



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

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## Calendar of Events

- **February 14, 2018**

Preparation, tips and advanced techniques for Yamadori and urban collection

- **February 23 - 25, 2018**

Club dig at Nilda's ranch  
(Contact Joey/Simon for details)

- **April 19 - 22, 2018**

LSBF Convention in Longview, TX at the Hilton Garden Inn

## 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

**Joey McCoy**  
**Quoc Hoang**  
*Food*

**Daniel Lara**  
*Trees*

## President's Message

*By Simon Tse*

Greetings, fellow members! What an excellent opportunity in January to have Juan Andrade as our visiting artist. His work on the black pine was meticulous, precise and methodical. Juan also provided valuable knowledge on growing and nurturing Japanese Bonsai. His presentation and personality earned praise from our members. Based on the feedback, the Board is implementing a returning artist program and hope to bring Juan back on a yearly basis. More details to follow.

This year we began with the frigid Arctic front, and Austin and surrounding areas struggled to rise above freezing for several days. These weather patterns could severely damage and weaken our Bonsai which are sensitive to extreme coldness. Even though current weather conditions are pleasant, please be prepared when another unexpected cold front arrives.

The ABS Board is collaborating diligently to finalize the 2018 programs. All board members and other members have submitted their ideas and we had a lengthy discussion in an attempt to offer a wide variety of programs. Expect exciting updates from our Vice President, Brandon Baldauf.

The club dig at Nilda's ranch is fast approaching, so please contact and Joey and myself as soon as possible to secure a spot.

Cheers,  
Simon

**Juan Andrade, our visiting  
artist in January**



## Juan Andrade

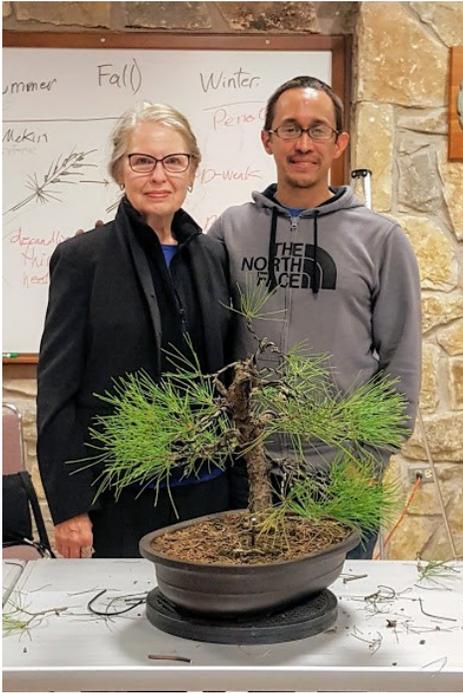
Our visiting artist in January demonstrated his techniques on a black pine.



*(Photos by Joey McCoy and Brandon Baldauf)*



*(Photos by Joey McCoy and  
Brandon Baldauf)*



## Get Connected!

Join our online discussion  
page! NO SPAM!

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

Or message Joey at:  
[jvmccoy@sbcglobal.com](mailto:jvmccoy@sbcglobal.com)

## Official Website

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

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## Vice President's Message

*By Brandon Baldauf*

Greeting fellow Austin Bonsai Society members,

February is here and what a couple of cold weekends we've had in January! I hope everyone and their trees fared well through the winter thus far. I know we're all looking forward to the conclusion of the season and the beginning of Spring! This month at our meeting on Wednesday, February 14th, Chuck will be providing insights around preparing for club digs and what to do with collected material. The workshop on Tuesday, February 20th will also be led by Chuck where we will re-pot our trees. Please bring your own small to medium tree to re-pot at this event. The club will provide soil and guidance, but you will need to come supplied with any tools needed as well as wire and any containers. The information we learn will be rather handy for our club dig on February 23rd-25th!

I've been taking extra long walks around the area where I live, exploring woods and creeks looking for fun trees to collect when the time is right. The best part is that both of my young daughters love to explore the woods as well and help! Best of luck in your tree hunting and see you at the upcoming meeting!

Cheers,  
Brandon

**JADE GARDENS**  
HOME OF THE

OwnersChuck  
and Pat  
Ware

JADE GARDENS  
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e-mail: [bonsaijg@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaijg@gmail.com)  
<http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

# January Meeting Minutes

*January 10, 2018*

Simon welcomed the new members of the Executive Board:

- Simon Tse - President
- Brandon Baldauf - Vice President
- Gloria - Treasurer
- Mike Garza - Secretary
- Pat Ware - Member at Large
- Ruby Chaing - Member at Large
- Daniel Lara - Member at Large

Five new guests attended our first meeting of the year.

## **Treasurer Update:**

Pat informed us that we stayed under budget for the 2017 fiscal year.

Sign-ups for food and tree displays were passed around for people to sign up for our monthly meetings.

Simon informed everyone that membership fees were due at the first meeting.

Snacks were provided by Pat and Alisan.

Alisan provided the tree (winter skeleton) and it was a Cedar Elm

Chuck brought a Kingsville boxwood that had some freezer burn to help remind us of the harsh winter.

## **Future Spring club digs were announced**

1. Soledad Ranch Dig - February 23-25 - South Texas - Sign up by February 9th
2. Club Burton Dig - March 17th - Sign up by February 10th

Joey updated us on TTSBE project - more negotiations going on with Zilker - "stay tuned"

First Guest Artist of the year, Juan Andrade, presented his knowledge and demo on Japanese Black Pines.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

# Executive Board Meeting Minutes

*January 23, 2018*

Members present - Simon, Pat, Brandon, Mike, Gloria, Daniel

Start - 7:10pm

End - 9:15pm

- Discussed corrections to the 2018 Austin Bonsai Society Calendar of Events
- February's events for ABS were confirmed
- Chuck Ware will present preparation for club dig basics and advanced techniques and tips for the February 14th meeting
- February 20th's workshop will be repotting help and advice; club will pay for soil for a small or medium sized pot - members are responsible for bringing tree, pot, wire, tools, etc
- Club dig for February is confirmed - Soledad Ranch - February 23rd-25th - sign up by February 9th - please contact Simon or Joey for more information

## **Update from Treasurer**

- Membership Update - 28
- Income over expenses was \$4,480.27 for 2017

## **Update from Secretary**

- Mike Garza has been voted in to be the new LSBF Delegate

## **Social Media Update**

- Instagram - 1,379 followers - once we get to 1,500 we will have another give away
- Facebook - 576 likes for the month of January

# February Bonsai

By John Miller

The big event we are looking forward to is coming up--repotting season. Normally the 'best' time to repot is when the sap starts to flow and buds swell. In the real world we usually need to fudge this a little because of constraints on our time so we need to do it earlier. But never after the buds open. Deciduous trees repotted in Jan will need the new roots protected by setting on the ground and mulching good or in a greenhouse or garage. Be sure to watch their watering needs.

Preparing a group of basic soil mixes can save time at the actual repotting. Mix your favorite recipes in 3 sizes, for small medium and large pots, and then modify them by adding some extra of one material or other to suit the particular tree you are repotting. There is no perfect mix, you must decide based on your backyard.

The basics of good mixes:

- ◇ Permit free drainage. Use granular material--decomposed granite, lava gravel, pumice, haydite, Turface, etc.
- ◇ Provide water retention material--akadama, ground or decomposed bark (organic, should not break down too quickly).
- ◇ Provide air space--Use appropriately sized particles.

Moisture retention is controlled by the type of material (e.g. akadama (good) vs granite (poor)) and by particle size (finer particles retain more residual water).

A good general mix for this part of the world is equal parts of akadama, lava gravel, and pumice.

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-mail: [mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net](mailto:mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net)  
601 Kay Lane  
Pflugerville, TX 78660  
(call for directions)

## New Members

Ken Crédeur

Champ Turner and family

Rōni Zulu

**Welcome!**

Akadama is not magic. It is merely a soil native to Japan which is a volcanic island. After lava has broke down they dig it and low fire it to dry it, break it up and sieve it into uniform sizes to use as one part of their bonsai soil. We do not have anything native comparable on the market in the USA. The advantage of akadama is that it holds water uniformly throughout the particle and is soft enough for roots to penetrate easily. Having this source of moisture close to the trunk results in short fibrous roots. So I have started using it on my bonsai. I feel the pinch of dollars too much to utilize it on the growing stuff even tho I am sure it would speed up their development.

Check wire applied last year. During dormancy the woody portions tend to lignify and swell. Severe wire marks can occur. Remove any tight wire. Rewire if necessary. Early February is the end of the season for major pruning. You may be able to continue for a while on some late sprouting species such as the oaks and yaupon hollies. After the onset of sap flow you should not try to make big cuts, cut paste or pruning sealer cannot withstand the hydraulic pressure created by the urge to grow.

If there is a significant warm streak, you could get some activity from over-wintering pests. A dormant spray (horticultural oil or a very weak lime sulphur) should be used on outside plants. The lime sulphur should not be used on any green growth or after buds begin to swell. The lime sulphur will also serve to kill fungal spores and help control any bacterial diseases. For the greenhouse use the original organic spray mixture. I get good control of mites, aphids, and even scale with it when used on a weekly basis.

My original organic spray is 1 tablespoon each of Fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water. Organic sprays tend to have little residual action. They should be applied on a regular schedule, probably weekly, however they will control well if you hit the mites and even bagworms when you hit them while young. Using organic fertilizer cakes on top of the soil is a better way to fertilize. You may make your own or buy one of the commercial versions from your local bonsai vendor.

I would suggest that you also repot azaleas at this time. The roots will be reestablished by blooming time. This is much easier on the tree than waiting until after bloom when the temperature will be hot. (An aside note: later on, before blooming starts, you will be removing a lot of excess buds anyway which will reduce the stress on the tree at that time).

On developed bonsai when new growth appears, keep it pinched so you keep the internodes short and develop a compact set of twigs on the branches. On alternate leaved species (e.g. elms) pinch when the shoot gets 4 or 5 leaves. Fingernails or shears can be used. If the twig gets too long it will be tough and you have to use shears. On opposite leaved trees (maples) pinch the central shoot as soon as it can be distinguished from the two leaves. To do this really right you need to use pointed tweezers.

On trees still in the development stage, follow your plan. Refer to your teacher or read the [bonsaitonight.com](http://bonsaitonight.com) blog.

Spring flowering plants will have their buds set on last years growth so pruning them will remove some flowers. Those that bloom later in the year will generally bloom on this years growth. Pruning them will reduce the amount of flowers. In some cases such as crape myrtle, tip pruning of the branch will result in no flowers at all. In these cases you must decide which is most important, ramification or flowers. A compromise would be to prune the branch shorter than you normally would and then let it bloom on new growth which will at the proper length.

When the growth starts the tree will need fertilizer. However, use one that has only a small amount of nitrogen (the first number). The tree is naturally programmed to grow rapidly at this time so you don't need to encourage it further. Feed enough to maintain a healthy green foliage. Trace minerals should be added to help with both the foliage color and the color of blooms.



**Alisan's "winter skeleton"  
Cedar Elm**

## Reminder for Club Membership

**2018 DUES are DUE!!** The cost of membership is \$30.00 for an individual and \$35.00 for a family. See Gloria at the meeting for old-fashioned payment systems and Simon for e-payment options!! You may also mail your payment to Gloria Norberg, 7413 Lady Suzanne's Court, Austin Texas 78729. New membership forms will be provided at the meeting for anyone who hasn't filled one out.

**Chuck's Kingsville boxwood with freezer burn is a good reminder of the dangers of extreme temperatures**



# Bonsai Notebook

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



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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.