



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

February 2020 vol 113

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Calendar of Events

- **Wed Feb 12**
7:30pm - 9:00pm
Root work
- **Tues Feb 18**
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Members' workshop
Repot!

2020 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

Summer Lee
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Food
Ruby + Amanda
May + Simon

Tree
May + Simon

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

It was fun hosting Todd Schlafer and to see the incredible transformation that that Juniper! Thank you for all the support and for coming out to meet Todd. A special thank you to Ruwan for putting together a recording of the meeting. See the video here on youtube. Your board has nearly completed the 2020 schedule. We'll publish the full event calendar online and in the 2020 membership directory once it's complete. We're aiming to have them available for the March meeting.

The next two months of upcoming events for the club include:

1-24 to 1/26 | S. Texas Club Dig waiver required

2-8 | MBP Trident Maple Dig

2-12 | February Meeting, topic > Root Work

2-16 | Burton Club Dig waiver required

2-18 | ABS Members Workshop > Bring one small to medium tree to repot, soil provided

3-11 | March Meeting, topic > Exposed Roots with Eric Schrader

3-17 | ABS Members Workshop > BYOT Deciduous Styling



The planning is well underway for the 2021 LSBF Convention the Austin Bonsai Society is hosting next year. We need some help this year putting together some small projects in support of the upcoming convention. Please let me know if you are able to help. The initial projects include making content, publishing a flyer, and creating a website. More projects to be introduced soon as we have our first planning meeting of the year on 2/9.

In support of the 2020 LSBF Convention, Austin Bonsai Society is sponsoring a new member to attend the convention. This means if you joined ABS in 2019, paid your 2020 dues, and let me know if you want to go to San Antonio's bonsai convention... you could win a free registration. Simply send me an email before the 3-11 meeting and we will draw for the winner in March.

The Slack group is getting bigger with each member, send me a message if you have not received an invite to join the discussion in Austin Bonsai Society's Slack.

Cheers,
Brandon

Get Connected!

Join our online
discussion



Official Website

Visit our website at
austinbonsaisociety.com

Facebook

Like our Facebook page
[/AustinBonsaiSociety](https://www.facebook.com/AustinBonsaiSociety)



Twitter

Follow us on Twitter
[@ATXBonsai](https://twitter.com/ATXBonsai)



Instagram

Follow us on Instagram
[@austinbonsaisociety](https://www.instagram.com/austinbonsaisociety)



ABS Library

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

Vice President's Message

By Mike Garza

Bonsai friends,

Well the New Year is off and running for us bonsai folk. First, I'd like to thank Todd Schlafer for coming down and giving us an awesome demo on that Shimpaku Juniper. Wow - what a transformation he did! He really was able to compact and add age to the design of that tree.

I'd also like to thank Pat and Chuck Ware as well as Alisan for providing the wonderful food and snacks.

We started this year with a bang and it's not slowing down. We have lots of great Bonsai professionals coming to Austin this year and I am really looking forward to it.

For February's meeting we will have a presentation on root work. It's a dirty job but a vital part of a bonsai's health.

We also have our first 2 club digs scheduled for this year. If your new to bonsai and want some prime material to work with please join us. The first one is January 24th-26th at Solidad ranch in South Texas and the second one is in Burton, Texas on February 16th. Hope to see y'all soon!

-Mike Garza

Reminder for club membership

2020 membership fee

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

You may contact Simon to pay electronically, pay in person at the meeting or mail a check to me at Gloria Norberg, 7413 Lady Suzanne's Court, Austin, Texas 78729.

Regular Meeting Minutes (Roland)

January 2020

Announcements began at 7:34PM

Austin Bonsai Society is using Slack, a chat app - reminder for club – please give it a try!

Club dig at South Texas announced for January

February Burton ranch dig and MBP trident maple dig announced

San Antonio LSBF convention announcements made

Club member dues are due

Chuck presented magnificent cedar elm and Kingsville Boxwood

Todd began presentation at 7:43PM



ABS Board Minutes (Roland)

January 2020

Meeting began at 7:05PM

The board discussed and finalized the 2020 program schedule; to be printed and shared to the members by end of February

The board voted to add budget for two additional visiting artists – approved

The 2020 LSBF Speaker is Jennifer Price in October 6 & 7th. Stay tuned for workshop and private study openings

The board voted to add two books to our club library - Little Book of Bonsai by Jonas Dupuich and Bonsai Heresy by Michael Hagedorn - approved

The board voted to explore/procure an electronic payment system. - approved

Meeting ended at 8:33PM



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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A note from our Treasurer (Gloria)

Hi Folks,

February 29th is the last date for my receipt of your membership fee in order for your contact information to be included in the annual directory. As a reminder, membership dues are \$30 per individual or \$35 per family. Let me know if you are a student under the age of eighteen because if that is the case, our by-laws give you a break in the fee amount. You may contact Simon to pay electronically, pay in person at the meeting or mail a check to me at Gloria Norberg, 7413 Lady Suzanne's Court, Austin, Texas 78729.

Advertisement fees are also due by that date; the fee amounts are \$35 for the newsletter and \$10 for the directory.

The answer to last month's question regarding Section 6 of Article III of our bylaws is that membership in the Austin Bonsai Society means that you are a voting member of The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit, Inc. Check out TTSBE.org for more information and/or ask Simon!

See you at the February 12th meeting!
Gloria



January Meeting

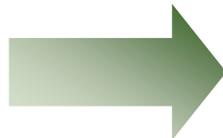
Todd Schlafer

Photos by May Lau



Annual Club Dig

Photos by Joey McCoy



February Bonsai

By John Miller

Have you been enjoying the landscape this month. There is much styling info to learn if you look at the landscape while driving around. With all the leaves gone you can see the branch structure, what pleases you and what is not so good. Notice the different ramifications for the various species of trees. Also it is just plain beautiful (if you ignore the trash on the ground). Its not all gray. There are many shades of gray involved. Some trunk are black. The exfoliating bark on the sycamores leave the limbs stark white, looking like bleached bones hanging in the forest. And the twigs have various hues, willows are red or golden, ash has a greenish hue. The evergreens give splashes of green and the possum haw decorates the landscape with its red berries. A great time of the year.

The timing of the spring functions, such as repotting, will depend on your microclimate in your backyard. If you have kept your trees from freezing they will want to start growing much earlier than those kept outside all winter. Repotting can be done at any time during the dormancy but new roots are susceptible to freezing so you must have some place to protect them after repotting. The 'best' time to repot the deciduous temperate zone trees is when the buds are just beginning to swell. Generally this will be before the last of the freezing weather. Trees that leaf out early, maples and elms, can withstand a few degrees of frost but if repotted you must protect the roots. Sometimes this just means setting them on the ground, possibly with some mulch covering the pot . Some species such as the oaks and willows are naturally programmed to wait much later so that there is very little chance to get nipped. Typically, in my collection, the elms will be first, foliage showing about the end of February, along with the earliest maples. Then during March, the rest of the maples and most of the others. The deciduous oaks will come out around April 1. The live oaks and the cork oaks usually drop their leaves and get their new foliage during March.

The newer wisdom on azaleas is that you also repot them 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).

There are two kinds of pruning used on bonsai. When the tree is being styled you will be doing development pruning. Let the branches run wild to get thickness and then cut back severely and make angles and secondary branches.

After the branch is developed you will need to do ramification so you will have smaller leaves and tiny twigs. 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 (i.e. elms) pinch when the shoot gets 4 or 5 leaves. Finger nails 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.

If you have not used an horticultural oil, the time is fast running out. The oil would be used to kill scale and overwintering mites and other boogers. When new growth starts, the problems to look for are the above mentioned mites but especially aphids and mealy bugs. These can be controlled as well as giving the plants the required fertilizer by using an organic spray (4 tablespoons each of liquid kelp, liquid fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and liquid molasses in one gallon of water. All these are available in any organic nursery.) If leaf spot, mildew or any other fungal problems appear, use a baking soda (Sodium bicarbonate), Potassium bicarbonate, or a commercial fungicide spray.

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 new growth 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 wood and then let it bloom

on new growth which will at the proper length, at least for the first flowering of the season.

When the growth starts the tree will need fertilizer. However, use one that has 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 lightly to maintain a healthy green foliage. Trace minerals should be added to help with both the foliage color and the color of blooms.

Wire removal---Anytime you work on trees you should be noting if any wire is cutting into a branch. Repotting is a very good time to check all your trees for such damage. Sometimes you wire one or two branches to adjust them a bit and forget that you did. Start at the tip of the branch and completely remove that wire before going to the next so you don't inadvertently leave loops on the branch.

An important job which many neglect saying they are not going to show any trees is to detail their trees. This makes them look their best and that helps give you incentive to follow other good practices. Start by checking the branches. Prune any out of place or too long twigs. Remove any unnecessary wire, that is wire on limbs that have set in place. Treat any jin and shari that needs it. Then move down to the pot. Be sure it is clean and all lime deposits are removed. Steel wool works great to clean pots. A coating with a very light wax polish such as leaf shine will make the pot look good and help keep the mineral deposits from forming. Then check the soil. It should cover the outer roots. The surface of the soil must be clean of any fallen leaves or other debris.

What can you do on cold rainy days? Think about how to upgrade and improve your bonsai knowledge and your collection. Plan to register for the LSBF convention to be held in San Antonio this year. Attend a workshop. You cannot learn bonsai out of a book, you need to get the whys as well as the where-to-cuts. Other possibilities would be the opportunities you local club offers and in many cases are ignored. An exhibition should be a learning event for you, not just a show. Each tree there has a problem or two that have been cleverly concealed or the artist has drawn you eye away to some good feature.



New Members

John Buttino

Dashiell Collins

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!

JADE GARDENS
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Owners **Chuck and Pat Ware**

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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.