



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

March 2023 vol 150

Our News

President's and Vice President's Message
page 2 - 3

ABS Board Meeting Minutes
page 4 - 5

Bonsai Tips
page 6 - 7

Club Membership Fees Increase
New/Renewed Members
page 8

Recruiting Authors
page 9

Advertisements
page 10

Calendar of Events

March 8, 2023

- ◆ Topic: Bald Cypress
- ◆ Presenter: Evan Pardue
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
- ◆ Meeting begins at 7 pm
- ◆ Social starts at 6:30 pm

2023 Board of Directors

Jonathan W.
President

Roland L.
Vice President

Eric B.
Secretary

Gloria N.
Treasurer

Simon T.
Member-At-Large

Jacob K.
Member-At-Large

Ever V.
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Refreshments
Lyon
Joey

Tree Host
Gerritt
Eric

President's Message

By Jonathan W.

Spring has sprung! It's so exciting to see maples coming to life and boxwoods putting out vibrant growth. Reds, yellows, greens are starting to show as deciduous trees wake up from their short slumber. This is one of my favorite times of the bonsai calendar... seeing trees put on their show! This is the busy season for us deciduous bonsai folks and I'm enjoying it immensely. For a few years I have been cultivating several cuttings and air layers and it is neat to see them make it through one more winter and bud out again this year with their brightly-colored leaves. Japanese maples have captivated my attention ever since I began bonsai and I eagerly await their budding out each Spring.

Also, Looking forward to the deciduous bonsai weekend this March 18/19 with Sergio Cuan at Cabella's this month. Getting expert guidance on 2 or 3 of our deciduous bonsai can really accelerate refinement, wound healing, and help give us courage to eliminate design challenges. *Please remember to RSVP with the Treasurer as pre-payment is required to attend and spaces are filling up*

Working on trees with others nearby can make the practice of the art more enjoyable. Being able to bounce ideas of others and share in their insight makes for a fulfilling pruning session. Also, seeing transformations of style take place in real time gives me encouragement that my project trees are moving along in their development.

I really want to thank Dr. Hoe Chuah for all the effort he put into the February program. The azalea knowledge I gained from his presentation and his ABS group workshop at MBP Bonsai is a game changer for my project azaleas. The presentation has given me confidence in both horticulture and pruning requirements necessary to refine azalea varieties over time.

Our annual Bonsai show is just a few months from now... it is time to begin thinking about trees we may want to have ready for display this May 20th and May 21 in the Zilker Botanical Garden Auditorium. We will need lots of volunteers for that weekend so please consider setting aside a day or a half day to help us monitor and answer questions from the public.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Wood, ABS President 2023

BONSAI QUOTE:

Karate Kid: "I feel like your tree... the one that I wrecked... I'm falling apart"
<<Mr. Miyagi shows Daniel the repotted tree with bandaged wound.>>
Karate Kid: "Hey, it's budding! Hey, look at that! It's gonna make it, huh?"
Mr. Miyagi: " – Ay, it (will) make it because it has strong root... just like YOU, Daniel-san... Inside... YOU have strong root.... No need nothing except what's inside of you TO GROW. Understand? :-)"

--- Mr. Miyagi, Karate Kid - Part 3 (1989)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9u34K9v9-M4>

Vice President's Message

By Roland L.

Hi ABS,

I hope you enjoyed Hoe Chuah's azalea presentation. Hoe has so much knowledge to pass on and I really appreciated his time with us. I hope you are now a little more confident about caring for azalea in your yards.

This month, we have Evan Pardue of Underhill Bonsai back in ATX. Bald cypress is the topic and this Louisiana native knows them very well. Join us as we learn what a mature bald cypress looks like and how to design one.

Evan has some great material from his nursery he is willing to bring if anyone is interested in acquiring some trees. Please let me know cause he's bringing a trailer! He can sell them outside of our club meeting time. Here's his website to look at trees and supplies - <https://underhillbonsai.com/>

Also, he is available for private study on March 8th, morning to early afternoon, March 9th morning to early afternoon, all-day March 10th and 11th. His fee for private study is \$400 for all day (10am-4pm) or \$75/hr if you'd like to do a few hours with him.

Evan is a very good artist. His trees are fantastic and you'll learn a lot. I highly encourage members to consider spending private study time with him. He specializes in deciduous trees.

Please communicate with me about y'all's interest in material for sale.

Thanks everyone and see you soon.

Roland

Reminder for club membership and advertisement

2023 membership fee

Individual	\$35.00
Family	\$40.00
Newsletter monthly advertisements:	\$35.00
Directory advertisement:	\$11.00

You may contact payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com for convenient electronic payment options (processing fee will be added).

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

Get Connected!

Join our online
discussion



Official Website

Visit our website at
austinbonsaisociety.com

Facebook



Like our Facebook page
AustinBonsaiSociety

Twitter



Follow us on Twitter
@ATXBonsai

Instagram



Follow us on Instagram
@austinbonsaisociety

ABS Library

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

YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSkNkBNld3EOYwjkjNIneA>

ABS Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday FEBRUARY 21, 2023 @ 7:30PM

ABS Board Meeting Date: FEB 21, 2023

Location: ABS online Zoom Room

Names of Board members present: Jonathan, Gloria, Jacob, Roland, Eric (Eric & Simon were both attending LSBF meeting)

Number / Names of Visitors/Club Members: 0_

Meeting of Austin Bonsai Society Board is called to order by (Jonathan) President at 7:51 PM. (Technical difficulties causing delay)

Are there any amendments to the Secretary's Report as they appear in the current newsletter? No

Roland moved to accept minutes as printed in previous newsletter. Minutes are approved as published by unanimous VOTE of board members present.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

There was an outstanding check from 2022 that finally cleared and is noted on the report. VOTE: The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted by vote of all present.

PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT Wednesday CLUB MEETING:

1. MARCH 8, 2023 CLUB MEETING PREPARATION: Evan Pardue from Louisiana - Bald Cypress demo/Lecture – Raffle demo tree. \$300 Presentation Fee. \$100 Demo Material Tree. \$300 Workshop time cost. Bald Cypress pre-bonsai material is a separate charge. Discussion of finalizing the bald cypress workshop details once artist has provided sample of the material. Artist does require Hotel Room or member-provided private lodging. Board approved \$150 cleaning fee /linen washing and replacement etc reimbursement for lodging with a board family member guest quarters.

2. List/Confirm next meeting's Refreshment host(s)? _Lyon O_ and _Joey.

3. List/Confirm next Meeting's Tree Host (s) _Gerrit_ and _Eric.

4. Name of Speakers/artist assistant: Roland

5. Publicity needs for next special event? - Facebook = Joey, Twitter = Simon, Instagram = Brandon

ADDITIONAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LSBF Delegate Report - now held as a TEAMS quarterly meeting. Eric B. and Simon T. are our appointed delegates for these meetings to represent ABS at State-Level "Lone Star Bonsai Federation" Board.

Zilker Garden Council - No Liason present/prior emails this board meeting.

Any other announcements - None

ABS Board Meeting Minutes (Continue)

Zilker Garden Council: Email Survey Link for Garden Feedback - let's see more bonsai display, more parking etc.

Old Business

Proposed Calendar for 2023: Roland will provide calendar of club events to Simon, for website and newsletter

New Business

Deciduous Weekend: March 18-19 at Cabela's in Buda, with artist Sergio Cuan. Planning committee: Gloria, Simon, Joey and Quoc. May need more ABS volunteers to set up and take down the event.

Slack: more accessible for membership or balance Slack use with email and in person communication.

2026 Austin/LSBF Bonsai Convention Chair: Simon volunteers to continue his work in this role.

BYOT Club Workshop Member-run repotting session: discussion started, then the Board learned of the TTSBE BYOT repot in February, and decided to promote that to club members. Perhaps have a BYOT club repot later in the year for tropicals.

Tabled Business

No tabled business

Close Meeting

Motion to Close Meeting: Gloria N.

Vote: 7-0 to close the meeting

Meeting Closed: 8:45 pm

Bonsai Tips

By John Miller

Regardless of where you live in Texas, there are probably three things calling for your immediate attention. Repotting is still being needed; new growth is running rampant and needs to be controlled; and you must keep any tree to be exhibited at the spring shows well groomed. Throw on top of that an aphid invasion or some scale and you should be plenty busy.

By this time most of you have finished repotting the early breaking species. Late starting species like the yaupons and oaks might still be candidates for repotting this year. Since I am two weeks or more behind Dallas I have only done a few but will have many done in the next two weeks.

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 its 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 my 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, those with leaves growing alternately 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. Note: If last years twig has been let grow long it should be cut back to the first 2-3 buds.

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 bud 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 repeat the tip plucking. Tweezers work much better for this job. I will sometimes separate the new pair of leaves from the new tip with tweezers but be careful not to bruise them.

Junipers should not be pinched. 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 effects causes the needle to lie along the twig while you are holding it.

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 the cold or the strong winds that dry it and cause leaf burn.

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, (I do not recommend the commercial 'Garret Juice' for insect control) weekly to control aphid, mites, etc. Spring usually means wet weather so weather for fungal problems such as blackspot. I usually only get it on hollies and elms. You can use a 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide or baking soda spray for fungal problems. Do not mix baking soda with the foliar spray.

Use fertilizers sparingly at this time. Most contain a healthy supply of nitrogen which causes too much lanky growth. So far I haven't had any problems using the foliar spray probably because organics need warmer weather to break down into plant soluble nutrients and therefore are not as stimulating in this weather.

Reminder: 2023 CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEE AMOUNT INCREASE

Beginning in January 2023, ABS will charge an annual membership fee of \$35 for an individual and \$40/couple pursuant to the vote taken by the ABS Board on May 17, 2022, the discussion by attendees at the June 22 ABS meeting, the newsletter announcement dated June and July, 2022 and the regular meeting vote taken on July 13, 2022. Fees for electronic payments will be added to those amounts.

Memberships are annual and need to be renewed each year by the end of February in order to receive a copy of the 2023 Directory.

New/Renewed Members

Dashiell C.	Rajat A.	John B.	David F.
Jakob C.	Ruby C.	Diana C. & Devon R.	Alisan C.
Zerita R.	Mark R. & Shana B.	Joe T. (Honorary)	Sheila W. (Honorary)
Elaine W. (Honorary)	Morgan B.	Derrick C.	Lawrence P.
Jacob K.	Zach A.		

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!

Advertisements



BRITE IDEAS
AQUAPONICS
HYDROPONICS & ORGANICS

[Http://www.bihydro.com](http://www.bihydro.com)
Owner: Troy Smith

12110 Menchaca Rd. Ste.103 Austin, TX 78748 (512)444-2100	14611 Burnet Rd #110 Austin, TX 78758 (512)459-4353
-----------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------

MBP Bonsai Studio
Importers, Retail & Wholesale
Your source for:
High quality Yagimitsu & Ryukoh tools
Organic Bonsai Fertilizers
Imported and Domestic Trees
Bonsai Pottery, Soils and supplies
Classes & Seminars
Open Tuesday Through Sunday



ph: 512-202-3403
-mail: mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net
601 Kay Lane
Pflugerville, TX 78660
(call for directions)



Hawk Eye
Bonsai

Bonsai Notebook

Austin Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 340474
Austin, Texas 78734



Austin Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 340474
Austin, TX 78734



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.