

BONSAI NOTEBOOK

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

October 2016 vol 69

October 2016 Program By: Zach Rabalais

I hope that everyone has been enjoying their new acquisitions from the club auction last month, and enjoying the cooler weather we've been having. It's been nice to be able to spend some time outside with our trees without having to worry about heat stroke. The onset of cool weather means that fall is right around the corner. Before you know it, winter will be ending and it will be time to start mixing your bonsai soil and getting ready for re-potting season.

The program for the month of October will be hosted by Chuck Ware and will be all about the mysteries of bonsai soil. Chuck will be going over all of the ins and outs of bonsai soil. What components to use, what makes a good soil, what to avoid. If you ask 5 different people what they use in their bonsai soil you are very likely to get 5 different answers. One of the things that makes soil such a difficult but interesting topic is that all 5 of the answers that you were given are probably correct. There are a lot of things that factor into choosing the right soil mix for your needs. How often you water, how much shade or sun you have in your yard, etc. All of these things mean that there is no one perfect soil mix for everyone. This is one of the reasons that soil can seem to be such a mysterious and complicated topic in bonsai, especially if you are a beginner. Hopefully after this month's program you will have a little more insight into the topic and be closer to unraveling the mystery of bonsai soil.

CALENDAR

- OCTOBER 12:** MYSTERIES OF SOIL WITH CHUCK WARE 7:30PM
HOSTESSES: ELS ULUG & BECKI DROZD
- OCTOBER 13-16:** LSBF CONVENTION, CORPUS CHRISTI
- OCTOBER 18:** BOARD MEETING, 7PM
MEMBERS WORKSHOP/REPOTTING, 7:30PM
- NOVEMBER 9:** ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY 7:30PM



ABS Annual Auction last month.

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

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**President's Message
by Jonathan Wood**

What a great turnout we had for our September auction! Lots of club members and visitors acquired some great bonsai, pre-bonsai, and bonsai accessories. Thanks to all of our club members and their generous donations, I'm sure we raised a good amount of funding for our club programs. Thank you to our outstanding members for making this such a great auction!

The Corpus Christi bonsai convention is just around the corner this October 13-16. A few of our club members are heading down a day early to help with setting up the exhibit and to help TTSBE transport bonsai to the convention. This is sure to be an excellent convention and I hope you will come join in the fun, see bonsai on display from around the state, and participate or observe the educational workshops and demonstrations. If you have any questions about the convention you are welcome to email me at Jonathan.WoodJS@gmail.com for more info.

Happy Styling,
Jonathan Wood, ABS President

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.

PHOTO CORNER



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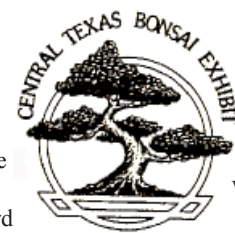


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web page: <http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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Sean Nahid
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Ryan & Lacey Morris
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OCTOBER BONSAI BY JOHN MILLER

Some years October here is quite warm with temps in the 90 while other years may see some frosts. All you can do is have your area ready and watch the forecasts.

If you have not checked your wiring yet this fall, you had better look at it. The fall growth can make the tree swell up and get bad wire marks in a hurry. If the tree/limbs do not stay where you want them, then rewire it placing the new wire in a slightly different path. When removing wire you should follow one wire from one end down the branch all the way to the other. If you jump from one wire to another it is very easy to miss a section. That would cause the branch to have a large swelling. Then the only solution would be to cut the limb off and grow a new one. A long repair job.

Cut back on the watering now that the temperature is a little lower but don't allow the trees to dry out. Trees require less water during the shorter days and lower temperatures. However you need to remember that the wind can still stress the trees so water by checking the soil and not just on a given schedule.

Insects will continue to be present. Cooler (but not cold) days mean a resurgence of the aphids. Mites will also still be around. Scale also can be a problem. Evergreens and any deciduous trees whose foliage turns can be treated with an 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.

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.

As the trees lose their foliage, you can study their trunk lines and branch structure. Any faulty styling and the general design features can be observed more easily and corrections planned. Look for crossing branches. Cut vertical growing twigs both growing up and those growing down. Reduce long internodes by cutting back and growing new extensions. Clean out heavy branch clusters that make the tree look too dense. Be particularly attentive to the formation of heavy branches in the top part of the tree where faster growth often occurs. Work can be done now or later during the winter at your leisure but it is too easy to forget about it when the tree is in winter storage.

Some may repot in the fall but I feel that it is counter-productive to do so. It has been stated that the key to safe repotting is to minimize root disturbance and to exclude severe pruning. This seems to me to be a recipe for developing root problems, poor drainage leading to root rot and the inability of the 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 you do the above paragraph this fall and repot at the proper time next spring.

Tropicals are the group that give most people trouble. If you do not have a greenhouse you have to find a place that does not freeze, has enough light, and will allow you to water properly. Florescent lights on shelves in the garage could be a solution. The lights should be within six inches of the plants for best results. If you try to keep them in the house, just remember that most houses are very low humidity in winter and that the sun coming thru the glass can be very hot and scorch the leaves.

Some plants like the pyracantha and crepe myrtle will grow outdoors in the ground in this area but the roots are not cold hardy. Those plants I try to let have some cold but get them protected before a freeze. Usually they get set on the ground with a light mulch for the light freezes (to 25 or so).

Deciduous trees should be getting ready for winter. You should be holding back on the nitrogen fertilizers now so that you discourage and new growth. Flowering and fruiting bonsai may be given some phosphorous and potassium if you desire. Insect damage is minimal at this time and is usually only cosmetic. If you have had scale problems, use a horticultural oil spray to keep them from over wintering on your trees.

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