



# Bonsai Notebook

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

*A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society*

*December 2010*

## December Programs

by Mike Watson

I really enjoy this time of year. My trees are showing their fall colors, the few tropicals that I have are tucked into their winter home in anticipation of the first real freeze, and our Christmas pot-luck dinner is right around the corner. The date this year is **Wednesday, December 8th** and you are all encouraged to bring a side dish, dessert, or whatever you want (the club is providing meat). Members are also encouraged to bring a decorated bonsai or two. I'm always amazed at the ideas people come up with for their "Christmas trees".

Last, but not least, we will be having a free raffle! Everyone will receive a ticket and get an equal chance to win. There will be a very nice pot, bonsai

## Austin Bonsai Society Christmas Party

**Wednesday, December 8th**

*Setup begins at 5:30 p.m.*

*Dinner at 7:00 p.m.*

Bring a side dish that  
can serve 8 people

## Calendar of Events

**December 8th ABS Christmas Party**  
(January's hosts: Alisan Clarke and  
Pat Ware)  
**Zilker Garden Center 5:30 pm**

magazines and books, and quite a few other items for you to possibly win. Sound fun? I know I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

Also, just a reminder that there will be no members' workshop in December. Happy Holidays everyone!

## News From TTSBE

**The first dig of the season is scheduled for December 4th and December 11th. Over 60 acres with a large variety of native trees.**

Go to  
[www.keeperaustinbeautiful.org/node/1145](http://www.keeperaustinbeautiful.org/node/1145)  
for times, direction and more information.

## Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

**Joey McCoy**  
President

**Mike Watson**  
Vice President

**Collin Murphy**  
Secretary

**Pat Ware**  
Treasurer

**Becki Drozd**  
Member at-Large

**Charlotte Cranberg**  
Member at-Large

**Nan Jenkins**  
Member at-Large

**Jim Trahan**  
Former 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.

Collin Murphy is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". He may be contacted at [ckmurphy2000@yahoo.com](mailto:ckmurphy2000@yahoo.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 Joey McCoy

What a terrific auction we had last month! It was a lively, quick-paced evening with more material than I thought we could go through, but thanks to Donna's work as the auctioneer, the tables were cleared and everyone went home with new treasures. While Mike W. and I loaded the tables, Jimbo ran the items and tags to Pat and I think just about ran his legs off! Many thanks to him for making the evening run as smoothly as it did! Thank you to everyone who brought in trees, pots, magazines and more, and also a big thanks to all those who placed the bids and parted with some money to pay for next year's programs!

We were so wrapped up in the auction that we all forgot to mention the December program: our annual Holiday Party! As several people noticed, we didn't pass around the sheet to ask what everyone was going to bring to this pot-luck party. As usual, the club is providing the meat, so everyone bring your favorite side dish and we'll all share. Instead of our previous meeting on Saturday, we're going to have the party on our normal date of Wednesday December 8th. The building is going to be available starting at 5:30 to set up, and we plan on having dinner at about 7pm. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

This really has been a terrific two years I've had as President, and I'd like to thank everyone for pitching in and helping in all those millions of big and little ways which makes our club such a special place. It really has been an honor to serve and to help to lead the club. I would encourage anyone who thinks they might like to take a more active role to go for it. The rewards are immeasurable. Let's all welcome Mike Watson as the new president and help him in any way he needs.

**ABS November General Meeting Minutes**  
by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Joey thanked Sheila Ward and Bill Boytim for hosting.

Copies of next year's budget were distributed. The budget was unanimously approved.

Next years board nominees were announced as follows:

President: Mike Watson  
Vice President: Collin Murphy  
Secretary: Nan Jenkins  
Treasurer: Pat Ware  
Members at Large: John Muller, Becki Drozd,  
and Timmi Kuykendall

A vote was held and the nominees were unanimously approved.

Donna Dobberfuhl announced a statewide TTSBE fundraising competition. Clubs should begin collecting and saving copper and aluminum wire. Whichever club collects the largest amount by next year's LSBF convention in Corpus Christi will win a large reproduction bunjin pot. ABS members can begin bringing wire to club meetings. Be sure to keep the aluminum and copper wire separate.

The auction started, with Donna serving as auctioneer.

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**ABS November Board Meeting Minutes**  
by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. present were Becki Drozd, Nan Jenkins, Pat Ware, Joey McCoy and Collin Murphy.

**MBP Bonsai Studio**  
Importers, Retail & Wholesale  
Your source for:  
High quality Yagimitsu & Ryukoh tools  
Organic Bonsai Fertilizers  
Imported and Domestic Trees  
Bonsai Pottery, Soils and supplies  
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*Open Tuesday Through Sunday*



ph: 512-989-5831  
e-mail: mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net  
601 Kay Lane  
Pflugerville, TX 78660  
(call for directions)

Pat gave the treasurer's report. Our expenses over income for the previous month are \$30.39.

This year's Christmas party will be on Wednesday, December 8th. Setup will start at 5:30 p.m., dinner will be at 7 p.m. and we must be out of the building by 9:30 p.m. Everyone needs to bring a side dish to serve 8 people.

Next year's programs and workshops were also discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**JADE GARDENS**  
HOME OF



Chuck & Pat Ware  
Owners  
Visa & MasterCard  
e-mail: bonsaijg@gmail.com  
web page: <http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

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

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## Bonsai Calendar

**LSBF Convention**

**Corpus Christi**

**May 14 - 15, 2011**

**St Louis Shohin Seminar**

**Collinsville, IL**

**May 20 - 22, 2011**

<http://www.stlbonsai.org/events.htm>

**Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show**

**May 28 - 29, 2011**

*Know of an upcoming Bonsai event of interest to club members? Send the details to [ckmurphy2000@yahoo.com](mailto:ckmurphy2000@yahoo.com)*

**Annual Auction**  
*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*



*Many plants were available at November's auction*

**Member's Workshop**  
*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*



*Working on trees during November's workshop*

## 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.*

Usually not too much has to be done right now. That is if you prepared last month and you have no tropicals 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. A spray of horticultural oil can

also be used. 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. I use the same controls in the greenhouse that I use outside all year. Trying to keep the humidity up by placing you trees on a humidity tray can possibly give you some soil problems.

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, use 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.

Why don't you give bonsai a present this year. The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit is progressing 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](http://www.ttsbe.org).

Mark your calendars for the 2011 convention in Corpus Christi. It will be titled "Gateway of Bonsai" and will be held on May 13-15. The convention hotel will be the Holiday Inn Emerald Beach and rooms will be \$99/night. The guest artists will be Ed Trout, Bill Valavnis, and Shaun Smith. All plant material is in-hand. It will include a previously unseen species of weeping elm (shohin sized) the workshop for which will be led by Terry Ward. There will be a daiza carving workshop in which the stone and wood are provided. Also included, are an exhibition critique, a slide show on suiseki and bonsai, and an "Emerging Talent" competition. That will take place on Thursday before the convention and will be a sponsored event wherein shim-pakus will be provided for styling and each club will be invited to nominate one member to participate. There will be guidelines for who is eligible and the styled trees will be auctioned afterward. Also on Thursday evening there will be an "Early Bird Reception" at which hors d'oeuvres and liquid refreshments will be provided



The 24" bunjin is a mass produced cement pot probably Vietnamese. The pot is going to be reproduced in a more appropriate material for use as a bonsai pot by Sculptural Designs Atelier. The wire will be recycled and the funds will help build the exhibit.

# 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 \$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

