



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

December 2014 vol 48

December 2014 Program

by Jimbo Baumann

On Friday evening December 12th please plan your calendar for a wonderful December meeting event, our Austin Bonsai Society Annual Holiday Party and special guest Walter Pall. This month we will meet at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at 14311 Wells Port Drive Austin, TX 78728. The festivities will begin with setup at 5 pm and the dinner to start at 630 pm. FOR MAP <http://www.staopen.org/>. The club will be providing the turkey, please bring a side dish/dessert/appetizer that can feed 5 to 7 people.

Many of you will know our guest from his prominence in bonsai and on the web. Walter Pall has a very comprehensive web site (<http://www.walter-pall.de>) and presence in bonsai for many years. We are very fortunate he is in the United States in DEC from just outside his home in Munich, Germany. Several clubs have joined together to cover fees for this special artist, known for his creative styling. He will be working with our club members for two events during this visit to the United States. There will be a workshop at Persimmon Hill Studio in South Central Austin on Dec. 12th from 1230 to 330 pm, cost is \$50.00 a few slots may be available. Please call Pat Ware at 512-847-2514 for further information. During the holiday dinner, Walter will be entertaining us with specific horticultural bonsai discussion. He has asked for several trees to discuss and make comments/recommendations. To have your tree discussed (only 6 slots still available) the fee is \$15.00 per tree. Again, call Pat for reservation/funds. Walter has also stated he will entertain us with "musings", thoughts concerning bonsai, and "Plato Cave Advice". A promising evening indeed !

Many thanks to Nan Jenkins and Timmi Kuykendall for volunteering their church for this event, during the Holiday Trail of Lights Festival at Zilker Park; December is always an interesting month for scheduling and locations. And also, many thanks to Pat and Chuck Ware for coordinating and working with Walter Pall in scheduling this special event for our club and its members.

And many thanks to all our members for volunteering to bring those potluck dishes to our wonderful DEC Holiday Event. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you and your families.

Calendar of Events

PLEASE NOTE MEETING DATE AND LOCATION—DEC 12TH FRIDAY AT ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PLEASE REMEMBER THERE IS NO BOARD MEETING OR MEMBERS WORKSHOP LATER IN DEC. ZILKER GARDEN CENTER IS FOCUSED ON THE TRAIL OF LIGHTS.

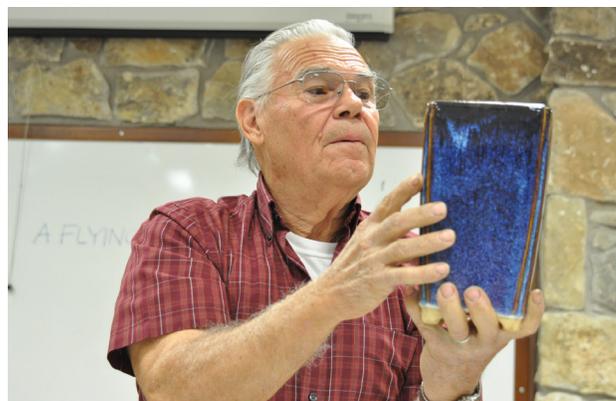
Dec 12: ABS Annual Holiday Party w/Special Guest Lecture
Walter Pall

Setup at 5pm and Dinner at 6:30pm
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
14311 Wells Port Drive ATX, 78728

Jan 14: ABS Monthly Meeting-- Raft Tree Styling
Zilker Park 7:30pm

Jan 20: Board Meeting and Members Workshop
7pm

TBD: TTSBE Repotting and Grafting with
Kathy Shaner and others



Chuck Ware gave a demonstration on pots and soil at November's meeting.

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

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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.

Lizzie Chen is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". She may be contacted at lizziechen09@gmail.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

President's Message by Nan Jenkins

Happy Holidays Everyone!

It is hard to believe that another year has passed. It is true that life keeps speeding up as we get older. No wonder I don't have time to get everything done. One of the things that I've done in the past two years is be president of Austin Bonsai Society, and that has been one of my great joys. Thank you to all of you for the opportunity to do that. And especially thanks to all those who have served on the board and on committees or helped out with many projects. This society only exists because people are willing to offer some time and energy to keep it alive.

I'm really looking forward to our Christmas party this year. Walter Pall is such a well-respected bonsai artist that we have had other clubs asking if they can come to our meeting! He wants to have a lot of trees to look at, so we need several more people to pay \$15.00 to let him take a look at your tree and give some helpful hints. Bring the one you are most stumped about, or the one you are proudest of and let him help find something to do, that will move it toward being a truly outstanding bonsai, worthy of winning awards. I always find it helpful to have this kind of program, even more so than working on a new tree at a workshop.

I hope each of you will have some time during the crazy holiday season to sit quietly, look at a beautiful tree- planted in the yard or in a pot- and be thankful for the life you have, the wonder of the earth, and the beauty surrounding us.

Thank you again for all your help and support during these past two years. I could not have done it without you. And please offer the same support to our new president!

Love,
Nan

Walter Pall's Theory

Every workshop begins with a thorough tree critique of all trees. This is interesting not only to the owner of the tree, but also to the other workshop participants and possibly a silent observing public. It can take an hour or more. Then people should start working on their tree themselves.

It must be stressed that my way of running workshops is different from what is often done: I make it clear what options are on each tree but I try to never touch it. The students work and I watch them - not the other way around. I only help when really necessary and when asked, but I will not style somebody's tree in a workshop. It must be clear that I am trying not to be a bonsai fundamentalist. While it is made clear what I would do personally every student can do what they want to do in my workshops.

I do not touch people's trees normally, I do not make the decision for them, I give them several options, I do not style the tree for them. I inspire people to do what they really can do for themselves. I want people to walk away with the strong feeling that they have done it themselves and they can do it again. If you want people to have a good tree in the end, which really the master has styled, then take another artist. If you want people to really learn something in a workshop, you can take me.

I think this concept can dramatically change the mainstream demonstrations and regular workshops. I have the strong feeling that something must be done here. The public obviously does not accept the old-fashioned way as it used to anymore.

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e-mail: mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net

601 Kay Lane

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(call for directions)



<https://www.facebook.com/AustinBonsaiSociety>

JADE GARDENS

HOME OF



Chuck & Pat Ware

Owners

Visa & MasterCard

12404 Ranch Road 12

Wimberley, TX 78676

(512) 847-2514

e-mail: bonsaijg@gmail.com

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

***REMINDER** CHANGE OF DATE AND LOCATION

Christmas Party Date and Place

December 12, 6:30pm

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

14311 Wells Port Drive.

Austin, TX 78728

DECEMBER'S GUEST SPEAKER



Walter Pall resides near Munich Germany and is one of the first Europeans to work with indigenous species, which he collects in his beloved Alpine mountains. He also loves to lead workshops where he sets the main focus on teaching the artistic side of bonsai. Walter gives clear indications of pros and cons and describes ways to continue working with the trees.

See Walter's website at www.walter-pall.de



More Photos by
Joey McCoy

Chuck and Jimbo
at November's
meeting.

Austin Bonsai Society (ABS) General Meeting Minutes November 12, 2014

The general meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Nan Jenkins. Twenty three members of the ABS club joined into a lively meeting and discussion. Scrumptiously delicious goodies were provided by Sheila and Terry Ward and Pat Ware. Many thanks to Sheila, Terry and Pat for these pre-Thanksgiving treats!

Several announcements from this meeting:

1. Jonathan Wood—ABS Delegate to Lone Star Bonsai Federation (LSBF) announced the 2015 Fall Seminar is in the planning stages by LSBF. It is expected to be a one and half day learning seminar based in Houston, TX with a focus in Bunjin or Literati Bonsai interpretation. In addition to planning the program for the fall, LSBF is working in areas of Historical Committee, Website Design and layout, and the TX /LA Speakers Bureau. Any comments/questions should be directed to Jonathan.
2. Nan Jenkins announced the slate of officers for 2015 and distributed paper listings. Officer Nominations as follows: President—Jonathan Wood, Vice-President—Jim Baumann, Secretary—Deb Van Cleef, Treasurer—Pat Ware, Members at Large—Zerita Rogers, Angie Hewes, and May Lau. Committee Member Delegates as follows: Garden Council Representative—Alisan Clarke, Greeter—Deb Van Cleef, Newsletter Editor—Lizzie Chen, Exhibit Chairperson—Jim Baumann, and LSBF Representative and Alternate—Nan Jenkins and Jonathan Wood. Representatives are sought for: Librarian, Publicity. Interested candidates should speak with Nan Jenkins. Slate to be voted on at DEC meeting.
3. Jim Baumann (Jimbo) announced program for DEC of Walter Pall at the Holiday Party and January lecture demo with Raft Styling.
4. Pat Ware announced the DEC Artist “Bring Your Own Tree” Workshop with Walter Pall on DEC 12th from 12:30 to 3:30 pm at Persimmon Hill Bonsai Studio. Cost is \$50.00. A few slots may remain for this workshop. Please call Pat Ware at 512-847-2514 for an update. Also, Walter Pall will be conducting a bonsai program during our Holiday Party. He will discuss and give a development plan for your bonsai during the program. Cost of submitting your bonsai for discussion and review is \$15.00, a few slots (6 slots) are still available for this program. Call Pat Ware and submit funds for this program.

Jimbo introduced Chuck Ware, Bonsai Artist, Owner of Jade Gardens, and Curator of the Central Texas Bonsai Exhibit in Wimberley, TX.

Chuck gave a lively and entertaining discussion of soil, water, and pot characteristics in relationship to your bonsai. An excellent demonstration of soil, water flow and retention, in relationship to several bonsai pot styles (cascade, semi-cascade, shallow pot, tray styles). This discussion and demonstration focused on common sense planning for your bonsai in relation to soil and root development and the capability for water retention and flow. The physical characteristics of several soil matters were discussed—Akadama, Kanuma, Lava, Expanded Shale, and organic pine bark mulch. Various soil mixtures were discussed and their various water adhesion capabilities. Repotting schedules for young and older bonsai were discussed. Along with pot selection for root development, care, and water flow in relation to your bonsai.

As usual, Chuck’s presentation provided a thorough scientific basis with some great common sense approaches with our central Texas bonsai development. Chuck fielded many questions and provided some guidance with members’ trees.

Many thanks Chuck for the wonderful demonstration and sharing of knowledge.

Austin Bonsai Society (ABS) Board Meeting Minutes
18 NOV 2014

Board Members Present: A. Hewes, P. Ware, R. Kohlert, J. Baumann, D. Van Cleaf

Board Members Not Present: Z. Rodgers, N. Jenkins

Member Observation: J. Wood

Board Meeting Convened 7 pm

Treasurer's Report: Contribution of Auction to Club Finance--\$2063.00 gross receipts-minus expenses of \$58.00, net result of auction revenue \$ 2004.60. Net Income to Club -year to date--\$1697.85.

Discussion Items:

1. W. Pall Event—two events are planned for Friday, DEC 12. The first a Bring Your Own Tree Workshop at Persimmon Hill Bonsai Studio from 1230 to 330 at a cost of \$50.00 per person. Six slots are available and have been filled. In case of cancellation and/or additions, please call Pat Ware. The second event is a “personalized tree discussion” by Walter Pall to provide a development guide to a club member's tree during our Holiday Party. This discussion fee is \$15.00 per tree with approximately 12 slots available, 6 slots have been filled, 6 remain to be filled. It is hoped these fees will cover W. Pall honorarium, the club is covering US airline transport. The Wares are providing local hospitality and transport.
2. Proposed 2015 budget was presented by P. Ware and discussed with board members. Proposed annual income for 2015 is estimated at \$5580.00 with corresponding expense budget of \$5580.00. The planned budget is in close comparison to 2014 budget, within \$500 (2014 budget is estimated at \$6,095.00). The board discussed the expense items and agreed to present the planned budget to the membership (as presented by the treasurer) at the DEC meeting.
3. Officer Slate for 2015 briefly discussed. Two slots remain open: Publicity and Librarian.
4. A proposed speaker/workshop program was discussed for the FEB 2015 slot in program sharing cost method with the San Antonio Bonsai Society(SABS). This program would feature a regional bonsai artist of the south central region of the US. Honorarium and transportation expense was considered and the club cost sharing with an estimate at approximately \$1100 to 1200. It was felt by board members this expense may be challenging for first quarter 2015 revenue / expense calendar. A motion to suspend further consideration for this program (due to first quarter expense / revenue cycle) was made, seconded, and the board agreed to discontinue any further planning for this FEB event. P. Ware/N. Jenkins to communicate non-support for this program to SABS.

Board Meeting adjourned 8 pm.

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.

Why don't you give bonsai a present this year. The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit is progressing but could use more donations. Find full details and you can also donate on the web at www.ttsbe.org. Or make checks payable to : / Send donation to:

*TTSBE Treasurer
Ryan Odegaard
25515 Stormy Rock
San Antonio, TX 78255*

The big thing this month is to make sure that the bonsai do not dry out and to protect the roots from freezing. Do not leave them up on their benches. Know which species should be left outdoors. They may be set on the ground. Add a dense mulch to the pot rim and then add a looser mulch on the pot.

Evergreen types especially and deciduous to a lesser extent should not have the root ball subjected to alternate freezing and thawing. That process tends to tear and damage the roots. Placing the trees on the ground and using a mulch will minimize this problem.

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. After they go dormant they have no need for any sunshine.

While they are dormant examine the twigs, branches, and trunks carefully for scale insects. Scale are sucking insects that usually cover themselves with a hard impervious shell that is very resistant to insecticides. Some are pretty small and look like specks. You might want to search online for something like 'scale insect bonsai' and get some pictures. Horticultural oils (available at garden stores) work good by filling their pores and smothering them. Oils can be applied now and you get a more thorough coverage while the trees are dormant. The only other way is to use a sys-

temic insecticide (make sure it is labeled for scale) during the growing season.

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.

Especially watch the plants that will need repotting next spring. Pots full of circling roots do not have much soil to hold water but those that had a lot of organic matter in the soil mix may be soggy. Organic matter that has composted during the summer will be very fine textured and hold on to the water a long time.

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. You should watch for damage from rodent types, rabbits, squirrel, and rats. They will seriously prune branches and strip bark in short order..

A caution on lime sulfur--the same stuff we use on jin and shari. The liquid lime sulfur is pretty caustic so should be used with caution. If used as a dormant spray application should only be made to fully dormant plants, deciduous trees with tight winter buds, not on very warm days, and only when diluted as given on the bottle.

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. Trying to keep the humidity up by placing you trees on a humidity tray can possibly give you some soil problems, root rot or some other fungal disease. I use the same controls in the greenhouse that I use outside all year.

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, I am using 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.

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 \$30.00 for an individual and \$35.00 for a family membership.

For additional information, please contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, Texas 78734



Spotlight of the Month
(Photo by Joey Mc Coy)