



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

November 2014 vol 47

November 2014 Program

by Jimbo Baumann

On Wednesday, November 12th, Chuck Ware from Jade Gardens and Central Texas Bonsai Exhibit of Wimberley will be our featured speaker with a presentation on the Science of Soil. Bonsai soil and pot/ tray micro-environment is one of those critical elements in the overall life management of your bonsai. Bonsai soil, a much discussed topic (all the bonsai journals and newsletters) and one that is in our mind as we think about our fall/winter task list in preparation for repotting next year.

The Austin Bonsai Society website (<http://www.austinbonsaisociety.com/newsletters20122014.html>) contains some excellent reprints of commentaries by Stan Perkins on Potting Soils, (<http://www.austinbonsaisociety.com/articlesfour.html>), and certainly John Miller of the Dallas / Ft. Worth area always give us a reminder of our bonsai soil needs. Those necessary requirements of nutrients/organic matter, drainage, maintenance of a good root temperature, oxygen, and particle size will all be discussed by Chuck at our next meeting.

Chuck Ware is one of those rare bonsai artists that blend the science of nature and horticulture with the stylistic principles of Bonsai. We are fortunate here in Central Texas to have known Chuck as a teacher within public education for 25 years, a graduate of Tx. State University (BS & MS), and masterful bonsai collector and storyteller. So join us for one of those stories as we hear about the "Science of Soil".

In addition, make sure you have marked your calendar, Tuesday November 18 for a "Bring Your Own Tree" from the auction or home and get some stylistic input and design recommendations from our "Members Only" Workshop.

Calendar of Events

Nov 12: ABS Monthly Meeting

Reception Host: Sandi and Darrell Tuel & Shelia Ward

Nov 18: ABS Board Meeting and Mmembers Only Workshop

Zilker Garden Center

Dec 12: ABS Annual Christmas Party and Special Guest Lecture with Walter Pall

**St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
14311 Wells Port Drive
Austin, TX 78728**



**Ryan Odegaard from San Antonio's Auction
this summer. Many thanks!**

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Nan Jenkins
President

Jimbo Baumann
Vice President

Angelina Hewes
Secretary

Pat Ware
Treasurer

Russell Kohlert
Member at-Large

Zerita Rogers
Member at-Large

Deb Van Cleaf
Member at-Large

Past President
Mike Watson

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 inc

hes. 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

Hello Everyone,

Ahhhh, Autumn! I love the weather this time of year! Cool evenings and early mornings and not so hot days are just right-- both for me and my trees! I see the trees greening and lifting their leaves to catch the sun instead of trying to hide from it.

Because of the unknown factor of too cold nights, I now have the tropicals in the greenhouse. Most of the semi-tropicals are still outside. My greenhouse is under a big chinkapin oak tree so the sun only gets in early and late, and the windows are open. It works pretty well. We still have to watch the heat, but at least we don't have to move all those trees at the last minute! One more piece of information: I always spray the greenhouse prior to filling with trees with some kind of insect killer. That seems to help with some with aphids and I usually don't have other problems.

When I started in bonsai, I thought I'd never understand about the soil. What to put in it, why we do that, where the nutrients came from, etc. I thought I'd never do my own mix, and I still work from purchased mixes that I add to. But I have found a mix that works for our yard, our watering process, and our fertilizing.

I'm looking forward to learning more about soils at our November meeting. Chuck Ware will do his presentation which is always informative and fun.

I hope to see you there on the 12th of November.

**Austin Bonsai Society (ABS) General Meeting Minutes
October 8 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Jimbo Baumann. Over 25 Members of the Austin club and several guests primarily from the San Antonio Bonsai Society joined us for the evening.

Special delicious goodies and wonderful treats were available, provided by our hostess members—Gloria Norberg and May Lau Tse. Many thanks.

Well the evening was a fun bidding event for the ABS Annual Auction. Well over 100 items were available including pre-bonsai, tools, pots, and other bonsai related materials. Our annual auction featured a guest auctioneer, Ryan Odegaard, who led the spirited bidding and excitement! Ryan provided some great entertaining stories and background material for a wonderful visit with friends from San Antonio Bonsai Society. While they raided many of our Austin material we plan on returning the experience by visiting their auction. Stay tuned for more information.

Many thanks to Pat Ware for handling all the bidding finances and recording of sale transactions.

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)



<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*****

Christmas Party Date and Place

December 12, 6:30pm

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

14311 Wells Port Drive.

Austin, TX 78728

An Evening Ending With A Bang!

I'll always remember the night of October 8, 2014 because for me it was truly enjoyable being with and seeing longtime friends at the annual Austin Bonsai Society auction. And besides I got out of there with less than \$100 spent and ended the night with a bang – to my head that is!

Jim Bow had kindly helped me out of the building with my take and we approached the vehicle I was to catch a ride home in safely enough. Not having ridden in this SUV before I didn't know how to release and open the door mechanism. So Jim stepped up and figured it out with ease. At that point one of my Parkinson's freeze moments occurred and I didn't get out of the way of the door as it opened and down I went flat on my back and head. Boy did it give me a good ole' American ouchie.

But thanks to Kevin Preston, Jimbo and Marlon Chen I was promptly and safely cared for. So to these three gentle and caring souls I must and do say THANKS thus my evening ended with a bang! My big Texas THANKS also to our auctioneer extraordinary who took me home very safely.

--Chris Luna

Mark Your Calendar

Take a minute right now to mark your calendar for a special night in DEC. The annual Austin Bonsai Society Christmas Party will be held on 12 December at 630 pm at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (<http://www.staopen.org/>). See their website for a complete listing of address, map, etc. Signup sheets will for food / buffet items will be at the November meeting. Be thinking of those special casseroles you make and plan on bringing a cold or warm plate for this event. The club will provide both a turkey and a ham, plates, napkins, etc. You bring your potluck.

Walter Pall will be discussing our trees as our program at our Christmas Party. He teaches by having a variety of trees to talk about. If you want your tree included, we will have a sign up sheet at the November meeting - a small fee of \$15.00 per tree will be charged to help defray some of the costs.

Our featured guest for the evening is that Bonsai Artist of Germany, <http://walter-pall-bonsai.blogspot.com/2014/09/the-bonsai-society-of-dresden-germany.html>. Walter is in North America at this time of year for other bonsai clubs and will be visiting Central Texas the Austin and San Antonio clubs. Please visit the website above for some great articles, videos, and features of his blog and study group from Dresden.

October 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.

NOVEMBER BONSAI

A couple of years ago I dug out an interesting fact that is surprising. There was only one month of the entire year, in the Dallas records, that the high temperature did not reach 90 and that month the record high was 89. Surprisingly that month was not January, it was November.

All of this means that you should have your winter quarters ready. Select one for deciduous trees that will be out of the sun. Air circulation is good but too much wind will desiccate them especially in freezing temps. Be sure you will be able to check their watering. Clean up all debris.

Before putting the trees into winter storage treat them for over-wintering insects and eggs. Dormant oil spray is good on trees with no green, foliage or buds. A dilute solution of lime sulfur is an old gardeners dormant spray for insect and fungus control. Use it on very cool days and dilute it 1 part lime sulfur to 20 parts water. Be sure to read the label on your bottle in case there are different strengths available. This solution should also be applied to benches tops, posts and the soil surrounding them (if you have gravel instead of grass) to eliminate hiding eggs and spores. If you have a greenhouse treat it also before the weather gets too cold to put your plants outside or move them to one end while you treat the other end.

At this time of the year deciduous plants do not need fertilizer. Evergreens will continue a slow growth and will benefit for a light fertilizer feeding. Use one with a lower nitrogen (first number) like 0-10-10 at no more than half the recommended feeding rate.

Watering should be done with care during the cool and/or cold weather. Deciduous trees will use some water to replace that lost to winds and evaporation. Evergreen trees will need a little more but not as much as in summer. The easiest way is to sort your

pots into groups, those that dry quickly, those that are slower to dry, and those that seem to stay damp. This will let you water faster and yet not over-water the ones staying damp. Make a mental note to repot the ones staying too damp.

Most important is winter is to keep the soil moisture at a proper level. This sometimes is hard to do because the trees do not use as much water as when they are growing. However the cold winds will dry out the tops quickly. I believe that most winter damage in Texas is due to lack of water rather than to low temperatures. Mulch helps keep the roots warm and retards evaporation but it makes for difficulty in seeing if the soil is damp enough. Most soils with enough organic material to keep the tree happy in the summer will be too wet if watered daily in the winter and wet cold means root rot.

Repotting of hardy trees can be done anytime the trees are dormant. However it is safer to do that chore in the spring as the buds are swelling. New roots will start forming immediately upon repotting in order for the tree to absorb water. If you do repot in the fall you should protect the new roots from freezing during the winter. Do you need to change the pot? Making notes at this time while getting the trees ready for winter will give you 3-4 months to find the proper pot.

When trees go dormant which indicates a reduced sap flow they may be pruned, that is have major limbs removed. Trimming may also be done while the leaves are off the trees and you can see what you are doing. Evergreen types will probably still be active. Pruning them should be held until later.

BIG NOTE: If you have a tree that is weak and unhealthy you should not attempt to style it in any way, just get it happy by adjusting its soil, feeding, and getting rid of any parasites. Styling just adds to its stress and problems.

By this time any tropical you have should be under cover. Most do not like the temp below 50 degrees. All tropicals should be checked and treated for any insect problems since any insects will multiply fast when they get into warmer quarters. Spider mites and scale can be especially damaging if the plant is moved in the house where the humidity is low.

The semi-tropical plants like crape myrtle pomegranate and pyracantha need to go dormant to stay healthy over a long time but they cannot take much cold on the roots. They will be killed by temps somewhere between 25 and 30 degrees. These I set down on the ground and mulch for light freezes and then bring into a protected area for the colder winter. Sometimes I will let them go dormant for a month and then take into the greenhouse to start early and I can enjoy their new foliage in January.

Learn to think in terms related to plant characteristics instead of calendar periods (i.e. use 'when dormant' instead of October, 'candle growth' instead of April, etc). That will enable you to read bonsai articles correctly whether written in Japan Florida or wherever. Note that some tree cultivars (like the cork bark black pine) are notably weaker than the standards of the species and require different pruning and care.

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)