



Bonsai Notebook

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

November 2009

November Programs

by Mike Watson

This is my favorite time of the year! The heat stress of summer is but an unpleasant memory as the first of the cold fronts start to roll in. I can almost hear my trees sighing with relief! The cedar elms are already dropping leaves and some of the other trees are getting their red and gold foliage. There are a few chores left but once the really cold weather gets here there won't be much to do. What an opportune time to get out the tool bag and get those tools in tip-top shape.

For the regular meeting on **Wednesday, November**



*Kathy Shaner styling a collected
Ashe Juniper at October's monthly meeting*

Calendar of Events

November 11 ABS Monthly Meeting Reception

**Hosts: James Costabile and
Sharon Tedford**

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm

**(Hosts for January's reception: Alisan Clarke
and Pat Ware)**

**November 17 ABS Monthly Meeting
Tool Care and Sharpening**

with Joey McCoy

Zilker Garden Center 7:30 - 9:00 pm

November 17 ABS Board Meeting

Zilker Garden Center 7:00 - 7:30 pm

December 5 Christmas Party

Zilker Garden Center 6:30 - 9:00 pm

11th, our own Joey McCoy will show us some great tips and techniques for making those tools work like they did when you first bought them. You think that rusty old concave cutter is a hopeless case? Probably not! Don't know how to sharpen correctly? Joey will show you how! Remember, without tools our bonsai are just trees in pots.

For our member's workshop on **Tuesday November 17th** we will actually bring our tools in and get a "hands-on" feel for how sharpen and adjust them. If you have a sharpening stone bring it but if not, don't worry. Come on out and you'll never curse that dull set of shears again! Of course, if you want to bring something else to work on feel free to do so.

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
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Nan Jenkins
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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.

JADE GARDENS HOME OF



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

President's Message by Joey McCoy

The wonderful crisp fall weather is finally upon us, and it's such a joy to be outside working on our trees! Some species will be slowing down, others will just keep on going strong, getting a boost from the cool weather and rains. We can now be thinking of sites, both wild and urban for a Spring dig, so if anyone discovers an opportunity be sure to ask permission and then let me or Mike Watson know about it and we'll schedule a time for a club function.

I spent the weekend a little while back working with visiting artist Kathy Shaner, all together getting 4 full days of Bonsai workshop and watching. This type of intensive study is daunting to think about, but really worth it. There is so much more to learn from focused concentration than in picking an hour here or twenty minutes there. Whenever we have the opportunity of visiting artists or classes and workshops, I hope our members take advantage to further their skills. It all makes the art and craft of Bonsai much more fluid and so much more satisfying.

Thank you to all that helped with our display at the Violet Crown Flower Show last month. While it was a small display and wasn't a crowded event, I've personally heard several nice comments for our club.

The premiere issue of AAGC's E-Newsletter, Down The Garden Path, is now available online.

** Go to www.zilker garden.org and you will see an orange box at the top of the homepage. Click on the link inside this box and it will take you to the online newsletter.*

** Scroll down and you will see the articles, with "read more" links that take you to the full article and photos.*

** Also included are links to the City of Austin's E-Newsletter, Austin Notes, and to Central Texas Gardener's website (KLRU's weekly gardening show).*

ABS October General Meeting Minutes
by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and thanked Mike Watson and Phima Chen for hosting. There were no new members and 1 guest at this meeting.

Joey thanked everyone who volunteered at the Violet Crown Flower Show recently.

Joey then introduced Mike Watson who introduced Kathy Shaner, who was gave a lecture and demonstration on an Ashe Juniper..

Directory Additions

None

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
Classes & Seminars
Open Tuesday Through Sunday



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

ABS Board October 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, Collin Murphy, Noreen Quisenberry.

Charlotte Cranberg informed the board about a new topic during AAGC meetings starting in November. AAGC member clubs will have the opportunity to have a club representative give a brief presentation about their club to the AAGC regular meeting. Presentations will be about 10 minutes long and there is no format that must be adhered to. If anyone is interested in representing the Austin Bonsai Society to the AAGC contact Charlotte.

88 tickets will be pre-purchased for 2010 Zilker Garden Festival at a cost of \$264.

The Kathy Shaner demonstration tree raffle generated \$175.

Yearly income over expenses is \$834.98.

Carl and Noreen Quisenberry are the nominating committee for 2010 board positions. There are two open member at large positions available.

The current year's budget will be proposed for next year's budget

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.

Kathy Shaner Lecture/Demonstration
Photos by Joey McCoy



Kathy working on a large Ashe Juniper

Kathy Shaner Lecture/Demonstration
Photos by Joey McCoy



Becki won Kathy's demo tree

November 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.

November is the month to put your trees into winter storage. But what kind of storage? That answer depends on several things. And always remember that any 'rule' may have to be broken because of work or other circumstances.

First, analyze your collection. What is the amount of cold each can take. Remember that the tree roots are generally less hardy than the tops. Some species that are hardy in your landscape will not be hardy in pots. Most of our efforts will be to make sure that the roots survive. Most bonsai pots are impervious to water and therefore will not break from freezing if the soil is well draining.

To determine which kind of protection your trees need you must know what the minimum temperature extreme will be in your locale. My minimum temp will be about 10 degrees F. I do not want to even expose the pine roots to that. My rule of thumb is that all except tropicals get at least freezing on top of the benches. Southern natives like crape myrtle will be protected when below 25. Most deciduous (elms, maples) get down to 20. I would let the pines and junipers get to 15. My situation is such that they can stay on the benches until time to go down. Then they get put on the ground below the benches deciduous and evergreen being separated. At some point I cover them with old bedding (the result of 50+ years of marriage). Since they do not need sun I do not uncover the deciduous until spring. That keeps them at a cooler temp on the warmer days of winter.

Since the ground stays at an even warmer temperature, you can set your pots on the ground (a clean gravel bed is best) and cover the pots with a loose mulch. That was what I did for several years.

An unheated garage may be pressed into service for winter quarters. Its major drawback is that the air will be very dry and could cause dieback or worse.

Whichever method you use, you must remember that the plants will need to be checked for water throughout the winter. I believe that more bonsai are lost in winter due to dryness than due to cold. If the rootball is frozen the tree

cannot replenish the water lost from the wind and the hot rays of the winter sun.

Winter parasites can be a whole other ballgame. Since the trees tend to be undisturbed for a good time rodents can be a problem. They can cut branches and strip bark quickly. I now keep outdoor bait stations out. A dormant spray, either oil or lime sulphur) should be applied when the trees go dormant to kill overwintering insects especially mites and scale.

Tropicals of course need to be kept warm. How warm seems to be a good source for an argument. I let my small greenhouse go to 40 degrees and the buttonwood doesn't seem to object. The fukien tea doesn't want the air stream from the heater blowing on it. A larger problem is to keep it from getting too hot. Ventilation is a must and possibly a piece of shade cloth that can be tied over it sometimes. Keeping them in the house has its set of problems too. The air is usually very dry and bugs love the warmth.

The bigger problem is what to do with things like the pomegranate and crape myrtle. They should be sent into dormancy but keeping them dormant until the last freeze in the spring is hard. If they break you will have to work with them. My solution is to pull them into the garage on days below 32 or if the sun is hot and out most other days.

You will have to use your imagination to come up with a solution that will work for you and still let you enjoy your bonsai. I think the deciduous trees are their best looking in the winter time when you can see their branching and twiginess.

Putting your trees down for the winter does not mean you have no work to do. Winter is the proper time to do wiring. You can see everything and do corrective pruning and restyling if necessary. Just remember your trees are living things and they have been growing all summer and may not be as good as they were last spring. Fall is an ideal time to work on the evergreens since they are not actively growing.

Be sure to check local nurseries. They usually have good deals on things when they are getting cleaned up for Xmas or winter. You need to look at base and ignore the sometimes not so good top. Your future bonsai is down there. Go on any digs possible, your old bonsai is out there waiting for you.



Connie King at the opening of the Bonsai Exhibit at the Violet Crown Flower Show

October AAGC Meeting Minutes

by Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary

The National Wildlife Federation awarded the Austin Parks and Recreation Dept. the "Best Texas Backyard Habitat Program" certificate for having the best program in the state. Their "Green Garden" program was very widespread and successful all over the city.

You can get an application for a wild life habitat certificate by calling the Austin Nature Center. The garden next to Schlotskys on South Lamar near the river is a good example of what can be done.

Down the Garden Path Newsletter will begin it's bi-monthly on-line newsletter on Oct. 15th. Get articles to Bob Byer in November for the December issue.

The Gift Shop is selling many articles by local artists. They will be selling to AAGC members only at 20% discount on Tuesdays through December. If you are a member of Bonsai Society you are a member of AAGC. You may also get gift certificates.


New plant signs, using a new engraving machine, will be placed in the garden.

Be sure to get your hours to Charlotte

Charlotte Cranberg
AAGC Representative

An educational exhibit was set up by President, Joey McCoy for the Violet Crown Flower Show October 10th and 11th at the Austin Area Garden Center. Charlotte organized the volunteers to man the display. Connie King worked all afternoon Friday and was joined by Charlotte and Alisan Clarke and her granddaughter for part of the time. Collin Murphy worked all afternoon Sunday and took the display down and to his home for Joey to pick up.

Kudos to all who worked to make this display a success. It was small but charming and people were very interested. We didn't have much space so it was challenging for Joey, but he pulled it off very nicely.



**PERSIMMON HILL BONSAI
STUDIO & NURSERY**

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

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

