



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

January 2021 vol 124

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## Calendar of Events

- **January 13**  
Todd Schlafler

## 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

# President's Message

*By Roland Lopez*

Hello Austin Bonsai Society,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope your holiday season was filled with fun and joy. So long 2020! Hello 2021! We have another great year of programs planned for ABS with amazing artists and more workshops for you to build your skills. While the 2021 schedule isn't finalized, rest assured, we are making every effort to ensure a promising program for you! As I stated before, we will continue our remote presentations until it is safe to gather again. Workshops will continue in person for hands on learning and safety will be our top priority while these events occur. I hope you join us as we grow and maintain this wonderful organization that we all hold dear to our hearts.

To start our 2021 program, we have Todd Schlafer of First Branch Bonsai with us to discuss and style a one seed juniper from his studio in Denver, Colorado! I'm happy to have him back once again! Todd is a talented artist and an avid collector of trees in the mountainous regions of his home. He has studied with Ryan Neil and now teaches at his nursery where he tends to his beautiful and impressive collection. I visited him last year and I can attest to that! Let's welcome him back.

Thank you all so much for your continued support and enthusiasm. Please let me know if you have any suggestions or questions. I'm always open to hearing them.

See you soon my friends.

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

## Twitter



Follow us on Twitter  
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## Instagram



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## ABS Library

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

## YouTube



[https://www.youtube.com/  
channel/  
UCLSkNkBNld3EOYwjkNIneA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSkNkBNld3EOYwjkNIneA)

# Vice President's Message

By Summer Lee

Aloha ABS Family,

Wow, 2020 has finally come to an end! It's been a crazy year with a ton of forced changes on how we operate. Fear not, 2021 will be the year of adjustments that will improve your experience as an ABS member. I am honored to serve as a member of this board and hope that my contribution will provide value to ABS.

As for my winter garden news - my greenhouse/teahouse was finally completed during the Summer, so all of my more fragile trees are well protected from the wind and low temperatures while receiving the sun that they need. Unlike last year, I'm glad I don't have any of my dormant trees waking up yet. I highly recommend a dual purpose greenhouse! During the winter, it houses my trees and in the spring, it's a lovely teahouse to view my garden from.

As far as our monthly meeting for January, I'm looking forward to having Todd Schlafer from First Branch leading the charge again this year. Unfortunately, due to restrictions – we were not able to have him here in person. Not to worry though, we are working closely with him to provide a good virtual experience.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again in person some day. For now, stay safe and healthy. Enjoy your time home with your trees! Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Cheers,  
Summer Lee

# Regular Meeting Minutes

*December 2020*

No meeting minutes

## Reminder for club membership

### 2021 membership fee

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

You may contact [payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com](mailto:payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com) for convenient electronic payments options (processing fee included).

# ABS Board Minutes

*December 2020*

Attendees: Roland, Brandon, Gloria, Summer, Jakob, and Ruwan

Welcome and transition to Roland

Jan to April

Todd Shaffer - 250 jan

Andrew Robinson - 350 feb

Brandon - favor march -Slab planting

Vincent Le -\$\$\$\$? -olea - April, planning to travel

Mike Lane - May or June

Select people who can do good video presentations over zoom

Figure out fireside chat/ mini Ted Talk for the year. Thinking March.

Consider changing the member directory to exclude personal information

Brandon will be LSBF delegate

David Rizwan -need to contact for after May

Dilbert Cantu - need to contact for after may

More social media. Create a channel and a script that will auto post to instagram and facebook.

Contact Great Outdoors and Green n Growing as an advertising partner in newsletter. \$35/year

Talk to Joey about getting old dvds. - For Ruwan

Send survey to the group to fill out about demographics, and info they want to learn..

Ruwan come up with a gear list to purchase.

Consider adding facebook groups as a community feature.

9:33 - Meeting ends.

New/Renewed  
Members

## 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

# January Bonsai

*By John Miller*

Christmas has gone so now you can devote your full time to bonsai again. Well, if you are not working, not married, are a complete loner, etc. Anyhow you cannot just ignore them since they are dormant. Their needs must be met although most needs are not as strict as in the summertime.

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. Too much water could cause root rot, fungus or other damage.

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 growers 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 hit's the pots and more so if there is a little breeze.

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 branch-es. If the trees has 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 way to upgrade your collection is to join on the club digs. 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 diggers. They all like to share techniques. Collect 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 to 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. The LSBF state convention each year

# January Bonsai

*By John Miller*

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.



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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](mailto: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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# 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.