



# Bonsai Notebook

*www.austinbonsaisociety.com*

*A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society*

*October 2011 vol 10*

## October 2011 Programs by Collin Murphy

Two years ago our own Donna Dobberfuhl gave a presentation on Phoenix grafts. A Phoenix graft is grafting a living tree onto a piece of deadwood. Usually this is done by grafting a live juniper onto an interesting piece of juniper deadwood. With a Phoenix graft, on old, dead, but interesting trunk can be brought to life again, and even have better foliage than when it was alive. TTSBE is fortunate to have several interesting ashe juniper trunks that are prime candidates for Phoenix grafts. On **Wednesday, October 12th** Donna will give us an update about what she has learned in the past couple years. Pay close attention - there may be an upcoming workshop on Phoenix grafts!

Our monthly members workshop will be on **Tuesday, October 18th**. This will be an open workshop, which are becoming more and more popular. Wouldn't you like to have a couple hours to work on your trees without any interruptions? There are always some more experienced members who can answer questions and give advice. If you have that one tree you've been meaning to do some work on, but can never find the time, October's open workshop will be a great opportunity.

## Calendar of Events

**October 12th ABS Monthly Meeting  
Reception**

**Hosts: Carl and Noreen Quisenberry  
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**October 12th ABS Monthly Meeting  
Phoenix grafts with Donna Dobberfuhl  
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**October 18th ABS Board Meeting  
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm**

**October 18th ABS Member's Workshop  
Workshop - Open - Bring your  
Tree/Material  
Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm**



**Chuck Ware asks, what's the bid?  
at our September 2011 Annual Auction**

## Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

**Mike Watson**  
President

**Collin Murphy**  
Vice President

**Nan Jenkins**  
Secretary

**Pat Ware**  
Treasurer

**Becki Drozd**  
Member at-Large

**Timmi Kuykendall**  
Member at-Large

**John Muller**  
Member at-Large

**Joey McCoy**  
Former President

I remember the first time I attended a meeting of the Austin Bonsai Society. Joey McCoy was giving a presentation about urban collecting of bonsai material. Everyone was very nice and friendly to a newbie like myself. I was mostly impressed by the camaraderie and the way it felt like I was becoming part of a family when I joined. It was also amazing to see the teamwork involved to make the whole thing work.

As time went by and I became more aware of the inner workings of this club, I grew to appreciate what time and devotion goes into making it happen. It truly takes a village to raise a child (or in this case a club) and teamwork means everything. With that in mind, I feel that I have been remiss in showing my appreciation to the fellow members of the board and to the members of the club who have consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty. We all have our regular lives including family and jobs as well as our own bonsai to attend to. Taking the time out from that to further the education of this art to new people, as well as making this a fun and functional club, are key to keeping this club alive. My heartfelt thanks go out to all of you!

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.

John Muller is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". He may be contacted at [jcm2austx@sprintmail.com](mailto:jcm2austx@sprintmail.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).



Donated Item at the Annual Auction

**ABS General Meeting Minutes**  
**September 14, 2011**

**By Nan Jenkins, Secretary**

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by president Mike Watson. Our hosts for the evening were Mike Watson and John Muller, who provided wonderful refreshments.

Guests: Ruby Chaing, Gerrit Clemence and Kirby Hiscox.

**Announcements**

Joey McCoy gave information regarding the state convention in 2013, which we are co-hosting with San Antonio. He passed around a sheet for people to sign up for ways that they want to help. We especially need ideas for or donations of trees to be used in the workshops, ideas for visiting artists, logos and themes. Let Joey know of any of these that you would like to see us use. We need to pick the artists and trees almost immediately.

Collin Murphy announced the program for October 2nd. Eric Weigart is the LSBF visiting artist this year. He will be doing a demonstration at MBP Nursery in Pflugerville from 1:00 to 3:00 which is free to members and \$5.00 for visitors. The workshop will follow at 4:00 to 6:30, which is \$40.00. There are places available and a signup sheet is in the back. Everyone is invited to join us for dinner following the workshop at a restaurant yet to be determined. It is self-pay.

**Program:**

Collin introduced Chuck Ware who was the auctioneer for the auction this year. Chuck did the deed with his usual aplomb, energy, and fun. Everyone had a wonderful time, trees changed hands (mostly), and a goodly amount of money was raised for the club.

The meeting was dismissed at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Jenkins. Secretary

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e-mail: mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net

601 Kay Lane  
Pflugerville, TX 78660  
(call for directions)

LSBF (Lone Star Bonsai Federation), of which all members of the Austin Bonsai Society are members, has a website which might help members understand the organization better.

Please go to: <http://www.bonsai-lsbf.com>

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

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

**Bonsai Calendar**

- The 2012 state LSBF convention is in Dallas on April 27 - 29, 2012.

- The 2013 state LSBF convention will be April 11-13, 2013, at the New Braunfels Convention Center.

Know of an upcoming Bonsai event of interest to club members? Send the details to [jcm2austx@sprintmail.com](mailto:jcm2austx@sprintmail.com)

## **Announcement!**

The Nominating committee may be contacting you about vacancies on the Board for the 2012 Calendar year. The positions are:

Vice President and two (2) Members at-Large  
Please, seriously consider serving.

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### **September 2011 Garden Council Meeting**

Big changes are coming for the Austin Area Garden Council and Zilker Botanical Garden. At the first meeting of the year the board learned that a \$2 entry fee will be charged for the garden. This will not apply to club members. The city is strapped for money and has cut Zilker Botanical Garden support from \$700,000 to \$300,000. It is hoped that the difference can be made up in the income from the entry fees, which ZBG will have to collect. This is in the preliminary stages and implementation and logistical issues have to be worked out. If you have ideas, comments or input please contact me. The Parks Dept. values us and is eager to work with us to make this as smooth a transition as possible.

The Parks and Recreation Department has been totally reorganized. ZBG used to be in the Central Parks Division but has been moved to the "Cultural Affairs, Museums and Nature Centers Division" headed by Laura Esparza. Looks like a downgrade to me. They call ZBG the jewel in the crown of Austin so why not give us more prominence? We are the largest park in Austin, are centrally located near downtown and have more visitors than any other recreational site. We should be a separate category. I hope this is not bad news for our

future.

Money from the October bond issue has become available and planning is going on for roof repair, relining the fish pond, fixing a sinking sidewalk, fixing the Cupola, repairing the Swedish cabin and the walkway for the handicapped.

The city told us we have to pay for the 2 employees whom they hired for night duty last fall. They are city employees, answerable to the city, not us. We are not allowed to tell them what to do. I have asked for a job description from the city so we have some idea of what we can ask of them. Let's see if I get it. The AAGC has been paying for this as we did not want to charge the clubs \$40 a night. The gift shop has lost money for the last two years. We have had to pay thousands of dollars for police at our Spring Festival, which the city used to provide. As a result of all these problems, we are in the red at the end of the year. Hopefully the entry fee will do the trick. We need fundraising ideas and volunteers! See me if you are interested. We all want to keep the garden center a place for clubs to meet and promote gardening and horticulture.

Please send me any volunteer hours you have each month.

Charlotte Cranberg  
AAGC Club Representative  
cranchar@austin.rr.com

## September 2011 Annual Auction



## September 2011 Workshop



*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*

## 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.*

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 or possible wrap in the opposite direction.

Watch your watering now that the temperature is a little lower. Cut back on the watering but do not 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 and dry out the soil so you should 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. 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) will work on evergreens and will also give them some nutrients. The dead scale will probably have to be removed physically. A soft toothbrush works for me (I sometimes need to wet the branch to loosen the scale).

Feeding of deciduous trees should be discontinued for the winter. Evergreens and conifers will

benefit from a low nitrogen feeding. Organic fertilizers are better as they will breakdown into nutrients more slowly as the season gets cooler and the trees activity slows also. Be sure to use one that supplies the 13 micronutrients needed. The organic spray given above 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.

As the trees loose 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 the make the tree look too dense. Be particularly attentive to prevent 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. New roots are more prone to freeze damage if we get a bad winter Repot at the proper time next spring which is when the buds swell and new growth is imminent.

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 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.

Kathy Shaner (and Sylvia has said it too) has recommended that you remove the top 1/4 to 1/2 inch of soil and replace it with fresh soil. This will help eliminate weed seed that has blown in and may make watering easier.

Winter quarters: Here in Texas more trees are lost in the winter due to drying out than to the cold. Of course that doesn't 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. So while protecting the roots be sure to give it a wind screen but make sure that you can check the soil for watering needs. (it helps here if you know which particular plants dry out faster and situate them together. Winter kill usually comes because the soil has frozen and the sun and/or wind is removing water from the tops. The roots cannot obtain water to replenish the loss and the top dessicates to the point of death.



Eric Wigert - the LSBF visting artist working with the Demo material on Oct. 2, 2011 at MBP Bonsai Studio

## ABS May Board Meeting Minutes September 20, 2011

Present: Becki Drozd, Nan Jenkins, Joey McCoy, John Muller, Collin Murphy, Pat Ware, Mike Watson.

Call to Order: 7:04 pm

**Secretary report:** Approved as printed in the Bonsai Notebook.

**Treasurer's Report:** We are still showing a deficit of -\$2473.20 because of the down payment for the convention center. This will show until the convention in 2013. We had a good auction with an income of \$1828.00. Thank you everyone who donated items and who bought items!

Erik Weigart will be here for the LSBF visiting artist series on October 2nd at MBP Nursery. Pat will pick him up from San Antonio to bring him to Austin.

**Convention information:** Joey announced that there are Mustang Grapes available to collect in the San Antonio area. We need one more Dwarf Yaupon to have enough for a workshop. Pat reported that she has not yet made reservations for any rooms in the hotel as it is too early to know how many we might have, but the rates are good. We are still negotiating the number of hours per day that we have the convention center, but we need the schedule before we can finalize that.

**Nominating Committee:** President Mike Watson appointed Becki, Collin and Timmi as members of the nominating committee. We need three new members of the board for 2012.

Board adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nan Jenkins, Secretary

# 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

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