



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

November 2018 vol 96

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## Calendar of Events

- **Wed November 14**  
6:30pm - 9:00pm  
Annual Holiday Party  
Bring your favorite dish to share  
Gift exchange
- **Tues November 20**  
7:00pm - 9:00pm  
Board Meeting  
No workshop

## 2018 Board of Directors

**Simon Tse**  
President

**Brandon Baldauf**  
Vice President

**Mike Garza**  
Secretary

**Gloria Norberg**  
Treasurer

**Ruby Chaing**  
Member-At-Large

**Daniel Lara**  
Member-At-Large

**Pat Ware**  
Member-At-Large

## Volunteers

**Everyone**  
*Food*

**Everyone**  
*Trees*

# President's Message

*By Simon Tse*

Greetings! Happy Holidays everyone! It's celebration time and, once again, I'm astounded that it has arrived so quickly. Our annual party will be held on November 14th with our traditional pot luck gathering. As usual, our club will supply the main dish (Turkey, Ham) and one of our members has committed to bringing a Tofurky. Everyone should bring a side dish or dessert that can serve at least 8 people. Please consider showing up early to help setup as well. There will also be a gift exchange so please prepare a wrapped gift around \$15.

There will be no member's workshop in November and December. Chuck is gracious enough to present an entertaining and informative program on the mystery of soil in January.

It has been a terrific two years to serve as President. I would like to thank everyone for their generosity and tireless volunteering effort that continues to make our club such a special place. It was truly an honor to be part of the leadership team of the club. Let's welcome all the upcoming board members and Brandon Baldauf as the new president.

Cheers,  
Simon

# Todd Schlafer

Photos by May Lau





Kathy Shaner  
(TTSBE)

With Bonsai Enthusiasts



*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*



## Get Connected!

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Join our online discussion page! NO SPAM!  
*http://  
groups.yahoo.com/  
group/austinbonsai/*

Or message Joey at:  
*jvmccoy@sbcglobal.com*

## Official Website

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Visit our website at  
[austinbonsaisociety.com](http://austinbonsaisociety.com)

## Facebook

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## Instagram

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## Vice President's Message

*By Brandon Baldauf*

Greetings Everyone,

What a rainy month we've experienced around Austin! Consider a fungi treatment before the winter sneaks up on us. As the temperature drops in the upcoming month, move tropical and cold sensitivities trees to protected areas.

For our upcoming holiday party on the 14th, we have a grand time ahead. Please plan to bring a small wrapped gift in order to participate in the gift exchange. We also have a pot luck dinner planned so bring your favorite side dish to share.

Cheers,  
Brandon



## 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

# Regular Meeting Minutes

*October 10, 2018*

- Simon started the meeting at 7:10 pm
- Simon welcomes Amy V.; she spoke about the Zilker Botanical Conservancy; she works closely with the city to fill the funding and advocacy gap for the 15 to 20 million dollar master plan; the plan is to introduce membership fees for the garden; go to their website for more info
- Simon mentioned the potluck and gift exchange next month; we need everyone to bring a dish to share
- Joey from TTSBE mentioned the Kathy Shaner seminar; it will be held October 13th and 14th
- Gloria - the auction was a huge success! We raised \$3,673!
- Brandon brought the display trees - a willow leaf ficus, originally from Hawaii, brought to the main land in 1971; ponderosa pine, bought from Todd Schlafer in Colorado
- Todd Schlafer started his demo on a youpon holly at 7:36!

# ABS Board Minutes

*November 7, 2018*

- ABS Board Meeting was postponed to Nov 7th due to inclement weather and hazardous road/flooding conditions
- Attendees: Simon, Gloria, Pat, Ruby, Brandon (phone)
- Working with hotel representative on finalizing terms and details regarding 2021 convention
- Talk about guest artist program for upcoming year
- Approve 2019 budget
- Update on Holiday Celebrations on 11/14

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# November Bonsai

By John Miller

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. Generalized articles will not be able to cover many details like this, you must learn the foibles of your particular variety.

All of this means that you should have your winter quarters ready. Select one for deciduous trees that will be out of the sun. Evergreens will need some sun but some protection from the hotter winter days, a bit of a problem. Air circulation is good but too much wind will desiccate them especially during freezing temps. Be sure you can check their individual watering. Clean up all debris.

Winter is also a crucial time in control of many insects. Killing them now means the tree will be able to get started in the spring before they develop sufficient numbers to do much damage.

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. 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 per directions, probably 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 bench 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 very light fertilizer feeding. Use one with a lower nitrogen (first number) like 8-8-8 and apply at 1/3 the recommended feeding rate.

Most important is winter is to keep the soil moisture at a proper level. This sometimes is hard

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## New Members

Eliot Jarrett

Lynn and Joe Jelinski

Bill Cornelius

**Welcome!**

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. This is another place the akadama in the APL mix will help.

**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.

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 enough 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 a bit active. Pruning them should be held until a bit later.

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 and pyracantha need to go dormant to stay healthy over a long time but they cannot take much cold on the roots. The roots 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.

Plan your spring repotting tasks so you will have the necessary pots and other supplies. Take advantage of low prices when nurseries are clearing out space for Xmas tree sales. You can sometimes find some bargains there especially if you remember that a tree with broken/dead tops may make nice bonsai starter material.

The dormant season is also a very good time to study your deciduous bonsai. You can see clearly the structure and where improvements should be made. Remove any wire that is tight or where it has done its work and the branch stays in position. Work can be done more leisurely over the winter. Take care not to damage the small buds.

November is when I consider the start of the fiscal year for two needle pines which include the Japanese black pine, Scots pine, and others. This process is needed to develop the twiginess and to get the needles short and keep them that way. Junipers and most other conifers (not the bald cypress) may be included. However I question the desirability of keeping them on the benches over winter because of the possibility of the sun heating the roots too much and causing them to break dormancy or get their roots active. That would cause problem if the temp later falls to 10 degrees.



## Charlotte Mount Cranberg

Charlotte Mount Cranberg, 88, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, passed away on October 21, 2018, surrounded by her loving family.

She brought beauty into the world and embraced it in all its forms. Known for her artistic pursuits, her wisdom, her generosity, kindness and good humor, Charlotte was above all devoted to her family. She is survived by her son Alexis (Alex) Cranberg, daughter-in-law Cathy, their children Hannah, Clare, Shane and Skylar, their granddaughter Jace, and by her daughter Nicole Crosby, son-in-law Giff and their son Jake. Charlotte's beloved poodle Oliver is being cared for by family members.

Born October 2, 1930 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Charlotte was the second of four children of Herbert L. Mount and Isabel Dvorak. Charlotte cherished her memories of growing up on a farm and learned at a young age to love and care for plants and animals. She applied her considerable talents to nurturing both. She also excelled at academics, and her passion for learning evolved into a passion for teaching. She earned an education degree at the National College of Education and was a sought-after candidate for teaching positions nationwide. At age 22, Charlotte took the bold step of leaving her home state on a train bound for Los Alamos, New Mexico which was internationally known for its scientific laboratory.

Charlotte derived great satisfaction from her profession, and her students influenced her as much as she influenced them. A tennis date with a physicist led to a 57-year marriage and a family who brought her joy til her last day on earth. Charlotte and her husband, Lawrence Cranberg, PhD, were devoted parents as well as strong advocates for justice and freedom.

Charlotte was a patient and loving mother who celebrated her children's every accomplishment. But she never stopped advancing her own development and pursued gardening, volunteering, and a wide range of artistic interests including the culinary arts, much to her family's delight. Charlotte's love of music began in childhood when she played the piano - later accompanying her children when they took up instruments. She was a lifelong concertgoer and devotee of musical theater. Charlotte credited her mother for instilling in her an



interest in fiber arts, and she became accomplished at knitting, quilting and weaving, and then expanded her creative expression to wheel thrown pottery, stained glass, and other craft forms.

As a parent and teacher, Charlotte celebrated childhood, and her love of children's books and toys led to a passion for doll making and collecting. She enjoyed nothing more than to sit down with a child and play a game or read a story.

The many places Charlotte called home shaped the person she became. After Los Alamos, where Native American culture and the Santa Fe Opera enriched her life, her family spent a year in Goring-on-Thames, England where she formed a lifelong interest in all things British. They spent nine years in Charlottesville, Virginia when Lawrence joined the physics department at UVA, followed by 42 years in Austin, Texas. Charlotte served on the Board of Directors of the Austin Area Garden Center where she garnered so many blue ribbons, she stopped entering to give others a chance. She brought spectacular varieties of orchids into bloom in her greenhouse, yet would examine the most diminutive flower with joy.

The culmination of a lifetime of gardening was Charlotte's mastery of the art of bonsai. At one time, she had 40 specimens, some of which are maintained in the permanent collection of the Texas State Bonsai Exhibit. Her camellia was exhibited starting October 28 at Zilker Botanical Garden.

Also in Austin, she helped run the Texas Fireframe Company - founded by her husband in 1975 – and years later partnered with her daughter who ran the business after he passed in 2011 at age 94. During her final years, Charlotte enjoyed the botanical diversity and abundant wildlife in Florida. She never stopped gardening and brought an array of tropicals into bloom inside her apartment. As a friend of hers recalled, "Charlotte excelled at everything she set her mind to doing."

She read two newspapers a day and discussed current events weekly at The Players Community Senior Center. Charlotte relished her years at Vicars Landing with family members living nearby, and she won the hearts of her caregivers, many of whom became her dear friends in the final weeks of her life.

We will always remember Charlotte with fondness, love and admiration.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Texas State Bonsai Exhibit at Austin's Zilker Garden.

<https://www.ttsbe.org/donation>

or

send checks to:

TTSBE Treasurer, 25515 Stormy Rock; San Antonio, TX 78255

A memorial service will be held by the family at a later date.

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## Recruiting Authors

With a nod of respect to John Miller, who has been diligently writing monthly columns for our newsletter, we would also like to take this time to invite interested members with knowledge and experiences of local Austin conditions to write articles for beginners and potential aspirants keen on raising bonsai. The Bonsai Notebook is looking for a new voice to author a column providing helpful reminders and tips dedicated to caring for bonsai. Be it a monthly routine or winter procedures, we'd like to welcome new perspectives and experiences to be shared in this newsletter. If interested, please contact Simon Tse at [tse\\_simon@hotmail.com](mailto:tse_simon@hotmail.com).

A warm thank you to John Miller for writing the latest columns. Even I, as the editor, may have taken these last months for granted and have been reminded that life is a charming companion that deserves to be appreciated every day. Thank you for your helpful words!

# Bonsai Notebook

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



## Austin Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 340474  
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.