



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

December 2008

December Programs

by Joey McCoy

What a great year! To wrap up our Austin Bonsai calendar, we're having our annual **Christmas party on Saturday, December 6th from 6:30 – 9:00pm**. This is a time to have a meal and a drink and talk to your fellow Bonsai friends in a relaxed setting without the rush of a program. Feel free to bring along your spouse or family or even a friend, but do bring a side dish to share with others. Our perpetually effervescent refreshment hostess, Alisan, is still heading up the food side of things, so if you'd like to help her out, please give her a call! And to make the decorations both beautiful and democratic, please bring a Bonsai tree to decorate the centers of our tables - with a nice stand if you have it. Right now there are some trees which look their best – Hollies in full red berry, the fine tracery of deciduous trees after they've lost their summer cloak of leaves, Camelia which have swelling flower buds, etc. We should use the opportunity to share our trees with others throughout the year, not just at the shows! Everyone who brings a tree will be entered into the raffle and have the chance to be one of the 3 lucky winners who will receive a Bonsai goodie bag! I'll see all of you there!

Calendar of Events

December 6 ABS Christmas Party
Zilker Garden Center 6:30 - 9:00 pm

(January's hosts: Alisan Clarke and Pat Ware)

No other meetings in December



Jim Trahan presents a plaque to Mike Hansen for his efforts planning the ABS Learning Seminars in San Antonio earlier this year. Mike was also presented with a portrait drawn by Donna Dobberfuhl that was used during the ABS Seminars.

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Jim Trahan
President

Joey McCoy
Vice President

Charlotte Cranberg
Secretary

Pat Ware
Treasurer

Nancy Moore
Member at-Large

Collin Murphy
Member at-Large

Mike Watson
Member at-Large

Carl Quisenberry
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**PERSIMMON HILL BONSAI
STUDIO & NURSERY**

Terry & Sheila Ward **Austin, Texas**
512-280-5575 - phbonsai@sbcglobal.net - By Appointment

November 2008 ABS General Meeting Minutes by Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by VP Joey McCoy in the Greene Room of the Austin Area Garden Center. Present were Joey, Pat Ware, Charlotte Cranberg, Mike Watson and Collin Murphy.

James Constabile and Sunny Huang were thanked for refreshments.

Treasurer Pat Ware presented the budget for 2009, which was approved.

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.

Collin Murphy is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". He may be contacted at ckmurphy2000@yahoo.com.

Directory Corrections

None

Directory Additions

None

President's Message
by Jim Trahan

I'm not usually interested in holiday festivities. Frankly, the very idea of attending a holiday party reminds me of everything I do not like about the holidays—obligatory attendance, silly games, salty casseroles and awkward but polite conversations with people I won't see until the next holiday season. As you can see, I'm a real Eeyore (if not a Grinch) when it comes to the holidays. I could make ol' Ebenezer look like a pretty nice guy this time of year!

I confess that this is why I have avoided the club's Holiday Party for so many years. Though you may not be as "bah-humbug" as I am, I bet that you can relate to how I feel. I imagine that some of you have avoided the party too for a few of the same reasons.

Here is the seldom discussed truth about the Holiday Part: it is fun. Really, it is! I was surprised too.

I sat there the first time, eating great food and having a great conversation with Marlon when I realized that most of the club was missing out on this. Probably only a third of the club attended and it has been like this for almost a decade. I was really surprised and knew that I needed to let everyone in on this.

Allow me to deconstruct my assumptions:

Obligatory Attendance—you don't have to come. You don't even have to bring a potluck dish to attend. I can't make you have fun. As my 4 year old often reminds me, I'm not the boss of you. You can stay home and be smugly confident that you are not having as much fun as the rest of us.

Silly Games— there are games, but nothing as silly or potentially embarrassing as Twister, Musical Chairs or that piñata game (Charlotte!). The greatest danger of embarrassment is that you might win something silly, like a holiday-themed Portulacaria bonsai.

Salty Casseroles— this was way off the mark! We have some really, really great cooks in our

club. I see a lot of recipes being shared each year. No macaroni and tuna casserole here folks! In addition to the traditional fare we even had sushi last year. There is always something yummy for our vegetarian members.

Awkward Conversations— this is not the same as your spouse's company party. There's no booze, the secretary is married and I'm pretty sure it would be impossible to do anything too embarrassing with that copier in the Library. We all have the same interest and for the first time we are really able to socialize with each other. We seldom have a chance to just sit and talk trees. This is that chance.

As you can see, the Holiday Party is not like typical holiday affairs. It is a great time, filled with camaraderie and good food. Too few of you make the party each year and that makes it feel a little like a secret, like a party just for the "in crowd". It is neither a secret nor just for certain members. The party is for all of you and it is very fun. I hope you can make it!

JADE GARDENS
HOME OF



Chuck & Pat Ware
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web page: <http://www.wimberley-tx.com/~bonsaijg>

REMINDER

Yearly dues are due in January. The membership rates are the same as last year:

\$25.00 for an individual membership

\$30.00 for a family membership

\$12.50 for a student membership

Only club members who have paid the current year's membership dues receive newsletters and can participate in the monthly workshops.

Bonsai Calendar

LSBF Convention	Houston, TX	April 16 - 19, 2009	www.houstonbonsai.com
Shohin St Louis	St Louis, MO	April 24 - 26, 2009	www.stlbonsai.org
ABS Learning Seminars	Boise, ID	June 11 - 14, 2009	www.absbonsai.org

Know of an upcoming Bonsai event of interest to club members? Send the details to ckmurphy2000@yahoo.com and it will be posted here.

This Year 2008 with TTSBE
by Alisan Clarke, TTSBE Chairman

State wide support and our Pioneer Society have made Big changes in the landscape in Mustang Ridge Tx. The road enters the property through a gate , Texas Ranch style. Above the gate, Jimbo fastened the title for everyone to see. Off to the side is the 4x8 painting by Alisan, of an Asian garden based on the plans done for us by John Pittenger.

Our fund raisers kicked off with MBP sponsored artist Hierogi-San, from Japan, doing a demo and then a raffle tree. March we had a garage sale followed by an information booth at Zilker Fest. The next month we did San Antonio Fiesta Biergarten booth sponsored by Donn's Sculpture studio location. June found us all at ABS Seminar. LSBF, San Antonio and Austin Bonsai all worked together to make the San Antonio event a good experience. Donna's designed gate made the booth for us a hit.

October opened our new " foster a tree" event. Trees were from Bill Cody. Terry Ward helped us organise the state wide opportunity and Elaine White shared her Lake View hill top with us. Kathy Shaner our Bonsai Master advisor gave us a wonderful start on this project. Thanks to all our club reps , LSBF and the board for all their help.

Our newsletter and Invitation to support The Cornerstone Society, our building phase 1, have been sent out. You can keep in touch on the web TTSBE.org and to make it easier you can send us your e-mail.

November 2008 ABS Board Meeting Minutes
by Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by VP Joey McCoy.

Treasurer Pat Ware reported \$329.01 income over expenses for October. She deposited \$1375 for the auction. The cost for Kathy Shaner was \$181.66.

The Christmas Party was discussed.

Programs for next year were discussed.

Email-only Newsletters

Printing newsletters each month costs the club over \$1,000 per year. You can help reduce this club expense by opting to receive the email-only version of this newsletter, which does not cost the club anything to produce. If you would like to stop receiving the print version of the newsletter, send an email to the newsletter editor at ckmurphy2000@yahoo.com. You will still receive an email version regardless of your choice regarding the print version.

MBP Bonsai Studio

Importers, Retail & Wholesale

Your source for:

High quality Yagimitsu & Ryukoh tools

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Classes & Seminars

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ph: 512-989-5831

e-mail: mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net

601 Kay Lane

Pflugerville, TX 78660

(call for directions)

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.

Why don't you give bonsai a present this year. The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit is progressing well but could go a lot faster with more donations. Send a check to The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, Inc/13450 N. Highway 183m Suite #116/ Austin, TX 78750-3227. Join the Cornerstone Society with a gift of \$100 or more. Find full details on the web www.ttsbe.org.

Usually not too much has to be done right now. That is if you prepared last month and you have no tropic-als inside to care for. The big thing is to know what temperatures your trees can withstand and to remember that water is very important in the winter time. If you did not get your pines and junipers taken care of last month, do it quickly.

Since the trees are not using as much water during dormancy it is easy to overlook checking on them. The low humidity usually found during winter helps dry the soil. Winter sun can be pretty hot and if it shines directly on the pot it will hasten the drying process. Winter will usually also be more windy. Therefore, however you bed down the trees, you need to check the dryness often. The same trees that needed more water last summer will also need to be checked more often during the winter. I think that more trees are lost during the winter to having the soil dry out than from the actual cold.

Deciduous trees should not be placed where they receive winter sun. After a period of dormancy, the heating of the tree could possibly cause it to break dormancy prematurely. If that happened you would need to keep it above freezing the rest of the winter.

Plants have different degrees of hardiness for their top growth and their roots. The reason being that the ground acts a large reservoir of heat and here in Texas seldom freezes more than an inch or two down. Therefore, plants like the pomegranate and crepe myrtle which is at the northern extent of their range outside will only be hardy to 32 degrees in pots. Any plant that you are

unsure of should be protected from freezing. This can be a problem because if they are not kept cool after they go dormant they will break dormancy and start to grow too soon. Growing without sufficient light cause long spindly growth which you cannot control. My best solution for this when I lived in town was to have a long platform with two wheels that I pulled into the garage on nights where freezing was forecast and kept outside at all other times.

The cold weather will keep any insect problems under control outside. You should use a dormant oil spray to kill over-wintering insets and eggs. A dilute spray of lime-sulfur can be used on deciduous trees if they have no green at all which will also control fungal spores but be sure to follow label directions carefully. You should watch for damage from rodent types, rabbits, squirrel, and rats. They will seriously prune branches and strip bark in short order..

Bonsai in greenhouses or indoor bonsai will need to be watched for the normal indoor problems. Low humidity, spider mites and scales are the biggest problems here. 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. I use the same controls in the greenhouse that I use outside all year.

You can take advantage of the winter slowdown by spending your time getting pots ready for spring, clean and sharpen your tools, study what changes you would like to make on your trees and so forth. Making notes about what needs to be done on an individual tree is great but if you are like me the notes and trees are usually a long way apart. If you place a colored stake or ribbon on the tree you will see instantly which one needs what done. For example, I am using red for needs repotting, purple-needs a new pot, yellow-serious pruning, orange-should be restyled, etc. These can be put on during the year if you make that kind of decision as you are doing general routine work.

Be sure to mark you calendar for the LSBF convention in April next year. It will be held in Houston on April 16-19 at the Mariott Houston Westchase. Registration forms and info will be sent to the clubs in January. Headliners will be Boon Manakitivipart and Roy Nagatoshi of California and Mrs Milagros Rauber of South America.

November Member's Workshop
Photos by Joey McCoy

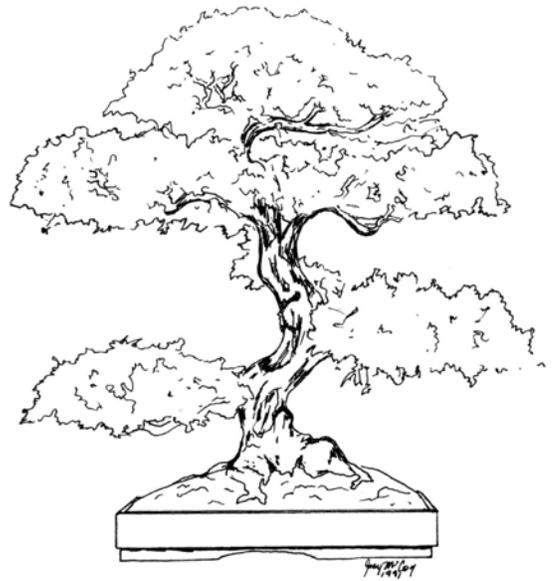


Mike Watson and Tom McGuire work on trees at November's Workshop

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 \$25.00 for an individual and \$30.00 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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