



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

August 2018 vol 93

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## Calendar of Events

- **Wed August 8**  
7:30pm - 9:00pm  
History and presentation on Japanese scroll with  
John Borusheski
- **Tues August 14**  
7:30pm - 9:00pm  
ABS Member's Workshop  
Bring-your-own-tree workshop  
Scroll creation with Alisan Clark (postponed)

## 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

**Zerita Rogers**  
**Elaine White**  
*Food*

**Zerita Rogers**  
**Elaine White**  
*Trees*

# President's Message

*By Simon Tse*

Greetings! I hope everyone and their beloved Bonsai have survived the grueling hot weather for the last month. Various protective measures were deployed which include the use of sphagnum moss, coconut fiber, burlap rolls and even old T-shirts. Keep your bonsai healthy and properly hydrated.

John Borusheski will be our guest speaker in August. Mr. Borusheski is an active member of Dallas Bonsai Society and he is well versed in kakejiku ("hung scroll"). He will demonstrate and create a scroll during our meeting. I believe all of you will benefit from his expertise on this intricate art.

Last but not least, our annual auction is fast approaching! As you may know, this is our annual fundraiser and we rely strictly on donations. Our Vice President, Brandon, will elaborate in his column below. We will also include silent auction this year and the items allowed will be limited. Please contact Gloria or myself for more information.

Due to unanticipated circumstances, Alisan's scroll workshop will be postponed. Expect future email communications to those who have signed up.

Hope to see all of you in our next meeting!

Cheers,  
Simon



John Borusheski and his scrolls



# July Meeting

The Austin Bonsai Society welcomes Dr. Hoe



*(Photos by May Lau)*



# July Meeting

Raffles items and winner!



**Congratulations Joey!**

*(Photos by May Lau)*



# TTSBE

## Bonsai Exhibit



*(Photos by Joey McCoy and Brandon Baldauf)*



# TTSBE

## Bonsai Exhibit



*(Photos by Joey McCoy and Brandon Baldauf)*



## Get Connected!

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Join our online discussion

page! NO SPAM!

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

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

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

## Facebook

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## Vice President's Message

*By Brandon Baldauf*

Greetings ABS Members,

What a hot July we have been having, I hope everyone has been able to tend to their trees throughout the month without any serious damage. Our upcoming monthly meeting on Wednesday August 8th will feature John Borusheski from the Bonsai Society of Dallas. He will be sharing his knowledge on the subject of the roll of the scroll in bonsai displays. If all goes according to plan, John will demonstrate his methods for making scrolls and what he creates will be up for auction at the end of the meeting. See you there!

The workshop this month on Tuesday August 21st will be lead by Alisan Clarke where she will facilitate a crafting scrolls workshop. Please note that all members are welcome to attend; however, there is a limited number of seats due to supplies being provided. During our last meeting, we had the maximum number of people sign up. Please contact me with questions.

If there was anyone else interested in volunteering to be part of the 2021 LSBF planning board, let me know. Everyone has their own creativity that they bring the society and this event will be a fun opportunity to collaborate towards a goal and enjoy hosting a fun event. We've learned the year we host the LSBF convention will be the 50th year of Austin Bonsai Society and the 40th annual LSBF convention!

September will be our annual auction so please be thinking ahead of trees, containers, or bonsai supplies you might want to donate to the event.

Cheers,  
Brandon

# Regular Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2018

- ABS Meeting Minutes July 11
- Simon started the meeting at 7:30
- TTSBE installed a brand new handmade fence for the Zilker display- Trees may go in on Sunday or Monday.
- Simon mentioned an Amazon page for TTSBE projects
- Gloria- the Treasurers report
- We had a really good month with Joe Day and Yvonne Padilla
- We are up \$1,022.44 for the year.
- Our annual auction will be coming up in September
- We will follow the same tradition from last year, silent auction will be included
- Bring friends and Family to bid on goodies!!
- Next month's meeting will be on the importance of the Scroll
- Members trees- Chris brought in a Rosemary he collected from his flower bed and a vitex he recommended for new members
- Daniel- Brought in a Portulacaria afra he got at a nursery in east Austin.
- Food and snacks were provided by Mike & Roxie Garza and Brandon Baudalf
- Meeting Special Guest Dr. Hoe started his presentation on Japanese Black Pines at 7:32

**JADE GARDENS**  
**HOME OF THE**

**Owners**



**Chuck  
and Pat  
Ware**

JADE GARDENS  
Wimberley, Texas  
12404 Ranch Road 12  
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<http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

# ABS Board Minutes

*June 17, 2018*

- ABS Board Meeting July 17, 2018
- Members in attendance- Gloria, Pat, Simon, Ruby, Mike, and Brandon.
- Meeting Started at 7:02 PM
- Board brought up new name tags and Ruby will look into pricing and design.
- Tyler Sherrod will be our visiting artist for September and will demo the Yaupon purchased from the LSBF convention. Tyler will be here the Monday September 24th for the workshop.
- Gloria's Treasurer Update
- We are up \$61.12 for July and Up 1,083.56 for the year.
- Board spoke about the LSBF convention, So far Brandon, Mike, Simon, Joey, and Gloria will hold key positions.
- Board approved Mike and Brandon going to a Bonsai Auction in Dallas to get Material for the LSBF Convention and workshops.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:12

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# August Bonsai

By John Miller

During this month your primary job will be to maintain the health of your bonsai. There is no number 1 task, soil temperature, soil moisture and sun intensity on the leaves are equally important. You need to know how your bonsai are doing each hour of the day. Things like how hot the pots are getting at 6 or 7 pm as well as at midday or 2pm, does morning sun heat the pots, etc.

So during this time you will need to provide shade, check your watering habits, and maybe modify your fertilizing techniques.

A good many species could take the summer Texas sun if their roots were maintained in a normal soil temp less than 80 degrees. But since their pots are in an ambient where even the August night temps may not get that cool, you have to take some heroic steps to care for them.

When you think about providing shade remember that the sun is constantly moving.

The worst sun is in late afternoon when the ambient is very high and the air is usually very dry. If this sun hits the pots they will get very hot. Providing shade on the west is very important. You should cover your pots with a loose fitting cloth to allow air flow around them. (Note: Relative Humidity cuts in **half** for **each** 10 degrees rise. RH translates into drying capability.)

Special summer care needs to be given any kind of bonsai with rocks. That would include root over rock, tree on a rock, and a tree using a rock to mask a poor nebari. These rocks need to be shielded from the sun even more so than the bonsai pots as they are in intimate contact with the roots.

Watering usually presents a major problem, since most of us work away from home. The high ambient causes the trees to transpire heavily in the afternoon just when the soil is getting drier. The tree has difficulty in transporting enough water up the trunk.

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(call for directions)

## New Members

Cary Jung

Soon Cheng Cheah and

Dr. Hoe Hin Chuah

Jefferson Lee

**Welcome!**

Ideally you would be able to water three times a day. A morning watering would get the plant off to a good start. Watering at about 2:30pm would not only replace the water loss thru evaporation but would also cool the soil back to 60 or so refreshing the tree for its afternoon ordeal. Then again water at sundown which again cools the soil and lets the tree recover overnight. If the humidity allows (no fungal problems), you can spray the foliage.

If you have to use an irrigation system, it is best to not use drip emitters as they only create wet spots in these shallow pots. Better to use a loop of 1/4 inch soaker hose going all the way around the surface of the pot. With overhead sprinklers the tree may shed the water to the outside (dripline) and may not get the soil wet.

Fertilizers, including the organics, and insecticides are chemical activities and as such are greatly influenced by the temperature. You still need to feed the trees and control the insects but read all labels carefully. You would be advised to use a lower application rate usually.

Meanwhile all the usual mundane things must be taken care of. The warm conditions are great for the bad things. Spider mites especially grow fast and are more damaging. Any problems you have had in the past, scale or other insects, will probably need to be attended to (weekly).

In the real world, plan your soil mix for your average conditions and then if you have a long wet spell tilt the pots for drainage and give an extra watering when hot and dry. Put loose sphagnum moss on the surface to keep it from drying out. Use some loose covering

on the pot to shade it from the sun. A windbreak could help with tender leaved trees.

Remember to water twice. Wait a few minutes after the first watering for the dry soil particles to absorb some of the water on their surface. Then with the surface tension reduced the second watering gets the particle wet.

We can still to repot our Tropicals and Semi-tropicals like Fukien tea, Bahamas Black Olive, Buttonwood, Ficus. When repotting, be sure to wire the tree securely in the pot to give it good stability against the winds. It might be a good idea to also tie the pot to the bench also, especially if there is a lot of foliage or your pot and soil mix are lightweight. You should remember that even the tropicals do not like their roots hot. Sun on the pots may heat the soil and prevent new root development even tho the tops may break new buds.

Spring flowering species usually set their buds in the fall. Most azaleas set in July. For good flowering next year do not prune them and feed with a higher phosphorus mix. Some of the minor elements are needed for brilliant colors.

Deciduous trees usually slow (but do not stop) their growth during summer so you may be able to do some pruning on them. Pruning can stimulate new growth that may not have time to harden before winter resulting in some dieback of the new growth. On these trees its better to wait until later. After leaves have fallen you can see where corrections need to be made more easily. However you should not let tip growth ruin the fine ramification on finished trees. Keep it pinched.

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## 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](mailto: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!

# 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.