



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

February 2022 vol 137

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Calendar of Events

- **Feb 9**
Trunk chopping...

2022 Board of Directors

Roland Lopez
President

Summer Lee
Vice President

Ruwan Perera
Secretary

Gloria Norberg
Treasurer

Morgan Bean
Member-At-Large

Jacob Keller
Member-At-Large

Gerrit Clemence
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

N/A

President's Message

By Roland Lopez

Hola Austin Bonsai Society!

I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy. It was so great to see everyone again last month. It's very encouraging and now I'm more stoked than ever to be your president for another year! Thank you for being with us.

How about last month's meeting? I was excited to try something a little different with a recorded and edited video and I'm happy to have heard from some of you, that you enjoyed it too. I have to give another shout out to Carlos Bennett and Brandon Mitchell for the video they made for us. We will definitely try this again. Be sure to check out their YouTube channel, Bonsai Yeah!

Brandon provided a presentation and now we have another technique to employ at will, this repotting season. I see a maple tree in my garden that is asking me for the Ebihara treatment. The tree Brandon used for the demo will be held for auction later this year.

For our March program, we have Mr. Scott Barboza from Houston, Texas giving us a talk on trunk chopping! I think this program will be very appropriate since we are approaching that time of year when we might be thinking of these kinds of tasks to perform in our gardens or when we're collecting material. Let's all welcome Scott this month!

Another reminder for all you new members - please let me know if you are interested in the complimentary registration for the LSBF/SABS convention this April. All you have to do is email me at unostarangler@gmail.com and tell me you would like to be entered in for a chance to win this award.

Alright everyone, that's it from me. Looking forward to seeing you all again! Until then, take care.

Warmly smiling,

Roland

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discussion



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

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSkNkBNld3EOYwjkjNlneA>

ABS Board Minutes

January 2022

7:02 - Meeting starts. Roland, Gloria, Jacob, Simon, Gerrit, Ruwan

Discuss Presentation calendar - Tentative

February - Scott Barboza virtual Presentation(Roland Scheduling)

March or April - Container building program with Gerrit

April - Open

May - Will Baddeley

June - Mike Lane (Likely on a weekend)

July - David Rizwan

August - Allisan Clark

September -

October 11th - Pedro Morles - LSBF artist

November -

May show update - possible rain out day for another event. If doesn't pan out, we can consider show in Fall

Need a site for a group dig

End of February is the deadline for advertising — Newsletter - \$35. Directory - \$10

Meeting adjourned: 8:15

Reminder for club membership

2022 membership fee

Individual	\$32.50
Family	\$37.50
Newsletter monthly advertisements:	\$37.50
Directory advertisement:	\$11

You may contact payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com for convenient electronic payment options (processing fee included).

Membership Information

From our Treasurer

2022 Membership, Directory and Newsletter Advertisement Dues are Due and ... Happy New Year!!

Membership

Annual membership dues are due in January for 2022; the amounts due are the same as last year, i.e., \$30 per individual or \$35 per family. NOTE: We have a strong preference that you pay via the PAYPAL™ payment system using the following link: <http://austinbonsaisociety.com/membershipinformation.html>. This link is also available at the Austin Bonsai Society website under the membership tab. The PAYPAL™ fee brings the total amount due to \$32.50 per individual or \$37.50 per family.

Should you choose to pay using a check, please send an email to gnorberg@austin.rr.com to obtain an address for mailing and address your check to the Austin Bonsai Society.

Directory Information and Advertisement Fees

As long as you have paid your dues by February, your contact information will be in the ABS Directory which will be assembled and mailed to the address we have on file for you in early March. If you have moved during the past year or are a new member, please ensure that your new address is forwarded to the above webmaster address.

Payment for advertising in the Directory is due also; the fee is \$10.00.

Monthly Newsletter Advertisement Fees

Should you choose to advertise your business in the monthly ABS Newsletter for 2021, please pay the fee amount of \$37.50 via the PAYPAL™ payment system. Alternatively, make a check out to the Austin Bonsai Society for \$35.00 and obtain a mailing address from gnorberg@austin.rr.com.

Should you have any question/uncertainties regarding electronic payments, please contact our webmaster at the email address above.

February Bonsai

By John Miller

February is when repotting will generally get underway. It helps if you do some preliminary work. Get a sufficient amount of materials for whatever is your favorite mix or mixes. Then sift them into sizes you need (I like 3 sizes, small for shohin, medium for mid size trees and large 1/4" for the bigger bonsai). Then you can premix three different sizes of soil. At repotting then I will often adjust the mix for the particular tree I am working with by adding an extra bit of one ingredient or other in order to adjust water retention to suit that tree.

Spring is sometimes thought of as an event occurring on some particular day and that all the bonsai will need to be repotted, pruned, fed, etc at one time creating a mass of work. In truth, spring is a long drawn out affair and each species has its own timetable in dealing with it. To be really successful in bonsai, then, you must know what each species you have will need and how it responds to your own backyard climate. If you have kept your trees from freezing they will want to start growing much earlier than those kept outside all winter. Typically, in my collection which stays outside, the elms will be first, foliage showing about the end of February or the first of March depending on the winter, along with the earliest maples. Then later in 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 at the end of March into April. A lack of cold will bring them up earlier and a lot will delay their bud break.

All bonsai functions should be done when your tree tells you that the timing is right. Repotting 'can' be done at any time during the dormancy but new roots are susceptible to freezing so you need some place to protect them after repotting. The best time to repot the deciduous temperate zone trees is when the buds are swelling but before green is showing. 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 newly growing roots. Sometimes setting them on the ground will be sufficient. 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.

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).

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.

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, 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

February Bonsai

By John Miller

green foliage. Trace minerals should be added to help with both the foliage color and the color of blooms.

If you have not used an horticultural oil, the time is fast running out. The oil would be used to kill scale and over wintering mites and other boogers. When new growth starts oil might damage the tender foliage. 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 (1 tablespoons each of liquid kelp, liquid fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar, and 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 1% hydrogen peroxide solution (dilute the normally available 3% using 1 part peroxide and 2 parts water), a baking soda spray, or a commercial fungicide.

I have not used the commercial organic spray sold as "Garret Juice" but I have had reports that it does not work well as an insecticide.



BRITE IDEAS

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

Owner: Troy Smith

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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: webmaster.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.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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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 \$32.50 for an individual and \$37.50 for a family membership. For additional information, contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, TX 78734.