



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

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Calendar of Events

- **Wed June 12**
7:30pm - 9:00pm
Conifers with the Sylvia Smith

- **Tues June 18**
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Member's workshop - BYOT Tropicals
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

Elaine White
Zerita Rogers

Trees

Elaine White
Zerita Rogers

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

First and foremost, thank you to everyone who helped make our 48th annual show a success! It truly takes a village to pull off such an inspirational event. What a treat it was to see all the bonsai on display at Zilker. This was only my fourth time experiencing an Austin Bonsai Show and some of the trees, like Chuck's Live Oak, Elaine's Buttonwood, or Alisan's Fukien Tea are familiar to me now. (and many more) It's also enjoyable to appreciate the heritage present like Mike and Candy Hansen selecting a George Brown kept Kingsville Boxwood for the exhibit. This society is rich in culture and heritage, thank you again for your contributions and support as we continue on...

We've got some fluctuations in the schedule you have in your 2019 membership directory, please refer to our website and take note of the upcoming events in the newsletter... there are some stellar presentations to come!

June 12th Presentation/Raffle: Conifers with Sylvia Smith

June 18th Workshop: BYO Tropical Tree

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

July 16th Limited Workshop: Supplied Root Over Rock with Chuck Ware (3 spots, email me)

The best part of our weekend bonsai show is sharing with the public! We had around 1000 people stop by to see our displays!

You might see some new faces around the meetings as we had 7 new members sign up over the show weekend. We also invited the public and friends to join us for the Tuesday workshop as a beginner workshop. Let's welcome all the new members of the club!

Cheers,
Brandon

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.

Get Connected!

Join our online discussion
page! NO SPAM!

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ABS Library

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

Vice President's Message

By Mike Garza

Bonsai friends,

Wow, time has flown by! Spring has come and gone and soon we will begin summer. May was a very busy and productive month for our club.

I'd like to start by thanking Austin Heitzman for his fantastic presentation on the bonsai stand and display. I now have a better understanding of how it should all come together.

This month we also held our annual show at the Zilker Botanical Garden. We had a fantastic turn out and I would like to personally thank everyone involved in making it happen. A special thanks to Joey McCoy for curating it. Quoc and Brandon did wonderful demos and really engaged the audience well. As for the trees, I was so impressed with the quality of trees displayed. We really have a wonderful club here.

For our monthly workshop we decided to invite anybody that went to the show to come in and bring a tree to work on. We had a fantastic turn out. I'd like to thank everyone who helped with giving advice and helping them work on their trees.

Next month, Silvia Smith from Bonsai Smiths in the DFW area, will be our special guest artist. She is super friendly and extremely knowledgeable in our art. She has and continues to study under Boon for many years. She will present us her approach to developing black pines. I look forward to seeing y'all there.

-Mike Garza

May Meeting

Stands and Displays



Photos by May Lau

New Member Workshop



Photos by Joey McCoy



Annual Show



Photos by Joey McCoy



Annual Show



Regular Meeting Minutes (Roland)

May 8, 2018

Meeting Began at 7:20pm

- 1 new guest
- Talked about brought in trees
- Gloria – club is doing fine, financially
- Simon – Amazon Smile for TTSBE non-profit announcement
 - Support us by using [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile)
- Mike – Workshops announcements
- ABS show announcement/volunteer set up and teardown sign up sheet

Austin began his presentation at 7:44pm



ABS Board Minutes (Roland)

May 21, 2018

Attendees – Brandon, Mike, Gloria, Chris, Pat and Roland

Meeting Began at 7:08PM

- Board enjoyed Austin's presentation.
- June announcements – Workshop prices confirmed.
- Program Updates - Sylvia Smith visit details discussed. Yvonne may have to be replaced for her spot – will find out soon if she will make it.
- Board discussed BYOT workshop for possible new members after annual show – Thinking of new ways to engage and keep members coming back.
- Roland brought up REWIRE program from American Bonsai – will discuss with Joey.
- Gloria – discussed 7 new memberships and money brought in from our show. Went over club spending for the month.
- Board discussed our annual show date for next year.

Meeting ended at 7:46PM



Message from the Show Chair

Joey McCoy

Each year I am impressed with the Bonsai brought into our show, but this year we really had a very polished display with many more mature trees than ever before (mentioned to me also by many of our visitors). We displayed 63 bonsai, many beautiful kusamono and accent plants, and a wonderful suiseki stone area. Thank you to all who prepped trees and material to bring, the membership should be proud



to represent our club so beautifully! We had visitors from clubs in San Antonio, Houston, & Dallas come specifically to visit the show and all who I spoke with only had glowing reviews. I'd like to thank our hard working drivers who left work to come early to load and then stayed late to drive it all back again on Sunday: Jimbo, Lawrence, Roland, John H. and I. We had some terrific volunteers who jumped in and helped to move tables and set up the show as well

as those who stayed after it all closed to take everything down. It all seemed to go quicker and smoother than I ever remember it being in the past, and it is all thanks to them. Big thank you to our demonstrators: Quoc and Brandon B. who both did a fantastic job at both educating and entertaining the crowds each day. We had a terrific crew who showed up to help each day working the door, raffle and docent positions and made every visitor feel at home. I hope you all know that you are the face of Austin Bonsai, and you did us all proud! Thanks to those who brought food and snacks for the volunteers, and to all who helped in ways both big and small. The smiling and often awe-struck expressions on the visitors really showed the impression we left with each one. I feel honored to be part of such a terrific bonsai family!



June Bonsai

By John Miller

Since I have been somewhat feeling my age (and under the weather a bit also) I have been fortunate to have had more rain than usual. Haven't ignored them but my local weather kept them warm enough and watered. They did good enough but any pruning was left until this last month.

You may still have time to leaf prune if you need to but be careful, it could turn hot in a hurry. Remember do it only on healthy vigorous trees. Put the tree in a semi-shaded location out of the wind until new foliage appears. Again never leaf prune the atropurpeum varieties of Japanese maples, they don't want to rebud.

When night temperatures stay above 60 degrees you can think about repotting some of the tropics. I would wait another month though for the buttonwood.

It is important to continue the twig pruning of your trees on a regular basis. While doing this chore look at the tree to see if there is a need to do some refinement pruning. Refinement pruning is a deeper pruning to replace a branch that has grown too long or too big with a smaller one. This is usually done with the secondary or tertiary branches not the primary branch coming from the trunk. I prefer to do this refinement pruning on deciduous trees in the winter when I can see the branch structure. But on bonsai like the yaupon hollies I like to do it at this time when the tree is actively growing so that any winter dieback is apparent. Trees that weep a lot from cuts such as maples or pines should not be done at this time.

Even if the days are relatively cool the sun can still get hot. Not only does this dry out the soil very fast but the tree roots don't like a hot soil. A temperature I have heard given is 120 degrees that will kill roots on most plants. 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 is preferable to solid paper or foil.

Get to know your trees like your children. Which ones

use more water and which ones stay moist between waterings. If some are difficult to keep happy you can try moving those to a cooler location (but be sure they get their sunlight). Another trick is to group these together so that you can hit them with a shot of water twice a day and not have to spend the time going through all your trees.

The extended cool and damp weather is good for fungal diseases like black leaf spot. Treat with potassium bicarbonate or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda). If the foliage is hardened a bit you can treat with 1% hydrogen peroxide (1 part peroxide to 2 parts water) weekly. Warm damp weather will bring its own fungal problems like mildew. Same treatment.

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. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and 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 and don't apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods.

All pathogen controls must be sprayed with a sprayer that has a nozzle which produces a fine spray in order to cover the entire leaf surface. You got to get all them bugs or they come right back. And you got to spray on a regular basis. Any hiding in cracks will repeat the infestation.

Even with the temp below 90 the sun is getting quite intense. Most plants in pots will not enjoy a full day of this. Partial shade should be provided. A shade cloth awning is the best as it will protect in the middle of the day. Late afternoon sun will also hurt by shining under to shade cloth or branches and heating the roots to the point where they will suffer.

Consider that here are two aspects to bonsai, the artistry in creating the bonsai and the gardening in keeping it healthy. The artistry you learn at the club, from demonstrations, or from books. The gardening aspect is no less important but is sometimes put on a back burner or ignored. You know that not watering

will result in a 'finished' bonsai so that gets taken care of in some form or other. However many do not try to learn how plants grow, what their needs are, or how they are all made unique by nature in some way. To be really successful in bonsai you need to study this aspect of our hobby also. One of the first places to start is by learning about the planting medium. What is makes a good planting mix? How does the size of particles affect the plant? How do the various species require their own particular type of mix? Try finding some of these answer in the gardening section of your local library and watch your trees show their appreciation by being easier to care for.





Quoc and his demo tree

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- New Members**
- Joe Dana**
 - Jordan & Krystal Schmidt**
 - Jaime Zwerneman**
 - Trey & Jennifer Newman**
 - Summer Lee**
 - Tommy & Amy Castilleja**
 - Aaron Kreig**

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

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Austin, Texas 78734



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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.