



Bonsai Notebook



A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

December 2004

President's Message

by Glenda Konopka

November 2004 – It's exciting that our annual Christmas party is coming up on December 4th, 2004. It promises to be a great event for all of us; an opportunity for socializing and getting to know each other better on a personal level. Unfortunately, between the rush of everyday life and our tight meeting/workshop schedules when we're together, the time to 'bond' as a cohesive organization is limited. For this reason, I'd love to see each and every one of you and your families turn out for this occasion to get to know each other better and celebrate the season!

Christmas party info: Once again, our party is scheduled for December 4th at Zilker after their Christmas bazaar ends. We can get in at 6 p.m., so the closer to 6 we all get there and the more helping hands for set-up, the sooner we can get going with food and lots of fun. The tables will be beautifully decorated, courtesy of Elaine White, Alisan Clark, Pat Ware, and other Christmas elves (you know who you are). There will be happenings besides eating; we want to make this a fun party and get all our members (and families) together, especially the newer ones. Terry Ward and Chuck Ware will do informal saikei demos, which will be raffled (bring your dollars, they're going to be great). There will also be door-prizes (pots for example) to go after.

On a different note, the last two years have certainly opened my eyes to the selfless dedication of those members serving on our

Calendar of Events



December

4th

Christmas Party !

Zilker Gardens
Deadline to sign-up for Terry's workshop

6:00 pm

Setup Starts

7:00 pm

Food & Fun

January

12th

Monthly Meeting

7-7:30 pm

Zilker Garden

Socializing and "*Ask a Member*"

7:30 pm

Bill Cody

"How to Collect Native Trees."

Refreshments by

Alisan Clarke and Pat Ware

19th

Monthly Board Meeting

7:00 pm

Zilker Garden

26th

Fourth Wednesday Study Group

Trident Maple Clasp Stone

February

19th

Shohin Society of Texas

10:30 am

Meet at Persimmon Hill Bonsai

Look for details next month

May

13th -15th

LSBF Convention

Fort Worth

28th -31st

5th World Bonsai Convention

Washington, D.C

Austin Bonsai Society

Board of Directors

Glenda Konopka

President

Terry Ward

Vice-President

Del De Los Santos

Secretary

Pat Ware

Treasurer

James Allan

Member at-Large

Stephanie Quisenberry

Member at-Large

David Cmerek

Member at-Large

Board and representing our club to the outside world. I was never aware of this in my previous life as 'just a member' walking into and enjoying a well-planned monthly meeting and/or workshop. The time and sustained effort required over twelve months (and in some cases twenty-four and longer) of putting together the monthly meeting topics, refreshments, guest artists, annual budgets, membership directories, welcoming visitors to our meetings, planning workshops, maintaining our wonderful library, getting out our PR, dealing with the vagaries of the City of Austin, the scheduling coordination and related issues attached to the Austin Area Garden Center, the annual May show, our joint Austin-San Antonio annual meeting, and documenting what we're doing for our Bonsai Notebook have been accomplished by the best Board members, Committee chairman, and club representatives that anyone could have in one place at one time.

My sincere and heartfelt thanks go out to VP, Terry Ward, who did an outstanding job on our programs for 2004 and January 2005;



Secretary, Del De Los Santos, who faithfully recorded two years of monthly and Board minutes for us, in addition to helping with our annual shows and a jillion little details; Treasurer, Pat Ware, who's been keeping our books 'cooked' for years, interfaces with more side-related organizations than I can keep straight, and who is and isn't a member; and members at large James Allan, David Cmerek (who we lost due to his mom's health issues), and Stephanie Quisenberry – queen of the phone callers (kidding) – they all made my job so much easier. I'd also like you all to recognize the contributions of those Committee Chairs on that first page of our Membership Directory: Charlotte Cranberg, Jim Bauman, Pete Quisenberry, Pat Ware (for LSBF



alternate), Sheila Ward, Terry (for program chair duty), and Elaine White. We also need to recognize the constant assistance of our other members who stand up, show up, and help with the millions of things that our club needs done over the course of a year.

Lastly, I'd like to congratulate the incoming 2005 Board - Pete Quisenberry, President; Jim Trahan, Vice-President; Pat Ware, Treasurer; Charlotte Cranberg, Secretary; and Chuck Ware, Alisan Clarke, and Tyrone Sanders, Members at Large – and ask that every member give them all the assistance, input, and support we can.

Thank you all for your feedback, help, and friendship. See you at the party!



PROGRAM NOTES

By Terry Ward

Our programs and workshops are completed for 2004. I hope you enjoyed them and added to your bonsai knowledge and skills.

Every club member owes a big Texas size **THANK YOU!** to the dedicated club members who presented top quality programs and workshops during the year. Several presented more than one. It takes a lot of time and hard work to prepare a program. We owe a debt of gratitude to.....

Alisan Clarke
J. R. 'Bill' Cody
Mike Hansen
John Pittenger
Greg Setter
Joe Wait
Chuck Ware
Elaine White

A special *thanks* to our guest artists.....

Marco Invernizzi (sponsored by L.S.B.F.)
Ted Matson
John Miller



There's another club member who deserves our thanks — **Els Ulug**. Els arranges for the raffle items you lust for throughout the year and even sells the tickets. Her work benefits us all.

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LOOKING AHEAD TO 2005

Get 2005 off to a great bonsai start by renewing your club membership, attending **Bill Cody's** program on **Wednesday, January 12th** and the **Study Group** on **Wednesday, January 26th**.



Bill's program will be *How To Collect Native Trees*. Bill has been collecting and developing native trees for many, many years. He will be sharing his secrets and tips...from selection, digging, packing for transport to keeping them going once home. This will be a rare opportunity to learn collecting how-to's from an expert. You might want to review Bill's two-part article *How To Collect Ashe Junipers In Central Texas*. You'll find them in the Fall 2002 and Winter 2003 editions of *Texas Bonsai*.

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The January 2005 **Fourth Wednesday Study Group** is on the 26th and will be a hands-on and how-to workshop. You will be creating a **trident maple clasp**ing a **stone style planting**. Several items will be needed in the workshop and you may want to get a head start getting them together. It is anticipated that a trident maple will be supplied at no cost to each participant.



Everyone wanting to take part in the workshop will be given a list of items to bring and photos of stone clasp tridents, pots, etc to use as planning guides. There is, however, a catch. To receive the list and photos you must let me know in advance that you want to be part of the workshop. There are already a number of sign-ups.

If you want to be part of the workshop, please email me your name at phbonsai@aol.com or tell me at our **Holiday Party on Saturday, December 4th**. I need to know how many will be taking part to arrange for the trident maples. The 'what's needed' info for the workshop will be sent in early December.

Every club member is welcome to observe the workshop. But, *why just be a bystander? Get involved — sign up today!*

Don't forget, the **Fourth Wednesday Study Group meetings start at 7:00 p.m.** It's a great place to learn and improve bonsai skills in a very informal atmosphere. Plan on attending every Study Group in 2005. You and your bonsai will be happy you did.



General Meeting Minutes

by Del De Los Santos

Austin Bonsai Society
General Meeting
11/10/04



The November General Membership meeting of the Austin Bonsai Society was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Vice President Terry Ward. Terry brought up some really old business - member Bill Cody would be turning 77 years of age within the week! The membership offered their best wishes to Bill. Visitor Richard Landon was welcomed. Thanks were provided to Jay Nolan and Cindy Ince for the great sandwiches and refreshments.

Announcements:

Terry Ward mentioned that there would be no 4th Wednesday Study Group meeting in November. He provided an early reminder for Bill Cody's presentation, 'Collecting Native Trees,' at the

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January 12th, 2005 General Membership Meeting and his own workshop, 'Maples Clasp Rock,' at the January 26th, 2005 Wednesday Study Group. If you want to participate in Terry's workshop, please contact Terry so that he may obtain a maple seedling for you

Old Business:

Pat Ware presented printed copies of the Austin Bonsai Society's 2005 Budget with a brief explanation regarding minor changes from the 2004 budget. Bill Cody moved that the 2005 budget be accepted, Mike Hansen

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seconded, and Vice-President Terry Ward called for the vote; the motion passed.

Terry presented the slate of officers for 2005: Pete Quisenberry for President; Jim Trahan for Vice-President; Pat Ware for Treasurer; Charlotte Cranberg for Secretary; and Chuck Ware, Alisan Clarke, and Tyrone Sanders for Members at Large. Bill Cody moved the slate be accepted as is, Elaine White seconded the motion, and Terry Ward called for the vote, which passed by unanimous acclamation.

New Business:

Terry Ward reminded the membership of the annual club Christmas party scheduled for December 4th, 7:00 P.M., at the Garden Center. He asked that those who are able be present at 6:30 P.M. to assist with setup for the evening's affair, as December 4th is also the Garden Center's Bazaar and we would be rushed to complete set-up. Charlotte Cranberg, the clubs' representative to the



Austin Garden Council, mentioned that we should be able to enter at 6:00 P.M. to setup. A volunteer sign-up sheet was passed around for side dishes, deserts, and assistance.

The meeting progressed with John Miller's presentation of 'Rough Stock to Bonsai.' The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Old Business:

Treasurer Pat Ware reported the club provided a check in the amount of \$20.00 for raffle tickets to the Garden Center instead of the \$25.00 donation discussed at the last meeting and the tickets will have Charlotte Cranberg's name. Should any of those tickets be winners, items won would be provided as door prizes at our annual Christmas party on December 4th.



Board Meeting Minutes

Austin Bonsai Society
Board Meeting
11/17/04

President Glenda Konopka called the November meeting of the Austin Bonsai Society Board to order at 7:00 P.M. In attendance were Vice-President Terry Ward, Treasurer Pat Ware, Secretary Del De Los Santos, and Member at Large Stephanie Quisenberry. Also in attendance were 2005 elected officers, President-elect Pete Quisenberry and Member at Large-elect Chuck Ware.

Del and his partner, Aaron Apperson, will assist Alisan Clarke with cooking the turkey. Del will bring the tablecloths from Alisan's home to set-up for the dinner. Pat will provide Else Ulug a reminder to bring the raffle tickets to the party.

Both Terry Ward and Chuck Ware will build saikeis from scratch to be provided as door prizes. Glenda asked if any other members wishing to donate items for door prizes should please feel free to do so.

Glenda Konopka and Pete & Stephanie Quisenberry will provide reminders to the membership regarding the Christmas party via email and telephone.



New Business:

Terry mentioned that there were nine individuals currently signed up for the January 26th Study Group. Terry also mentioned he received a telephone call from John Miller informing him that our club member, Gregg Setter, is undergoing coronary bypass surgery.

There was some minor discussion of the past year's activities and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.



December Bonsai Tips

by Alan Walker

Although your bonsai require very little attention this time of the year, don't neglect them in the rush of December. Root rot can become a big problem, if you haven't modified your watering procedure from the summer. Make sure that you water only when your bonsai's soil has gotten on the dry side. Your deciduous trees are not transpiring when their leaves have fallen, and the cool temperatures do not promote much evaporation, so your trees are not using much water. If you've been collecting and had to prune your newly collected material, be sure to seal all the cuts. They won't really start to heal until dormancy ends and by the exposure to winter winds will draw moisture from the wounds faster than the traumatized root system can replenish it. Coat all the cut areas with Calsmate or some other sealant to give that new addition a chance to survive.

December is a good time to rewire, since the branches won't begin to swell with growth until dormancy ends. Be careful with your deciduous material, though. Even though they are denuded and easier to wire, there is less sap in the branches now, making them more brittle. Your pines, junipers, and most other evergreens are still fairly pliable. As always, remember to use wire that is harder to bend than the branch is to train. That way you won't need to put your branches at risk from overbending in order to get the correct angle to stay. Also, the heavier wire will be less likely to scar the branch, if you don't notice the branch thickening in time.

Prepare soil now for the potting season. There are so many things to do in the early spring,

that any early preparation done now will be appreciated then. Tag any trees which will need repotting. Now is the time to order pots, so they'll be there when you need them.



The slow winter season is a good time to photograph your bonsai. [next sentence deleted due to inaccessibility of the author's cited references herein] Your deciduous material is fully exposed, and there's nothing like a black and white photograph of a tree to reveal flaws in the branch arrangement. This

can be your blueprint for pruning in the spring. Your photographs may also reveal a better front or potting angle. Keep these photographs in your record book. It can (be) quite rewarding to look over your bonsai records and note how your trees have progressed over the years. Bring your records to one of our general workshops

or the meeting to get suggestions from other members for shaping and design. If you're afraid of being pressured into cutting more than you want, just having photos or sketches can save you from regrets and still allow you to get the input from others.

(reprinted with the permission of Elaine White from the December 1997 'Bonsai News' of the Lake Charles Bonsai Society)

Zilker Garden's "Heads Up"

On November 18, 2004 -

I (Glenda Konopka) received this e-mail from



Yates Barreda (448-1276) of the Austin Area Garden Center Nominating Committee:

“The AAGC Nominating Committee is seeking nominees for the Executive Board of the AAGC. You know much better than we who in your club is capable and willing to take on such positions, so your input is most valuable. Is somebody a whiz at finance? Interested in publications? Community education? Into Public Relations? Just plain committed to making the AAGC thrive? If you have any ideas, please get back to me before the next AAGC meeting on December 14, 2004. The Committee will meet right after the Council meeting.”



Charlotte Cranberg informed me that, like most volunteer organizations, the AAGC is desperate for people to volunteer their time and ideas. We all want to see the AAGC thrive, so the Austin Bonsai Society can continue to have a great place to meet and have our shows.

Editor's Note

With the new year starting with next month's Notebook, wouldn't you like to share your photos, tips and tricks, poems, stories, haikus, jokes, and drawings with the rest of the membership? Just e-mail your interesting, bonsai-related, proposed submission to us.

Also, don't hesitate to send us an e-mail sharing your thoughts or asking a question. We're sure that one of our members will have the answer you seek!

From the Editors, have a great holiday season and best wishes for a Happy New Year.



E-mails: glendak@sbcglobal.net



THE TEXAS STATE BONSAI EXHIBIT, INC,

Fourth Annual Report

November 2004

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit started the new year with Sheila Ward as its new secretary.

Terry, Sheila Ward and I did a presentation about our exhibit for the Dallas Bonsai Society in January and Mike and I went to Corpus Christi in February.

We now have permanent exhibit representatives in all but 2 bonsai clubs so we can keep in touch by email and let them know of our progress in building and encourage their fund raising and volunteering.

There are still some issues to be resolved concerning the land restrictions, as the two acres that we want to lease is zoned for office buildings.

The lease agreement provided by Tokyo Electron America was reviewed by the Board and our lawyer found several articles that needed to be changed or modified.

Time restraints by both lawyers have delayed the resolutions of both the land restrictions and the lease agreement.

Larry Gefeller has completed a feasibility study for us, questioning some of his friends in other non-profit organizations. This will help in future planning.

I continue to take classes at Austin Community College which maintains an extensive network of information for non profits.

A Media Workshop at the Austin American Statesman- 4 hours. 2 Public Relations seminars –8 hours. A Funders Forum-composed of 15 organizations that grant funds – stating their requirements- 8 hours. Grant writing -8 hours.

Fund Raising

Fund raising is discussed by the Board members at every monthly meeting.

In February A Taste of Austin was attended by three board members who decided, after many queries, that this type of fundraiser would not be profitable for us at this time.

For the Austin annual exhibit in May and the LSBF Convention in Houston we exhibited two large question and answer posters, a picture and a live bonsai to illustrate why we needed a permanent exhibit. A TV showed continuous views of Japanese gardens. Our fundraiser was the 5 day Princess Cruise for two, for a \$10 ticket.

The Bonsai Society of Dallas sold the most cruise tickets (52) winning the lecture demonstration. Mike Smoller was the winner of the bonsai for selling 21 tickets, and Paul Serratt was close behind with 20. John Miller sold 11. Total tickets bought per club:

	ABS	115		FW	010
Beau	005		Hou	006	
	CC	003		SA	007
	DAL	052		Shoin	005

Our profit was only \$1,080. Since this project was not appealing to the majority of you, we have sent questionnaires to our representatives asking for your input on fund raising.



The high sellers from the ABS was Elaine-52, (who manned the table at the annual exhibit and also the LSBF Convention), Terry and Sheila Ward-17, Del De Los Santos- 16, Bill and Elizabeth Cody-10 and Gregg Setter-10.

Our Garage Sale was quite successful, due to perfect weather, good location and many large items that our members brought the Friday before. We even had some never used wedding presents from Kathleen Williamson of Houston.

We thank all who donated items and came to our sale and especially those who worked all day Saturday and Sunday. Del De Los Santos, Els Ulug, Eileen Urshel, Elizabeth and Bill Cody, Sheila and Terry Ward, Alisan Clarke and Audrey Lanier for her garage and yard. Our profit was \$1,101.72.

In order to stimulate individual yearly contributions, we will shortly list our contributors on our Web site under the appropriate donor heading.

Our largest contributors this year have been: Steven Hendricks (LSBF Pres.), Ft. Worth, our advisor Kathy Shaner, CA, the Austin Bonsai Society, Pete Parker, Katy and the donation by Joe and Sandra Wait of 3 granite garden lanterns and 2 water basins for a total of \$2,500 making them Lifetime members of TTSBE.

Treasurer Bill Cody reports our current bank balance is \$15,734.

The last quarterly statement from Randalls was \$17.96 statewide. This is Free money and we can do better!

In a grant proposal, all volunteer hours are counted as it shows local community support for this project. Foundations also look at a diversified fund raising program focused on **annual giving by individuals**. We have pledge cards for this purpose (see your representative to TTSBE) and also PayPal on our website.

Along with your church United Way, Food Bank, etc. please consider adding TTSBE to your list of non profit contributions for each year. Giving a little at a time combined with volunteer hours will add up to a recognition plaque on our fence.

We will actively pursue asking Foundations for grants as soon as the lease is signed but we need to show your support to be successful.

Elaine White, Chairman



The Austin Bonsai Society is a non-profit 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 7:30PM. 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 nominal, presently only \$25.00 for an individual and \$30.00 for a family membership.



Please contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P. O. Box 340474, Austin, Tx. 78734 for more information.

<http://www.main.org/bonsai/>

Bonsai Notebook

P. O. Box 340474
Austin, Tx. 78734

