



# Bonsai Notebook

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

*A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society*

*November 2010*

## November Programs

by Mike Watson

On **Wednesday, November 10th**, we will have our annual club auction. This wonderful event is not only fun and a great way to get new (to you) material, but it is also our largest source of income for the club. The main key to a successful auction is to ***bid some real money***. Yes, times have been tough and we all want to get something great for cheap but, in this case, think about what your money is really buying. If you enjoyed last month's demo with Kathy Shaner, or September's guest, Roy Nagatoshi, remember that it was mostly funds taken in from the club auction that helped pay for these artists. So, when you see that \$200 tree about to go for \$30, make a bid for the club's sake!

With this in mind, take a good, hard look at your bonsai bench. Do you have a high quality tree that you could live without? How about that pile of pots? Are there any nice ones that you really don't have plans for but just keep around? Please consider donating such items to the auction. Tools, books and bonsai related clothing are all welcome as well. Most importantly, come out and have fun!

For our member's workshop on **Tuesday, November 16th**, we will have another open workshop. I have been seeing some great results coming out of these. Please come out and share knowledge and good times!

## Calendar of Events

**November 10th ABS Monthly Meeting  
Reception**

**Hosts: Sheila Ward and  
Bill Boytim**

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

**Zilker Garden Center 7:00 pm**

**November 10th ABS Monthly Meeting  
Annual Auction**

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

**November 16th ABS Board Meeting**

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

**November 16th ABS Member's Workshop  
Bring Your Own Tree**

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



*Kathy Shaner working on a boxwood during  
October's general meeting*

## 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

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Kathy Shaner events last month, we have a very active club. Our raffle sales were great at the meeting and we had a terrific turnout. Congratulations to Gloria Norberg for winning the demo tree! One thing Kathy always stresses is to share what you learn. Learning a technique or skill and passing it along helps others as well as you. A community event coming up soon is the Taniguchi Open Garden on Sun Nov 7th from 1-4pm, where we'll be having a small Bonsai display. If you'd like to come on down and help out, share our love of Bonsai with the public, let me know.

As we look to Winter's approach, some of us realize that our collections have outgrown our space. Sometimes we don't have proper room between trees, or we just can't put everything back into the greenhouse or indoor windows that we had last year. Consider bringing some of the Bonsai, equipment and related items to our Auction next month. 100% of the sale of these items go towards sustaining our club, bringing in visiting artists, providing supplies and funding our year's programs. If you have a tree which you'd like to bring a certain price for the club, you may put a reserve on it (\$50 minimum). Be sure to write this in RED or mark very clearly. If it doesn't bring that price you can take it back home. So get there early to check out the items, bring a checkbook with you as well and pick up some great trees at an even better deal! This is a yearly club favorite and you wouldn't want to miss it.

## JADE GARDENS

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

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(512) 847-2514

## **ABS October Board Meeting Minutes**

by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. present were Becki Drozd, Nan Jenkins, Pat Ware, Joey McCoy, Collin Murphy and Mike Watson.

Pat gave the treasurer's report. Our expenses over income for the month are \$22.58.

Next month's auction was discussed. It will be similar to previous years. Any donated item can have a reserve set. The minimum reserve is \$50 and there is no maximum reserve. If the final bid is less than the reserve the donor will have the option to accept or not accept the final bid.

The 2011 LSBF convention in Corpus Christi will be May 14th and 15th. The 2011 Austin Bonsai Society show will be on May 28th and 29th.

Our annual Christmas dinner will be on Wednesday, December 8th this year, and Wednesday, December 14th next year.

Becki created a new web site for the Austin Bonsai Society. The url is [www.austinbonsaisociety.com](http://www.austinbonsaisociety.com). The new web site is a complete change from the previous one and really looks great. The hosting cost of the new web site is \$143 per year. Nan made a motion to approve funding of the new web site and it was approved by all.

The board then discussed the upcoming year's budget including artists fees and demo tree costs. Artists fees are increasing as well as demo tree costs. Collin made a motion to increase each membership class by \$5 for 2011 and beyond. The motion passed with everyone voting in the affirmative. Starting in 2011, individual memberships will cost \$30 and a family membership will cost \$35.

The nominating committee has selected the officers for next year. They are 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

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

## **MBP Bonsai Studio**

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(call for directions)

### **TTSBE News**

by Elaine White, Secretary

According to our by-laws, all members of the Austin Bonsai Society are members of The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, and are entitled to vote for our Directors once a year at the December meeting.

Agreeing to be new Directors this year are:

Connie King, Timmi Kuykendall, Nan

Jenkins, and Kevin Preston from San Antonio.

Please give our potential new Directors your support.

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**Kathy Shaner Demonstration**  
*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*



*Kathy Shaner working on a boxwood during October's meeting*

**Roy Nagatoshi Demonstration**  
*(Photos by Joey McCoy)*



*Gloria won the boxwood in the raffle*

## 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.*

One of my favorite quips is if your trees are not growing smaller, you are not doing something right. Generally when we start bonsai, we are afraid to cut a lot off and thus we have not realized the full possibilities of the material. Now that our trees are going into their slow period we can step back and take some critical second looks and see if we can't improve them a bit. This is especially true for deciduous trees as you can really see what you have while they are bare.

**BIG NOTE:** If you have a tree that is weak and unhealthy you should not attempt to style it in any way, just get it happy by adjusting its soil, feeding, and getting rid of any parasites. Styling just adds to its stress and problems.

Fall and winter is the proper time to do wiring, styling, and plucking work on pines. Repotting is saved until growth starts in the spring and candle pruning in summer. Other conifers may also be worked on.

Watch the weather so you can protect tender and semi-hardy plants. I prefer to keep them outside as long as possible but you should remember that frost, which can damage tender leaves, can occur at temps in the upper thirties. I watch the dew point temp which is when the moisture condenses out of the air. Also clear nights with no wind along with that low dew point really spell trouble.

Have your winter quarters clean and ready so that you can put your trees there quickly in the event a freeze is forecast. But don't put them there too soon as they are easier to care for up on the bench. Some use an unheated garage. I prefer to set the pots on a gravel area on the ground. This utilizes the ground heat to keep the roots from freezing as hard. The pots can then be covered with a loose mulch for insulation. Do not cover the ground with plastic, it will hold puddles of water.

Most important is winter is to keep the soil moisture at a proper level. This sometimes is hard to do because the trees do not use as much water as when they are growing. However the cold winds will dry out the tops quickly. I believe that most winter damage in Texas is due to lack

of water rather than to low temperatures. Mulch helps keep the roots warm and retards evaporation but it makes for difficulty in seeing if the soil is damp enough. Most soils with enough organic material to keep the tree happy in the summer will be too wet if watered daily in the winter and wet cold means root rot. Try to position them so you can check the soil. If you are not watching the soil in their pots you may either get root rot fungus or it dries out, either way--you have a finished (for you beginners that reads dead) bonsai. It is easier to care for if you have them under roof, that way you know you need to tend to watering.

The general wisdom is that dormant trees need no fertilizer. However, as long as the soil is not frozen there will be some root activity. I do not add any fertilizer to dormant trees but I will leave the organic fertilizer cakes on until spring in case they happen to get some good out of them. The organics will not break down much in cold weather anyway. Evergreen types (e.g. pines junipers yaupons and live oaks) however continue some activity and therefore can use a small amount of low nitrogen fertilizer.

A horticultural oil spray should be applied (but not on buttonwoods) during the winter to control scale. It will also get any overwintering insects or eggs that may be trying to get thru the winter on your plant. This purpose is what lime-sulphur was first used for, and some Japanese still use it, but the oil is safer on bonsai and may be used on evergreens where the lime-sulphur should not be used. Again, do not use oil based spray on buttonwoods.

By this time any tropicals you have should be under cover. Most do not like the temp below 50 degrees. All tropicals should be checked and treated for any insect problems since any insects will multiply fast when they get into warmer quarters. Spider mites and scale can be especially damaging if the plant is moved in the house where the humidity is low.

The semi-tropical plants like crape myrtle pomegranate and pyracantha need to go dormant to stay healthy over a long time but they cannot take much cold on the roots. They will be killed by temps somewhere between 25 and 30 degrees. These I set down on the ground and mulch for light freezes and then bring into a protected area for the colder winter. Sometimes I will let them go dormant for a month and then take into the greenhouse to start early and I can enjoy their new foliage in January.

## ABS October General Meeting Minutes

by Collin Murphy, Secretary

Joey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Joey thanked Mike Watson and Candy Hansen for hosting. He introduced new members Ken and Shari Lakin and guests Brian Krat and Rebecca Turrabiarte.

A newsletter editor and refreshments host are needed for next year. Contact any board member if you are interested in filling either position.

Nan Jenkins announced the nominees for

The nominating committee has selected the officers for next year. They are 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

Kathy Shaner will be styling TTSBE trees on Tuesday at 9 am at Elaine's. Everyone is welcome to observe. There are still a few TTSBE trees in need of a foster parent.

Joey introduced Kathy Shaner who gave a lecture and demonstration on a boxwood which was won by Gloria Norberg.



*John and Chuck watching Kathy's demonstration*

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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)*

# 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

