



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

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## Calendar of Events

- **Virtual Exhibit**  
Video available [here](#)  
Slides available [here](#)
- **No meeting**  
Enjoy the holidays!
- **2021 meeting**  
January 13th at 7 pm

## 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

# Future President's Message

*By Roland Lopez*

Hello Austin Bonsai Society,

My name is Roland. Some of you may know me but some of you don't. I hope I get the chance to connect with each and everyone of you soon! I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you and to keep this club alive and thriving. Not long after the art of bonsai took a hold of me, I came to seek a community of people to learn from and to share something with. It didn't take long for me to recognize that I found something special when I joined ABS. I found my new tribe! Being a part of this group of fellow bonsai practitioners has been an enriching experience for me. I've learned so much from all of you. I hope I can return that same warm, humble support that this group has given to me over the last few years.

Welcome and thank you to our new board members! I'm very happy to have Summer Lee as our vice president. Summer's enthusiasm and sharpness will be an integral part of delivering a fun and educating 2021 program. Ruwan Perera, one of the friendliest people I've ever met, will serve as our secretary. Gloria Norberg will be our treasurer. I've witnessed all the effort that Gloria has put into her position and I truly believe that we are a more efficient organization with her skills. Thank you for staying on Gloria! Mike Garza, our former vice president, will be one of our members-at-large. Mike's experience and wise counsel will be of great benefit to our board. Thank you for returning Mike! Serving as another member-at-large is Jakob Clark, whose energy is much appreciated. Morgan Bean will also be a member-at-large and I am looking forward to working with a kind person such as himself. And last but not at all least, I'd like to give a big thank you to Brandon Baldauf, our president for the past two years. Brandon's innovative leadership and persistence have expanded our borders and gotten us through unfamiliar and uncertain times. I don't think we would have been as strong without him at the helm. I will do my very best to keep the momentum going that he has created.

I would also like to thank Simon Tse and May Lau for continuing to serve ABS. Simon is our webmaster and newsletter editor and was one of the first people in ABS to welcome me to this community. His work to keep ABS functioning, technologically, and on many other levels, is paramount to us moving forward. May Lau will stay on as our librarian - the curator of our resources for knowledge! May also enhances our publications with her photography and always inspires us with her many talents (Have you seen her bonsai pots?!?! Wow!!) I am grateful for their unwavering support.

We plan to continue our safe remote presentations and demonstrations until the current pandemic is under control, which I hope will be sometime next year. At that time, we will resume meeting at the Zilker Botanical Gardens. I am also exploring our options for possible hands-on workshops in small safe groups. Efforts are being made to bring you more renowned artists to educate and inspire your bonsai practice.

Thank you again and I look forward to seeing y'all next year!

With a warm smile,

Roland

## Get Connected!

Join our online  
discussion



## Official Website

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

## Facebook

Like our Facebook page  
AustinBonsaiSociety

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## ABS Library

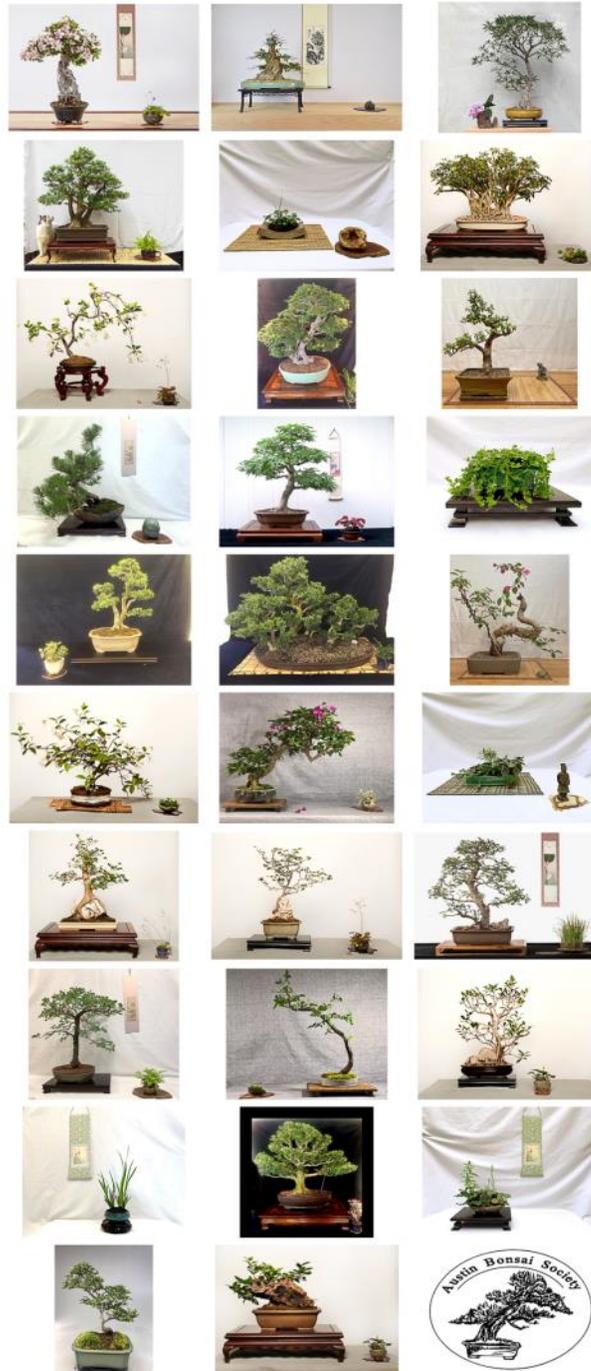
<https://abslibrary.libib.com/>

## YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLsknKbNld3EOYwijkNIneA>

# Virtual Exhibit

Austin Bonsai Society Virtual Show 2020



# Regular Meeting Minutes

November 2020

No meeting minutes - Zoom meeting  
Interactive Q/A  
Online chat  
Raffles

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

**Owners**



**Chuck  
and Pat  
Ware**

JADE GARDENS  
Wimberley, Texas  
**12404 Ranch Road 12**  
**Wimberley, TX 78676**  
**Visa & MasterCard**  
**(512) 847-2514**  
**e-mail: [bonsaijg@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaijg@gmail.com)**  
**<http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>**

**JADE GARDENS** will be having an after Christmas **SALE**.

**December 26, 2020 thru December 31, 2020 from 10 am to 6 pm**

Pots, Bonsai supplies (except soil), most (but not all) trees will be **25% off**

After much discussion, we will have limited openings after the 31st.

## Reminder for club membership

### 2021 membership fee

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

You may contact [payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com](mailto:payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com) for convenient electronic payments options (processing fee applies) or mail a check to Gloria Norberg, 7413 Lady Suzanne's Court, Austin, Texas 78729.

# ABS Board Minutes

*November 2020*

Board Attendees: Brandon, Chris, Roland, Garza, Gloria

Start 7:09

Topics:

Need to ensure our Slack is invite only and private. Need to ensure President's or other feature messages does not include zoom information. Newsletter will be the gatekeeper going forward.

Consider a monthly position to 'moderate' the Zoom meetings

2021 Program - To have a December touchbase on 2021 Program on 12/15 (3rd Tues) or 12/9 (2nd Wed), Roland to decide

January meeting - Todd Schlafer. Zoom Meeting or possible to host him here. Need to know his fee, Roland will find out details.

2021 meetings begin at 7:00PM

January Workshop - Consider a virtual workshop using Pines or Junipers via Zoom

Updates from Treasurer - Need to audit the books in January - 2 people for Roland to select

2021 Convention Update - On behalf of the convention committee and LSBF, the 2021 convention in Austin has been cancelled

Upcoming Events -

December Board Meeting - TBD

Wednesday, January 13th - Todd Schlafer - TBD

Round Table

Roland needs to appoint committee chairs

List of officers to be assigned

When do we return to Zilker AAGC?

Consider a monthly report for committee chairs

Webmaster as the main contact for PayPal and membership e-payment coordinator

Gloria volunteers to create a checklist of monthly tasks for each chair

End 8:00

**New/Renewed  
Members**

**Bob and Nancy G.**

## General winter protection guides for Bonsai/plants

### Need protection from cold weather

Aralia - all varieties	Cardboard Palm	Okinawa Holly (Malpighia variety)
Barbados Cherry	Ficus – all varieties	Orange, Lemon – all citrus
Bougainvillea	Fukien Tea (never below 45F)	Papyrus
Brush Cherry	Ivies - all varieties	Satinwood
Burcera Fagaroides	Jacaranda	Sea Grape
Bucida Spinosa (Black Olive)	Indoor Oak (Nicodemia)	Sageretia
Bucida Burcera (Black Olive)	Ixora	Serissa (Snow Rose)
Buttonwood	Jasmine – Duke	Texas Ebony
Calliandra (Powder Puff)	Jaboticaba	Zamia Floridana
Carissa (Natal/African Plum)	Malpighias - Cocigera & Glabra	

### Semi-hardy

Bamboo - in pot	Gardenia	Yaupon Holly – never below 25F
Blood Grass	Olive - Olea Europs	Rosemary
Camellia (don't let buds freeze)	Podocarpus – never below 20F	Tallow
Hokkaido & Seiju & Catlin elms	Pyracantha – never below 25F	

### Need 6-8 weeks cold period

Abelia	Ginkgo	Pine
Althea	Grape	Pyrus Kawakami/Calley
Apple/Crabapple	Holly - most	Pittosporum
Arbovitae	Honeysuckle	Plum
Azalea - Satsuki may be indoors	Jasmine – confederate	Pistachio
Bald Cypress	Juniper – most	Quince
Barberry	Ligustrum/Privet	Raphiolepis (Redbud)
Camellia	Maples – all	Spirea
Chamaecyparis	Myrtle – all	Spruce
Cotoneaster	Nandina	Sweet Gum
Cryptomeria	Oaks	Viburnum
Cypress	Osmanthus	Willow
Elms - Chinese & American	Peach	Wisteria
Forsythia	Persimmon	Zelkova

Courtesy of Edith Sorge, former member of Austin Bonsai Society – 1989

Addendum and revised – 11/2017

# December Bonsai

*By John Miller*

The big thing this month is to make sure that the bonsai do not dry out and to protect the roots from freezing. Do not leave them up on their benches. Know which species should be left outdoors. They may be set on the ground. Add a dense mulch to the pot rim and then add a looser mulch on top. Water in a minute crack or chip can freeze and bust the pot.

Evergreen types especially and deciduous to a lesser extend should not have the root ball subjected to alternate freezing and thawing. That process tends to tear and damage the roots. Placing the trees on the ground and using a mulch will minimize this problem.

Deciduous trees should not be placed where they receive winter sun. After a period of dormancy, the heating of the tree could possibly cause it to break dormancy prematurely. If that happened you would need to keep it above freezing the rest of the winter. After they go dormant they have no need for any sunshine.

While they are dormant examine the twigs, branches, and trunks carefully for scale insects, Scale are sucking insects that usually cover themselves with a hard impervious shell that is very resistant to insecticides. Some are pretty small and look like specks. You might want to search online for something like 'scale insect bonsai' and get some pictures. Horticultural oils (available at garden stores) work good by filling their pores and smothering them. Oils can be applied now and you get a more thorough coverage while the trees are dormant. The only other way is to use a systemic insecticide (make sure it is labeled for scale) during the growing season.

Since the trees are not using as much water during dormancy it is easy to overlook checking on them. The low humidity usually found during winter helps dry the soil. Winter sun can be pretty hot and if it shines directly on the pot it will hasten the drying process. Winter will usually also be more windy. Therefore, however you bed down the trees, you need to check the dryness often. The same trees that needed more water last summer will also need to be checked more often during the winter. I think that more trees are

lost during the winter by having the soil dry out than from the actual cold.

Especially watch the plants that will need repotting next spring. Pots full of circling roots do not have much soil to hold water but those that had a lot of organic matter in the soil mix may be soggy. Organic matter that has composted during the summer will be very fine textured and hold on to the water a long time and may also interfere with drainage.

Plants have different degrees of hardiness for their top growth and their roots. The reason being that the ground acts a large reservoir of heat and here in Texas seldom freezes more than an inch or two down. Therefore, plants like the pomegranate and crepe myrtle which are at the northern extent of their range outside will only be hardy to 32 degrees in pots. Any plant that you are unsure of should be protected from freezing. This can be a problem because if they are not kept cool after they go dormant they will break dormancy and start to grow too soon. Growing without sufficient light causes long spindly growth which you cannot control. My best solution for this when I lived in town was to have a long platform with two wheels that I pulled into the garage on nights where freezing was forecast and kept outside at all other times.

The cold weather will keep any insect problems under control outside. You should use a dormant oil spray to kill over-wintering insets and eggs. A dilute spray of lime-sulfur can be used on deciduous trees if they have no green at all which will also control fungal spores but be sure to follow label directions carefully. You should watch for damage from rodent types, rabbits, squirrel, and rats. They will seriously prune branches and strip bark in short order.. A caution on lime sulfur--the same stuff we use on jin and shari. The liquid lime sulfur is pretty caustic so should be used with caution. If used as a dormant spray application should only be made to fully dormant plants, deciduous trees with tight winter buds, not on very warm days, and only when diluted as directed on the bottle.

# December Bonsai

*By John Miller*

Bonsai in greenhouses or indoor bonsai will need to be watched for the normal indoor problems. Low humidity, spider mites and scales are the biggest problems here. Trying to keep the humidity up by placing you trees on a humidity tray can possibly give you some soil problems, root rot or some other fungal disease. I basically use the same controls in the greenhouse that I use outside all year.

You can take advantage of the winter slowdown by getting pots ready for spring, clean and sharpen your tools, study what changes you would like to make on your trees and so forth. Making notes about what needs to be done on an individual tree is great but if you are like me the notes and trees are usually a long way apart. If you place a colored stake or ribbon on the tree you will see instantly which one needs what done. For example, I am using red for needs repotting, purple-needs a new pot, yellow-serious pruning, orange-should be restyled, etc. These can be put on during the year if you make that kind of decision as you are doing general routine work.

Try to find some good material for enhancing your collection. It is hard to fine decent material in a landscape nursery. If the club has a dig scheduled, be a part of it. There are many places where you can find one or two specimen to dig, in town as well as in the country. The problem is in finding a place with enough material to warrant taking the whole club. If you know of a possible location or have a friend with some land (it doesn't have to be very close) tell one of the officers about it. This comes under the heading of 'be an active member'. The rest of the group especially your program chairman will appreciate it.



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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!

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# Bonsai Notebook

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



## Austin Bonsai Society

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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 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.