May Lau)*





**Photos from the  
Jonas Dupuich  
workshop**  
*(Photos by May Lau)*



**The workshop was filled  
with helpful advice and  
hands-on  
demonstrations**

## Get Connected!

Join our online discussion page! NO SPAM!

[http://  
groups.yahoo.com/  
group/austinbonsai/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/austinbonsai/)

Or message Joey at:  
[jvmccoy@sbcglobal.com](mailto:jvmccoy@sbcglobal.com)

## Official Website

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## Instagram



Follow us on Instagram  
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## Vice President's Message

*By Zach Rabalais*

It's time for the annual Austin Bonsai Society Holiday Party! The meeting for November will be our holiday party, potluck, and gift exchange event. Invites were sent via email with a sign up for the party as well as a list of dishes etc. that we will need for the pot luck. If you plan on attending the holiday party make sure to RSVP and bring a dish that will feed about 8 people. Participation in gift exchange is optional, but if you plan on joining in make sure to bring a small wrapped gift of your own. Most of the gifts will be bonsai themed, but they are not required to be. The gift exchange will be done in the white elephant style where people select a gift from the table or choose to steal a gift from someone that has already opened theirs.

We also encourage our members to bring in some trees or displays to use as center pieces on the tables. You can decorate a tree for the holidays, or any other theme you like, or just bring in something that is looking particularly nice this time year to show off.

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## October Update

From a Secretary's perspective in October:

Our Instagram account has reached a total of 1050 followers. We posted a week long giveaway for a Ruby crafted container and a small disc of Cedar Elm for presentation.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BZpr6pyB-xc/?taken-by=austinbonsaisociety>  
Congrats to @michaelpjfoos!

Once we get to another critical benchmark of followers, we will host another giveaway!



**Working on the  
demo tree during  
the lecture at the  
meeting**

**JADE GARDENS**  
**HOME OF THE**

Owners



Chuck  
and Pat  
Ware

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## 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 Floridana
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

## November Bonsai

By John Miller

When you read guidelines do you read 'can' as 'should'. Most guides I have read use them interchangeably. However in the plant world you should be more careful and see if you can decipher the correct meaning. Many times the meaning depends on the readers knowledge and abilities. For example, because of a bad commercial soil mix I barerooted and repotted trees in July with no loss. However, I knew what they required and was committed to supplying their needs completely until they fully recovered. So when you read guidelines be sure to modify them to suit your trees, your back yard, and especially your capabilities. Try to do tasks on a schedule but don't be a slave to a schedule--move the tasks needed as best for the tree, maybe sooner maybe later.

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.


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.

**New business**

**Daniel Pintauro -  
Tabares**

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and intermediate  
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**Wandering Bonsai**

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**HOURS: THURS-SUN 12-8**

## New Members

**Welcome!!**

Chuck Talley



Most important in 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 from 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.

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.



**Jonas Dupuich holding a  
lecture / demo during  
the meeting**

*(Photo by May Lau)*

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**(call for directions)**

# Bonsai Notebook

Austin Bonsai Society  
P.O. Box 340474  
Austin, Texas 78734



## Austin Bonsai Society

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Austin, TX 78734



## 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.