



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

December 2019 vol 111

## Our News

**President's Message**  
*page 2*

**Vice President's Message**  
*page 3*

**Holiday Celebrations**  
*page 4 - 5*

**December Bonsai**  
*page 6 - 7*

**New Members**  
*page 8*

**Recruiting Authors**  
*page 9*

## Calendar of Events

- **Wed Jan 8**  
7:30pm - 9:00pm  
Todd Schlafer
- **Tues Jan 21**  
7:00pm - 9:00pm  
Members' workshop

## 2019 Board of Directors

**Brandon Baldauf**  
President

**Mike Garza**  
Vice President

**Roland Lopez**  
Secretary

**Gloria Norberg**  
Treasurer

**Lawrence Priest**  
Member-At-Large

**Chris Frechette**  
Member-At-Large

**Pat Ware**  
Member-At-Large

## Volunteers

*Food*  
Alisan Clark  
Pat Ware

*Tree*  
Alisan Clark  
Chuck Ware

# President's Message

*By Brandon Baldauf*

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

Apologies for the delay in the distribution of this newsletter and may it finds you well and in warm spirits! What a year 2019 has proven to be! When looking back at the last 12 months, there are many enjoyable bonsai and family memories. Thank you all for being part of those experiences and for the fun times we've shared this year. Hopefully everyone has some opportunity to spend time with their friends, families, loved ones, and bonsai trees as we celebrate the end of 2019. Looking forward to beginning a fresh new year.

To share a bit of why the delay: This last week, my nearly 7 year old daughter Camdyn and I took a road trip to Eisei-en Bonsai nursery of Bjorn Bjorholm with a uhaul trailer hitched to our CRV. As you can imagine we loaded it with a number of trees and yamadori collected over the last couple years including Cork Bark Oak, Blue Oak, Yaupon Holly, Cedar Elm, Trident Maple, Kingsville Boxwood, and Chinese Elm. I took them as material to study during the Broadleaf study group. Somehow I managed to get enough time away from work to take a 3 day weekend of study 3 times a year for 3 years! We'll be going back in March, May, and December of 2020.

A thank you to everyone who helped make our annual holiday party a success. There is much work put in by volunteers to make the event so much fun! A special thank you to Elaine, Alisan, and Lynn for their efforts towards the meal! Like all of our food and events, it only happens through the effort of volunteering. Make a new years resolution to help out in 2020! =]

We've put together a stellar program for this upcoming year and I'm excited to represent Austin Bonsai Society as President for another round! The full program will be published in the member directory so look for that in a couple months. Till then, we've got Todd Schlafer lined up to present a lecture and demonstration on Juniper styling. See you there, January 8th at 7:00 PM.

Brandon



# Vice President's Message

By Mike Garza

## Get Connected!

Join our online discussion page! NO SPAM!

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/austinbonsai/>

## Official Website

Visit our website at [austinbonsaisociety.com](http://austinbonsaisociety.com)

## Facebook



Like our Facebook page [/AustinBonsaiSociety](https://www.facebook.com/AustinBonsaiSociety)

## Twitter



Follow us on Twitter [@ATXBonsai](https://twitter.com/ATXBonsai)

## Instagram



Follow us on Instagram [@austinbonsaisociety](https://www.instagram.com/austinbonsaisociety)

## ABS Library

<https://abslibrary.libib.com/>

Bonsai friends,

It's December already...wow! Another great year for our club. I really just want to thank everyone who made it possible. We really couldn't make things happen without all the volunteer work y'all do for the club. I was happy to see everybody at our holiday party; the food was great. We had many great Bonsai Artists come through this year and next year is going to be even better. I want to thank Brandon and the Board for helping me out with all the programming; I definitely couldn't have done it on my own. In January, we will have Todd Schlafer from First Branch Bonsai back again, and I'm truly looking forward to it. We also have a great line up for other artists coming, so I hope to see y'all in 2020. Once again thank you for making this year a great one for The Austin Bonsai Society! I wish you happy holidays and a wonderful new year.

-Mike Garza

**BRITE IDEAS**  
**AQUAPONICS  
 HYDROPONICS & ORGANICS**

[Http://www.bihydro.com](http://www.bihydro.com)  
 Owner: Troy Smith

4201 S. Congress Ave.# 310 Austin, TX 78745 (512)444-2100 Manager:Tim Hill	2521 Rutland Dr. #475 Austin,TX 78758 (512)459-4353 Manager: Nick Snyder
---	---

## Reminder for club membership

### 2019 membership fee (After June 30)

Individual	\$15
Family	\$17.50
Newsletter monthly advertisements:	\$35
Directory advertisement:	\$10

Come to the meeting and pay by cash/check/credit card or send your payment to Gloria Norberg, 7413 Lady Suzanne's Court, Austin TX 78729.

# November Meeting

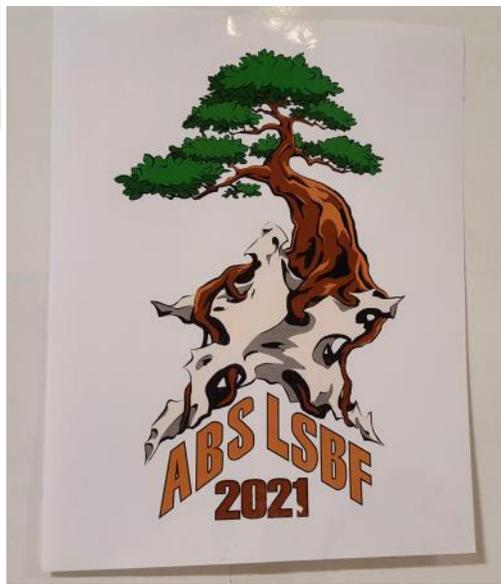
## Holiday Celebrations

Photos by Joey McCoy



# November Meeting

## Holiday Celebrations



# December Bonsai

*By John Miller*

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 top. Water in a minute crack or chip can freeze and bust the pot.

Evergreen types especially and deciduous to a lesser extend 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 systemic 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 by 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 and may also interfere with drainage.

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 are 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 causes 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 directed 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 basically use the same controls in the greenhouse that I use outside all year.

You can take advantage of the winter slowdown by 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.

Try to find some good material for enhancing your collection. It is hard to fine decent material in a landscape nursery. If the club has a dig scheduled, be a part of it. There are many places where you can find one or two specimen to dig, in town as well as in the country. The problem is in finding a place with enough material to warrant taking the whole club. If you know of a possible location or have a friend with some land (it doesn't have to be very close) tell one of the officers about it. This comes under the heading of 'be an active member'. The rest of the group especially your program chairman will appreciate it.



New Members

**Not this month :)**

## Recruiting Authors

With a nod of respect to John Miller, who has been diligently writing monthly columns for our newsletter, we would also like to take this time to invite interested members with knowledge and experiences of local Austin conditions to write articles for beginners and potential aspirants keen on raising bonsai. The Bonsai Notebook is looking for a new voice to author a column providing helpful reminders and tips dedicated to caring for bonsai. Be it a monthly routine or winter procedures, we'd like to welcome new perspectives and experiences to be shared in this newsletter. If interested, please contact Simon Tse at [tse\\_simon@hotmail.com](mailto:tse_simon@hotmail.com).

A warm thank you to John Miller for writing the latest columns. Even I, as the editor, may have taken these last months for granted and have been reminded that life is a charming companion that deserves to be appreciated every day. Thank you for your helpful words!

**JADE GARDENS**  
HOME OF THE

Owners  Chuck  
and Pat  
Ware

JADE GARDENS  
Wimberley, Texas  
12404 Ranch Road 12  
Wimberley, TX 78676  
Visa & MasterCard  
(512) 847-2514  
e-mail: [bonsaijg@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaijg@gmail.com)  
<http://www.bonsaiexhibittx.com>

**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  
-mail: [mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net](mailto:mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net)  
601 Kay Lane  
Pflugerville, TX 78660  
(call for directions)

# Bonsai Notebook

Austin Bonsai Society  
P.O. Box 340474  
Austin, Texas 78734



## Austin Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 340474  
Austin, TX 78734



## About Us

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, contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, TX 78734.