

# Bonsai Notebook

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

*A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society*

*September 2011 vol 9*

## September 2011 Programs by Collin Murphy

This month's meeting on **Wednesday, September 14th** is our annual auction. This event is the main source of income for our society and funds other programs, visiting artists, demonstration trees, and pays many other bills our society has. The auction will be the same format as in previous years. Members bring bonsai and bonsai-related items to the meeting and they will be auctioned during the meeting. Items can include bonsai, pre-bonsai material, pots, tools, scrolls, accent plants, books/magazines and other plants. Each item should be marked with a brief description and approximate value. An item may also be assigned a reserve by the donor. If the maximum bid does reach the reserve the item will be returned to the donor, or the donor may chose to accept the maximum bid. Reserves should only be set for more valuable items, usually items valued at around \$100 or more. Austin Bonsai Society will keep 100% of the auction proceeds. Our auction is always a lot of fun so bring trees to donate and money to spend!

The following workshop is the perfect opportunity to work on new material you won at the auction. Our members workshop on **Tuesday, September 20th** will be an open workshop.

## Calendar of Events

**September 14th ABS Monthly Meeting  
Reception**

**Hosts: Mike Watson and John Muller  
Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**September 14th ABS Monthly Meeting  
Annual Auction**

**Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**September 20th ABS Board Meeting**

**Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm**

**September 20th ABS Member's Workshop  
Workshop - Open or Bring your newly  
acquired Tree from the Auction**

**Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm**



**Collecting Ashe Junipers  
at our August 2011 Meeting with Mark Bynum**

## 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

There's a change in the air! I can feel autumn lurking in the wings, ready to take the stage and end this monotonous summer. So, how do I know this? Is it the cooler temperatures? Not likely. The return of precipitation? Ha! The changing colors of the leaves? Well, that's already happened due to the heat. The answer is... THE ANNUAL ABS AUCTION!!

This is one of my favorite programs of the year and here's why. We all have trees that we could part with. Either we are confounded as to what to do with them, or we just plain don't like them and want them off of our benches. We usually see the auction as a way to get trees cheaply by throwing the lowest bid possible and hoping we can get that nice trident maple for under \$20. As much as I appreciate that strategy, I want to suggest something else to think about.

The annual auction is the main funding for our club. Nothing else during the year provides the funds for our artist lecture/demos and workshops as much as this event. Let's up the ante on the bids and think more about what we are doing for the club than what we are gaining. It doesn't hurt to have nicer trees/pots/tool/etc. to offer more money for. When you are picking out trees to donate to the auction don't just grab the inferior ones that your'e tired of dealing with. Consider some of your higher quality bonsai! Think of the possibilities if we all did this. An auction of valuable trees where we all walk away happy!

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).



*Suiseki at State Convention  
(Photo by Joey McCoy)*

**ABS General Meeting Minutes**  
**August 8, 2011**

**By Nan Jenkins, Secretary**

President Mike Watson was absent because of illness. Vice-President Colin Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**Announcements**

Colin announced that the workshop on August 16th would be with Yvonne Padilla from the Corpus Christi club. We are to bring our own trees and she will help with styling and other questions we might have. The workshop is limited to 10 people, so sign up tonight. The cost is \$10.00 each.

Joey McCoy announced that the first meeting to begin planning for the state convention in 2013 will be September 11, 2011 at 1:00 at Jade Gardens in Wimberly. Everyone is invited to attend who is interested in helping with the convention in any way. Bring ideas that you would like to see at our convention such as speakers, types of workshops, and the committee that you would like to serve on.

Deb Van Cleef introduced our guests: Dick Nelson and Darren Rust.

**Program**

Colin then introduced our speaker for the night, Mark Bynum from the Ft. Worth club who gave a program on collecting trees. It was most interesting and helpful, especially the part about collecting Ashe Junipers and maintaining their root systems after collection.

Becki Drozd was in charge of the raffle drawing. All items were given away.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09.

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ph: 512-989-5831  
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>

**JADE GARDENS**

HOME OF



Chuck & Pat Ware  
Owners  
Visa & MasterCard

12404 Ranch Road 12  
Wimberley, TX 78676  
(512) 847-2514

e-mail: [bonsaijg@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaijg@gmail.com)  
web page: <http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

**Bonsai Calendar**

- On Sunday, October 2, 2011 the LSBF visiting artist will be Erik Wigert. Following a demo there will be a bring-your-own-tree workshop.
- 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.
- SSOT Quarterly Meeting - Presimmon Hill Bonsai - September 17, 2011

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

## It's CONVENTION time again!!

Hello Bonsai friends.. as the Chair of the 2013 combined Austin-San Antonio convention, I am excited to start planning this shindig. Kevin Preston (as co-Chair) and I will be working closely with volunteers from both clubs to put on workshops, exhibit, raffles and more for the entire state to enjoy. **Please save the date of Sept. 11th at 1pm at Jade Gardens in Wimberley** as our first meeting and please plan to join. After all, conventions are only as good as our volunteers. Let's help to make this one of the best!

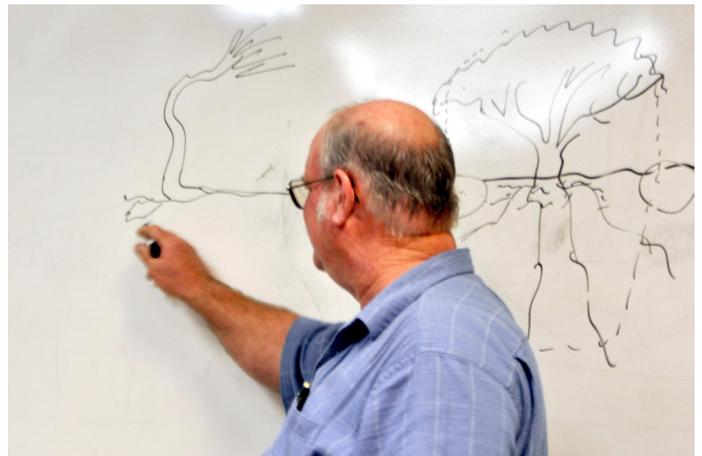
-Joey McCoy

**Where: Jade Gardens - 12404 Ranch Road 12 - Wimberley, TX 78676 - Sept. 11, 2011**

**Time: - 1:00 pm**

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### Collecting Natives - August 2011 General Meeting



*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*

## Workshop with Yvonne Padilla



*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*

## August 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.*

This has been a horrific summer for bonsai. I have not lost anything but some really look bad. This year I was forced to really take care of them and consequently I proved to myself something I had kinda surmised but that does not agree with popular opinion. Trees do not go into summer dormancy. All my trees have continued to grow throughout the heat (100+ in daytime and above 80 at night). The elms, Chinese Catlin Cedar, and the oaks, (live oak, shumard, post oak), seem to relish the added watering. The only bad thing is that the Japanese maples continue to grow but the new tips get scorched.

The forecasts are indicating some relief soon but there should still be some days with pretty hot temps. Keep after the extra care. And as the sun changes its angle make sure that the pots do not get too much afternoon sun.

A strange item to be talking about with the temp outside now at 103 but the situation may change in a hurry so be ready. Help your trees go into dormancy. Withhold fertilizers from those outdoor trees in mid Sept. They would need less water as they quit active growth but on warm days trees with green foliage will still transpire and need that water. Most tropicals have a dormant season also but it is caused by dry conditions rather than cold. These types need to be hardened also by cutting the fertilizer to halt active growth and lighter watering. This will enable them to withstand the transfer to the greenhouse better.

Check the trees you still have wire on. When the cooler days get here some trees will expand their branches and get wire cuts rather quickly. You need to check them periodically over the winter also. Winter growth will usually be pretty slow but can occur, especially on the evergreens. Cut the wire off. You can easily break the branches trying to unwrap the wire and its just not worth trying to save the wire. If you need to reapply some wire take care.

Two other things you can do now. You should prepare your winter quarters and you should study your evergreen trees to determine if you need to do any restyling later on this fall.

Check on the place you expect to winter your bonsai.

(1) Make sure that it is clean. Debris harbors insects and other plant pathogens. A strong lime-sulfur spray can be used to disinfect the area as well as your growing area after the trees are removed.

(2) Also be sure that you will be able to check the water needs of the trees.

(3) It should be somewhat protected from winds but should have some air movement to help prevent molds from developing.

(4) Having it in a location where you can see the trees will allow you to enjoy the winter silhouette, i.e. the branch structure and twiginess, that is a great part of deciduous bonsai.

There is not too much to be done on deciduous trees at this time. Bugs and other problems are usually not a matter of concern since the foliage will be dropping soon. Scale on the stems must be taken care of. Evergreens and tropicals will still need to be watched for their insect problems, especially the spider mite which will be active into fall. Use the organic spray formula to control them. If we should have a stretch of damp weather you should be watching for

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fungal problems, leaf spot, mildew, etc. Treat fungal with potassium bicarbonate, (baking soda-sodium bicarbonate- will work about as well). I would be okay with using a 1% hydrogen peroxide solution at this time of the year for fungal control.

The organic spray formula is one tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water. This can be used as a foliar feed but I only consider it an insecticide.

Pruning and trimming 'can' be done any time that there is not a lot of sap flowing but is usually advisable to do it during dormancy. Sap flow is indicated by the foliar activity of the plant like in the spring.

If your tree went into summer dormancy? which occurs during hot weather then the cooler weather might result in a larger sap flow in late summer or early fall. If your plant gets a flush of new growth it would be advisable to postpone large pruning cuts for a while. Basically let you tree tell you when it is ok to operate.

Check nurseries for possible bonsai material. When the season is over they usually put everything on sale to clear it out so they can fill up with christmas trees.

## ABS May Board Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2011

Minutes- Present: Nan Jenkins, Timmi Kuykendall, Joey McCoy, John Muller, Collin Murphy, Pat Ware  
Call to Order at 7:10 pm.

**Minutes:** There was one correction to last month's minutes. Regarding the Treasurer's Report; the front money for the 2013 state convention will be returned to us from the profits of the "convention" not "LSBF." Minutes approved as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report:** Because of the money for the convention reservations, we remain in the red by \$2128.74.

**New Business:** We discussed the details concerning the demonstration and workshop to be held on October 2nd. Erik Wigert will be the visiting bonsai artist. Because of schedule restrictions, the workshop and demonstration will both be held on Sunday, October 2nd at the MBP Studios in Pflugerville. Times and costs of the programs are:

*Demonstration:* 1:00-3:00 No charge for members, \$5:00 for non-members

*Workshop:* 4:00-6:30 \$40.00 each with a limit of 8 people. Bring your own tree

*Dinner afterward:* Place to be decided Everyone is invited Pay your own way

The ABS Annual Auction is scheduled for September 14th at our regular meeting. Everyone is encouraged to bring bonsai, pre-bonsai, pots, stands, scrolls, books, magazines, tools, wire, etc. as well as other items that might be of interest to bonsai maniacs. This is our primary money-raising event of the year, so bring your stuff and your money and let's raise some dough for all of our events for next year.

**Reserved Dates for 2012 at Zilker Garden Center:**

*Regular meetings:* Second Wednesday of the month  
Building open 6:30-10:00

*Workshops and Board Meeting:* Third Tuesday of the month  
Building open 6:30-9:30

*ABS Annual Club Exhibit:* May 19-20, 2012, with set up on May 18th

Motion to adjourn made by Timmi, seconded by Nan, Passed. Adjourn at 7:45

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

