



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

January 2020 vol 112

## Our News

**President's Message**  
*page 2*

**Vice President's Message**  
*page 3*

**Treasurer's Message**  
*page 4*

**January Bonsai**  
*page 5 - 6*

**New Members**  
*page 6*

**Recruiting Authors**  
*page 7*

## Calendar of Events

- **Wed Jan 8**  
7:30pm - 9:00pm  
Todd Schlafer
- **Tues Jan 21**  
7:00pm - 9:00pm  
Members' workshop

## 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*  
*Alisan Clark*  
*Pat Ware*

*Tree*  
*Alisan Clark*  
*Chuck Ware*

# President's Message

*By Brandon Baldauf*

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

Happy New Year and welcome to a new decade for Austin Bonsai Society! This year is going to be a great one. The board has been planning this year's program, and we've got a stellar lineup scheduled for the year including a visit from Jennifer Price as our LSBF speaker, Mike Lane who works with Wigert from Florida, Jim Doyle of Nature's Way Nursery, Eric Schrader, and Bjorn Bjorholm of Eisei-en. There might even be a surprise there as our schedule is not 100% final. Not to mention the January program is featuring Todd Schlafer working on Junipers! Stay tuned to the events this year, you will want to be as present as possible.

We first hosted Todd Schlafer in October of 2018 and I'm excited to be bringing him back for another program. This year he will be sharing his expertise on styling and designing Juniper species trees. Todd has picked out an Itoigawa Shimpaku Juniper to work this Wednesday and the tree will be available for raffle. Todd has his own nursery in Denver Colorado called First Branch Bonsai. He has been traveling around the world as a bonsai professional for a few years now. He has studied with Ryan Neil and is an avid collector of Rocky Mountain tree species. Come check it out as a great start to 2020!



*Photo by May Lau*

For visiting artists, there are opportunities for private study. If this is something that is interesting to you, please reach out and let me know and I'll coordinate an event or a study. Being able to study and work with visiting artists to enhance our bonsai is an amazing way to learn. As always reach out directly with questions, comments, and concerns!

Cheers,  
Brandon

## Get Connected!

Join our online discussion  
page! NO SPAM!

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

## Official Website

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

January 2020 - wow you came rather quickly. Last year didn't slow down one bit for me and now it looks like this year will be no different. This winter has been kinda strange for me; we've had unusually high temperatures for December and my trees are letting me know. I've had to water more frequently than other years past and some trees are already showing signs of waking up out of dormancy. This leads me to believe that I should start the repotting of my trees early this year if I would like to get to all of them.

As far as our monthly meeting for this month, I am excited to have Todd Schlafer back from First Branch Bonsai. I look forward to having him present to us again and am excited to see his work.

We also have our first club dig this year on the 25th and 26th of January in South Texas. This has become a yearly tradition and many members have collected some great gems. I, for one, am looking forward to seeing y'all there. Please contact Simon Tse directly for additional information. Waivers must be signed and submitted as soon as possible.

Thanks y'all again for the tremendous support for our club and Happy New Year!!

-Mike Garza

## Reminder for club membership

### 2020 membership fee (After June 30)

Individual	\$30
Family	\$35
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.

# Treasurer's Message

*By Gloria Norberg*

Hi Folks,

Membership dues are due in January for 2020; the amounts are the same as last year, i.e., \$30 per individual or \$35 per family. Our bylaws also provide for a half price membership for students under the age of eighteen so be sure to let me know if you fall into this category!

BTW, the classes of membership in the Austin Bonsai Society are listed in our bylaws at Article III. Section 3 as provided in our Directory. The club is pleased to welcome our beloved Joe Trochta as an honorary member as voted by the ABS Board. If you're curious, check out Section 3. D. for the rights and privileges of being an honorary member. Congratulations, Joe!

As long as you have paid your dues by February, your contact information will be in the ABS Directory which I assemble in time to hand out at the March meeting. Members enjoy knowing of other members who live in their area of town for rides, for watering trees when you're out of town and for bonsai advice and camaraderie. For those of you paying for a family membership, I'd like to include the second person's e-mail address in the directory so that newsletters are sent to that person also. So please be sure to provide that address to me if you'd like it to be listed.

For those of you who have a copy of the 2019 Directory, check out Section 6 of Article III of our bylaws and tell me what further privileges membership in ABS affords you!

See you at the January 8th meeting!

Gloria

# January Bonsai

*By John Miller*

My most unforgettable January calamity in recent years was having two catlin elms and a trident cut and stripped by a packrat for his nest. The two elms took some time but they recovered. The trident never did. I now keep outdoor rat poison blocks scattered among the trees. I like blocks rather than pellets since they are easier to pick up come spring.

Other outdoor pest problems will depend upon the temperature. If there are many warm days spider mites, scale, and aphids may show up. Use the same controls you did last summer. Indoor plants will have the same pest you had last summer and maybe some more since any eggs will hatch and they usually love the warm indoors. So keep your eyes peeled when you are watering.

Watering tends to be a bonsai grower's biggest problem in winter. It is difficult to determine how dry the soil is when they are put close together in winter storage. That could be another argument for having a porous well-draining bonsai soil which is very difficult to over water. Just remember that the water will evaporate quickly when the warm winter sun hits the pots and more so if there is a little breeze.. Too much water could cause root rot, fungus or other damage.

January is an excellent time to do styling work. Deciduous trees are bare so you see the real tree and are not confused and misled by foliage. Examine the branch structure and decide if you need to reposition any branches. If the trees have been styled for some time, you may need to reduce the length of some branches by selectively cutting back a larger secondary branch and developing a smaller branch. This also gives you more movement in the branch. Remove vertically growing twigs and branchlets. Do you

need to develop more ramification. If so make a note to go on a rigorous tip pruning when growth starts next spring.

Evergreens may be worked on although the best time would have been last fall. Their sap flow is now at a minimum so they will not bleed too much.

Do not do too much work on spring flowering plants like azaleas, their buds were set late last summer or fall and you will be losing some blooms. Most later bloomers (wisteria and crape myrtle) generally have their blooms on new growth so you can style them now.

Greenhouses can be a great source of bonsai enjoyment in January. Of course, there is always the tropicals that stay green the year around and will therefore need a bunch of care. I let my small elms and maples get a month of cold, hopefully they get to 25 a couple of times to be really dormant. Then between Christmas and New Years I bring them into the greenhouse and can do their repotting in January and enjoy the flush of new foliage before the bigger trees are needing anything.

The cheapest but best way to upgrade your collection is to join on the club digs. You obtain several years work in a morning. Most digs are scheduled in the late winter which get them at close to the optimum digging stage. If you have doubts about the care after you get home just ask any of your fellow collectors. They all like to share techniques. Collected trees are faster than the other way that I like, grow your own from cuttings. Cuttings do not take any care at all the first year, just put them under the bench and hit them with water when you do the bonsai on top.

The only way to learn bonsai is to do it. You cannot get the 'why' out of a book. You need to have someone help you with the styling and he

should point out not only what he is doing but why she is doing it. All clubs work hard on having good programs but the real learning is by taking advantage of any workshops offered, both by local club personnel and by visiting artists that the club brings in. When you go to your clubs local show spend more time with the trees (go around several times, you will see something different each time) and less time gossiping. I got most of my beginners knowledge following the two club 'experts' around the room and eavesdropping on their conversations.

The LSBF state convention each year offers a concentrated weekend of study. I still like to watch a master work and listen to his comments. There will always be something slightly new or different or a different approach that will be more clear. Wiring or repotting in itself might be boring but the presentation is never boring.

New Members

Not this month :)



**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
---	--

## 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!

**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>

**MBP Bonsai Studio**  
Importers, Retail & Wholesale  
Your source for:  
High quality Yagimitsu & Ryukoh tools  
Organic Bonsai Fertilizers  
Imported and Domestic Trees  
Bonsai Pottery, Soils and supplies  
Classes & Seminars  
*Open Tuesday Through Sunday*



ph: 512-989-5831  
-mail: [mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net](mailto:mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net)  
601 Kay Lane  
Pflugerville, TX 78660  
(call for directions)

# Bonsai Notebook

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



## Austin Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 340474  
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.