



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

April 2025 vol 175

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## Calendar of Events

### April 9, 2025

- ◆ Topic: BYOT
- ◆ Presenter: ABS
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
- ◆ Time: 6:30pm (Mingling), 7:00pm (Meeting)

### May 14, 2025

- ◆ Topic: Tropicals
- ◆ Presenter: Gilbert Cantu
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
- ◆ Time: 6:30pm (Mingling), 7:00pm (Meeting)

## 2024 Board of Directors

**Eric B.**  
President

**Sachin M.**  
Vice President

**Simon T.**  
Secretary

**Jonathan W.**  
Treasurer

**Jorge M.**  
Member-At-Large

**Ross C.**  
Member-At-Large

**Ben M.**  
Member-At-Large

## Volunteers

*Refreshments*  
*Blake S.*

*Tree Hosts*  
*John H.*

# President's Message

*By Eric B.*

Greetings my fellow miniature tree enthusiasts, spring has definitely sprung and all of our deciduous plants that made it through winter are waking up and putting on new foliage, or very soon to do so. By the time you get to read this, it will definitely be too late to repot any deciduous trees, so I hope you all were able to get everything done that you wanted. I got in just under the wire with a couple of my big cedar elms, they were already showing a couple of leaves when I repotted them. By late April or early May it might be hot enough to start thinking about repotting any semi-tropicals you may have, and maybe even tropicals.

On behalf of the entire Austin Bonsai Society, I would like to extend a big thank you to Jonathan Wood, for his extremely informative presentation on Japanese Maples - Development and care in Central Texas. I learned a lot about taking better care of my maples, and if I ever run into problems or have questions, now I know who to ask!

For our April meeting we have the club-favorite Bring-Your-Own-Tree night. This will be focused on trees to exhibit in the ABS Annual Show and Sale, Saturday and Sunday, May 17 & 18, but trees you would just like some help with or advice on with are fine, too. I do encourage you to put a tree in the show, as that is how we show off what we do to the public.

Volunteers will be needed for the show in May, starting the day before (the 16th) around 1:00 pm for setup, and on the 17th and 18th to help run the show, and afterward to help take everything down. Please consider donating some time to help make the show a success! We will have a sign up sheet at the April meeting so you can see what roles need filled and the time slots, etc. It's actually a lot of fun, so I hope to see you there!

Thank you all for reading, and I'll see you all at the April meeting!  
Eric

## Reminder for club membership and advertisement

### 2025 membership fee

Individual	\$35.00
Family	\$40.00
Newsletter monthly advertisements:	\$35.00
Directory advertisement:	\$11.00

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

**Gift certificate for memberships is also available**, please send inquiry to [payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com](mailto:payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com)

# Vice President's Message

*By Sachin M.*

Dear Bonsai Enthusiasts,

As we transition into the warmer months, I'm reminded of the vibrant energy that spring brings—both to our gardens and our hearts. At the Austin Bonsai Society, we're fortunate to share that energy as we continue our journey of learning, growing, and fostering a deeper connection with this beautiful art form.

This month, I want to take a moment to reflect on the growth of our community. Whether you've been with us for years or are just beginning your bonsai journey, it's been incredible to witness the passion, knowledge, and friendships that blossom in our meetings and workshops. We are a community bound by our shared love for bonsai, and every one of you contributes something unique to this collective experience.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to announce that our next monthly meeting on April 9th will be a "Bring Your Own Tree" Workshop. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to bring in a tree that you'd like advice on, whether it's for refinement, shaping, or general care. We'll have several experienced club members available to provide you with tips and techniques tailored to your tree's needs. It's the perfect way to get ready for the Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show coming up on May 17th and 18th at Zilker Botanical Garden.

At the workshop, you'll have the chance to get your tree in top shape for the show, so whether you're planning to exhibit or simply want to learn how to enhance your tree's beauty, there will be plenty of opportunities for hands-on guidance and support. We encourage all levels of bonsai enthusiasts to join in—this is a wonderful chance to get expert feedback and learn something new in a collaborative, fun setting.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting in April and, of course, at our annual show in May. Let's keep the energy high and continue to support each other as we nurture our trees and our community.

Warmest regards  
Sachin Attavar

# ABS Board Meeting Minutes

## Get Connected!

Join our online  
discussion



## Official Website

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

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[https://www.youtube.com/  
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**Date: March 18, 2024**

**Location: Virtual**

### Meeting Attendees:

- ◆ Eric (President)
- ◆ Sachin (Vice President)
- ◆ Simon (Secretary)
- ◆ Jonathan (Treasurer)
- ◆ Caleb
- ◆ Ross
- ◆ Jorge

### President:

- ◆ Talked about AAGC, ZBG and TwiG representation
- ◆ Greeter team: All board members with Ross, Caleb and Jorge as leaders
- ◆ Reservations with Zilker regarding 2026 ABS meeting dates
- ◆ May show in planning

### Vice President:

- ◆ Confirmation on programs and preparation for the rest of the year
- ◆ Updates on scheduling and other essential topics

### Secretary:

- ◆ Meeting starts at **7:35pm**
- ◆ Last report was accepted without edits

### Treasurer:

- ◆ Provide financial updates and balances
- ◆ Talked about membership and raffles update
- ◆ Transition of Treasurer in progress

Meeting adjourned at **8:57 pm**

## Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

**\*\* Calendar subject to change in 2025- Please review dates in each future Newsletter \*\***

Date	Event Type	Artist / Presenter	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
WED 4/9/2025	Club Night / Meeting	Experienced Club Members will offer expert guidance and suggestions for your show tree	6:30PM social time 7:00PM start time <b>Activity:</b> Bring Your Own Tree (BYOT) - Styling Tips and suggestions to take your show tree to the next level, and to help prepare for display in May 2025. Members are encouraged to take the leap into displaying their first tree at a our Club Show	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX	Free to attend - Donation table items welcome :-)
WED 5/14/2025	Club Night / Meeting	Guest Artist : Gilbert Cantu	6:30PM social time 7:00PM start time <b>Presentation/ Demonstration: Guest artist will style a quality bonsai and give expert care tips</b>		Free to attend - Donation table items welcome :-)
FRI 5/16/2025	Group Set-up of Bonsai Show		2 groups of volunteers combine efforts to set up a spectacular Bonsai Show for the public to enjoy. Pizza dinner for volunteers around 6:30PM		
SAT 5/17/2025  SUN 5/18/2025	Bonsai Show	<b>Current ABS members display their bonsai for the public</b>	10:00AM-5:00PM Both Days Austin Bonsai Society hosts a spectacular public display at Zilker Botanical Gardens Auditorium. Vendor area for bonsai supplies and sales by members. Educational Bonsai Demonstration each afternoon. 50 or more bonsai to view in the auditorium.	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX	Free for the public to Attend (with paid park admission). *Special assigned parking areas for Volunteers, please check with show committee for parking details

## Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

**\*\* Calendar subject to change in 2025- Please review dates in each future Newsletter \*\***

Date	Event Type	Artist / Presenter	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
<p>Saturday 5/31/25</p>	<p>Bonsai Meetup: Shohn Size Trees</p>	<p>Shohin Society of Texas <b>May L. and Joey M.</b></p>	<p>Developing a 2-3 year old trident maple to get taper and movement.</p>	<p>Spicewood Springs Library 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78759  (1pm - 4pm)</p>	<p>Free to attend</p>
<p>THURS thru SUN 9/18/25 9/19/25 9/20/25 9/21/25</p>	<p>Bonsai Convention</p>	<p><b>Pre-Registration is encouraged (for both the convention and hotel!)</b> Come for 1 specific day or join us for all days! Workshops fill up fast and tend to be first come, first served with paid registration</p>	<p>September 18-21, 2025 LSBF “Bonsai on the Bay” Convention in Corpus Christi. Featuring <b>Jonas Dupuich, Jennifer Price and Mike Lane</b> – Unique Pots, tools, supplies, bonsai material AND quality Bonsai workshops. Jointly hosted by the Corpus Christi and San Antonio Bonsai Clubs!</p>	<p>Holiday Inn Corpus Christi Downtown Marina 707 N. Shoreline Blvd Corpus Christi, TX 78401</p>	<p>Pricing will be released a few months prior to the event</p>

## Unusual Repotting Projects '25

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)

A photo essay of notable repots this year, with comments.



A *Styrax* air-layer ready to separate. The roots were getting tight in the small pot.





And a new bonsai is born.



Will pots up the baby in a training pot.





This is the Cryptomeria shown in the 2024 [Pacific Bonsai Expo](#) which won best in show.



The underview. Dense roots.



Another project in a [Seasonal](#) workshop was digging into the rootball of this Ponderosa Pine.



Brock brought in this quirky piece of welding to serve as a container for a Lodgepole Pine.



The root grafts on this Trident Maple were ready to be cut off. Last year the little trunklets got tourniquets in preparation for this. Here I must admit something. The trunklet to the far left ended up *not* being a Trident—our supplier got creative, and we didn't notice the difference either and grafted it. It's an Amur Maple. Very curious to see if that graft works.



A young Quaking Aspen grove.



Downward view to see trunk relationships. We decided to reassemble this one, as we did with a recent [Vine Maple](#).





Again looking down at the trunk placements.



A hillock rise in a forest can help give additional dominance to the larger trees.

Reminder: 2023 CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEE AMOUNT INCREASE

Beginning in January 2023, ABS will charge an annual membership fee of \$35 for an individual and \$40/couple pursuant to the vote taken by the ABS Board on May 17, 2022, the discussion by attendees at the June 22 ABS meeting, the newsletter announcement dated June and July, 2022 and the regular meeting vote taken on July 13, 2022. Fees for electronic payments will be added to those amounts.

Memberships are annual and need to be renewed each year by the end of February in order to receive a copy of the 2023 Directory.

## New/Renewed Members for 2025

May and Simon T.

Matt S.

Phina & Marlon C.

Lizzle and Nathan G.

Jonathan W.

John M. and Blake S.

Eric and Leigh B.

Ross C.

Ruby C.

Alisan C., and Lynn H.

Mike and Candy H.

Julia and Betty D.

Quoc H.

Debbie and John H.

Hunter J.

Jacob K.

Roland L. and Krystal W.

Joey M.

Andrew M.

Michael and Gloria N.

Lyon O.

Corbin C.

Wyatt S.

Spindel, Abraham, and Kelly S.

Jorge V.

Chuck and Pat W.

Janelle W.

Fred w.

Elaine W.

Shawn and Chris W.

## 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!

## Advertisements



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# Bonsai Notebook

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



## Austin Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 340474  
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 6:30 pm, followed by our program at 7:00 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.

For additional information, contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, TX 78734 or  
Email: [webmaster.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com](mailto:webmaster.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com)