



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

April 2021 vol 127

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## Calendar of Events

- **April 14**  
**Vincent Le via zoom**

## 2021 Board of Directors

**Roland Lopez**  
President

**Summer Lee**  
Vice President

**Ruwan Perera**  
Secretary

**Gloria Norberg**  
Treasurer

**Morgan Bean**  
Member-At-Large

**Jakob Clark**  
Member-At-Large

**Mike Garza**  
Member-At-Large

## Volunteers

N/A

# President's Message

*By Roland Lopez*

Hello ABS brothers and sisters!

Whew! I don't know about you but I've been a busy boy lately! The task of repotting my trees is almost to an end. Thank goodness for that! Most of my collected trees are alive and doing well. Yup! Life is good. I really value this time of year the longer I am a bonsai practitioner. I am looking forward to all the work ahead! Pruning, wiring, fertilizing. Let's do this!

David's presentation last month was great and it certainly helped me while I was beholding my trees during their soil change. I love design talks! They reinforce what my goals are and get me to think about how to achieve them. Thank you again David for an awesome presentation! It's nice making new friends.

For our April program, we have our friend, Vincent Le, educating us on olea bonsai! We first met Vincent last year for a workshop thanks to Brandon and Summer. Vincent is a seasoned artist and a serious collector of yamadori! I had the fortune of visiting him in Colorado last year and I must say - he has amazing trees and the skills to make them valuable works of art! He will be demonstrating on one of his magnificent olea specimens for us, LIVE! He will also be leading an in-person workshop for us! Keep your eyes peeled for more info on the workshop coming soon. You won't want to miss this opportunity!

Looking forward to seeing y'all soon. Take care!

With a warm smile,

Roland

## Reminder for club membership

### 2021 membership fee

Individual	\$32.50
Family	\$37.50
Newsletter monthly advertisements:	\$37.50
Directory advertisement:	\$11

You may contact [payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com](mailto:payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com) for convenient electronic payments options (processing fee included).

## Get Connected!

Join our online  
discussion



## Official Website

Visit our website at  
[austinbonsaisociety.com](http://austinbonsaisociety.com)

## Facebook

Like our Facebook page  
AustinBonsaiSociety

## Twitter

Follow us on Twitter  
@ATXBonsai

## Instagram

Follow us on Instagram  
@austinbonsaisociety

## ABS Library

<https://abslibrary.libib.com/>

## YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/  
channel/  
UCLSkNkBNld3EOYwjNlneA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSkNkBNld3EOYwjNlneA)

# Vice President's Message

By Summer Lee

A note from the editor:

Summer is handling an emergency and cannot provide an update. Our thoughts are with her and she will resume her column next month. Thank you for your understanding.

The logo for Brite Ideas Aquaponics & Organics features the text "BRITE IDEAS" in blue, bold, sans-serif font at the top. Below it is a central graphic of a glowing yellow lightbulb with a filament, surrounded by a circular wreath of green leaves and yellow flowers. To the left of the lightbulb is a red chili pepper, and to the right is a yellow fish. Below the lightbulb are two sunflowers, a green leafy branch, and a red tomato. Underneath the graphic, the text "AQUAPONICS HYDROPONICS & ORGANICS" is written in blue, sans-serif font. Below that is the website "Http://www.bihydro.com" and the owner's name "Owner: Troy Smith". At the bottom, two addresses are listed: "12110 Menchaca Rd. Ste.103 Austin, TX 78748 (512)444-2100" and "2521 Rutland Dr. #475 Austin, TX 78758 (512)459-4353".

**BRITE IDEAS**

**AQUAPONICS  
HYDROPONICS & ORGANICS**

Http://www.bihydro.com  
Owner: Troy Smith

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

# ABS Board Minutes

## March 2021

Start time: 7:10

Attendees: Ruwan, Roland, Gloria, Mike Garza, Morgan, Simon

1. One seed Juniper Trade
  - One seed Juniper -> Kingsville Boxwood
  - Brandon will send an invoice to the club for the one seed. The club will pay him back the same amount
2. Look into changing into a 501c(3) from 501c(4)
  - Talked to an Attorney
  - Continued engagement and discussions moving forward
  - Report back about process in the next meeting
3. Marketing
  - Sponsorship (How to support ABS different tiers from \$200- \$300)
    - ◆ Create a Brochure to hand out
    - ◆ Revamp Newsletter (contents)
    - ◆ Morgan will contact Great Outdoors
    - ◆ Ask to donate material
4. Repository
  - Currently \$90/month
    - Will reduce costs and combine accounts
5. Gloria will contact the people who haven't paid for raffle items
6. Branding/Logo
  - Consistent ABS logo branding across all social media
  - Personnel in charge of social media needs to adhere to the rules above
  - Discuss potential new logo submissions from members for online contest
7. Morgan will write an article about his experiences in member's spotlight

Meeting ends at – 8:48 PM

Thanks,  
Ruwan

## Member's Spotlight

*By Morgan Bean*

Perhaps the most intimidating factor when beginning your bonsai journey, after you've gained confidence in basic care, is time. Unfortunately, progression photos tend to be few and far between. I am perpetually guilty of buying new stock that I think may have little potential, only to see it change over a few years and realize that I should have documented the process. However, in this newsletter I would like to share an example of a tree that not only touches on the development process, but also represents the value that an organization like the Austin Bonsai Society can provide.

In mid-2018 I won this tree at the club auction.



At the time I simply wanted to experiment with older and larger stock as my previous experiences had been limited to garden center plants. The auction provided me the opportunity to acquire material I otherwise would not have had access to at this stage of my bonsai journey. Not to mention the fun atmosphere of bidding on trees and the reasonable price. This juniper was healthy but had also been cut back hard and was presenting juvenile foliage. At the time I was not confident that this could be rectified, or that I had the skills necessary bring the tree together into a cohesive

design. Over the course of the next year I focused on keeping the tree healthy and growing. Once it had produced enough growth, I jinned the secondary trunk and wired the tree into a more desirable form. When it came time to find a more fitting pot for my design, I went to our fellow member's nursery Jade Gardens and found a lovely oval pot that that I felt was more suitable for the slender nature of the tree. After this point I let the tree grow again to try to fill out foliage pads.



The tree continued to grow nicely, and I was getting closer to my goal of creating fuller foliage pads. Earlier this year I was becoming dissatisfied with the symmetry of the tree and considered cutting off a lower branch to create a more asymmetrical appearance. This was not a decision to take lightly, as once this branch was removed, there was no replacing it. Luckily, I was able to utilize another resource in our club's Slack Chat where members can discuss their trees outside of meetings. The other members responded positively to my idea, and after a little further thought I removed the branch and created the asymmetry that I was looking for.

# Member's Spotlight

*By Morgan Bean*

Even more interestingly, the original owner of the tree was able to send me a photo of their first styling in 2017.



This photo really helps to show how much the tree has changed and grown over the years and is the perfect starting place to see the trees progress.



There are still issues that need to be ironed out with this tree. I would still like the pads to be more compact and there is a small branch that will one day be used to create more dimension. The tree is also not fully wired, and you'll notice some wrapping I did to protect damage on the lower branch. However, my intention with this article was not to show you a world class fully developed tree. My hope in sharing the development process with my fellow beginner members, is that you can see over a few short years how a tree can progress. You may at times feel out of your depth, or have trouble imagining that your bonsai can live up to the image you have in your head, but with the guidance and resources of The Austin Bonsai Society, a little elbow grease and time, you will be able to experience the joys of seeing your trees develop into bonsai.

## New Members

**Vicki A.**

## 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: [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!

**MBP Bonsai Studio**  
Importers, Retail & Wholesale  
Your source for:  
High quality Yagimitsu & Ryukoh tools  
Organic Bonsai Fertilizers  
Imported and Domestic Trees  
Bonsai Pottery, Soils and supplies  
Classes & Seminars  
*Open Tuesday Through Sunday*



ph: 512-202-3403  
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601 Kay Lane  
Pflugerville, TX 78660  
(call for directions)



# Bonsai Notebook

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



## Austin Bonsai Society

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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.