



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

November 2019 vol 110

## Our News

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

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

**October Meeting**  
*page 4*

**Meeting/Board Minutes**  
*Page 5 - 6*

**November Bonsai**  
*page 7 - 8*

**New Members**  
*page 8*

**Recruiting Authors**  
*page 9*

## Calendar of Events

- **Wed Nov 13**  
7:00pm - 9:00pm  
Holiday celebrations
- **Tues Nov 19**  
No 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*  
*Everyone*

*Tree*  
*Everyone*

# President's Message

*By Brandon Baldauf*

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

One month later and Winter is officially here. As I write this, the big cold front has just blown through causing the temperatures to be in the low 40s. I just barely got all the cold sensitive trees into the greenhouse before the storm hit. Hopefully everyone has been able to provide proper shelter for their tropical species this month.

Thank you to everyone who made it to the auction and to the special Kathy Shaner meeting, I was really looking forward to attending that one. Alas I had a last minute requirement to travel to Atlanta for The Home Depot. The auction raised over \$3000 this year which will help us for 2020!

We're having the annual holiday party this month! As with years in the past, we have some activities planned to celebrate:

**Potluck dinner** - bring in your favorite dish or dessert treats to share with the club

**Vote on the 2021 convention logo** - theme "Deep in the Art of Texas" bring in your concept design and we will select via voting; logo will be used for pins and other items

**Gift exchange** - participate by bringing a wrapped bonsai related item around \$15 value

**Decorated Tree** - bring in a holiday decorated tree to grace our dinner tables

The board has also voted to make Joe Trochta an honorary member of the club. Joe has been performing bonsai in the Austin, Texas area for over 40 years. During WWII, he spent time in Japan and was introduced to the art of bonsai. After the war, Joe brought back various items directly from Japan and settled in Hawaii where he quickly explored his interest in the art with local artists on the island. In 1979, Joe moved from Hawaii to Austin, Texas and worked to import the bonsai trees in his collection. Even today, Joe still has many of the original Ficus and other tropical trees from his time in Hawaii growing and thriving in his garden. Austin Bonsai Society recognizes this accomplishment and celebrates the many years of service and dedication associated with his bonsai journey! Thank you Joe!

There may be questions around any of these items announced, reach out to me in slack, with an email, text, or phone call and we'll get any questions answered. As we conclude the year, there will be some openings on the board, please let me know if you are interested in helping.

Cheers,  
Brandon

## Get Connected!

Join our online discussion  
page! NO SPAM!

[http://  
groups.yahoo.com/  
group/austinbonsai/](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/>

# Vice President's Message

*By Mike Garza*

Bonsai friends,

Well it looks like summer has finally gone and fall is here. It's time for me to start cleaning out the greenhouse and Getting my tropicals ready for winter. As y'all know we held our annual auction this month and I really want to thank you for making it a great success. I look forward to seeing them mature and flourish at their new homes. Thank you Brandon for helping me host the auction. I would also like to thank Kathy Shiner for a wonderful presentation and demo on that monster cedar elm. For our November meeting we will hold our annual holiday party. Please make sure to bring sides and desserts. The club will provide the turkey and the ham. We will also be holding a white elephant gift exchange so please bring in your gifts if you would like to participate. I look forward to seeing y'all there.

## 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.

# October Meeting

Cedar elm with  
Kathy Shaner

Photos by Joey McCoy



# Regular Meeting Minutes (Roland)

*October 15, 2019*

Announcements began at 7:32PM

Holiday party announced

Members showed their trees

Kathy Shaner workshop announced

Kathy began at 7:37PM

# ABS Board Minutes (Roland)

No board meeting



**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
---	---

# November Bonsai

*By John Miller*

When you read guidelines do you read 'can' as 'should'. Most guides I have read use them interchangeably. However in the plant world you should be more careful and see if you can decipher the correct meaning. Many times the meaning depends on the readers knowledge and abilities. For example, because of a bad commercial soil mix I barerooted and repotted trees in July with no loss. However, I knew what they required and was committed to supplying their needs completely until they fully recovered. So when you read guidelines be sure to modify them to suit your trees, your back yard, and especially your capabilities. Try to do tasks on a schedule but don't be a slave to a schedule--move the tasks needed as best for the tree, maybe sooner maybe later.

Articles like this are always just guidelines. Each tree in your backyard is a special case and you should look at it individually each time you water. Be sure it is not getting stressed. Is it really healthy? Any signs of problems-- wilting, color ok, leaves good? Does it need attention immediately? If so place it aside and come back to examine it and take appropriate action. 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.

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. 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.

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 from a light fertilizer feeding. Use one with a lower nitrogen (first number) like 0-10-10 or 8-8-8 at no more than 1/3 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 what is 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 note to repot the ones staying too damp.

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. Foliage can be removed when half has turned color to remove some pathogens and to enjoy their winter silhouette.

**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, pyracantha, and some south Texas natives 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.

## New Members

---

**Michael Continues**

**Zach Adamz**

## 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.