



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

January 2019 vol 99

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Calendar of Events

- **Wed January 9**
6:30pm - 9:00pm
The mystery of soil
by Chuck Ware
- **Tues January 15**
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Member's Meeting
- **No meeting/workshop in December**

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

Alisan Clark
Pat Ware
Food

Alisan Clark
Chuck Ware
Trees

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Happy New Year Austin Bonsai Society!!

Much respect and a sincere thank you to the board members of 2018, it's your volunteered time and interest in our club which continuous to keep our society as awesome as it is. We would not be able to have such quality opportunities for everyone without your support and dedication. You are appreciated!

It's my pleasure to introduce and honor the new board members who will be guiding our society through 2019:

Vice President: Mike Garza

Treasurer: Gloria Norberg

Secretary: Roland Lopez

Member at Large: Pat Ware

Member at Large: Lawrence Priest

Member at Large: Chris Frechette

Webmaster: Simon Tse

At our January meeting, we're looking forward to drawing the winner for the 2019 LSBF Convention Scholarship Winner at the start of the meeting. If you are uncertain about this, please see previous emails from Simon. There is an exciting topic planned thanks to the generosity of Chuck Ware. He has a rather special presentation prepared demonstrating the criticality of using proper bonsai soil.

Cheers,
Brandon

Reminder for club membership

2019 DUES are DUE!!

Individual	\$30
Family	\$35
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.

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Vice President's Message

By Mike Garza

Well another year has come and gone, my bonsai friends. I truly enjoyed the wonderful times we shared together at all our meetings last year. I hope all your bonsai trees are doing great during this winter which seems like, so far, it has been a mild one. Remember to protect your trees when we do get those hard freezes though.

We hope to continue the trend of great programs and are excited about 2019. We have some great artists and presentations lined up for this year and I for one am excited about it. We will start with our January 9th meeting with the wonderful Chuck Ware and, he will be going over on of the most controversial subjects when it comes to bonsai - "The Magic of Soil & Water Tables". What better way to start off the new year then with Soil? Yeah I said it. Most bonsai enthusiasts or professionals that I've met have always been pretty passionate about the soil they use. Repotting season is just around the corner, so this

meeting is one you will not want to miss. On Tuesday January 15th at 7:00 PM we will hold our monthly workshop as well. It will be a BYOT (bring your own tree). We encourage all our members to bring in a tree to ask any questions about styling, repotting, health and anything really. I'm looking forward to 2019 and hope to see y'all soon.

Mike Garza

Bonsai Party

Soil sieving and preparation for repotting TTSBE trees



Photos by May Lau

Party continues

Photos by May Lau



January Bonsai

By John Miller

The next 5 weeks should be good for dormant oil and lime sulphur dormant sprays, especially so if you had any problem last year. Kill the over-wintering eggs, pupae, or adults. Be sure what you use is labeled for your species of tree and always follow label instructions carefully.

It would be nice to be able to put your trees into 2 or 3 groups--outdoor trees, indoor trees, flowering trees. But nature has not done anything so simple. Some outdoor trees survive a lot of cold and others want to go dormant but cant have their roots frozen at all. Your job is to learn their foibles and work around them.

In general, you start by knowing that deciduous trees will go dormant and stay that way until something awakens them. Some are temperature sensitive, they go dormant when the temp drops in the fall and awaken when they get warm. These should be kept in a shady area to keep them cool. Others are sensitive in the change in day length: they go dormant when daylight gets short and will break buds when they sense the days getting longer. These are not so hard to care for.

Evergreens do not go fully dormant. They slow their processes but still use sunlight and some nutrients. However, they still need their roots protected to prevent alternate freezing and thawing.

All outdoor trees, both deciduous and evergreen, need to have their soil moisture maintained and their roots protected from deep freezes. Since their sap flow is diminished, they cannot replace moisture lost to winds so they should be protected from a lot of wind. The plants can be protected by using ground heat to minimize the low and high temps. Set the pots on or in the ground and cover with mulch.

For those with tropicals care at this time depends on your facilities for giving them heat and light, the two things usually in short supply in January. I merely try to keep mine alive with the greenhouse at 50 degrees. Be sure to monitor them for aphids and other problems. They do not get enough light to actively grow anyway. When the mame size shohin elms have had a month of dormancy I bring them into the greenhouse before the temps get to

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New Members

No new member

the lower twenties. They respond by starting growth so I have them for 'soul food' through January.

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.

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.

Tender or tropical trees that are kept indoors 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. The flat green kind can be hard to spot on the underside of leaves or tight against the stem. Indoor trees need to be fertilized regularly and will require periodic trimming as they continue to grow through the winter.

Warm 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 organic foliar spray all winter.

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Owners**Chuck
and Pat
Ware**

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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.

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!

Bonsai Notebook

Austin Bonsai Society
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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.