



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

October 2017 vol 83

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Calendar of Events

- **Tuesday, October 10**
Workshop with Jonas Dupuich - Sign up NOW!
- **Wednesday, October 11**
Lecture / Demo with Jonas Dupuich
- **April 19 - 22, 2018**
LSBF Convention in Longview, TX at the Hilton Garden Inn

2017 Board of Directors

Simon Tse
President

Zach Rabalais
Vice President

Brandon Baldauf
Secretary

Pat Ware
Treasurer

Ruby Chaing
Member-At-Large

Kevin Patureau
Member-At-Large

Vacant
Member-At-Large

October Meeting Volunteers

Joey McCoy
& Gloria Norberg
Food

None
Trees

President's Message

By Simon Tse

Jonas Dupuich will be in Austin from October 10th to 11th. We are pleased to announce that he will host a bring-your-own-tree workshop (members only) on October 10th and be our visiting artist at our regular meeting on the 11th. The maximum number of participants for the workshop is 8 people and the fee will be \$50 per person. Please email Pat and I as soon as possible to secure a spot.

Joey McCoy has graciously agreed to serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee for club officers. If you are being approached for a board position, this is a rewarding endeavor. It is a great way to grow and have a positive impact on the club. It is my personal goal to see the board comprised of a younger generation, longtime members, and experienced advisors. I look forward to working with all the board members.

Our auction in September was a successful event and I cannot express enough appreciation for all the donated items, support and generosity from all our members. I want to thank Chuck, the auctioneer extraordinaire, for his effort and unparalleled skills during the auction. Last but not least, I am grateful for our friends who drove from San Antonio (Ryan, Kevin, Hattie, Diane, and Klaus) for their presence and support.

Hope to see you all at our next meeting.

Cheers, Simon

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**Chuck
and Pat
Ware**

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ABS September Auction

Our annual auction boasted many items donated by the members themselves and none were left behind!



Chuck Ware as our auctioneer

(Photos by May Lau)



Many items including an assortment of pots and trees were donated by members for the auction



**The auction
under way,
led by
Chuck Ware**

**Some of the
trees at the
auction**

*(Photos by May
Lau)*



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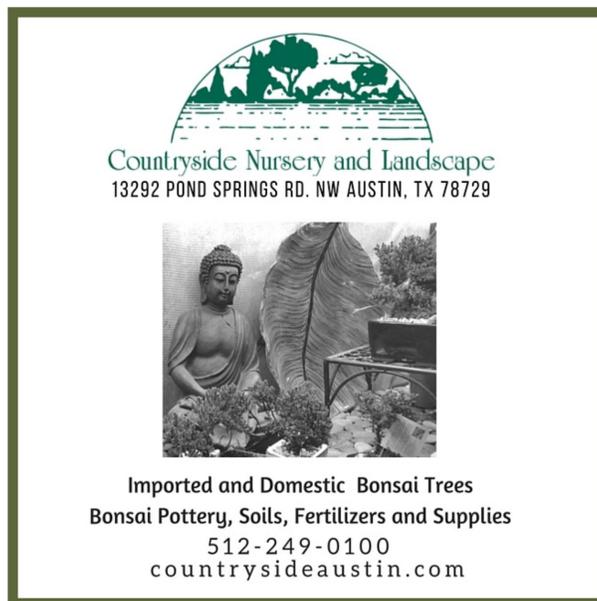
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Vice President's Message

By Zach Rabalais

Fall is officially here, even though it might not feel like it yet. I'm sure everyone is busy pruning and needle plucking, and getting their more sensitive trees ready to go for the colder months to come. If you can find some time to sneak away from your winter prep, come down to Zilker for the October Austin Bonsai Society meeting on Wednesday the 11th.

The program for October will be a lecture/demo by traveling bonsai artist Jonas Dupuich. This is one that you will want to see for sure. Jonas studies bonsai in Northern California with Boon Manakitivipart, and is one of the founding members of Bay Island Bonsai. He also shares his knowledge and bonsai travels on his blog Bonsai Tonight. Make sure not to miss out on this great lecture/demo!



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Austin Board Meeting Minutes September 19th, 2017

Attendance: Pat, Brandon, Simon, & Kevin

Start 7:10

End 8:10

~October Meeting and LSBF Artist

Jonas's workshop is planned for the evening of October 10th. There are a few spots available, anyone who is interested should contact Simon via email or phone.

~September Auction

The auction this year was a record breaking event, where we had more fun and funds raised than years past and specifically in recent memory. Thank you to everyone who donated trees and participated in the annual event.

The new silent auction format was successful and we plan to have the same thing next year!

~Social Media

At the time of this meeting we had 883 followers on our Instagram account. Once we reach 1,000 followers we will be having a giveaway from the account. Make sure you check us out on Instagram and look for the giveaway soon! (As I type this up we have 987 followers)

~Treasurer

We are in a healthy financial state with income over expense at \$1481.14 at the time of the meeting. The board unanimously (4-0) voted to keep our PO Box for another year. Super big thanks to Elaine White for her assistance with checking the post.

~2018 Board

There is an active search committee in pursuit of future 2018 board members. If there is any specific interest in the current club membership, please contact Simon!

~The November Meeting

We are planning on conducting a Chinese Gift Exchange in November. The rules for the event are as follows:

- 1) The gift must be around \$15 value
- 2) The gift should be bonsai related material

For this event we ask for people to bring in trees to help decorate the party as well as snacks, food, and drinks.

Regular Meeting Minutes September 13th, 2017

~Normal Meeting

The auction was a terrific bit of fun and excitement. With the volume of items present, we were astonished to be able to offer all of them and leave none behind! Way to go Chuck Ware for being the auctioneer; Pat for being an awesome treasurer; and to Jimbo, Simon and Zach for helping with the distribution of winnings. Also thanks to Angie for bringing in the food and drinks!

**This pine tree
was one of the
four silent
auction items**
*(Photo by May
Lau)*



October Bonsai

By John Miller

Still a very non-normal year, apparently all over Texas. The hurricane that stopped almost dead still was very abnormal, dumping tons of water that couldn't run off.

I had 10 inches of rain the first two weeks in August and it was cool and wet all August. Then in Sept. no rain at all and temps pushing 100. At least I could do something about it.

If you had a bad experience, try to get advice from a local expert about what you need to do.

Time to take a good look at your tropicals. Before going into the dry low light conditions most of us have for winter quarters they need to be vigorous, pruned and free of problems. Give them a good feeding preferably with an organic fertilizer. If you use a water soluble type use a low dilution and feed every 2-3 days. Prune all new growth back to the trees best shape. To increase ramification on developed trees keep any new growth pinched to 2-3 leaves. Use you desired insecticide and/or fungicide now and again just before you take them in.

Remember that some tropicals do not like to go below 50 degrees while others are only semi-tropical and will take a frost but does not want their roots frozen. The buttonwood is an example of the first group and the crepe myrtle would be in the second. Here in the Dallas-Ft Worth area we will probably not see a freeze until late in November but there may be some cool nights in October. I prefer to leave the tropicals out as long as possible. I want the semi-tropicals to go dormant and then put them in a cool location to stay dormant all winter.

Now is the time to start your outdoor trees toward their winter siesta. If you wait until the temperature drops, you get too rushed and omit some of the little housekeeping duties. Start now by making sure that the area will be free of insects and other vermin.

New business

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New Members

Welcome!!

Bill Cornelius

Joshua Kim

Evan Vincent

Katherine Zhu

When the leaves start turning the sap has quit for the year and you may check the branches and twigs to see if any need to be trimmed. Cutting back any protruding branches will keep them from snagging and possibly breaking other trees when you put them down close together. Don't cut the buds off the spring flowering plants unless absolutely necessary if you want flowers next spring.

Kathy Shaner suggests removing the top half-inch of soil and replenishing it with new soil. This will remove weed seeds that have blown in and will make next year's job easier. Of course if you plan on repotting next spring that is not necessary.

Winter quarters: Remember that here in Texas more trees are lost in the winter due to drying out than to the cold. Of course that does not mean for you to leave the tropicals out or to let the roots freeze on southern trees like the crape myrtle. Even in a greenhouse or sunny window the soil can dry out amazingly fast. The wind in winter has amazing drying powers too. (Ask your grandmother about hanging the wash and letting it dry while frozen stiff.) So while you protecting the roots be sure to give it a wind screen and make sure that you can check the soil for watering needs. (it helps here if you know which particular plants dry out faster and so you can situate them together). A lot of winter kill comes because the soil has frozen and the sun or wind is removing water from the tops. The roots cannot obtain water to replenish the loss and the top desiccates to the point of death.

For the beginners, plants like the cedar elm, oak, maple that are hardy much further north can be set on a clean gravel bed. When the real cold (26 or lower) gets here cover the pots with 3-4 inches of a fairly loose mulch so that the ground heat will help keep you pots warm.. Plants that grow south of Dallas, crape myrtle, firethorn, some azalea, need to have more root protection. I like to let them get frostbit but bring them in before freezing. Of course the tropicals need to be babied.

All this is basically talking about the broadleaf deciduous trees. Evergreens do not go fully dormant in winter and need to be exposed to sunlight. Some broadleaf evergreen types like boxwoods slow way down but still need sunlight. Some leave the needled evergreens on top of benches all winter but I prefer to give the roots the same basic winter protection of deciduous trees but they have a higher water need.

Feeding of deciduous trees should be discontinued for the winter. Evergreens and conifers will benefit from a low nitrogen feeding. One such mix might be 70% cottonseed meal and 30% bonemeal. Being organic, this will breakdown into nutrients more slowly as the season gets cooler and the trees activity slows also. The organic spray given below can be used as a soil drench but dilute it a little more. Kelp is an excellent source of the essential minor elements needed by plants

Insects will continue to be present. Cooler (but not cold) days mean a resurgence of the aphids. Mites will also still be around and will jump into action during a warm spell. Scale also can be a problem. Treat with a light horticultural oil which will kill the adults and also

wipe out the eggs and over-wintering pupae. Be sure to cover all the cracks in the bark to get to the eggs. The organic spray (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water) should still be used on a regular schedule and will work on evergreens and will also give them some nutrients. The dead scale shell will probably have to be removed physically. A soft toothbrush works for me (I sometimes need to wet the branch to loosen the scale shell).

When the leaves start turning the sap has quit for the year and you may check the branches and twigs to see if any need to be trimmed. Cutting back any protruding branches will keep them from snagging and possibly breaking other trees when you put them down close together. Don't cut the buds off the spring flowering plants unless absolutely necessary if you want flowers next spring.

Some may repot in the fall but I feel that it is counter-productive to do so if you can do it during bud break in the spring. New roots are more prone to freeze damage if we get a bad winter. It has been stated that the key to safe repotting is to minimize root disturbance and to exclude severe root pruning. This seems to me to be a recipe for developing root problems, poor drainage leading to root rot and the inability of the old soil to hold enough water to last all day. No heavy pruning will lead to the lack of refinement and a top heavy tree. I would recommend that repot at the proper time next spring which is when the buds swell and new growth is imminent.

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Austin, Texas 78734



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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.