



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

January 2016 vol 60

January 2015 Program

We are in for a treat as our own member, Elaine White, has not done this program since 2001. Many of our new members will enjoy this woman's vast experience that many of the old members already know. The Three Friends of Winter, also known as Suihan Sanyou (or shochikubai), symbolize the pine, bamboo, and plum - are grouped together in the context of winter because they all flourish at that season. The Chinese observed that the pine, bamboo and plum do not wither as the cold days deepen into the winter season unlike many other plants. Together they symbolize steadfastness, perseverance, and resilience.

In a Korean poem by Kim Yuki (1580-1658), the three friends are brought together in order to underline the paradoxical contrast: Peach and plum of springtime, don't flaunt your pretty blossoms; Consider rather the old pine and green bamboo at year's end. What can change these noble stems and their flourishing evergreen? In Japan, they are particularly associated with the start of the Lunar New Year, appearing on greeting cards and as a design stamped into seasonal sweets.

This explanation is found on our web site:

Sho-Chiku-Bai
Pine = long life
Bamboo = virtue
Japanese flowering apricot = Happiness

The New Year seasonal bonsai planting. Check out *The Japanese Art of Miniature Trees and Landscapes* by Yuji Yoshimura and G. M. Halford (p. 139). Literally translated it means pine, bamboo, plum and these three plants for the basis of a group planting which represents, to the Japanese people, evergreen stability (long life), upright behavior (virtue) and happiness. To these three basic plants are added miniature bamboo, the red berried ardisia, nandina, and the Japanese wild orchid, two rocks, white pebble and moss.

The finished planting is not unlike a saikei, leading the viewer to feel the pebbles represent the sea, the rocks a seashore and the trees placed in order to give the visual effect of a mountain in the background. The leafless plum tree is in bud at this time of year, the orchid about to flower, the ardisia berries brilliant red against its dark green leaves, the nandina's red winter leaves and the variegations of the miniature bamboo harmonize well with the green pine tree. All in all the Sho-chiku-bai is very pleasing visually.

Calendar of Events

**Jan 13, 7:30pm: New Year Planting with Elaine White
Collecting Tips with Chuck Ware**

Nov. 19, 7:00pm: Board Meeting

Nov. 19, 7:30pm: Members Workshop -- Tool Maintenance

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

DUES ARE DUE NOW!



ABS Holiday Party December 2015

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Jonathan Wood
President

Zach Rabalais
Vice President

Zerita Rogers
Secretary

Pat Ware
Treasurer

Angie Hewes
Member at-Large

Simon Tse
Member at-Large

May Lau Tse
Member at-Large

Past President
Nan Jenkins

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 Jonathan Wood

2016 is here! Austin Bonsai Society has a wonderful year of programs and activities just around the corner! We have some new board members stepping into leadership positions and working diligently behind the scenes! Let's welcome Simon Tse, (Member at Large/ Webmaster) and Zachary Rabalais (Vice President/ Program Chair). Thanks also, Zerita Rogers (Secretary) for helping us with fantastic meeting notes/ minutes. It takes dedicated volunteers to keep the club thriving and we're grateful for all you do!

Thanks also to the club members and their families who attended our November Holiday Party. What a wonderful evening, scrumptious potluck, gift exchange, and festive trees on display! A lot of planning and set-up went into the evening ...thank you to all who contributed.

As for anyone new to the Central Texas region, it is worth mentioning our coldest months tend to be January and February. During these months it is common to experience rapid freezes and thaws and occasional ice. Best to make sure your trees are ready :-).

Looking forward to great bonsai in 2016!

Jonathan Wood, ABS President



Austin Bonsai Society was very proud to be a part of the visit by the delegation of Austin's sister city Oita, Japan in November 2015. There were local dignitaries such as our Mayor (Steve Adler) and several City Council members with visiting officials such as the Oita Mayor (Kiichiro Sato) and other elected officials.

NEWS CORNER

DUES ARE DUE
\$30.00 INDIVIDUAL
\$35.00 FAMILY OF TWO

BRING TO MEETING OR MAIL TO TREASURER
Contact Pat Ware for questions!

Rest In Peace Audrey Lanier

Audrey Lanier passed away on December 29th, 2015 just after 10pm in the ICU. She had been fighting cancer and illness for quite a while. On page 5, you will find a previous article written by member Joey McCoy.



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)

SUISEKI

ROCKS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

(CHIHUAHUA DESERT, NORTH CALIFORNIA RIVER, COLORADO RIVER, AND MORE)

www.bonsaigardentexas.com

HUNDREDS OF ROCKS FOR YOUR SUISEKI & BONSAI

BONSAI GARDEN OF TEXAS // 512-985-5585
2392 HWY 71 W. CEDAR CREEK TX 78612

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>

**ABS General Meeting
November 11, 2015
Zerita Rogers, Secretary**

Meeting called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Jonathan, after a delicious pot luck supper by a well attended group.

Jonathan, had an informal survey asking the members, to brain storm as to what they would like to see in the club for the coming year. Workshops, Communication etc.

Treasurer, Pat Ware passed out the budget for the coming year 2016. Budget was moved for acceptance by Chuck Ware and seconded by Timmi Kuykendall and approved by the members.

Next item was to close the nomination for the ABS board of 2016. Board was moved for acceptance by Chuck Ware and seconded by Alisan Clarke, and approved by the members.

Jim Baumann was honored for his two years service as ABS Vice President. He was presented a cup for a job well done.

Nan Jenkins discussed the hard work that went into the vision for the TTSBE Bonsai Exhibit. Now that it has come together at Zilker Park she acknowledged those who participated.

Next was to close the nomination for the TTSBE Board of 2016. Board was moved for acceptance by Quoc Hoang and seconded by Chuck Ware and approved by the members.

Jonathan, recognized the many Bonsai Trees and arrangements that were brought as a centerpiece for our tables.

Kevin Patureau, did a great job with the White Elephant Exchange. Everyone, seemed to enjoy this new event and provided some fun for those who didn't participate.

No events scheduled for December. The normal ABS schedule will resume in January. Our yearly dues will be due in January. Enjoy the Holidays.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

REMEMBERING AUDREY LANIER

Audrey passed away last night, December 29, 2015, just after 10pm in the ICU. She had been fighting cancer and illness for quite a while. Below is an article written by Joey McCoy in 2014.

As the new year 2014 emerged, I had a chance to sit down and talk with Audrey Lanier, one of the Grand Dames of Texas Bonsai and a founding member of the Austin Bonsai Society. Just inside the entrance to her home was a manicured Japanese Black Pine in a beautiful display. Further inside, the bright red berries of a Nandina sparkled, while the twisted branches of an old Cape Honesuckle enjoyed some winter care.

The first time Audrey saw a Bonsai was at the old City Colosseum in Austin in the 1950's. This dirt-floor Quonset hut shaped structure was hosting a garden show, and she spotted an unstyled "stump" with tiny leaves in a small one-inch deep tray. Amazed that a plant could survive such conditions, Audrey pestered the man, Douglass Troll of Smithville, with questions, and eventually learned from him about the Brooklyn Botanic Garden books on Bonsai which became her first source of information. A few years later with her husband on a business trip to LA, her first Bonsai was purchased – a Japanese Black Pine at Kay Nursery for the unheard of price of \$35. Audrey remembers this nursery had beautiful twin trees displayed under an awning in a place of honor, and Bonsai waiting to be refurbished and worked on that belonged to celebrities like Frank Sinatra.

Audrey ordered plants through the Brooklyn Botanic Garden booklets such as Cryptomeria (which didn't seem to like our climate too well), but quickly grew cuttings and seedlings of her own. Seeing these early starts and realizing that they weren't going to look like the Bonsai in the books, Audrey then looked to local nurseries for material and eventually began collecting native species. She says that when she caught the "bonsai bug" she had a local potter make brown oblong pots as she couldn't get actual bonsai pots anywhere at that time. Audrey displayed her bonsai in local garden shows and even made the newspaper with her trees!

Helping each other learn about the art of Bonsai, Audrey and several others began an informal group in Austin to share knowledge in about 1965. Several members of the new (and better organized) Dallas club, the Bonsai Society of Texas met with this group and exchanged information. Audrey and several others would drive to Dallas for meetings on Bonsai, learning and sharing with others. The names of those who she credits in learning about Bonsai include Austin locals like Harry Michaels, Frank Thibedeau & Benny Badgett, Dallas members George Gray, Arch Hawkins & Estella Flather, Edith Sorge of the Bonsai Farm in San Antonio, and national talent such as John Naka (who taught at the Bonsai Farm often), Mr. Nakamura, and Yuji Yoshimura. Audrey learned part of the horticultural side of Bonsai from Isamu Taniguchi, the creator of part of Austin's Zilker Botanical Garden. Mr. Taniguchi was an avid gardener and farmer, and always seemed to have some Bonsai (though didn't seem very interested in styling). A famous photo of Mr. Taniguchi hangs in the Botanic gardens, taken by Audrey on a Bonsai collecting trip. She tells a funny story about collecting with Mr. Taniguchi: he would find just the right Cedar Elm, and with a grubbing hoe, give it several whacks in the ground and lift it from the soil. He then threw it down the hill to knock off the soil and avoid carrying it down. All lived thanks to his aftercare.

Audrey has served as President, Vice President, Treasurer and often has been the Program Chair for the Austin Bonsai Society. She also had the "job" of checking with nurseries for suitable material and reporting back to the newsletter. In addition, she was one of the founding members and board member of the Texas State Bonsai Exhibit.

How many trees have you had at one time? When I first asked this question, she pointed out that I asked for trees, not Bonsai. Almost all of us have "stuff" that have no way to ever be a bonsai. The number of Bonsai in her yard has varied, of course, but there have been 50 or more "ready" bonsai, and maybe 20-30 more pre-bonsai. Audrey likes to have bonsai ready for a show or display and will often bring 6-8 to the club show.

Advice to new Bonsai addicts? Audrey recommends finding the right species, one that you will have time to care for and maintain, then get the largest sized plant you can take care of. Too many new people buy tiny bonsai that are more difficult. She says get a plant with a fair-sized trunk and grow it outside for a year. If they can keep it through our weather for a year and keep it happy, not letting it dry out in the summer or water too much, then they'll understand the plant and should be OK.

Wrapping up my visit, we talk about Bonsai we would still like to find. She tells me that she would like a nice Live Oak, and is keeping an eye out for one. She may be in her 90's but Audrey Lanier is one powerhouse of Bonsai who refuses to slow her enthusiasm.

January Bonsai by John Miller

JANUARY BONSAI

Winter this year has been pretty non-existent. That kind of weather is bad for bonsai. The trees can't really get prepared for winter. And we most likely will find a cold front trying to do havoc. Try to select locations to temporize the lows and highs by utilizing ground heat and artificial shade.

Be sure your trees are well watered before going thru a deep freeze. They will be losing water to evaporation but will not be able to replenish it if the soil in the pot is frozen. Protection from high winds is necessary so they will not dry the tops out. Sunlight is not necessary on deciduous trees when they have lost their leaves. In fact, it can be bad for the tree because it will heat up the trunk and could make the tree come out of dormancy too early.

I advocate placing the trees on a well drained ground bed in a protected shady area. Then cover the pots with a shallow layer of mulch. This will give the roots several degrees of protection. You should know which trees have a greater need for water. If you put these trees together it will be easier to check your need for watering while they are in the bed.

I would treat the evergreens in a similar manner but put them where they can get some sun.

Personally, I keep my outside hardy trees on the benches until the temp goes below 25. Then I set the deciduous and more tender evergreens on the ground below and between the benches until a temp in the teens is expected. At that point I will use old carpet and quilts to cover the benches. For the rest of the winter I leave them there and lift the sides for air circulation of the deciduous trees and uncover fully the evergreens when the temp rises. Sounds like a lot of work but I developed a routine that fits me and it isn't as bad as watering in the summer.

Of course the tender and semi-tender trees need protection. The semi-tender get left out for some frost but no freezing. When freezing is expected they get put in a cool area. If they show growth again they go to the greenhouse. It's not a big greenhouse and doesn't give optimum growing conditions but keeps things from freezing.

Indoor trees will be using more water to offset the lower humidity. Soil will also be losing water faster through

its surface. Be sure to watch the indoor trees for insect problems. Most plant insects love a controlled atmosphere like the indoors. Spider mites seem to get the most attention here because they do great in a low humidity and the lack of foliage spraying. Scale can be an easily overlooked source of trouble. There is usually more severe problems with plants that have been kept outdoors in summer than brought in without any treatment. Indoor trees need to be fertilized regularly and will require periodic trimming as they continue to grow through the winter.

Greenhouses are much the same as indoors. However, most greenhouses are kept more humid. The higher humidity is to the liking of aphids and fungal diseases. It may also result in your keeping the soil too moist with associated root problems. Use your standard insect controls that you used last summer. I use my Garrett Juice mixture.

Styling can be done at this time but no repotting unless you are going to keep the tree from freezing after that. Repotting initiates new root development which is usually not very hardy.

A better approach would be to study one or two thoroughly each day making notes on what needs to be done. January is an excellent time to start any remodeling projects that may be necessary. While the trees are dormant you have better view of the branch structure. Do any need to be moved or removed? Do any coarse branches need to be cut back to a smaller side branch for refinement? Do any long straight branches need wiring to give them motion? Does the tree really need a drastic redesign? You can also trim the twigs back while you have them there. You can also decide if that tree will need to be repotted this spring, is the present pot good or should you find a more appropriate pot for it.

Any long warm spells during the month could activate some of the insect problems but as a rule there are no special needs to look for in January. Spraying with a dormant oil spray will kill adults, nymphs, and eggs of any trying to over-winter on your trees. Some dormant sprays can be used on new growth but better results overall will be obtained if you do it before Valentines Day. A weak lime sulphur dormant spray will also get fungal spores and should be done before Feb 1.

If you have your summer display and growing benches cleared, you could use a stronger solution lime sulphur to disinfect that area too. The underside of the benches should be sprayed also. Might even eliminate spider mites next year.

If you have several trees and find that you run short of time during the repotting season you may gain a little advantage by mixing your soil this month.

I am looking forward to the week after Christmas. That is when I will start bringing my shohin elms and maples into the greenhouse to break dormancy and I get to play a couple of months earlier than I would without the greenhouse. That repotting, restyling, and the first flush of growth will be over before the big stuff thinks about growing.

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 McCoy)