



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

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Calendar of Events

- **June 9**
Sea hibiscus with Mike Lane
Zoom meeting

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 ABS!

Our virtual exhibit photo shoot was a huge success! It was so great to see some of my bonsai family again! We had many entries and it was truly inspiring to see everyone's hard work and commitment to their trees. I'd like to extend my gratitude to everyone who participated. We couldn't have made the exhibit happen without you! I'd also like to give a gigantic THANK YOU to Summer Lee, our VP, and to her partner, Daryl Gleinser. They both have given us the space to keep ABS going this year and that's a huge gift to us all! Again, thank you both.

June is here already? Wow, that was fast! I guess the next thing on my bonsai to-do list is getting my tropicals repotted. A couple of more and repotting is done for the year. I'm looking forward to it! I hope this month brings you more fun times with your trees. Keep cool everyone and don't forget that sun block!

That's all I have for you now.

Take care and I'll see y'all soon!

With a warm smile,

Roland

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 for convenient electronic payments options (processing fee included).

Get Connected!

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discussion



Official Website

Visit our website at
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Facebook

Like our Facebook page
AustinBonsaiSociety

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Follow us on Twitter
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Follow us on Instagram
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YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/
channel/
UCLSkNkBNld3EOYwjkjNIneA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSkNkBNld3EOYwjkjNIneA)

Vice President's Message

By Summer Lee

Summer is busy with other projects/travels and cannot provide a message.

The logo for Brite Ideas Aquaponics Hydroponics & Organics features the text "BRITE IDEAS" in blue at the top. Below it is a central graphic of a glowing lightbulb with a green leafy branch and a red chili pepper on the left, and a yellow fish and a red tomato on the right. Below the graphic is the text "AQUAPONICS HYDROPONICS & ORGANICS" in blue. At the bottom of the logo area, it says "Http://www.bihydro.com" and "Owner: Troy Smith".

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ABS Board Minutes

May 2021

Meeting start ~7pm

Attendees: Gloria, Ruwan, Roland, M. Garza, Summer

- Club Web Page for Zilker
- Live Stream
 - Find a team of people who can help. Gloria will get a list of people with technical experience
- Social Media Strategy
 - Form a committee. Must include, Joey (facebook), Brandon (Instagram), Simon (twitter)
 - Come up with content strategy and a content calendar
 - Consider social media management tools ex. Hootsuite
 - Roland will set a time for committee to meet and draft a proposal for the board before the next board meeting.
 - Roland will work with Joey to finish setting up the facebook group and inviting people to it.
- Vincent Le – still needs receipts
- ABS Convention
 - Form Committee for 2024 convention bid
 - A lot of work to do
 - Need to get started as soon as possible
 - Collect materials for conventions
 - Need lots of quality trees
- Suggestion for June Program – Roland to follow up with Summer if Mike Lane will be here. See if the Smiths may be able to do a virtual critique in lieu of June Program
- Zach Admas Move
 - Moving to Mississippi
 - See if we can get material for auction
 - Roland will get photos
- Income
 - Need to schedule an auction
 - After Vincent Le we are in the red for the year
- Need exact date for LSBF Artist

June's Bonsai

By John Miller

If ants, or any other creature, are building nests in the soil, the tunnels and cavities will prevent proper watering and result in loss of roots. After you get rid of the ants be sure to grab your chopsticks and work the soil down and eliminate any holes. You will probably need to add a little more soil on top.

You might still be able 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 do not rebud but will usually come out again next spring.

However, some tropicals can be leaf pruned all summer. The *Ficus nerifolia* especially benefits by leaf pruning and can be done more than once each summer. That will develop the heavy twiginess you see in the *Ficus* bonsai from the Far East.

When night temperatures stay above 60 degrees you can think about repotting some of the tropicals. I would wait another month tho for the buttonwood. I am going to work on some *Grewia* and will strip all the leaves and then repot. Ask me next month how they did.

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.

The extended cool and damp weather is good for fungal diseases like black leaf spot. Hot and damp bring other fungals like mildew. Treat with potassium bicarbonate or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda).

After the foliage is hardened a bit you can treat with a 1% hydrogen peroxide (1 part 3% peroxide to 2 parts water) weekly. 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. It also gets any caterpillars and even bagworms. You can use some of the other organic controls like horticultural oil or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully and DO NOT apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods.

It does not do much good to spray if you do not do it correctly. Hose end sprayers have too coarse a spray and usually do not cover very good. 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, top and bottom. You must get all them bugs or they come right back. And you need to spray on a regular basis. Any bugs or spores hiding in cracks will repeat the infestation.

Even if the days are relatively cool the sun can still get the pots 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 that 120 degrees 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. Leave an air space between the cover and pot and soil.

Most plants in pots will not enjoy a full day of 90 plus sun. Partial shade should be provided. A shade cloth awning is the best as it will protect in the middle of the day. A shade cloth on the west side will protect from the late afternoon sun. This is the worst sun as the temperature is already high and the drier air makes the rays more intense.

Member's Bonsai
Wakaebisu Azalea



New Members

Jake G.

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.

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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Your source for:
High quality Yagimitsu & Ryukoh tools
Organic Bonsai Fertilizers
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Bonsai Pottery, Soils and supplies
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Open Tuesday Through Sunday



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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 \$32.50 for an individual and \$37.50 for a family membership. For additional information, contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, TX 78734.