



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

August 2019 vol 107

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Calendar of Events

- **Wed Aug 14**
7:30pm - 9:00pm
Root over rock with Chuck Ware
- **Tues Aug 20**
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Member's workshop - Scroll creation with Alisan Clark
Board meeting

2019 Board of Directors

Brandon Baldauf
President

Mike Garza
Vice President

Roland Lopez
Secretary

Gloria Norberg
Treasurer

Lawrence Priest
Member-At-Large

Chris Frechette
Member-At-Large

Pat Ware
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Food

Marlon Chen

Lizzie Chen

Nathan Gaar

Trees

Marlon Chen

Evan Vincent

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

July has been a blast across the board and especially with bonsai - there was a great turnout for the Jennifer Price workshop, thanks to everyone for coming out and braving the heat. Fun time!



Upcoming Events

August 14th is a **Demonstration/Presentation** by Chuck Ware - "Root Over Rock"

September 10th **Limited Workshop**: BYOT with Andrew Robson

October 9th is our Annual Auction! (what bonsai will you bring in?)

October 15th is a **Demonstration/Presentation** by Kathy Shaner "Taming the Cedar Elm"

A couple of new items are unrolling this month: Slack & 2021 LSBF Logo Design Event!

In our last board meeting, the board voted to implement a community chat application called Slack. We've been piloting the app to see if there was interest and viability. Based on initial use, the board is extending an invitation to all members of Austin Bonsai Society. The intent is to provide an optional outlet for our members to communicate with one another.

Any questions, please let me or any of the board members know. Our new member, Summer, has offered to help guide anyone through the basics of using Slack on your phone or computer.

For the LSBF 2021 convention, we are starting a friendly logo design event. As Austin Bonsai Society is hosting the

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ABS Library

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

2021 LSBF convention, we're well underway in the planning. The planning committee is ready to start designing the logo for the event, logos are used for memorabilia and posters. The club will vote on the design during the holiday party and on Slack.

Vote Date: November 13th - more details in the upcoming meeting.

Brandon



Reminder for club membership

2019 membership fee (After June 30)

Individual	\$15
Family	\$17.50
Newsletter monthly advertisements:	\$35
Directory advertisement:	\$10

Come to the meeting and pay by cash/check/credit card or send your payment to Gloria Norberg, 7413 Lady Suzanne's Court, Austin TX 78729.

July Meeting

Deadwood Carving
with Jennifer Price



Photos by Joey McCoy

Regular Meeting Minutes (Roland)

July 10, 2018

Announcements began at 7:30PM

- New member and guest announcements
- Workshop announcements
- Member tree show and tell – Chris and Brandon B.
- Alisan – AAGC updates
- Raffle item announcements

Jennifer began her presentation at 7:44PM



ABS Board Minutes (Roland)

July 16, 2018

Attendance – Brandon, Lawrence, Chris, Mike, Pat and Roland

Meeting began at 7:06PM

Board reviewed last months meeting topics while Brandon was out

Slack – Board voted YES to implement app for club going forward

We will make club aware of access and utilization of app

Program updates – Chuck will host August workshop

Treasurer update

Logo design contest discussed – will vote at our holiday party

Meeting adjourned at 7:34PM



August Bonsai

By John Miller

You have only two main jobs in August: (1) keep your bonsai alive and (2) keep them healthy. Regardless of where you live in Texas you can expect 90+ temperatures and the direct sun will be merciless. The sun on the pots raises the temperature of the soil high enough to kill the roots. It also speeds up the drying of the soil. Many pathogens (e.g. spider mites) thrive at higher temperatures and the stressed plants cannot cope with added problems.

Two things can be done to cope with the sun. You can supply partial shade and you may provide a cover over the pots. The shade, whether from a natural source (tree cover) or a shade cloth material, should provide greater protection from the afternoon sun. Late afternoon sun can be a problem because the temperature is highest and the soil is usually drier at that time. A cover over the pot should not touch the pot. A non-porous cover may create an oven. There should be good air flow around the pot for cooling. Ideally watering should be done at 2pm or so. That would lower the soil temp to around 70 and would provide for some evaporative cooling the rest of the afternoon.

Keeping the plants healthy means taking care of insects and diseases promptly, keeping them out of water stress, and feeding properly. A good many species could take full sun (on the tops) if they are healthy. A 30% shade cloth over them during this time would be better. Japanese maples and others with thin leaves would need more shade.

During these extremely hot periods take care when using chemicals. This is true whether you are using organic chemicals or the other kind. I do not use my organic spray unless it can have a few hours before it gets to 90. Heat makes chemicals more active and they can damage your plants. Be sure to read the fine print on the label re temperature use. You may need to use them early in the morning or very late evening. Most commercial chemicals are sold in an oil based mixture which can damage some like buttonwood at any temperature. When checking the results on your plants after spraying remember that the spray usually will not remove the 'evidence' of problems. The webs will still be there after the mites are killed, the shells of

the scale will be attached to the leaf or stem. These will have to be removed by hand, by a jet of water, or some other way. A soft toothbrush works good on the scale shells.

Good fertilizer techniques will help you maintain healthy bonsai. The best technique is to use organic fertilizer balls on the surface. They will supply a very low dose of nutrients every time you water. Time release fertilizer will work but you do not have much control, it releases a lot when you first put it on and you do not know when it peters out. Water soluble fertilizers are concentrated chemicals that may be too active for high temp use. They also quickly wash out of the soil as you water and you are doing that more often now. Check to see that your fertilizer supplies the many micronutrients that plants need.

Azaleas set their buds in July. Other spring flowering plants also set buds in the fall. They should not be pruned after bud set if you desire the blooms. If you are in a developmental stage you can still prune them. Other flowering plants should have the dead blooms and seed pods removed. That may encourage more flowering. Some tropicals like the bougainvillea flower after a dry period which is their natural dormancy. Check growth habits for your species.

Check your trees for moss growing on trunks. Bark seems to hold moisture pretty good and the extra watering may cause moss to grow. Kill it with 90% isopropyl alcohol. Let it die before picking off gently with tweezers. Too much moss on the soil interferes with proper watering.

More on water practices. I prefer to water heavily in the evening (in normal weather). That gives the plant all night to renew itself without losing most of its water to evaporation. Then in the early morning, they get a quick foliage spray and wetting the surface of the soil which may have dried out overnight. Very porous soil may need more morning water. This was what I did while working since the morning task only took 10 minutes or so. Now I still prefer to water heavily in the evening but the morning watering is more done more slowly and trees given a little more individual attention as some of them will not need water in the

soil. Be sure to do the double watering bit--water thoroughly and then after a few minutes water again so that the dry soil particles will get moistened.

Also watch for signs of insect problems. The spider mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, and mealy bugs. Preventative medicine is best. By the time you see signs, the damage is already done, especially spider mites. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and 5% apple cider vinegar per gallon water) to control all these. You can use some of the other organic controls or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully. Do not apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods or other sensitive species. A hose end sprayer does not work very well, its droplets are too large and you have little control over where it goes. Use a pump sprayer with a fine spray and cover both top and bottom of leaves.

The humidity in summer varies quite a bit but when it sticks around for a few days look for fungal problems to appear, mildew being the most prevalent. Foliage spraying in the morning will usually not be a problem because it dries pretty quickly. Treat with potassium carbonate which you can find at any nursery with a decent organic section. There are several chemical sprays available too.





*The Texas State
Bonsai Exhibit, Inc.*

Who we are:

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit (TTSBE) is a non-profit organization started in 2000, and is devoted to preserving and displaying the heritage trees developed by Bonsai artists in our area and to educate the public on this wonderful art. TTSBE is an all-volunteer group who tend to and maintain the donated exhibit trees. All fund raising goes directly to the Exhibit project and to the bonsai themselves. We have many different Texas Native varieties of trees, exotic Japanese and Chinese specimen as well as some top-notch Tropical varieties. Our bonsai range in size from Shohin (under 8 inches) to Imperial or Dai (needing 3-10 people to lift). It is through donations that we are able to continue our mission. For more information, visit: www.ttsbe.org

BRITE IDEAS

**AQUAPONICS
HYDROPONICS & ORGANICS**

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

Owner: Troy Smith

4201 S. Congress Ave. # 310 Austin, TX 78745 (512)444-2100 Manager: Tim Hill	2521 Rutland Dr. #475 Austin, TX 78758 (512)459-4353 Manager: Nick Snyder
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New Members

Mark and Alden Feist

David & Tiffanie Flynn

Olivier Levy

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!

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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.