



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

July 2019 vol 106

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Calendar of Events

- **Wed July 10**
7:30pm - 9:00pm
Deadwood Carving with Jennifer Price
- **Tues July 16**
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Member's workshop - Root over Rock
Board meeting

2019 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

Pat Ware
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Food

Lawrence Priest

Mike/Roxie Garza

Trees

Chris Frechette

Brandon Baldauf

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

Summer is fast upon us and the Texas heat is starting to peak out. As June comes to an end and July begins, consider implementing some of the Japanese Black Pine techniques Sylvia Smith shared at our June meeting!

July 10th **DEMO/Raffle**: Deadwood Carving with Jennifer Price

August 20th **Limited Workshop**: Supplied Scroll Workshop Lead by Alisan (12 spots, email me)

September 10th **Limited Workshop**: BYOT with Andrew Robson

Andrew Robson is the LSBF 2019 speaker who will lead a workshop the day before our Wednesday meeting in September. He is an emerging deciduous artist in the American bonsai community. Andrew recently completed a 3 year apprenticeship with Michael Hagedorn, after graduating from Yale University. Andrew serves as a member of the Portland Bonsai Village, and is additionally a board member of the American Bonsai Society. He currently exhibits work at the Portland Japanese Garden, and regularly lectures at the garden's Japanese Arts Learning Center. Andrew and his family are currently building a deciduous-focused bonsai garden, school and nursery, RAKUYO-en, just outside of Portland, Oregon.

I'm proud to announce a special new member who recently joined the club: my son, Zayde Forest Baldauf! He was born on 6/17/2019 at 8:18PM at our home in Austin, Texas. He measured 22 ½ inches and 9lbs 13 ounces on his birthday.



Cheers,
Brandon

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Vice President's Message

By Mike Garza

Bonsai friends,

Wow is it getting warm out there! It's that time of year where I have to water some of my trees 2 times a day. I hope your trees are enjoying all the sunshine as well.

I'd like to thank Silvia Smith for her awesome presentation on Japanese Black Pines. The most important thing I would say is don't be afraid to just jump into them; get yourself some smaller pines and start working on them.

Next month we have Jennifer Price coming. She is a wonderful artist who has studied with Jim Doyle and Walter Paul for several years. She will be sharing her experiences and techniques on deadwood carving. I look forward to seeing y'all there.

- Mike G.

Reminder for club membership

2019 DUES are DUE!!

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.

June Meeting

Conifers

with Sylvia Smith



Photos by May Lau

June Meeting

Conifers

with Sylvia Smith



Photos by May Lau

Regular Meeting Minutes (Roland)

June 12, 2018

Meeting began at 7:30pm

- Lots of new members for this presentation
- Some members brought some trees and talked about them
- Workshop for June and August announced
- Marlin donated our raffle items for this month (Thank you!)

Sylvia began her presentation at 7:40pm



ABS Board Minutes (Roland)

June 18, 2018

Attendees – Gloria, Mike, Chris, Roland

Meeting began at 7:06PM

- Sylvia's presentation was well received
- Gloria would like for new members to fill out membership forms
- Moving forward, payment is required to sign up for workshops
- Mike will arrange and figure out details for our artists coming in the next few months

Meeting ended at 7:41PM



July Bonsai

By John Miller

July and August are the two most stressful months for bonsai in our area. Most healthy trees can take the full sun on their foliage. But the high ambient temperatures and the heating effect of the sun on the pots and soil create temperatures on the roots that they are not designed to cope with. Trees with thin leaves like the Japanese maple, Acer Palmatum, that are under-story trees, will probably scorch in full sun. They can also suffer from chemical burn from some fertilizers and insecticides which can be more damaging in the heat.

I cannot give you a precise to-do list since your backyard is different from mine but you should be sure that the sun does not hit the pots **directly**. If you use a cover of any kind be sure that the side of the pot is protected also. A loose weave cover that allows air flow is preferable to solid paper or foil. A solid cover or box over the pot would create an oven type enclosure. There should be room for air flow around the pot. A 30-40% shade cloth over pines, junipers, and elms and maybe 50% over maples would be ideal. And don't forget to provide protection on the west side from that mean afternoon sun.

Check your water practices. Normally I prefer to water heavily in the evening. That gives the plant all night to renew itself without losing most of its water to evaporation. Then in the early morning, they get a quick foliage spray and wetting the surface of the soil which may have dried out overnight. This was what I did while working. Be sure to do the double watering bit--water thoroughly so that the dry soil particles will

get moistened and after a few minutes water again so that they will soak up water fully.

Pots out in the sun can get pot pretty hot. Not only does this dry out the soil very fast but the tree roots cannot live in a hot soil. A temperature I have heard given is 120 degrees that will kill roots on most plants. An article by Dr. Bill Cody suggests that his experiments show that an afternoon watering at 2PM will go a long way to keep the soil temperature in a desirable range while a box close around the pot does little to protect it. Therefore I now try to water at 2pm to cool and refresh the roots and again after sundown to get the night started right.

When the humidity is low I mist my junipers in the evening. I believe the story that in the wild many desert junipers (like Texas Ashe) open their stomata in the cool of the evening absorbing any dew that may occur and close in the heat of the day to conserve moisture. Other species may get their foliage spray in the morning.

Also watch for signs of insect problems. The spider mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, and mealy bugs. Preventative medicine is best, spray on a regular schedule. By the time you see signs, the damage is already done, especially from spider mites. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and 5% apple cider vinegar per gallon water) to control all these. You can use some of the other organic controls or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions

carefully. Do not apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods. A hose end sprayer does not work very well, its droplets are too large and you have little control over where it goes. Use a pump sprayer with a fine spray and cover both top and bottom of leaves.

The humidity in summer varies quite a bit but when it sticks around for a few days look for fungal problems to appear, mildew being the most prevalent. Black spot will show up if the foliage stays wet very long. Foliage watering in the morning will usually not be a problem because it dries pretty quickly. Treat with potassium carbonate which you can find at any nursery with a decent organic section. There are several chemical sprays available too.

As a rule we do not feed our trees enough. Since the mix we use has very little nutrient value, we must make up with our fertilizer practice. Water soluble fertilizers will be quickly washed out. The best "rule" I have heard was given by Matt Ouwinga who primarily grows trident maples.

Matt's rule:

- A. Apply organic fertilizer balls each 6 weeks. Discard old balls.
- B. Apply fish emulsion every two weeks.
- C. Apply liquid plant food on alternate weeks.

You can fertilize with most organic type fertilizers without worrying about burning the roots in hot weather. Do not use hi-powered types tho, such as bat guano or one made with chicken manure in the heat. If you use chemical types follow the label. If they do not specify any temperature restrictions try using a weaker solution than normal. Without a lot of organic material in your soil you should use a weaker solution but more often to provide a more even feeding.

Many spring flowering plants will be setting buds for next years flowers. Azaleas will set theirs toward the end of July. If you prune tips after that you remove the new buds.

Now that night temperatures are staying above 60 degrees you should think about repotting some of the tropicals. Most tropicals do well with an annual repotting. I would emphasize to check the wires on your trees and also see that the drains are not blocked in any way. Especially check them after a rain to be sure that your pots have drained properly. Keep the tropicals trimmed as they will be growing like crazy. However, if you want flowers on those that produce on the end of the twigs, bougianvilla-pomegranate-crape myrtle, you will have to forgo the bonsai shape to let them flower. These species should be pruned more drastically before the growing season starts so they can still be in a pretty good shape.

Your trees too keep growing and need their periodic beauty treatment. Keep the ends trimmed and the stray shoots cut out. Its not that bad when you can sit in the shade with a big lemonade and really enjoy being with your bonsai. That way you will have your tree ready for the fall show or you will be ready to enjoy it when the change of seasons give it pretty colors.





Elaine and Alisan (TTSBE table) at the ABS Show

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Owner: Troy Smith

<p>4201 S. Congress Ave. # 310 Austin, TX 78745 (512)444-2100 Manager: Tim Hill</p>	<p>2521 Rutland Dr. #475 Austin, TX 78758 (512)459-4353 Manager: Nick Snyder</p>
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New Members

Mike Rogan

Nate Wells

Shanti Indukun

Summer Lee and

Daryl Gleinser

Jay Nolen

Klaus and Diane

Collinsworth

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!

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(call for directions)

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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.