



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

July 2020 vol 118

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Calendar of Events

- **Virtual Exhibit**
Video available [here](#)
Slides available [here](#)
- **July 8, 6 pm**
Jim Doyle - Zoom meeting
Literati Design
Online auction/raffles

2020 Board of Directors

Brandon Baldauf
President

Mike Garza
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Roland Lopez
Secretary

Gloria Norberg
Treasurer

Lawrence Priest
Member-At-Large

Chris Frechette
Member-At-Large

Summer Lee
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

N/A

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

June proved to be an exciting month and I hope you have found some time to focus on the bonsai in your garden. Here at the Baldauf house, we've been repotting tropical bonsai and trying to keep up with the trimming. Looking forward to de-candling the Black Pines in upcoming weeks for I believe it's about that time of year for the Austin area.

What fun it was to try out our first Zoom meeting featuring Mike Lane last month! Thank you for joining and being patient with that session. You can find the recording of it posted to our YouTube channel at this [link](#). Congratulations to the winners of the 5 demo trees, they are set up to be successful bonsai in the future!

We were also able to have a social distanced based workshop where 5 members worked on Yamadori Olea trees. We had a grant time carving trees, playing with fire and learning about the species in bonsai form. Thank you to everyone who participated and enjoy your trees!

Our July event will consist of a single virtual session featuring Jim Doyle of Nature's Way Bonsai in Pennsylvania. He is going to present a lecture and question & answer experience for our club. The planned topic is Literati Design and Jim has a number of prime examples he wants to share with us from his studio.

All events are subject to change based on current events...

- Jim Doyle of Nature's Way Bonsai - Literati Design
 - Virtual Demo/Presentation and Zoom Meeting
 - Date: 7/08 - 6:00 PM
 - Will send an email with Zoom info

Will hold a raffle of donated material in #auction of Slack

Keep your chin up and your trees trimmed! Thank you all for continuing to support ABS! It's been a fun challenge to keep our club operating during these COVID times!

Cheers,
Brandon



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discussion



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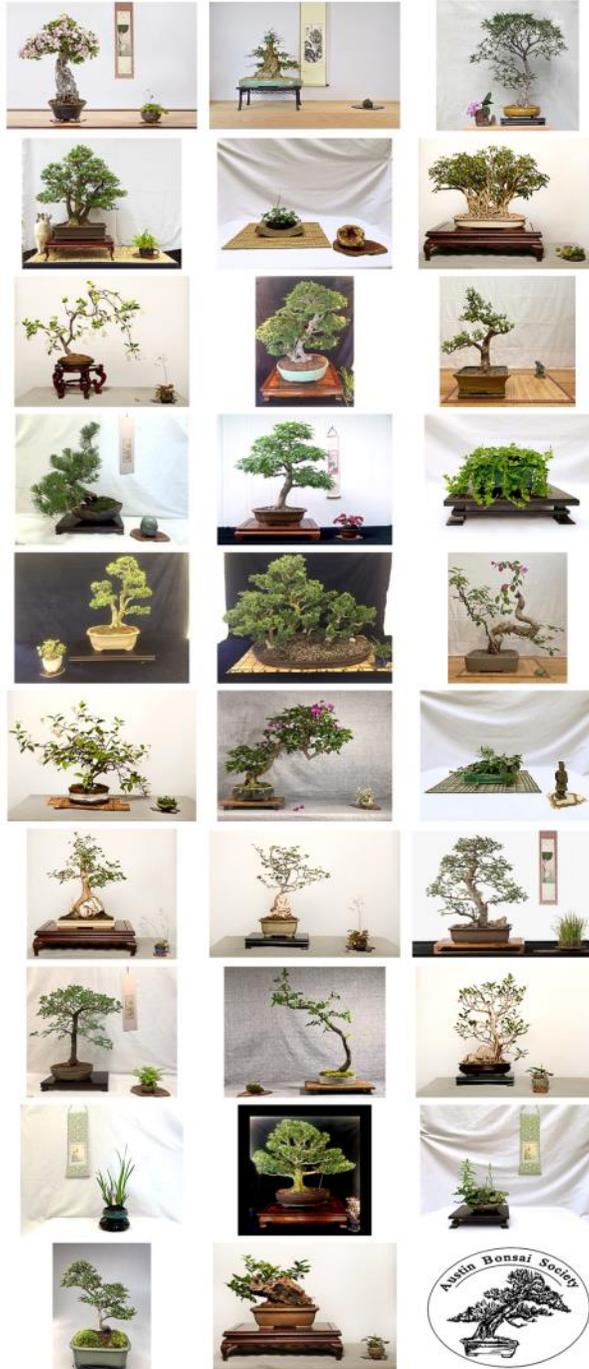


ABS Library

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

Virtual Exhibit

Austin Bonsai Society Virtual Show 2020



June Zoom Meeting

Mike Lane



Olea Workshop

Vincent Le



Regular Meeting Minutes

June 2020

No meeting minutes - Zoom meeting

Interactive Q/A

Online chat

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 or mail a check to me at Gloria Norberg,
7413 Lady Suzanne's Court, Austin, Texas 78729.

ABS Board Minutes (Brandon/Roland)

June 2020

Start 7:05

Attendees: Roland, Summer, Mike, Chris, Gloria, Brandon

Topics:

- * June Workshop
- * Artist travel expense covered by the participants

July

- * Jim Doyle is interested, determine the cost
- * ABS to donate items related to subject
- * Going to have an online auction/raffle

August

- * Bjorn
 - ◆ Video format is desired
 - ◆ Interested in publishing on ABS YouTube

2021 Program

- * Jonas comes to Houston in January, consider inviting Jonas
- * Jim Doyle
- * Mike Lane - June 6/9
- * Mauro Stemberger
- * Come up with at least one person who can come out next year

Financial Updates & Budget

- * Zoom costs, board approved \$157.40
- * Wigert's, 4 Mike Lane demo trees for \$172
- * Mike Lane cost as an expense

2020 convention

- * ABS needs to donate \$100 worth of an item for the 2020 convention
- * Gloria has an item for this, where she wants to be reimbursed
 - ◆ Board approves the \$100 compensation
- * David Flynn is the scholarship winner congrats

2021 officer candidate recruiter, ask Joey

- * Move it up to October
- * Budget due by October

End 7:55

New Members

N/A

July Bonsai

By John Miller

July and August are the two most stressful months for bonsai in our neck of the woods. Most healthy trees can take the full sun on their foliage. But the high ambient temperatures and the heat-ing 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, will probably scorch in full sun. They can also suffer from chemical burn from some fertilizers and insecticides.

I cannot give you a precise to-do list since your backyard is differ-ent 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 (Howard and Sylvia us some cheap bar towels) that allows air flow is preferable to solid paper or foil. 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. My opinion that the reason for this is that the sun still heats the soil and there is no air flow to cool it. A solid cover over the pot and box would create an oven type enclosure. A 30% shade cloth over pines, elms, junipers and maybe 50% over maples would be ideal. And don't forget to provide protection on the west side from the mean afternoon sun.

Check your water practices. I prefer to water heavily in the evening (in normal weather). 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. Very porous soil may need more morning water. This was what I did while working since the morning task only took 10 minutes or so. Now I still prefer to water heavily in the evening but the morning watering is more done more slowly and trees given a little more individual attention as some of them will not need water in the soil. Be sure to do the double watering bit--water thoroughly and then after a few minutes water again so that the dry soil particles will get moistened.

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. By the time you see signs, the damage is already done, especially 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.

When checking the results on your plants after spraying remember that the spray usually will not remove the 'evidence' of problems. The webs will still be there after the mites are killed, the shells of the scale will be attached to the leaf or stem. These will have to be removed by hand, by a jet of water, or some other way. A soft toothbrush works good on the scale shells.

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. Foliage spraying 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. 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. B. Apply fish emulsion every two weeks.
- C. C. Apply liquid plant food on alternate weeks.

July Bonsai

By John Miller

Many spring flowering plants will be setting buds for next years flowers. Azaleas will set their but 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.

Some more words on protecting from the sun. Dappled shade would do nicely because the sun will not shine on one spot very long but partial shade (such as morning sun and afternoon shade) will not suffice when the morning sun is as hot as it is here in Texas. When you put some kind of sun screen on remember to shade the sides of the pot as well as the soil. A light mulch on top of the soil will work great. Covering the pot with foil or putting it in a box made to fit is of doubtful help but if used there should be room for air to flow around it. Old rags work fine also if they do not blow off. Try to find a cover that will let you monitor your watering easily.



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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 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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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.