



# Bonsai Notebook

*www.austinbonsaisociety.com*

*A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society*

*December 2013 vol 36*

## **December 2013 Programs**

by Bill Boytim

### **Holiday Party**

The December meeting has been moved, both in the date and the meeting place. Zilker Garden is closed due to the Trail of Lights on our normal meeting date. So our meeting will be held on Friday December 13th at Faith Presbyterian Church. The Church is located on the north side of Oltorf, approximately 1/2 block west of Interstate 35. The church will open at 5:00 pm for the elves to do the setup for the traditional Christmas dinner. Dinner should be served at approximately 6:30 pm. As in the past a turkey and a ham were provided by ABS members. Each family should bring a dish that will serve 5 to 8 people.

Please bring a Bonsai tree decorated in its Christmas finest. These will be used as the center pieces. Each attendee will have an opportunity to vote for the tree that they think is the best. A first, second and third place award will be given. The awards will have a John Naka theme.

There will be a silent auction during the December meeting for an etching of John Naka. This is number 99 of 100 etchings that were made. The etching was donated by Cheryl Manning and Alisan Clarke did the framing. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire this keepsake of the "Father of American Bonsai" and to help support the Austin Bonsai Society.

There will not be a workshop or a board meeting in December. Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas!

There will not be a workshop or a board meeting in

## **Calendar of Events**

**December 13, 2013: ABS Montly Meeting  
Holiday Party**

**No workshop or boardmeeting this month**

**January 8, 2014: ABS Monthly Meeting  
Pine Care and Training with Mike Hansen**

**January 11, 2014: LSBF Meeting  
11:30am at Jade Gardens**

**January 21, 2014: Board Meeting and Members  
Workshop  
Pine Care Workshop with Mike Hansen**



**Selecting and Repairing Pots with Alisan  
Clarke (Photo by Joey McCoy)  
2013 November ABS Meeting**

## Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

**Nan Jenkins**  
President

**Jimbo Baumann**  
Vice President

**Angelina Hewes**  
Secretary

**Pat Ware**  
Treasurer

**Russell Kohlert**  
Member at-Large

**Zerita Rogers**  
Member at-Large

**Deb Van Cleaf**  
Member at-Large

**Zerita Rogers**  
Member at-Large

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 inc

hes. 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

### President's Message

Merry Christmas, Everyone! I'm writing this on day three of our first real cold spell this year. I'm hoping that all the unwanted bugs in my yard are meeting their demise! And I'm hoping that all the trees are hardened off and will make it through this time just fine. The tropicals in the greenhouse are snuggled up and plenty warm.

Firing up the fireplace last night put me in a holiday mood, so I'm getting ready for the Christmas and holiday parties. I hope all of you can make it to the ABS party on Friday, December 13th. Bill has given you the details, and the specific address is in the advertisement in this newsletter. We have some mighty good cooks in this group. That means there are too many really tasty dishes to taste them all. It's always fun to see the trees and the many ways that people find to make them Christmasy. Remember to bring our check books or money to bid on the beautiful picture of John Naka, the father of American bonsai.

Do you have some bonsai equipment on your wish list? It's a great time to let someone else purchase some for you, but it will be most helpful, if you give details about the specific items you need or want. Maybe even sizes of pots or types, colors and shapes. If you need tools, be specific about size, type of tool, maybe even manufacturer. Titles and authors of books are the easiest to let someone else buy. You get the picture. Take it from me, it is really hard to get excited about the book that you already have three of! It's the thought that counts.

I hope you have a wonderful December with all its impossible expectations. Take a breath, enjoy some time with your trees, and most importantly, stay safe in your travels and with all that eating! We'll gather at our regular time and place in January.

-Nan

Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting  
November 19, 2013

Present: VP Bill Boytim, Treasurer: Pat Ware, Member at Large: John Muller, Russel Kohlert  
Also Present new 2014 Board Members—VP Jim Bauman “Jimbo”, Secretary Angelina Hewes, and Member at Large Deborah Van Cleef  
Not Present: Nan Jenkins, Zerita Rogers

Meeting started by B. Boytim at 7:10.

Discussed that new officers for 2014 were voted on / approved at the November 2013 general meeting.

Pat Ware stated 2014 Budget will be presented at Holiday / December Meeting since it was not presented at the November meeting. As of the end of October the auction returned approximately \$2400 to the club and moving forward to 2014 activities a balance of approximately \$4300 for next year. No major expenditures are expected for the balance of the year.

Discussions: December Program will be at the Faith Presbyterian Church on Oltorf Street just west of IH 35 on December 13, from 5-9 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Discussed silent auction for etching by John Naka donated by Cheryl Manning. Prizes to be given away for the best bonsai centerpiece will be the Naka Books. Alisan Clark will start setting up for party starting approximately 5 pm.

Lizzie Chen, Newsletter Editor will be compiling/editing December newsletter and will announce dues are due in January. Also, need four more people to do refreshments for the year 2014.

A brief program calendar was discussed. The January 2014 Program of Pine Care and Training presented by Mike Hansen has been scheduled. Soliciting input from new members on programs was discussed.

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## Bonsai Calendar

- SSOT meeting schedule for 2014: Feb. 15 - Combining trees with stones/creating fused trunk style shohin;  
Mar. 22 - Selecting bonsai and designing our display for the April L.S.B.F State Bonsai Convention;  
June 7 - Hands-on/how-to workshop to create your own shohin size bonsai pot(s);  
Sep. 20 - Annual business meeting and hands-on/how-to workshop about carving shohin including techniques for creating jin, shari, uro and more.
- LSBF 2014 Convention - Houston  
The 2014 convention will be held at the Houston Marriott-Westchase.

Austin Bonsai Society Montly Meeting Minutes  
November 13, 2013

Nan Jenkins, President discussed Christmas Pot Luck dinner at Faith Presbyterian on Oltorf Street just west of IH 35 on December 13, from 5-9 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please note this is a change in location and date of the event due to closure of Zilker Park clubhouse during the Holiday Festivals. Everyone is invited to bring a dish. The households of Brown/ Rogers / White / Van Cleaf are providing the turkey and ham—cooked and delivered to our Holiday Program. While Elaine and Hal White cannot be with us they send their very best wishes with the holiday ham. Thanks Zerita for delivering the savory delight !

A very special “framed picture of John Naka” donated by Bonsai Artist Cheryl Manning (an etching done by John Naka) will be auctioned to the members during this holiday program. The proceeds will go to the club.

Joe Trochta, member, missed the bonsai auction last month because he was out of town checking out the foliage in Newfoundland. He brought and donated some ficus for any of the club members who needed a ficus for their collection.

Voted on Board Members: Pres. Nan Jenkins; VP “Jimbo”, Jim Bauman; Secretary Angie Hewes; Treasurer Pat Ware; Members at Large: Russell Kohlert, Zerita Rogers, and Deborah Van Cleaf. All elected for 2014.

Nan pointed out the helpful sites for the Bonsai society: [www.austinbonsaisociety.com](http://www.austinbonsaisociety.com); Facebook: Austin Bonsai Society; and Bonsai Society Blog. Yahoo Group. You can get your questions answered. Blog available to members only.

Nan also talked about how to help protect your trees during the winter: e.g. Put them on the ground and cover bottom of pots with leaves or garden cloth.

Bill Boytim, introduced speaker/ member Alisan Clarke who gave a very interesting talk about “ Bonsai Pots—Identification, Selection, and the Repair”. Alisan discussed the history of bonsai pot making in Japan, China, and USA and how to identify the artist or various potters. Discussion of symbols and identification via “chop” and how pots were repaired.

Alisan, teaches restoration and creation of religious artifacts/iconography, gave a demonstration of pot restoration with similar techniques. The demonstration featured drill hole techniques to pot bottoms near crack areas with various repairs – this will stop the crack from continuing. She also demonstrated how you can restore/repair pots that have broken or cracked using super glue, JB Water weld adhesive and mesh, additional techniques were also demonstrated. Once you have repaired/restored the pots you can decorate/ age/ restore these cracks with gold leaf to cover or accentuate the cracks and make your broken pot look aged and restored with quality techniques.

Joey talked about how to choose pots for your bonsai and how the color you choose can offset the color of your tree. He pointed out how the pot Terry Ward chose for the Japanese Maple brought for the meeting centerpiece accentuates the beautiful fall colors of his tree.

All members gave high marks for this presentation and the discussion was excellent. These techniques have been featured at other Bonsai Seminars nationwide, taught by Kathy Shaner. Many thanks to Alisan for adapting this seminar and sharing her own techniques with “weld adhesives and gold leaf adaptations”.

Submitted by Angie Hewes

## December 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.*

Instead of thinking of December as the end of the year, try to think of it as the beginning of the bonsai calendar. What the trees are doing during their dormant season determines what they will do when growth starts later on.

While you are enjoying the beauty of the winter silhouettes you have time to enhance their appearance by selective pruning and trimming. Get rid of crossing branches and heavy top growth. Let the winter light penetrate to the heart of the tree to stimulate new buds which produce the new growth and strengthen weak branches in the spring.

Evergreen types especially and deciduous to a lesser extend should not have the root ball subjected to alternate freezing and thawing. That process tends to tear and damage the roots. Placing the trees on the ground and using a mulch will minimize this problem

Remove any trash on the surface of pots. This harbors insects and fungi spores over winter there. If you have problems with weeds, Kathy Shaner suggests to remove the top half-inch of soil, which contains the majority of the seeds, and replace it with new clean soil.

Watering is as much a problem in the winter as in summer. Since the temperature and humidity vary so much you need to watch the soil and water on an as needed basis. Deciduous trees will not need as much watering as the evergreens, especially the broad-leafed evergreens. Remember that if the soil is frozen the tree cannot take up moisture but the winds will still dry out the top, on deciduous as well as evergreen. Quite a problem, dry kills by desiccation while wet causes root rot. A good soil mix will minimize the problem.

It would be advisable to remove any buildup of moss

from your pots. Moss can act much as a thatch in your lawn to prevent water from penetrating evenly and also prevents you from seeing how dry the soil really is. Remove moss that tries to grow on the trunk and buttress roots as this will hold moisture and cause the bark to decay. Try spraying the moss on the trunk with alcohol.

Even tho you are positively sure that you have no bad insects, it is a good idea to use a horticultural oil spray. This kills overwintering insects and their eggs as well. I do not do this unless I find scale type insects because I want to keep the praying mantis egg cases for next year. These guys and the ladybugs take care of my aphids and mites. I also spray the evergreens with the fish emulsion, liquid kelp, vinegar and molasses organic spray during the winter.

Fertilization is usually ignored in the winter. Deciduous trees will be only be doing a little root growth at this time and thus will not be utilizing fertilizer effectively. The evergreens could use a low nitrogen fertilizer. Always use one with the trace minerals.

Take care of your tools during this time when you dont use the much. Clean and sharpen tools and apply a good rust inhibiting oil. Remove the buildup of sap and grime. Also clean all your spare pots to be ready for the repotting season ahead.

Bonsai in greenhouses or indoor bonsai will need to be watched for the normal indoor problems. Spider mites and scales are the biggest problems here but aphids may show up. Also keep an eagle eye on soil moisture. Trying to keep the humidity up by placing you trees on a humidity tray can possibly give you some soil problems, root rot or some other fungal disease.

If you have a greenhouse you can use it to work on some of the species that are normally left outside. Elms, Japanese maples, yaupons are some of the species that you can use. Before taking them into the greenhouse you should give them some preparation. They should be given some dormancy. Withhold fertilizer and keep on the dry side (not bone dry) until they start dormancy. Leave them out until

they have had some frost, two to three weeks for Chinese or Catlin elm, four weeks for the Japanese maples. I take some small tridents in later in the season (like January). Yaupons will do nicely without much dormancy at all. When you take them in keep in a cooler corner of the greenhouse and give them lots of water and fertilizer. They should respond fairly quickly. Be ready to pinch new growth or you will not benefit at all from the longer growing season.

Get out and locate some good material for enhancing your collection. If the club has a dig scheduled, be a part of it. There are many places where you can find one or two specimen to dig. The problem is in finding a place with enough material to warrant taking the whole club. If you know of a possible location tell one of the officers about it. This comes under the heading of 'be an active member'. The rest of the group (especially your program chairman) will appreciate it.

Be sure to mark you calendar for the LSBF convention in April next year. It will be held in Houston on April 10-14. Registration forms and info should be available soon on the website ([www.houstonbonsai.com](http://www.houstonbonsai.com)). Headliners Peter Adams, David DeGroot, and Arthur Joura. Kathy Shaner said Joura from North Carolina is a great artist.

## **ABS Annual Holiday Party**

Our meeting will be held on Friday December 13th at Faith Presbyterian Church. The Church is located on the north side of Oltorf, approximately 1/2 block west of Interstate 35. The church will open at 5:00 pm for the elves to do the setup for the traditional Christmas dinner. Dinner should be served at approximately 6:30 pm. As in the past a turkey and a ham were provided by ABS members. Each family should bring a dish that will serve 5 to 8 people.

### **Address:**

1314 E Oltorf St,  
Austin, TX 78704

## **Chrysalis Gift Shop at the Austin Area Garden Center Members only sale 20% Discount!**

### **New Members Directory:**

Chris Johnson:  
2407 W. 9th St.  
Austin, TX 78703  
(512)-705-0183  
[cjohnson@npraustin.com](mailto:cjohnson@npraustin.com)

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### **It's Time to Pay Your Dues:**

**Dues are due and payable on January 1st:**  
**Single Membership is \$30.00**  
**Family Membership is: \$35.00**  
**Cash and Checks are accepted**

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### **ABS is on Facebook**

**Like our ABS Facebook Page to stay up to date with news and events! It's also a great place to share tips and photos!**

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

# 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 John Muller)*