



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

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Calendar of Events

- **May 9**
7:30pm - 9:00pm
3 Panel Critique with Terry Ward, Mike Hansen and Chuck Ware
- **May 15**
7:30pm - 9:00pm
ABS Member's Workshop:
BYOT - Preparation for annual show
- **May 19 - 20, 2018**
Annual ABS Show

2018 Board of Directors

Simon Tse
President

Brandon Baldauf
Vice President

Mike Garza
Secretary

Gloria Norberg
Treasurer

Ruby Chaing
Member-At-Large

Daniel Lara
Member-At-Large

Pat Ware
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Gloria Norberg
Ruby Chiang
Food

Gloria Norberg
Nan Jenkins
Trees

President's Message

By Simon Tse

The LSBF convention at Longview was intimate and impressive in my opinion. Shannon Gilliland, current President of the Longview Bonsai Society, was instrumental in ensuring their maiden convention was a success. Austin Bonsai Society was well represented in terms of attendees, auction biddings and raffles winnings. We have numerous new members and families attend the workshops provided by Boon Manakitivipart, Rodney Clemons and Mike Lane. The feedbacks from our new members towards the featured artists were overwhelming positive as they are already looking forward to the LSBF convention in Houston next year.

Our annual show in May is rapidly approaching. Terry Ward, Mike Hansen and Chuck Ware have graciously agreed to provide timely advice and constructive critique for the trees in our upcoming meeting. Bring your show trees, ascent plants/kusamonos, suiseki, stands and scrolls to our next meeting to collaborate and seek expert advice. We will also need volunteers on Friday (18th) evening and Sunday (20th) afternoon for setup and takedown. More details to follow and signup sheets will be provided.

Cheers,
Simon



April Meeting

Ken Credeur gives a presentation over the basics and techniques of cascade and semi-cascade.



(Photos by May Lau)



Albert, our raffle winner (left)



Convention
Photos

(Photos by Joey McCoy)





(Photos by Joey McCoy)

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jvmccoy@sbcglobal.com

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Vice President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings ABS Members,

May is upon us and summer is fast approaching. Be considerate of the Texas heat and how it affects the various types of trees in your collection. Some might be tolerant of full sun and extreme heat while others will prefer to move into a less intense location if available. Do some research, ask around, and keep a watchful eye are the best approaches. April was an eventful month with the LSBF convention and a few ABS club digs over the weekends. May looks to be just as exciting with the society's show and sale planned for 5/19 and 5/20. Please bring in any extra trees, pottery, and bonsai related supplies for the raffle over those two days. I personally will be contributing a few trees that I collected in the last couple of years. Additionally we will need some volunteers to help with the setup, facilitation of the event, and tear down of the exhibit. Think about these opportunities and look for the sign up sheet in the next meeting.

Looking ahead, I am pleased to announce that Joe Day will be giving a lecture demo on June 13th. He will cover his approach for doing a slab planting and the final piece will be raffled off at the end of the evening. On June 19th - we will host Yvonne Padilla from the Corpus Christi Bonsai Club during our workshop day. Yvonne will be facilitating a Chinese Fringe or Loropetalum workshop sharing her approach for working with Tropicals. The workshop is \$40 and you get to take the tree you work on home with you. Please let me know if you are interested as we have a max of 8 people who can attend.

Finally, I announced last meeting that Todd Schlafer will be presenting in October. While contacting him, he extended the opportunity for private study so also let me know if you want a session with Todd.

Cheers,
Brandon

April Meeting Minutes

April 11th, 2018

Simon opens meeting at 7:31 pm

Special thanks to the food hosts - Everardo V., Nan and Timmi

Recognized new visitors and new members. Welcome!!

Treasurer Update:

We are in the positive compared to this time last year; next month Web and Garden Center fees are due

Please take a look inside our directory and ask about our library books and videos - email/chat with May if you want more information about the books or videos

Alisan mentioned the StarLight Social and fundraisers for Zilker Botanical Gardens, including weekend plant sales from different clubs

TTSBE:

Joey mentioned that new stands and building have been installed in the Botanical Gardens; special thanks to Alisan, Lynn, Elaine, and Peter for painting the building; there will be a fundraising table at the LSBF convention

A dig will happen on Sunday for boxwoods - contact Joey for more information

Jimbo brought in the tree for the monthly display

Brandon mentioned that in October we will have Todd Schlafer here; if interested in a private study with Todd, contact Brandon for more details

Ken started his presentation on cascades and semi-cascades at 7:46 pm

Board Meeting Minutes

April 17th, 2018

Meeting started at 7:08

Chuck gave a presentation on slab planting

Pat talked about Convention pins

Gloria donated pot for LSBF convention at Longview

2018 programs updates and discussions

Alisan has agreed to lead a scroll workshop

Finalized itinerary for Joe Day

Discussed May Show Raffle Items - please start getting your donations ready - we all know we have more trees than we need...donate, donate, donate!

Discussed vendors for the May Show

Board explored possibilities and preparations for the 2021 LSBF Convention!!!

In June, members will vote for the 2021 LSBF Convention

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm

May Bonsai

By John Miller

If you did not attend the convention in Longview you missed what I think was the best one in many years. The chatter sounded upbeat, the workshop teaching I thought was good. For the first time in a long time the display always had people viewing, discussing and taking pictures--never was an empty room. Don't know how much they sold but the vendors always had people looking at their goods. Probably the lack of any more available space made for a cosier and more friendly atmosphere.

In the Dallas area, May is the time you do the leaf pruning job if you have to do it. If you have kept the new growth pinched properly, you have been getting the ramification usually attributed to leaf pruning. The only good reason for leaf pruning is to replace foliage that has been damaged by wind or insects. On some individual plants that have large foliage, the new foliage will usually be smaller. Leaf pruning should be done after the spring foliage has matured and supplied the tree with enough nutrients to produce a good crop of new foliage. It **must** be done well before the summer heat causes the plant growth to slow or stop. I consider the very latest time (and not at all desirable) to be Memorial Day. Leaf pruning is done by cutting the stems of those leaves that have them (maples) or cutting across the leaf about 1/16 inch from the twig if leaves are attached directly on the twig (elms). The tree should be fertilized 7 - 10 days before the operation. It will not need as much water until the new foliage has developed.

When the nighttime temp stays above 60 degrees it is time to start repotting the tropical material. Since there are so many different requirements for tropicals I will not try to cover their needs here. But in general, I like to put them in shade and mist them until the new growth starts.

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New Members

Lawrence Priest

Welcome!

Warm humid days are favorable for fungal growth. Watch for mildew, black leaf spot on elms and yaupons, among other. As an organic control I use hydrogen peroxide in a 1% solution (mix 1 part of the normal 3% commercial product with 2 parts water). Baking soda is also recommended organically.

Aphids, spider mites, and scale continue to be the most prevalent insects. The foliar feeding of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar (1 tablespoon each per gallon of water) is all the control I use for them. Scale is the most difficult because it is covered with a waxy coating (the scale). You may need to use a horticultural oil mixed as directed on the label. Be sure that the direction you read is for summer use as some have two dosages given, one for dormancy (usually the first and strongest) and one for summer. Dont use oil on buttonwood or any other plant not included on the label.

If you see damage to the foliage or the plant is not doing well, look for other problems and if you dont recognize the culprit ask you favorite nurseryman for help.

Start checking your pots to see if the sun is heating them up. Our summer sun shining on dark pots can make the soil temperature soar and kill the roots. Try putting your hand on the pot. Roots are living organisms and cannot take high temperatures any more than you can. Heating also dries out the soil making you water more often. Any number of ways of keeping the pots cool will work, the requirement being to prevent the sun from getting to them. I do not care for the aluminum foil methods because I dont want to have the light reflected into my eyes. A simple cloth with a slit to go around the trunk works fine.

Remember all the work that you did in the spring? Keep the new growth trimmed so that you havent wasted your time. While trimming or watering check the wiring periodically and remove it before it damages the branch. If the branch springs back some rewire it.

If you are not on a regular organic foliar/drench feed schedule be sure to use fertilizer cakes with supplemental feeding with a good liquid fertilizer, one that includes the minor elements. Most bonsai I see are malnourished. The liquid water soluble fertilizer gets washed out with the next watering and the tree starves until the next infrequent feeding.

Time to consider becoming more proficient at your hobby. You can learn all the rules but without practice you will not be able to perform. You need practice to learn to recognize the line of the raw material you are starting with. You get this practice and experience by taking part in the clubs various study groups, beginners classes, and workshops. If you are not a beginner, try teaching some beginners since the teacher learns as much as his students by trying to verbalize what he is attempting to teach. Visit conventions especially the local state convention and discuss trees with others who share your like for a particular style or species.

Happy bonsaiing

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 email us at 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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Owners



**Chuck
and Pat
Ware**

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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.