



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

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Calendar of Events

- **Wed Apr 8**
Meeting canceled
City of Austin: Shelter-in-place order

- **Tues Apr 14**
No members' workshop
City of Austin: Shelter-in-place order

2020 Board of Directors

Brandon Baldauf
President

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Roland Lopez
Secretary

Gloria Norberg
Treasurer

Lawrence Priest
Member-At-Large

Chris Frechette
Member-At-Large

Summer Lee
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

The current times are presenting real challenges and risks for each of us. The order for Travis & Williamson county to shelter-in-place through April 13th really indicated the potential risk of this pandemic at the local level. Personally, I've been able to work from home 100% and spend time with the family and trees... so we're doing okay over here. I hope everyone is fairing well and able to reflect during these strange events. If anyone needs anything, please reach out.

With the recent available time, I managed to get an extra dig adventure in where I found some interesting Ashe Junipers. Gonna be fun to see how they turn out. Thanks to everyone who showed up for the digs this year, it was some fun times!

Naturally, our bonsai meetings have been put on hold until further notice as well. The April 11th meeting at Zilker Botanical Gardens will not happen and the planned speaker, Will Baddeley, will remain the United Kingdom for the month as his tour is cancelled. The planned workshop for April 14th is tentative depending on the city and AAGC's rulings. Please hang in there and we will send email updates with any details about the upcoming meetings.

We're also sharing our experiences in Slack, let me know if you need an invite. Stay Safe out there!

Cheers,
Brandon

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discussion



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SABS Convention Update

To all,

First off, thank you all for your patience with the San Antonio Bonsai Society (SABS) in terms of receiving announcements for the 2020 convention. Our Convention Committee has been discussing, on a daily basis, various concerns, ideas, and procedures on how to deal with the scheduling of the convention among the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been trying to balance the need for optimism on hoping the convention could happen in May with the need to act should we need to alter the convention. We didn't want to act too quickly and reschedule all activities should May still have worked, but not leave you stranded about the convention and what is happening with your money. It is clear that the Convention in May cannot happen.

Just this week our Committee has decided to reschedule the convention for **August 6, 7, 8, and 9, 2020 (Thursday thru Sunday)**. We have been making additional changes to ensure all aspects of planning the convention are followed through. Below are a few categories pertaining to the convention and any or no changes that have come about with rescheduling.

Guest Artist:

Both Boon Manakitivipart and Roy Nagatoshi are able to attend our convention in August and none of their workshops/seminars will be changed. Sadly, Arthur Joura is unable to attend. We are in the process of finding another artist to replace Arthur including for his workshops and his presentation scheduled for Sunday morning.

As soon as we determine our new guest artist, I, Ryan Odegaard, will email all groups the info.

Hotel:

For those that reserved hotel room(s) using the convention passcode, your room(s) have been transferred to the new dates in August. For those that reserved room(s) without using the convention passcode, your rooms were not changed. If you are unable to attend the convention in August, it is up to you to call/email the hotel for a refund.

The location of the convention has not changed. We are still at the same hotel in San Antonio.

Registration:

I am working with Eventbrite to transition all registrations to the new dates. You may see emails from Eventbrite stating your registration has changed once I figure out how to transition everyone. I am hoping that I can work with Eventbrite and not have you all re-register.

SABS Convention Update

To help with the economy, we are removing the additional cost associated with "late registration." I will make this change this weekend in Eventbrite. That means all future 3-day registrations will be \$140.00. For those that acquired a 3-day registration on/or after March 1st you will be compensated for the extra charge in one of three ways 1) refund in the amount of \$20 in raffle tickets, 2) refund in the amount of \$20 certificate to be used in the vendor room, or 3) refund in the amount of \$20 cash or check, now or at the event. It is up to you to email Ryan Odegaard (bonsaiode@gmail.com) your preference.

For those that can not make the August dates, please email Ryan through Eventbrite or bonsaiode@gmail.com to request a refund. At the time of this email, Eventbrite has eliminated the deduction of their fees from refunds, so if you sadly need to cancel your registration, please do it soon.

For those that have already requested a refund, a full refund has been approved and executed and included all apparel items.

Vendors:

We are currently contacting all our vendors to ensure they can attend in August. Should there be any cancellations, we will reach out to those that may have been looking for additional space or for new vendors to attend.

Convention Schedule:

At this time, we do not anticipate any changes to the day-to-day activities of the convention other than a replacement for Arthur.

For those taking workshops, please continue to send in your waivers to Ryan Odegaard.

Exhibit:

Donna Dobberfuhr is still accepting exhibit applications for trees, Kusamono, and Suiseki. You can send in your applications to Donna at two2views@yahoo.com

We know we have probably not answered every question/concern that may arise from this change and we apologize in advance. As we reschedule this event to ensure a seamless transition for all of you, we are quickly learning as we go along too. As always, if you have any comments, concerns, criticisms all are greatly appreciated and will be reviewed.

We hope that this announcement continues to find you safe and healthy and we at SABS are ensuring we comply with all CDC suggestions as we continue to plan for the 2020 Bonsai Convention.

Thank you,

Ryan O
Publicity Manager/Editor
San Antonio Bonsai Society

Regular Meeting Minutes (Roland)

March 2020

No meeting minutes

Reminder for club membership

2020 membership fee

Individual	\$30
Family	\$35
Newsletter monthly advertisements:	\$35
Directory advertisement:	\$10

You may contact Simon to pay electronically, pay in person at the meeting or mail a check to me at Gloria Norberg, 7413 Lady Suzanne's Court, Austin, Texas 78729.



ABS Board Minutes (Roland)

March 2020

No board meeting



BRITE IDEAS

**AQUAPONICS
HYDROPONICS & ORGANICS**

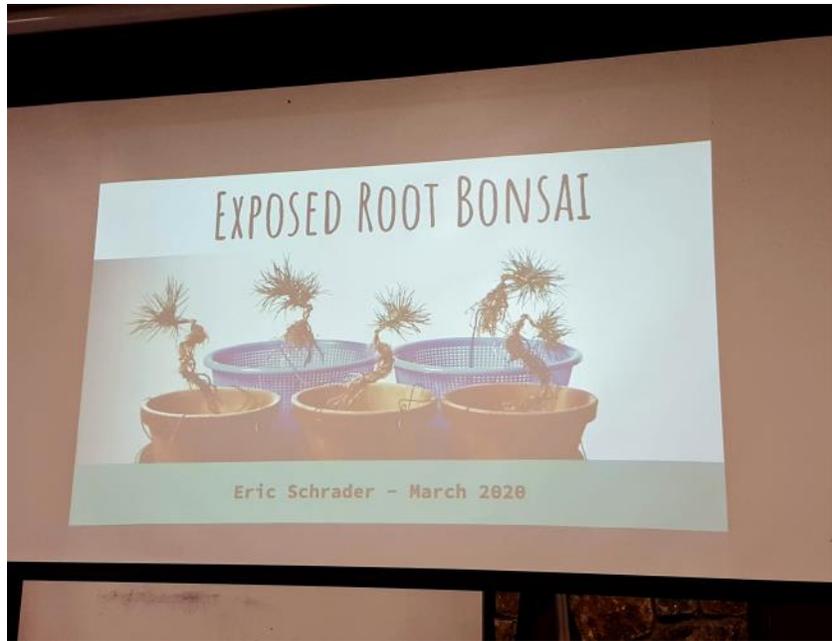
[Http://www.bihydro.com](http://www.bihydro.com)
Owner: Troy Smith

12110 Menchaca Rd. Ste.103 Austin, TX 78748 (512)444-2100	2521 Rutland Dr. #475 Austin, TX 78758 (512)459-4353
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March Meeting

Eric Schrader

Photos by Joey McCoy



April Bonsai

By John Miller

The lack of cold this winter has everything is messed up schedule wise. Some of my oaks are beating some of the cedar elms in leafing out. I think the post oaks were the first and they usually wait until after the live oaks drop foliage. The old farmers saying was that you should plant corn when the oak leaves are as big as a squirrels ear. So maybe that means we will get by without a late freeze.

The early budding has put an end to most repotting. There may be some like the dwarf yaupon that may still be done but it will depend on your particular back yard. Its still too early for the tropicals, They should usually be held until the night temps are in no danger of going below 60.

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 be noticeable until hot weather. Plan ahead for having some protection for later on. I use 30% shade cloth on Cedar elms, oaks, and trident maples. 50% works for most others, Japanese maples, Chinese elm and azalea.

Do not let the extra spate of work caused by everything breaking dormancy at once cause you to let the trimming slide. If the new growth gets long it causes heavy twigs and long internodes and you lose the nice development you work so hard to get.

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.

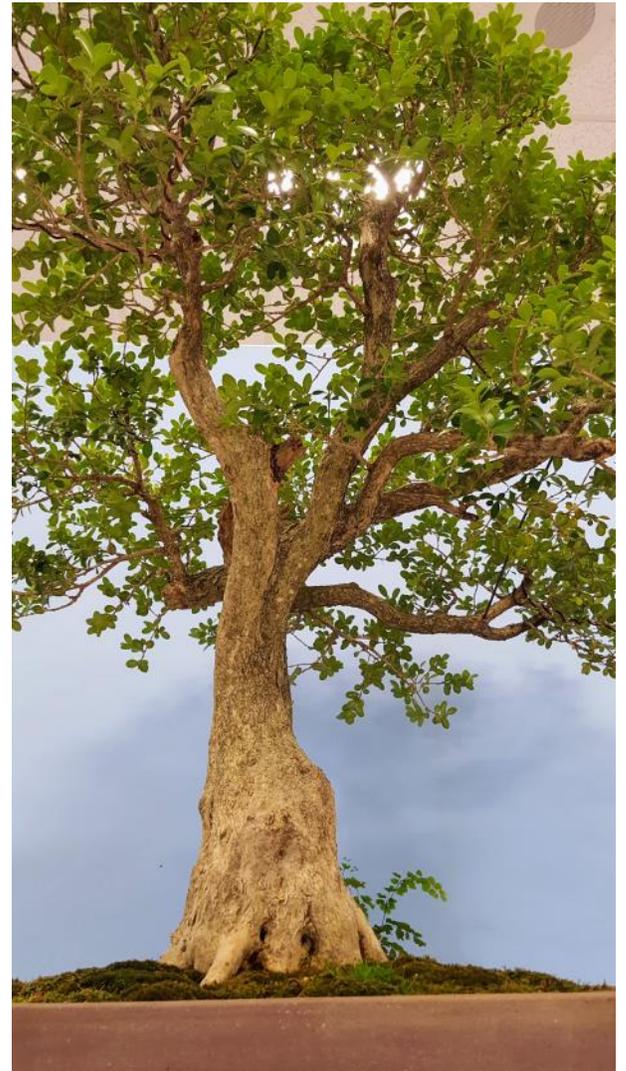
A good organic program takes care of both the feeding and the insect problems. I recommend the mixture of

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 spray and as a soil drench fertilizer. As a weekly foliar spray it keeps aphids and mites under control as well as any other insect I've had. The prime requirement is to cover the entire plant, top and bottom of the leaves with a fine mist sprayer (hose end sprayers are usually too coarse). I try to drench soil twice a month partly because I dont 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.

Fungal diseases can show up with damp weather. Leaf spot can be serious on Catlin and chinese elms and on hollies. Mildew shows up later with warmer weather. There are organic fungicides available, potassium bicarbonate or baking soda (sodium bicarbonate). 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.

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. Its also too easy for a tree with full leaves to shed water outside of the pot or a good sun and low humidity after a front to dry the soil. I suggest that you remove most 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 cause the bark to rot also) An automatic watering system will be an aid but you should not rely on it to replace hand watering. Hand watering allows you to adjust the watering for each tree individually. Also most automatic systems use a drip system which only waters a small spot in shallow containers.

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.



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
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and Pat
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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.