



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

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Calendar of Events

- **Wed Mar 11**
7:30pm - 9:00pm
Exposed root with Eric Schrader
- **Tues Mar 17**
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Members' workshop
BYOT - Deciduous Styling

2020 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

Summer Lee
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Food
Joey McCoy
Jakob Clark

Tree
Joey McCoy
Chris Frechette

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

Spring is in full motion and a bit early this year as Winter seemed to be a mild one. As the trees start to bud out and the fruit trees flower, it's a lovely time of year. For me, this has been an incredible start to 2020. This year is my third year to repot trees into bonsai containers which means I've been able to work on projects started a couple years back. My focus this year was to use smaller particle substrates when repotting trees, so far I'm satisfied with the results. There have also been a couple adventures out to Burton and Briggs hunting for yamadori, which yielded grand times and spectacular specimens. Thank you to everyone who came out, it is always fun at club digs!

Our March meeting is the first of many compelling programs this year. We're hosting Eric Schrader from San Francisco. He has a nursery, Phutu (<https://phutu.com/>), where he develops quality deciduous and conifer bonsai and is the president of the Bonsai Society of San Francisco. We invited him to share his approach for creating exposed root trees. Earlier this year, he mailed me a solid example of a medium sized Japanese Black Pine he has been working on with the exposed root style. This tree will be worked on to continue its exposed root journey during the meeting and then available for raffle. Should be pretty fun!

Eric is going to be in Austin for Thursday and Friday. Please let me know if you are interested in signing up for private study or a small group workshop with him.

The next two months of upcoming events for the club include:

- 3-11 | March Meeting, topic > Exposed Roots with Eric Schrader
- 3-17 | ABS Members Workshop > BYOT Deciduous Styling
- 4-8 | April Meeting, topic > Deadwood Study with Will Baddeley
- 4-21 | ABS Members Workshop > 2020 Show Prep

At the March meeting we will be drawing for the scholarship winner for the 2020 LSBF Convention hosted by San Antonio. There has been participation so someone will win! If you joined the club in 2019 and paid your 2020 dues... you qualify for ABS to reimburse your registration cost (\$160 value). Simply let myself or Roland know that you are going to go to the 2020 convention!

Cheers,
Brandon

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discussion



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ABS Library

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

Vice President's Message

By Mike Garza

Bonsai friends,

February was an interesting month. The month started off warm and I had several trees start waking up early. Then, of course, winter decided to show up like usual. Oh this Central Texas weather - gotta love it!

First off, I'd like to thank Brandon for running a great program on how to re-pot yamadori. He did a wonderful job on that Cedar Elm! Congratulations to the lucky member who won it.

February was also full of wonderful club digs. We went out to MBP to dig out some Trident maples and then to Burton which had a bunch of different kinds of trees like Cedar Elms, Chinese Tallows, Junipers and more.

Next month we will host Erick Schrader. He is a bonsai professional from San Francisco. He will be sharing his knowledge with us on exposed root bonsai. I am truly excited about this technique especially since I don't have one in my collection. I look forward to seeing y'all there.

-Mike Garza

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

Regular Meeting Minutes (Roland)

February 2020

Announcements began at 7:20PM

Shohin Society Meeting on February 22nd at Zilker Park – carving & creating tanuki.

Trees brought in by May, Simon and Brandon.

Food brought to us by Ruby, Amanda, Simon and May.

Tuesday workshop coming up – please bring one small tree to repot. Soil provided by Chuck.

San Antonio bonsai convention is almost here! On May 14-17.

New book in our library for members to check out – The Little Book Of Bonsai by Jonas Dupuich.

LSBF Convention Scholarship is up for grabs! Please email Brandon or Roland if you are interested!

Our 2020 program and artists are set for the year.

Dig registration is due for our Burton Texas club dig by 2/15. Please sign up and be prepared.

Brandon's presentation began at 7:42PM



ABS Board Minutes (Roland)

January 2020

Meeting began at 7:05PM

The board discussed and finalized the 2020 program schedule; to be printed and shared to the members by end of February

The board voted to add budget for two additional visiting artists – approved

The 2020 LSBF Speaker is Jennifer Price in October 6 & 7th. Stay tuned for workshop and private study openings

The board voted to add two books to our club library - Little Book of Bonsai by Jonas Dupuich and Bonsai Heresy by Michael Hagedorn - approved

The board voted to explore/procure an electronic payment system. - approved

Meeting ended at 8:33PM



February Meeting

Photos by May Lau



Club Dig

Burton

Photos by Joey McCoy



Club Dig

Cloud Hollow

Photos by Joey McCoy



March Bonsai

By John Miller

Why is the subject of soil in your bonsai pot so important? Well you are trying to convince your plant that the world only extends few inches out, that it is only a couple of inches deep, and that it should produce short fibrous roots instead of its natural long ones. But you keep telling it that it should be happy in this unnatural world and look like its giant kinfolk. So you need to give it the best subsurface environment you can.

If your area is subject to late freezes, check the forecasts and be sure to take precautions. Newly developing roots in either freshly repotted trees or in established pots can be tender to freezes. Trees with new sap flow will also be more tender. And of course the new foliage will not take as much cold or the strong winds that dry it and cause leaf burn.

On a clear night you can get frost on the leaves even tho the temperature is above 32. Any overhead covering, patio, evergreen trees or a light cloth, will prevent that frost.

As the weather warms up the insects will surely make their appearance. Use the foliar spray (1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar per gallon of water) weekly to control aphid, mites, etc. Spring usually means wet weather so watch for fungal problems such as black spot. I usually only get it on hollies and elms. You can use a 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide (1 part of 3% h.p. and 2 parts water) for fungal problems. However I have damaged young growth on elms with it so I do not use it until after leaves mature a bit.

If you have been doing a good organic program the ladybugs will keep the aphids and other soft bodied insects in check. The praying mantis come along later on when the weather is warmer. I am seeing a lot of mantis egg clusters since I dont use chemical sprays.

Use chemical fertilizers sparingly at this time. Most contain a healthy supply of nitrogen which causes too much lanky growth. Organic fertilizer balls and the foliar spray are better because organics need warmer weather to break down into plant soluble nutrients and therefore are not as stimulating in this weather.

They are also more consistent in feeding the tree each time you water.

Now you should get your tweezers and shears ready for the real job ahead. In order to develop the ramification and fine twigs you want you must be pruning the new growth as it develops. Waiting until the shoots are three or four inches or longer results in coarse twigs with long internodes. These will have to be cut off and new ones developed if you are to have a good bonsai. Tweezers are the preferred tool for this job. If you do the cutting at the right time the twig will still be soft and can be plucked with the tweezers. After a few tries you will be able to work faster with tweezers than with shears. I prefer tweezers with a dull point, sharp points catch the foliage and rounded points are too big.

Essentially there are two kinds of growing habits on deciduous trees, those with alternate growing leaves on the twigs, e.g. elms, oak, and hawthorn, and those with opposite growing leaves, e.g. maple.

The alternate growing leaves start out with small leaves and each succeeding leaf will be larger and the internodes longer. Also each leaf will have a latent bud in each leaf axial. Therefore if you let the shoot grow to 4 or 5 new leaves and cut it back to 2 or 3, you will be keeping smaller leaves and also getting twice as many growing tips on each branch and each will be a finer twig. Keep this up and you will soon have nice development on the branches of your bonsai. In determining whether to cut to two or three, note the direction that you wish the end of the branch to take and cut to the leaf which has the bud on that side of the branch.

Tweezers are almost a necessity in working on maples. The opposite growing leaves clasp the new growing tip and will be extending from the old but on a lengthening stem. If the new tip is taken off as soon as the leaves separate, the result is that the leaves will be smaller and the stem will stop lengthening. Then two new tips will pop from the new leaf axials and you will have to repeat the tip plucking.

Junipers should be trimmed with the fingers. As the new growth develops grasp the twigs with one hand spreading the foliage in a fan shape. Then with the other hand grasp the tips between the fleshy part of your thumb and finger and pull it off. Using fingernails or scissors will result in brown tips on the junipers. If the juniper still has needle foliage you can avoid being stuck by moving your hand toward the tip while grasping the twig. This, in effect, causes the needle to lie along the twig while you are holding it.

Now is the proper time to decide on your show trees and then give them plenty of TLC and grooming to be at their best at show time.



New Members

Matt Hernandez

Morgan Bean

Bryan and Stacie Kelly

Wayland, Jim & Karen

Krystal Tanaka

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.