



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

December 2009

December Programs

by Mike Watson

Happy Holidays everyone! As I watch my trees showing off their autumn colors, it seems like just yesterday that I was standing over them with the water hose in a full July sweat! This truly is my favorite time of year for bonsai. Less stress and the fall colors are more to my taste than the showy flowers of spring.

The annual club Christmas party will be on **Saturday, December 5th** at the regular meeting place. This is always a great time to be with bonsai friends and eat great food. This is a pot-luck dinner so please bring a dish (and your appetite). Alisan Clarke will need some "Christmas Elves" to help her with the setup. Volunteers can call her at 327-3168 or myself at 731-7092.

There will also be a Christmas bonsai tree decoration contest. Dress your tree up in Holiday themed garb (innovation and humor are very welcome) and you will have a chance to win a beautiful Sara Rayner pot. Second and third place winners will win a nice quality pot as well. I am looking forward to seeing you all there!

There will be no member's workshop this month. Enjoy the Season!

Calendar of Events

December 5 Christmas Party
Zilker Garden Center 6:00 - 9:00 pm



A Bougainvillea on display from last year's ABS Christmas Party

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Joey McCoy
President

Mike Watson
Vice President

Collin Murphy
Secretary

Pat Ware
Treasurer

Carl Quisenberry
Member at-Large

Noreen Quisenberry
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.

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President's Message by Joey McCoy

What a fantastic year it has been! Digs, convention, shows and programs, the year seemed to fly by and now we are heading into December when the cool (or cold) weather allows us to slow down a bit on our hobby. While many of our trees aren't growing nor needing active care, we can start thinking about next year. We have 4 great opportunities for displaying our trees in the early part of 2010. In March, the Lady Bird Wildflower Center is requesting native trees to be displayed to the public. Mike Hansen is coordinating the show. Also in March we will have an educational display at Zilker Garden Fest, giving us the opportunity to educate the public and possibly meet new members! Our annual Austin Bonsai May show is well attended and always a great way to show our horticultural and artistic skills to the public. Finally in June, the Lone Star Bonsai Federation State show and convention will be in Fort Worth. The focus will be on natives with an emphasis on Ashe Junipers. I know that we have some outstanding trees in our club that I would love to see represented at these displays! Now is a great time to look over our collections and decide on ways to improve their look by small measures and large: change in a planting angle, a new or better pot, wiring some change into the structure of the branches, a plan on thinning out certain areas, etc. The planning and deciding stages can be done best when we're taking a break from the everyday care and chores of our trees. Above all though, enjoy Bonsai, it's a fun art that's sometimes just as much fun to share with others.

Our last and most laid back program of the year is our Christmas party, coming up on Dec 5th. It's a great time to just relax, chat, eat and take in the wonderful personalities that make up our club. Be sure to bring a dish (call Alisan if you have a question) and I'll see everyone there!

ABS November General Meeting Minutes
by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He reminded everyone about the upcoming Christmas Party in December.

Elaine White brought copies of the latest TTSBE newsletter for everyone.

Donna Dobberfuhl informed everyone about the GSBF auction in California in February.

Joey then gave a lecture about bonsai tool sharpening.

Directory Additions

Cass and Scout Stormcloud Hook
15753 Booth Cr
Volente TX 78641
stormcloud@cloudhook.net

ABS Board November Meeting Minutes
by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were board members Joey McCoy, Mike Watson, Pat Ware, and Collin Murphy.

Mike Hansen presented to the board an opportunity for a bonsai exhibition at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The exhibit will be in conjunction with an art exhibit from March 13 to May 30. The bonsai exhibit is limited to medium-sized and larger Texas natives. About 20 trees are needed. The trees will be physically secured to tables and will be well taken care of. Mike Hansen and Bill Boytim are co-chairs of the exhibit and will perform maintenance pruning. Last year's bonsai exhibit at the Wildflower Center was very well received. Trees are needed for the display. If you have a medium-size or larger Texas native bonsai in show condition contact Mike Hansen.

Pat reported that income over expenses as of October 31 is \$929.11. There was a loss of \$105 for the Kathy Shaner demo.

The board had a discussion about how to improve the raffles at monthly meetings. If anyone has any ideas on how to improve raffles, let a board member know.

The Christmas party will start at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Bonsai Calendar

California Shohin Seminar
St Louis Shohin Seminar

Santa Nella, CA
Collinsville, IL

February 5 - 7, 2010
May 20 - 22, 2011

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



The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit

TTSBE HIGHLIGHTS 2009

- I. JAN 09: Chris Hewitt, a consultant for TTSBE, completed the site plan design for the exhibit.
- Fall 2008 fund raiser added 12 donors to the Cornerstone Society.
- II. FEB 09: A riding mower has been donated along with a push-mower, chain saw, two wheelbarrows, pick axe and other small items.
- A permanent entrance gate was completed.
 - TTSBE sponsored the third annual Red Bird Ranch collecting trip. Two Houston area bonsai artists participated, Kerry Rose and Pete Parker.
- III. MAR 09: The spring newsletter will be available at the Houston Convention.
- A new presentation folder has been completed. It is a full color package to be used for presentations to potential donors.
- IV. APR 09: A surveyor has volunteered to mark the locations of the buildings to be placed on the site.
- V. May 09: The Houston convention hosts placed our booth at a prominent location. The TTSBE booth was very visible and the sales reflected that. A p - proximately \$1700 was added to the treasury. **THANK YOU HBS AND LSBF FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**
- Alamo Community college student surveyors under the supervision of their teacher, Mike Ritter, of "Texas Park and Wildlife" department continued the surveying of the site.
- b. Bonsai Video Production: Students from "Austin Film Works" supervised by a University of Texas Professor interviewed TTSBE board members and Mike Hansen and produced a film, "Bonsai in Texas" it was shown on 11th of May.
- MaryAnn, the wife of Bill Adder donated bonsai items in her husband's name. A donation of approximately \$1500 of library and history of bonsai items were received.
- VI. June 09: Oscar Zeno and Trent Voigt have become the final two foster-parents for the cedar elm group
- (The board did not meet in July and August).
- VII. SEPT 09: 15 Ashe Junipers were donated by Bill Cody and are available for Foster Care.
- VIII. OCT 09: Mike Watson has completed the design work on the Reception building which will include all functions until the other buildings are built.
- Two sheds have been acquired for storage on the exhibit land. One purchased and the second donated. Some tools have been also donated; a riding mower, push-mower, wheelbarrows, chain-saw, pick axe and other small items.

continued on page 7

Tool Sharpening with Joey McCoy
Photos by Joey McCoy



Joey talked about several methods for sharpening tools during November's meeting

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.

There are only two must do things for bonsai in December.

One--Watch the weather forecasts. I always look at the ten day forecast too. It is not accurate enough to trust your bonsai to but it may give you some extra time. I like to get the dew point temperature on cold days also. On clear calm nights the temperature can drop to the dew point. I trust that as much as the low given on the tv news. Frost can also occur and damage sensitive leaves at temps above 32. A light cover will usually protect your trees from that or even just having them under a patio cover.

Two--Watch the water in your pots. I think more winter damage is done (on most bonsai) from the soil getting too dry. In the good ole days women hung the wash out even in freezing weather because the ice would sublime leaving the clothes bone dry. Also plants cannot absorb water from a frozen soil. Then there is the wind. It doesn't take much air flow to desiccate the top of the trees and dry the soil especially if the sun is warming it some.

I consider repotting during the winter a no-no. When you repot you will stimulate new root growth. New roots are much more susceptible to cold damage therefore you would have to move that tree to an area protected from freezing. Repotting tropicals would be subject to your own particular growing area. If you keep the area above 60 degrees and cool enough during the day that the plants are actively growing you could probably do it.

I do a lot of extra work on some of my Shohin, especially the Catlin Elms so that I can enjoy them in January. I have found that if I let them get fully dormant and some freezing for about 4 weeks, I can then take them into my cool (40 at night) greenhouse. They will then break dormancy and I can repot them and act like it is March. So I spend a lot of winter playing

with them. Other species can be treated in a similar fashion adjusting the amount of cold and length of dormancy for each species.

Winter is the preferred time for working on most bonsai. Junipers and pines can be styled and maintenance work done with a minimum of sap bleeding at the cuts. Now that deciduous species are bare you can really see the structure. Any problem branches should be worked on now. Greenhouse work has to be tailored to your particular greenhouse. If, like me, you merely want to keep them from deteriorating, you will do nothing more than prune a few wild branches. If you keep them actively growing you may get to do more.

Winter tends to bring a whole new set of pests to contend with. One of the most destructive is animals who like to chew on twigs and bark in the winter when their preferred food is scarce. There is really nothing you can do to prevent it but you can put repellants around and put out an all season rat-mouse bait. An outdoor cat also works wonders.

Since Texas winters tend to have periods of warm weather that can wake up sleeping insects such as mites and aphids, I suggest spraying evergreens a few times with the organic spray. (1 tb. each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gal. water).

Deciduous plants can benefit from a spraying of horticultural oil or a dormant lime-sulfur spray. The lime-sulfur must be done while the plant is completely dormant before any bud swelling.

Finally, some of best collecting trips can be had staying in town. Go check out the back corners of the nurseries especially those that cleared things out for their Christmas tree sales. Especially look for stuff that may have suffered top damage but has healthy growth at the bottom which is where your future bonsai is anyway. Sometimes they let you just take it or at most charge very little.

TTSBE HIGHLIGHTS 2009

continued from page 4

b. Kathy Shaner supervised Foster Parents on the Cedar Elm care and some of the recently acquired Ashe Junipers. She also toured the participants of the October Seminar held at "Persimmon Hill Bonsai" on a trip to the site of the TTSBE land.

c. The pro-bono surveyor, Michael Ritter, of "Texas Parks and wildlife" with his students continued the work on the land.

IX. NOV 09: Additional board members are being sought. The new additions will be announced and voted on at the Austin Bonsai Society meeting December 9th. Three small fundraisers during the year were very successful. The board will begin 2010 with the submission of grant proposals to several foundations.

Submitted by Donna L. Dobberfuhl, secretary TTSBE, November 18, 2009

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TTSBE UPDATE

At the Kathy Shaner workshop with Bill Cody's ashe junipers, initial styling was done and Kathy will make a special trip back here on January 15 to help and instruct on their potting.

Please look though your unused pots for the sizes listed below and DONATE them to TTSBE! Bring or send them to Austin with someone coming this way, let any TTSBE board member know and someone will meet you, wherever is convenient for you!

4) Round 4" deep x 10"

1) Round 3" or 4" x 8"

2) Round 3" x 6"

1) Round 4" x 12"

1) Rectangular 4" x 10" x 14"

2) " 4" x 12" x 16"

3) " 4" x 14" x 20"

We could also use an earthmover ie. Backhoe if someone has one just sitting around!

Well---if you don't ask, you don't receive!

Thank you in advance,

Elaine White

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.

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

