



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

April 2018 vol 89

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## Calendar of Events

- **April 11**  
7:30pm - 9:00pm  
Cascade and Semi-Cascade with Ken Crédeur
- **April 17**  
7:30pm - 9:00pm  
ABS Member's Workshop: Cascade and Semi-Cascade
- **April 19 - 22, 2018**  
LSBF Convention in Longview, TX at the Hilton Garden Inn

## 2018 Board of Directors

**Simon Tse**  
President

**Brandon Baldauf**  
Vice President

**Mike Garza**  
Secretary

**Gloria Norberg**  
Treasurer

**Ruby Chaing**  
Member-At-Large

**Daniel Lara**  
Member-At-Large

**Pat Ware**  
Member-At-Large

## Volunteers

**Everardo Valdovinos**  
**Nan Jenkins**  
**Timmi Kuykendall**  
*Food*

**Jim Baumann**  
*Trees*

## President's Message

*By Simon Tse*

Spring is finally upon us and I hope you are enjoying the pleasant weather as much as I am. We are honored to have an experienced Bonsai artist, Ken Crédeur, to chat about cascade and semi-cascade in our April meeting. Bring your enthusiasm, questions and bonsai if you want to obtain insider tips from Ken. Mr. Crédeur has been part of the Houston Bonsai Society for many years and he is now an official member of the Austin Bonsai Society. Welcome Ken, and we look forward to your presentation!

There are only weeks away from the LSBF convention which will be hosted by the Longview Bonsai Society. The theme is "Blooming Bonsai". Featured artists include Boon Manakitvipart, Rodney Clemons and Mike Lane. Robert Specian from Shreveport, Louisiana will also be conducting workshops on Group and Forest Plantings. Detailed information is available at: <http://www.lonestarbonsai.org/2018-convention/>. Attending a convention will gain you invaluable access to many other facets of Bonsai, from tools to techniques, learning from workshops and demos, and networking with other Bonsai enthusiasts. The benefits are tremendous and I hope you'll consider making the trip to Longview.

Last but not least, our annual show in May is fast approaching. We welcome Terry Ward, Mike Hansen and Chuck Ware as they will provide timely advice and constructive critique for the trees. It's now time to start preparing your tree for the show. We will also need volunteers on Friday evening and Sunday afternoon for setup and takedown. More details to follow and signup sheets will be provided.

Cheers,  
Simon

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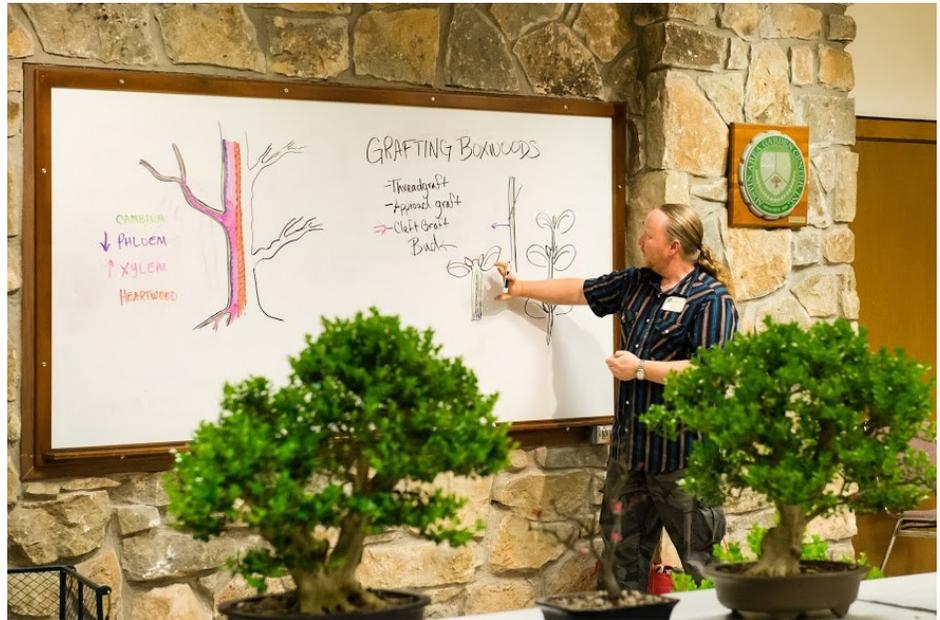


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## March Meeting

Joey McCoy gives a presentation over the basics and techniques of grafting on boxwood.



Some materials for grafting (pictured left) including: Parafilm, grafting knife, flat cutting surface, and clippers

*(Photos by May Lau)*



Quoc's Japanese Quince (above)



# How to make a scion:

*(Photos by May Lau)*





*(Photos by May Lau)*

## Get Connected!

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Join our online discussion

page! NO SPAM!

<http://>

[groups.yahoo.com/](http://groups.yahoo.com/)

[group/austinbonsai/](http://group/austinbonsai/)

Or message Joey at:

[jvmccoy@sbcglobal.com](mailto:jvmccoy@sbcglobal.com)

## Official Website

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Visit our website at

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

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## Vice President's Message

*By Brandon Baldauf*

Greetings Fellow Austin Bonsai Society Members,

Spring is in full bloom as March comes to an end and the first quarter of the year concludes. This month we had a fun and successful adventure for ABS members to the Burton Ranch. This was the first trip for the club to go out to the location. We found many excellent trees including some different species like the Honey Locust Tree which had large spines with spines on the spines... Next year we will go a bit earlier in the season as many of the wonderful Cedar Elms were already starting to leaf out. Aside from the Burton Ranch dig, we have welcomed new members and had urban digs in both North Austin and Bastrop! What a great month for bonsai it has been!

This April we have an action packed month starting with one of our very own members, Ken Crédeur, providing a lecture demo on cascade and semi-cascade form. I'm also planning a club dig early this month for Japanese Ligustrums in North Austin. We will have the monthly workshop where members can bring their own trees and work to train it into a cascade or semi-cascade form. Towards the end of the month there is the Lone Star Bonsai Federation annual convention in Longview. I was able to sign up for a workshop with Boon and look forward to another year of exciting convention fun with other bonsai friends. Hope to see you there.

Have a fun April and looking forward to our tree adventures.

Cheers,  
Brandon

# March Meeting Minutes

*March 14, 2018*

- Simon called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm
- Simon recognized new visitors
- Gloria, the Treasurer, mentioned that edits had been made the members directory
  - ASB pins were for sale; each pin is \$4.00. Contact Simon or Gloria if you would like to purchase one
- ASB had 14 new members last month, and 3 new members at this month's meeting
- Meeting display trees were brought in by Jonathan and Quoc.
  - Quoc talked about his Japanese flowering quince that he bought at auction.
  - Jonathan talked about his Juniper that he won at the convention. Jonathan also brought in a Boxwood forest that is coming out of winter burn. Jonathan's last display tree, was a Japanese Maple forest, which is a Sharp's Pgmy, with tiny leaves.
  - Chris brought in a Catlin Elm that he bought in a local nursery, while he was in California.
- Alisan talked about Zilker Botanical Gardens:
- There is no Flower Festival this year
- They have flattened the space for the Bonsai Exhibit
- Nan talked about how they have upgraded to a 4 bonsai display stands, to 10 bonsai display stands.
- Tuff Shed is bringing in the first building for Zilker Display
- Thank Jonathan and Ann for refreshments
- Club Digs:
  - Burton, TX, March 17th
  - Joey mentioned a dig for 3 Boxwoods - contact him for more information
- Simon and the May Show
  - Begin to refine trees
  - Set-up is Friday evening before show - food is provided - contact Simon to sign up to volunteer - we can use all the help we can get!
- LSBF Info
  - Hotel where the convention is being held, is filling up
  - Visit the LSBF website for more information
- Presentation for the evening, was presented by Joey McCoy, on grafting boxwoods

# Board Meeting Minutes

*March 20, 2018*

- 7:09 the meeting was called to order
- Simon and May will host Dr. Hoe and Soon
- Need to double check updated LSBF rate for clubs
- Board spoke about who would host Todd Schlafer
- Board spoke about coming up for a system (logistics, accommodations, etc) for Guest Artists
- Guest Artist Ken Cruder will be doing a presentation of cascades and semi-cascades.
  - Board talked about bringing in a raffle tree that could be a cascade or semi-cascade
- There has not yet been a confirmation on getting Ken down for the Tuesday workshop
- Update from Treasurer: raffle sales were \$35 and we sold 3 pins
- Need to email Alisan about garden center not providing utensils and other necessities and ask about negotiating lower membership fee
- Motioned to approve \$18 overage for membership packets
- Discussed long-term membership and automatic payments
- Austin Home and Garden Show offered ABS a free display table for the show in the fall
- Social Media Updates: 1,518 followers on InstaGram; we will be having a give away for reaching 1,500 followers
- Convention Workshop Material: Chinese Fringe Flower was acquired by Jonathan Woods
- Set up a new account for LSBF convention
- Board Nominees:
  - Future President: Brandon
  - Future Vice President: Mike
  - Future Member at Large: Simon (maybe)
  - Future Secretary: TBD
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

# April Bonsai

By John Miller

Warm weather is favorable for having problems from the insects and fungal diseases. Aphids especially are showing up. Mildew usually wont be seen until it warms more but with our Texas weather that could be here before this article gets in print. Leaf spot could be a problem.

Fungal diseases can show up with damp weather. Leaf spot can be serious on Catlin and Chinese elms and on hollies. There are organic fungicides available, baking soda is one. Check an organics nursery or publications. A 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide (dilute the standard 3% store bought stuff 2 parts water to each part peroxide) is also recommended but it can injure very new foliage.

A good organic program takes care of both the feeding and the insect problems. The trick is to be sure to thoroughly cover the plant including all the leaf axils. Use a hand or pump up sprayer to get a fine spray to cover all, a hose end sprayer does not cover good enough. This is also true if you want to use commercial chemical sprays.

I recommend the organic mixture of 1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water. I use the mixture both as a foliar feed spray and as a soil drench fertilizer. As a weekly foliar spray, for me anyhow, it keeps aphids, mites, loopers, bagworms and other insects under control. I try to drench twice a month partly because I don't think the plant can absorb all the minor elements it needs thru the foliage. It is a good practice to also use fertilizer cakes on the surface of the soil which feeds a bit every time you water. Commercial water soluble fertilizers wash out with the next watering and result in poorly fed pale bonsai. They are intended for use in soil that retains water for a long period such as commercial house plant mixes.

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**(call for directions)**

## New Members

John and Debbie Hooper

Jorge Reza & family

Peter Shipman & family

Albert Homann & family

**Welcome!**

In April repotting for the hardy bonsai has ended and its still too early for the tropicals. Since I like to repot when the plant is just breaking dormancy by showing buds swelling, late March or early April is when I repot things like Dwarf Yaupon Holly and Boxwood. They do well when kept in light shade and out of the wind. Depending on temperature some tropicals may be done by the end of April.

If you have early blooming azaleas, you should remove some of the buds. Most azalea have way too many buds to look good when they do not have room to open fully.

So what is left to do? Just trimming, feeding, trimming, check for insects, trimming, shows, trimming. You get the idea. Trimming, that is the pinching, plucking or whatever of new growth, is the process that both develops refinement on your tree but is vital to keep it from growing out of that desired state. This is not pruning which is cutting of branches which should not be done when there is a strong sap flow which starts when the tree breaks dormancy and continues until after the leaves harden or later.

At the risk of repeating the process too much I repeat it for the beginners. On elms and other trees with leaves appearing alternately down the shoot, do not let more than 5 new leaves appear. Cut back to 2 or 3 leaves, leaving the last leaf on the side that you want the new growth to appear. On maples and others with leaves coming in pairs on opposite sides of the twig, cut the center shoot as soon as you can determine it. Tweezers work best for this operation. Since the shoots do not all open at the same time this could be a daily chore for the best results.

Be sure to check your soils each day for proper water content. It is easy to assume that the soil has plenty of water when the days are cool or there has been some rain. A tree with full leaves may shed rain water outside of the pot or a good sun and low humidity after a front will dry the soil. I suggest that you remove some of the moss so that you can see and feel the soil in order to determine how dry it is. (Moss growing on the trunk or roots will also cause the bark to rot.) An automatic watering system will be an aid but you should not rely on it to replace hand watering. Best use might be to use it for a shot of watering in the morning and again at noon, then do hand watering in the evening. Most automatic systems just water a spot or two in the pot. Hand watering covers the entire pot and allows you to adjust the watering for each tree individually and lets you see that the pot is draining properly. A clogged drainage hole can drown some trees in less than a week.

Most trees will do good in the full sun at this time of year. However, if you have had them in partial shade be careful about moving them directly to full sun. They probably should be acclimated gradually. Too much wind will cause the leaves to burn. Some damage may not show up until hot weather gets here.

## 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 email us at [webmaster.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com](mailto:webmaster.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.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!

# Bonsai Notebook

Austin Bonsai Society  
P.O. Box 340474  
Austin, Texas 78734



## Austin Bonsai Society

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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.