



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

October 2018 vol 95

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Calendar of Events

- **Wed October 10**
7:30pm - 9:00pm
Visiting Artist: Todd Schlafer
Deciduous tree styling
- **Tues October 16**
7:00pm - 9:00pm
BYOT Workshop - Deciduous tree styling

2018 Board of Directors

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Evan Vincent
Food

Brandon Baldauf
Trees

President's Message

By Simon Tse

Greetings! Our annual auction was a big success. A sincere thank you to all our members who made this a memorable event. The items donated were creative, thoughtful and spectacular. I am already looking forward to the next auction!

I am pleased to announce Todd Schlafer as our guest artist for the October 10th meeting.

Todd is a long time enthusiast who has been honing his skills under the direction of Ryan Neil. He began his bonsai career under the tutelage of international bonsai master Harold Sasaki in Denver, Co. Todd is an avid collector of Colorado Yamadori and has won the American Bonsai Society Finest Native North American Species tree (right) at the 5th US National Bonsai Exhibition. He will do a demonstration on a yaupon holly and it will be raffled off.



The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit (TTSBE) is hosting Kathy Shaner's seminar from October 12th - 14th, This is a rare opportunity to learn from an accomplished bonsai artist. For more information, visit this link: <https://www.ttsbe.org/2018seminarinvite.pdf> and register online.

Hope to see all of you at our next meeting!

Cheers,
Simon

Annual Auction

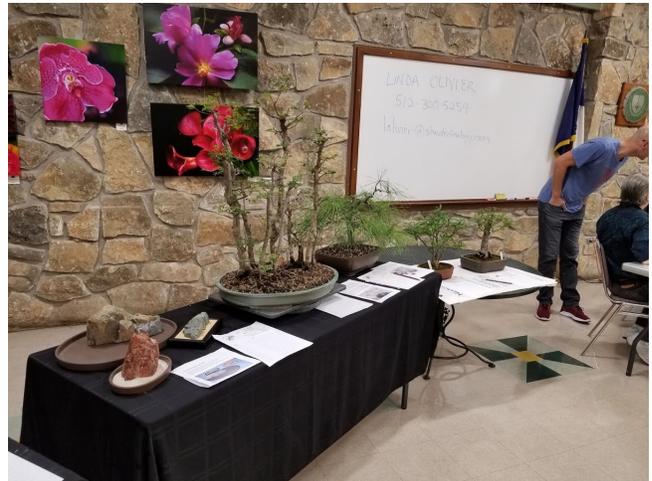


(Photos by Joey McCoy)

Annual Auction



(Photos by Joey McCoy)



Tyler Sherrod

LSBF visiting artist



(Photos by May Lau)

Tyler Sherrod

LSBF visiting artist



(Photos by May Lau)

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Or message Joey at:
jvmccoy@sbcglobal.com

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Vice President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings ABS Members,

Thank you for making last month a fantastic month of bonsai. We hosted a successful auction with an abundance of donated trees, pots, and related supplies. Even some super creative items like classes or winter digs!

We also hosted a workshop with Tyler Sherrod which was also an enjoyable event. We will be looking to have Tyler back in the future.

For October, we have another superb monthly meeting planned with Todd Schlafer of First Branch Bonsai in Denver, Colorado. He will be demonstrating his approach for working on Dwarf Yaupon Hollies using a rather excellent specimen we won in the Longview LSBF Convention auction. The final product of the demo will be available for raffle Wednesday night.

Cheers,
Brandon

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2018

- Simon started the meeting at 7:22 pm
- Recognized new members and thanked them for joining
- Thanks to Chris and Daniel for all the food and goodies at tonight's meeting
- Treasurer Report: Did well in the month of August
- Tyler Sherrod workshop - spots are still available
- TTSBE Update: Joey also reminded the club that we exist because of donations; there is a \$25 TTSBE member cost; the only way we exist, is through your support; Kathy Shaner will be here October 12-14 and the topics will be on difficult trees and enhancing the age of trees
- Auction promptly starts at 7:30 pm

ABS Board Minutes

September 24, 2018

- ABS Board Meeting was brief on September 24, 2018
 - Touch based on ABS convention
 - Remind members on Todd Schafler's visit next month
- The majority of the board members were registered participants for the Tyler Sherrod workshop

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JADE GARDENS
Wimberley, Texas
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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

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New Members

Eliot Jarrett

Lynn and Joe Jelinski

Bill Cornelius

Welcome!

free of insects and other vermin.

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

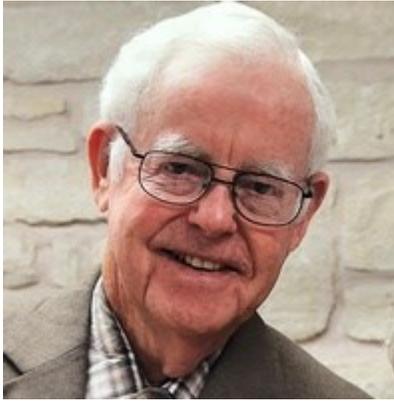
Insects will continue to be present. Cooler (but not cold) days mean a resurgence of the aphids. Mites will also still be around and will jump into action during a warm spell. Scale also can be a problem. Treat with a light horticultural oil which will kill the adults and also wipe out the eggs and over-wintering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





John Henry Pittenger

February 12, 1935 - September 21, 2018

John Henry Pittenger, 83, of Salado, died September 21, 2018 at a local care facility. Memorial service will be held Monday, September 24 at the Salado Church of Christ at 11:00 a.m., preceded by visitation at 10:00 a.m. Private family burial will be at North Belton Cemetery.

John was born February 12, 1935 to Charles and Molly Belle (Zieber) Pittenger in Van Buren, Arkansas. Following his mother's death in 1939, John and his father moved to South Dakota where he lived until his father's death in 1950. John then moved to Fresno, California to live with an older brother where he graduated in 1953 from Roosevelt High School and Fresno Junior College in the vocational construction program. John was married to Marilyn (Sisk) from September 1955 until her death in March 2015. They lived in California until moving to Texas in 1991. He married Carolyn (Williamson) in November 2015.

John worked in construction from the age of 17 until he retired in 2000. During his career as a contractor he was responsible for building thousands of homes in California and Texas. His passions included woodworking, bonsai, and country music. He was also well known by family, friends, and church members as the one to call for whatever home repair was needed.

John is preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, Archie, Roy, and Bill, and his first wife, Marilyn. He is survived by his wife Carolyn; daughter Alenne Glock and her husband, Norman, of Harvest, Alabama; son Randy Pittenger and his wife, LaGay, of Belton, Texas; five grandchildren: Jamie Carroll and her husband Geoff of Pagosa Springs, Colorado; Emily Glock of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Jason Pittenger and his wife, Katie, of Kingwood, Texas; Jana Schofield and her husband, Justin, of Dallas, Texas; Daniel Glock and his wife, Teresa, of Spokane, Washington; 15 great-grandchildren; 4 step-children; 9 step-grandchildren; and 1 step-great-grandchild.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Helping Hands Ministry of Belton or the Belton Educational Enrichment.

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!

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Austin Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 340474
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.