



# Bonsai Notebook

*www.austinbonsaisociety.com*

*A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society*

*October 2014 vol 46*

## **October 2014 Program**

by Jimbo Baumann

### **Bonsai Annual Auction**

The Austin Bonsai Society's Annual Auction held in October is always one of the highlights of the year. This year's auction will be held on WED 8 OCT starting at 7 pm at Zilker Garden Center. The annual auction is the biggest fund raiser of the year for the society. We need both donors and bidders to make our auction a successful event. Please bring plants, pre-bonsai, any bonsai materials and supplies, pots, and other items to the meeting to support our society. In the past, many of our guests have even brought supplies and plants to donate while they are bidding on items. So grab those plants you are wanting to trade out or any supplies that no longer suit your needs and find some new items to stimulate your bonsai creativity.

Ryan Odegaard of the San Antonio Bonsai Society will be our featured auctioneer. Ryan has some experience in being the auctioneer and has readied his "fast talking" skills to keep us moving along that night. All donors are asked to display their items along with the auction labels at the rear of the Zilker meeting room. Volunteers will bring items from the rear to the front of the room for Ryan to feature, a brief discussion and auction. Pat Ware will be stationed at the front right of the room to see the items and donors for recording the sale. Please arrive early so your items can be displayed and so that you can register and get a bidder number from Pat. Please remember all sales are cash or check only.

The auction labels have been included as a separate sheet within the newsletter this month. Please print this page out and provide as much detail as possible on these labels. Items entered into the auction will have all the proceeds go to ABS. If you have an item that you feel must have a minimum bid value, please annotate the label with that information, the donor will have the option of taking the item back or agreeing to the auction value.

The October Members Only Workshop featured on Tuesday, October 21 at 730 pm will be on reviewing your new additions from the auction for styling, re-styling, or new techniques.

## Calendar of Events

### **Oct 8 ABS Annual Auction**

**Reception Host: Gloria Norberg and May Lau Tse**

### **Oct. 11: Houston Bonsai Society Fall Show Mercer Botanical Gardens 9am-3pm**

**Oct 17, 18, 19 Kathy Shaner 19th Annual Seminar**  
At the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in South Austin, 4801 La Crosse Avenue Austin 78739 Focus on Group Plantings, Root over Rock Plantings, and Raft Style Plantings. Please communicate with Collin Murphy for registration at 512-905-9364. email: ckmurphy2000@gmail.com.

### **Oct 21: ABS Board Meeting and Members Only Workshop**

7:30-9:00pm



**Peter Tea, Guest Artist Lecture Demo.**

*(Photo by Joey McCoy)*

## Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

**Nan Jenkins**  
President

**Jimbo Baumann**  
Vice President

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Secretary

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Treasurer

**Russell Kohlert**  
Member at-Large

**Zerita Rogers**  
Member at-Large

**Deb Van Cleaf**  
Member at-Large

**Past President**  
Mike Watson

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](mailto: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](mailto:jvmccoy@sbcglobal.net).

## President's Message by Nan Jenkins

I love the fall! It is such a wonderful time of year to be outside, and all those trees in the yard are happy that I'm out there taking off wire, trimming too much growth, and generally taking care of the trees. I'm also getting the greenhouse ready to receive the abundance of tropicals that will move in pretty soon. I was really surprised when the temps hit the low 60's a few days ago! Oh my, that is the cut-off point for my buttonwood to be outside. I find I have to watch the weather carefully during the transitional seasons since we never know what is coming next week or even tomorrow.

October brings us to the annual ABS auction. I always find a few treasures to take home at a price I can afford. And I usually bring a few treasures to sell that need a new home with new eyes to see and new dreams to create for that little beauty. This year I will be missing the meeting because we will be out of town—at Port Aransas on a real vacation, a very needed vacation. Since the seventh is my birthday, vacation happens this year the week of meeting night. I'll be thinking about all of you and the fun you are having. And my treasures will have to wait until next year to be traded for others. I know you will be welcoming to Ryan Odegaard who will be our auctioneer. Ryan is president of the San Antonio Society. I deeply thank him for doing this for us.

We will have our regular meetings in October and November, but remember, in December we will be meeting on December 12th. Put that in your calendar now because you do not want to miss Christmas dinner Bonsai style and our visiting artist, Walter Paul.

Happy Bonsaiing!

Nan

**ABS Board Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2014**

Present: Nan Jenkins, President; Members at Large: Zerita Rogers, Deborah Van Cleave, and Russell Kohlert; and Angelina Hewes, Secretary

Nan calls to order at 7:09

Treasurer's Report: Nan gave Treasurer's Report (Pat is on Alaskan cruise). Profit - \$157.93. from August 13 workshop fees. There were only small expenses.

Upcoming Events: Christmas Party will be at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Wells Branch on Friday, December 12, from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Discussed whether to hire the church event coordinator to set up for party and clean up afterwards. His fee would be \$20 an hour. It was agreed hiring him would be beneficial.

Nan discussed purchasing trees from Joe Tratcha for workshops. There are 13 trees and they are all tropicals: Texas ebony and ficus. Discussed selling the trees members to be used 3-4 times during scheduled workshops on styling and wiring, repotting. Nan suggested maybe waiting a year or so before working on them. The club would need to find a place and someone who would be willing to store and care for them.

Marian Alsup of the Austin Area Garden Club stopped by the board meeting to talk about the need for funds for the upkeep of the Zilker Botanical Garden. Flyers on the Austin Area Garden Center 50th Anniversary Celebration, October 18-19 were passed out. Marian also brought up maybe setting up the Garden Club as a non-profit 501C3 organization.

The Board Meeting was short and adjourned around 7:49 p.m.

Angelina Hewes, Secretary

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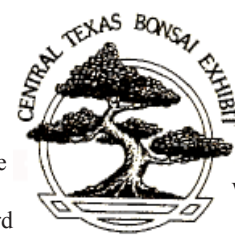
(call for directions)



<https://www.facebook.com/AustinBonsaiSociety>

## **JADE GARDENS**

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e-mail: [bonsaijg@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaijg@gmail.com)

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

### **\*\*\*REMINDER\*\*\***

## **Christmas Party Date and Place**

**December 12, 6:30pm**

**St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**

**14311 Wells Port Drive.**

**Austin, TX 78728**

**Austin Bonsai Society (ABS) General Meeting Minutes**  
**WED 10 SEP 2014**

Nan Jenkins, President, called the meeting to order at 730 pm. Many thanks to Candy Hansen for some wonderful refreshments.

ABS welcomed three guests for the evening: Corbin Matisse, Cindy Huang, and Alfredo Maguyon. We had 32 members in attendance, in addition to our three guests.

Announcements: ABS Annual Auction to be held WED 8th OCT, Shohin Society of Texas Meeting on Saturday, SEP 20th, Kathy Shaner Seminar on October 17-19 here in Austin, and Houston Fall Show and Workshops at Mercer Gardens on October 11th (in conjunction with LSBF Board Meeting).

Peter Tea of San Jose, CA (<http://peterteabonsai.wordpress.com/>) was introduced to the group by Jimbo Baumann, Vice President. Peter is participating as The Lone Star Bonsai Federation (LSBF) (<http://www.lonestarbonsai.org/>) featured artist this year and is visiting all the Texas clubs conducting workshops and seminars.

Peter Tea briefly explained his background and history in Bonsai and his fellowship in Japan under the tutelage of Dr. Junichiro Tanaka of Nagoya, Japan (<http://bonsaiaichien.com>) and his California tutelage with Boon Manakitiviparat of Hayward, CA (<http://bonsaiboon.com/index.html>). Please refer to these websites as excellent training material and reference material for that troublesome bonsai you are trying to create.

Peter then moved to a straightforward lecture on Bonsai Development (please refer to the illustration art developed by Jimbo Baumann from the Peter Tea lecture) utilizing a mathematical approach to limb and leaf development while creating trunk thickening and taper in the overall bonsai design plan. Peter felt the bonsai enthusiast should specialize in their early years of bonsai learning, four species—Japanese Black Pine, Trident Maple, Juniper, and Olive or Ficus. Peter felt these 4 species could transition the average bonsai person from a simple hobbyist to a trained individual in a few years. In addition, he shared that many bonsai hobbyists do not spread their personal labor requirements over the calendar season of bonsai care. These four species will spread out your personal labor over the calendar year without too many things to do in just a single season. Thus, avoiding that new “bonsai hobbyist that is overwhelmed”!

In addition, to the lecture Peter focused the demonstration on a “collected Texas Persimmon”. This pre-bonsai had been collected in south Texas approximately 4 years earlier and had been stable and adding foliage and fruit for the last few years under the care of Chuck Ware. The demo tree featured strong root development, strong taper and extensive scarring along its trunk base. Peter felt this tree should focus on carving techniques to the trunk and further limb development. He cut down the approximate four foot trunk height to 24 inches and discussed a development plan for the bonsai. The tree was raffled at the end of the evening and won by Alisan Clarke. Congrats to Alisan!

Many thanks to Peter and all for a wonderful evening of Bonsai.

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Item \_\_\_\_\_  
Donor \_\_\_\_\_  
Approx. Cost \_\_\_\_\_

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Buyer # \_\_\_\_\_  
Final Bid \_\_\_\_\_

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Item \_\_\_\_\_  
Buyer # \_\_\_\_\_  
Final Bid \_\_\_\_\_

## BE READY FOR WINTER

The normal first frost for our area is November 28.

### PROTECT FROM COLD

Aralia - all varieties  
Barbadosa Cherry  
Bougainvillea  
Brush Cherry  
Burcera Fagaroides  
Bucida Spinosa (Black Olive)  
Bucida Bucera (Black Olive)  
Buttonwood  
Calliandra (Powder Puff)  
Carissa (Natal/African Plumb)  
Cardboard Palm  
Ficus - all varieties  
Ivies - all varieties  
Jacaranda  
Indoor Oak (Nicodemia)  
Ixora  
Jasmine - Duke  
Jaboticaba  
Malpighias - Cocigera and Glabra  
Orange - all citrus  
Papyrus  
Satinwood  
Sea Grape  
Sageretia  
Serissa (Snow Rose)  
Texas Ebony  
Zamia Floridaana  
Fukien Tea (never below 45°F)

### SEMI-HARDY

Bamboo - in pot  
Azalea  
Blood Grass  
Camellia (don't let buds freeze)  
Hokkaido & Seiju & Catlin elms  
Gardenia  
Olive - Olea Europis  
Pyracantha - never below 25°F  
Yaupon Holly - never below 25°F

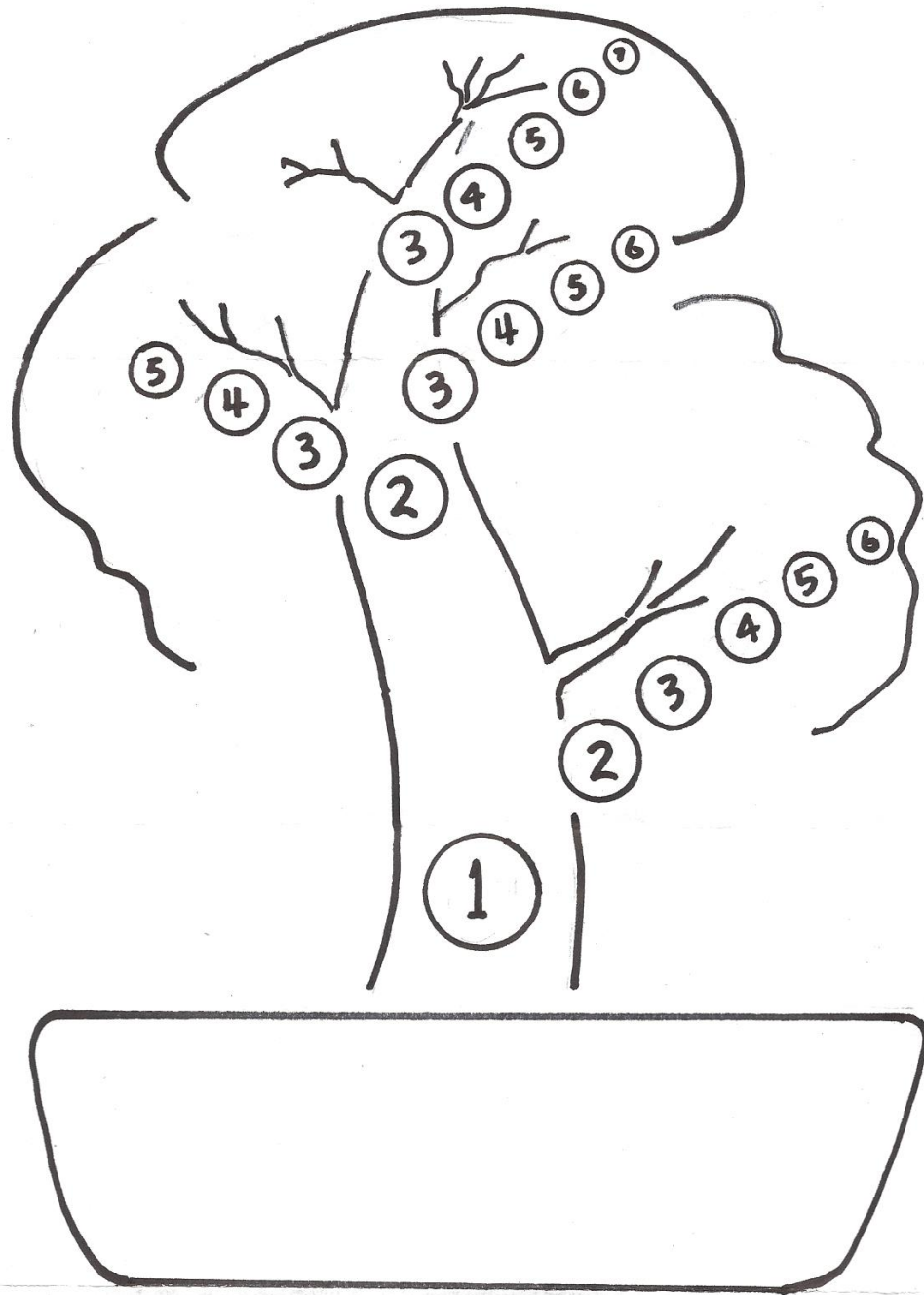
### NEED 6-8 WEEK COLD PERIOD

Abelia  
Althea  
Apple/Crabapple  
Arborvitae  
Azalea - Satsuki may be indoors  
Bald Cypress  
Barberry  
Camellia  
Chamaecyparis  
Cotoneaster  
Cryptomeria  
Cypress  
Elms - Chinese & American

Forsythia  
Ginkgo  
Grape  
Holly - most  
Honeysuckle  
Jasmine - confed.  
Juniper - most  
Ligustrum/Privet  
Maples - all  
Myrtle - all  
Nandina  
Oaks  
Osmanthus  
Okinawa Holly (indoors)  
Peach  
Persimmon  
Pine  
Pyrus Kawakami/Callery  
Pittosporum  
Plum  
Podocarpus (indoors)  
Pistachio  
Quince  
Raphiolepis; Redbud  
Rosemary; Spirea  
Spruce; Sweet Gum  
Tallow; Viburnum  
Willow; Wisteria  
Zelkova

The above list courtesy of Edith Sorge, The Bonsai Farm.

**Jimbo Baumann's  
Illustration of Peter Tea's Lecture Demo  
September 2014**



## October Bonsai

by John Miller

*Editor's Note: John Miller, who writes a monthly column for the Bonsai Society of Dallas and the Fort Worth Bonsai Society, has agreed to share his column with us. We need to make adjustments for our warmer, climate, with its early springs, long summers, late falls and erratic winters.*

Time to take a good look at your tropicals. Before going into the dry low-light conditions most of us have for winter quarters they need to be vigorous, pruned and free of problems. Give them a good feeding preferably with an organic fertilizer. If you use a water soluble type use a low dilution and feed every 2-3 days. Prune all new growth back to the trees best shape. Keep any new growth pinched to 2-3 leaves. Use your desired insecticide and/or fungicide now and again just before you take them in. You can help control weeds by removing the top ¼ inch or so of soil and replace it with new soil.

Remember that there are some tropicals who do not like to go below 50 degrees while others are only semi-tropical and will take a frost but do not want their roots frozen. The buttonwood is an example of the first group and the crepe myrtle would be in the second. Here in the Dallas-Ft Worth area we will probably not see a freeze until later in November but there may be some cool nights in October. I prefer to leave the tropicals out as long as possible. I want the semi-tropicals to go dormant and then put them in a cool location to stay dormant all winter.

Get your wintering space clean and in good condition. If you wait until the temperature drops, you get too rushed and omit some of the little housekeeping duties. Start now by making sure that the area will be free of insects and other vermin.

Before working on the outdoor trees, consider the weather and plant habits. We may experience some pretty cool days and then it may warm back up to be fairly hot. If the plant has been fed too much it may continue to grow. If you prune before fully dormant you may stimulate buds into breaking now instead of next year. These would be more tender and you probably won't be able to get them dormant before a freeze. Altho you CAN do light pruning now it would be better to hold off a bit.

Feeding of deciduous trees should be discontinued for the winter. Evergreens and conifers will benefit from a low nitrogen feeding. One such mix might be 70% cottonseed meal and 30% bonemeal. Being organic, this will breakdown into nutrients more slowly as the season gets cooler and the trees activity slows also. The organic spray given below can be used as a soil drench but dilute it a little more. Kelp is an excellent source of the essential minor elements needed by plants

Insects will continue to be present. Cooler (but not cold) days mean a resurgence of the aphids. Mites will also still be around and will jump into action during a warm spell. Scale also can be a problem. Treat with a light horticultural oil which will kill the adults and also wipe out the eggs and over-wintering pupae. Be sure to cover all the cracks in the bark to get to the eggs. The organic spray (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water) should still be used on a regular schedule and will work on evergreens and will also give them some nutrients. The dead scale shell will probably have to be removed physically. A soft toothbrush works for me (I sometimes need to wet the branch to loosen the scale).

When the leaves start turning the sap has quit for the year and you may check the branches and twigs to see if any need to be trimmed. Cutting back any protruding branches will keep them from snagging and possibly breaking other trees when you put them down close together. Don't cut the buds off the spring flowering plants unless absolutely necessary if you want flowers next spring.

Some may repot in the fall but I feel that it is counter-productive to do so if you can do it during bud break in the spring. New roots are more prone to freeze damage if we get a bad winter. It has been stated that the key to safe repotting is to minimize root disturbance and to exclude severe root pruning. This seems to me to be a recipe for developing root problems, poor drainage leading to root rot and the inability of the old soil to hold enough water to last all day. No heavy pruning will lead to the lack of refinement and a top heavy tree. I would recommend that repot at the proper time next spring which is when the buds swell and new growth is imminent.



Winter quarters: I think that here in Texas more trees are lost in the winter due to drying out than to the cold. Of course that does not mean for you to leave the tropicals out or to let the roots freeze on southern trees like the crape myrtle. Even in a greenhouse or sunny window the soil can dry out amazingly fast. The wind in winter has amazing drying powers too. (Ask your grandmother about hanging the wash and letting it dry while it is frozen stiff.) So while you protecting the roots be sure to give it a wind screen and make sure that you can check the soil for watering needs. (it helps here if you know which particular plants dry out faster and so you can situate them together. Winter kill usually comes because the soil has frozen and the sun or wind is removing water from the tops. The roots cannot obtain water to replenish the loss and the top desiccates to the point of death.

For the beginners, plants like the cedar elm, oak, maple that are hardy much further north can be set on a clean gravel bed. When the real cold (26 or lower) gets here cover the pots with 3-4 inches of a fairly loose mulch. Plants that grow south of Dallas, crape myrtle, firethorn, some azalea, need to have more root protection. I like to let them get frostbit but bring them in before freezing. Of course the tropicals need to be babied.

All this is basically talking about the broadleaf deciduous trees. Evergreens do not go fully dormant in winter and need to be exposed to sunlight. Some broadleaf evergreen types like boxwoods slow way down but still need sunlight. Some leave the needled evergreens on top of benches all winter but I prefer to give the roots the same basic winter protection of deciduous trees but they have a higher water need.

Creating some shohin bonsai can lead to some winter enjoyment. Since they do not take much room you can find a space in the house or a small greenhouse. Let them go dormant for a short period and then you can take them in and have new growth in a very short time. Small elms are especially good for this. Then set back and enjoy your little fellows in the house while the winter wears on.

Removing the top half-inch of soil and replenishing it with new soil is a good idea. This will remove a

lot of weed seeds that have blown in and will make next year's work easier. Of course if you plan on repotting next spring it isn't necessary replenishing it with new soil is a good idea. This will remove a lot of weed seeds that have blown in and will make next year's work easier. Of course if you plan on repotting next spring it isn't necessary

# 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 Mc Coy)*