



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

October 2019 vol 109

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Calendar of Events

- **Wed Oct 9**
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Annual auction
- **Tues Oct 15**
7:30pm - 9:00pm
An evening with Kathy Shaner on Cedar elm

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 (Wed Oct 9)
Brandon Baldauf
Evan Vincent

Food (Tues Oct 15)
Nicole Ferguson
Hailey Pate

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

Fall is officially here and we're still seeing temperatures at a record high for September... The heat has been a bit rough calling for multiple watering sessions. I've managed to keep the trees in relatively good health with only one or two specimen showing signs of heat damage this year.

Earlier this month, the board met and we made some great progress on planning the 2020 program schedule. Looking forward to publishing it in next year's directory and bringing you some excellent experiences!

Remember this month we have TWO regular meetings:

Wednesday, October 9th is our Annual Auction.

Tuesday, October 15th will be in the big room featuring Kathy Shaner.

On the horizon are some enjoyable events for our club, the annual auction is our next event. To make it successful, please consider bringing in some material. We're also accepting 8 items for silent auction which is a 50/50 split of the final bid between owner/club. This is the biggest fundraiser for the year which helps us cover inviting artists into town for the monthly meetings. In November (Nov 13th), we're having the annual holiday party! 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

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.

Brandon

Get Connected!

Join our online discussion
page! NO SPAM!

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groups.yahoo.com/
group/austinbonsai/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/austinbonsai/)

Official Website

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Facebook



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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,

Summer is almost over and let me tell you I am ready for fall. I would like to thank Andrew Robson for a great presentation on deciduous trees. I also really enjoyed the workshop he led; he really steered me in the right direction on a Chinese Elm I am developing. Next month is going to be a busy one for the club, as well. For October we actually have 2 regular meetings. At the first meeting, on October 9th, we will be holding our annual auction. Don't forget to bring in the trees, pots, and other bonsai supply you would like to donate to the auction. If you're like me and have more trees than you can handle, this is a great way to donate them and help raise money for the club, so that we can continue to bring in great bonsai artists. Speaking of a great bonsai artist, Kathy Shaner will be giving us an awesome demo and presentation on a wonderful Cedar Elm on October 15th. I am truly excited about this one and hope to see y'all there.

-Mike Garza

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.

September Meeting

Deciduous Styling
with Andrew Robson

Photos by Joey McCoy



September workshop

with Andrew Robson



Photos by May Lau

Regular Meeting Minutes (Roland)

September 11, 2019

Announcements began at 7:24PM

New guest announcements from Quoc - 4 guests

Tree show and tell by Chris – Nice trees Chris!

Thank you Quoc and Elliot for the snacks!!!

Annual auction announced by Gloria – Please bring items to help support our club and bid on some awesome bonsai and supplies!

Alisan made the club aware of Zilker Botanical Garden Climate Action event and green parking passes for our events.

Kathy Shaner (TTSBE) workshop announced by Simon!

Andrew started at 7:43PM



ABS Board Minutes (Roland)

September 17, 2019

Start 7:01

- Board discussed 2020 Program and approved inviting a number of guest speakers
- Brandon & Mike are to be the auctioneers for our upcoming October Auction
- Gloria presented a proposed 2020 budget which we reviewed and discussed
- Set forth plans for the November Holiday Party, including 2021 LSBF Preliminary Logo Contest, A Holiday Feast, and A Bonsai Gift Exchange
- The Board voted to honor Joe Trochta
- Moving forward, the Vice President will facilitate all workshop sign ups including collecting payment
- Unanimously voted for Roland's meeting minutes with amendments
- We're up to 76 members
- For the month of August, we were 485/550 income/expense

End 8:45



The ABS OCT. 9, 2019 Auction Format

In order to Bid, You need a Bidding Paddle

Will you pay by **Check/Cash**? See **Gloria** to get your paddle

Will you pay by **Credit Card/ PayPal**? See **Simon** to get your paddle

Bids will increment in the following order:

\$5 - \$50 increases by \$1

\$50 - \$100 increases by \$5

\$100+ increases by \$10

Total your bids and checkout with Simon or Gloria before taking your items

Details on Silent Auction Items

Minimum Bid is \$100

Club gets 50%; seller/donor gets 50% unless the seller/donor designates that the club gets 100% on the submission form.

Seller/donor submission form must be received by Oct. 4th. The bidding sheet will indicate whether there is a reserve (only the treasurer will know the amount); if the reserve is not met, the item is returned to the seller.

Short breaks will be taken during the auction so that bids can be checked or added to.

Thank you for supporting The Austin Bonsai Society!

RULES FOR THE ABS SILENT AUCTION OCTOBER 9, 2019

1. The seller/donor must fill out the form below for each item to be offered and submit the completed form to the Treasurer by Oct. 4th so that silent auction bidding sheets can be prepared. The Treasurer will mark the form as to the date and time received. Up to 6 or 8 (depending on size) items will be accepted. **It is understood that 50% of the winning bid goes to the Club and 50% to the seller/donor** unless the seller/donor states on the form that it is a 100% donation to the club.

Items must be worth \$100.00 or more; consequently, the opening bid is \$100.00

2. If there is a reserve price as indicated below by the seller/donor, the bidding sheet will be marked and the Treasurer is the only one to know what the reserve is. If, after bidding, the reserve is NOT met, the Treasurer will so announce and the item will be returned to the seller/donor.

3. There will be short breaks throughout the evening so that bids can be checked or added to.

4. At about 8:30 PM, the Treasurer will pick up the sheets and after the tallying, announce the winners. The winners can then pay, or add the amount to the total for whatever else they have won that evening.

5. Send the completed form by Oct. 4th as an e-mail attachment to gnorberg@austin.rr.com or mail to Gloria Norberg, 7413 Lady Suzanne's Ct. Austin TX 78729.

FOR THE ABS SILENT AUCTION - OCTOBER 9th, 2019

SELLER/DONOR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: _____

CHECK ONE: 50/50 split DONATION TO CLUB

WILL THERE BE A RESERVE? YES NO RESERVED PRICE: _____

RECEIVED BY: _____ DATE: _____ TIME: _____

Auction Item Tag

Item _____
Donor _____
Approx. Cost _____

Item _____
Buyer # _____
Final Bid _____

Auction Item Tag

Item _____
Donor _____
Approx. Cost _____

Item _____
Buyer # _____
Final Bid _____

Auction Item Tag

Item _____
Donor _____
Approx. Cost _____

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Final Bid _____



Auction Item Tag

Item _____
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Auction Item Tag

Item _____
Donor _____
Approx. Cost _____

Item _____
Buyer # _____
Final Bid _____

Auction Item Tag

Item _____
Donor _____
Approx. Cost _____

Item _____
Buyer # _____
Final Bid _____

(What we don't like talking about...) TOO MANY BONSAI-

By Michael Hagedorn

Posted by [crataegus](#) (Michael Hagedorn) on [September 21, 2019](#)

Many of us are natural 'gatherers'. We collect things, much like bower birds and pack rats. And then we either present them in display cases, tuck them into storage units, or, if they are bonsai, arrange them in our backyards. Gathering is an endearing trait. And we have things to show off when friends visit.

And yet we can get into a bit of a kerfuffle with bonsai if volume is increased past our ability to care for them. The bigger the bonsai collection the more we can lose sight of our objectives...



...and these objectives might include timely repotting for all trees, monitoring them for pests and disease, growth management, and aesthetics. And prancing around proudly for friends, of course.

In some over-stocked backyards I've seen hundreds of trees in various states of entropy, in some cases there are nearly as many trees as the professionals have. Only the professionals are working on them every day (or at least their apprentices are doing so, cough).

With fewer trees, somewhere on the order of 15-25, the backyard bonsai aficionado can keep up with them all at a very high level. (As I've told many students though, having 3 trees is nearly as bad, as the instinct is to fiddle with them to death.) One of my favorite bonsai gardens has only about 12 trees, all well

managed and beautifully presented.

But more and more bonsai...that's rarely a path to beautiful bonsai. It's often a clue to a problem in the making, or one fully made, toward the 'can't see the forest for the trees' sinkhole.

Paths to freedom include:

- Setting a number goal based on available time to maintain them; reduce over time to that
 - A tree in, a tree out; improve your collection by swapping not adding
- Yearly reassessment of goal

Failing all that, ask friends to board your trees and pay them to come visit...passing on a problem is a great way to make temporary friends. Who then might help you reduce.

October Bonsai

By John Miller

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 your 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.

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 your 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 overwintering 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.





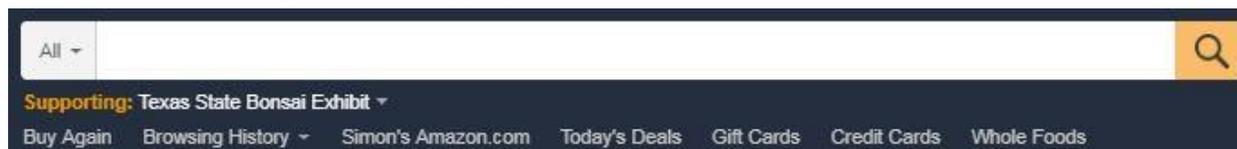
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The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit presents 24th annual: Kathy Shaner Seminar
October 19-20, 2019 at Cabela's (Buda)
Topic: Developing Ramification and Apex
<https://www.ttsbe.org/2019kathyshanerseminarinvite.pdf>
Register today!!

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!

JADE GARDENS
HOME OF THE

OWNERS  **Chuck and Pat Ware**

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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.