



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

May 2020 vol 116

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Calendar of Events

- **Virtual Exhibit**
Submit your display via Google Album
Now till May 15th
- **Online Auction**
May 17th, 7 pm
- **No Regular Meetings and Workshops**
City of Austin Shelter-in-place order

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

N/A

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

There is an urgent announcement, see below:

SITUATION

Due to the spread of an airborne viral infection, the City of Austin has put in place a shelter in place through May 8th. This proclamation effectively makes our plans to have the 49th annual Austin Bonsai Exhibit on 5/2-5/3 at Zilker Botanical Garden invalid and illegal. We're going to try something new this year... we are going to create a virtual exhibit!

PUTTING TOGETHER A VIRTUAL EXHIBIT

Once this email has been received by the club, the board members will help anyone interested in participating compile the potential exhibit photos into an [ABS Google photo album](#). Club members can upload their bonsai display photos directly or email them to board members to get uploaded to the [album](#). The time for getting your display submitted is from now to end of day Friday, May 15th. Over the May 16th/17th weekend, a panel of members lead by Joey will select a number of the provided bonsai display pictures and work to publish an official 49th annual bonsai ABS exhibit presentation.

START NOW

As soon as you finish reading this email, think about what bonsai in your collection you might be able to display and photograph. Consider going with a traditional three point display, a Tokonoma display, or individual tree/forest compositions as candidates for the exhibit.

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

Keep Austin Weird! Let's also keep it classy. All in all, we want to represent the members of our club and the state of our exploration of bonsai within Austin. If you have progression photos of the bonsai's development, those photos are welcome to be included with the display photo.

Here are some recommendations for the photograph:

- Trees should have minimal wire, if so - tastefully applied
- Trees should be trimmed, cleaned, and pest/disease free
- Use a landscape format shot, if you are using a phone, hold it sideways
- Photo taken at midpoint of the tree, squared off with the edge of the table usually gives the best view (use tripod if you have it)
- Additional lighting from behind or next to the camera is helpful - clip light, lamp, spot light all works
- Use a Plain backdrop - select between white and grey if possible
- Tree cleaned of all weeds and pot cleaned and oiled to remove lime scale
- All bonsai need a stand (can be Import, handmade, found or adapted)
- Accent pieces (plants, stones, sculptures, scrolls, or other elements) need to be arranged as if they are being shown at State Convention: on their own stands, clean lines, proportions, etc.
- A themed display where it tells a story would be the most enjoyable for the viewer (maybe bonus points for saying something about this Covid era we are in right now, or maybe having something "Austin-centric")

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

WHAT ABOUT THE AUCTION?!

Well guess what everyone, we can host an auction night if there is interest!! I'm hosting and facilitating an online auction using slack to provide an alternative to the raffle we usually have at this time of year. The event provides two purposes: i) an outlet for club members to share trees ii) an opportunity to raise funds for ABS for future events and activities

The Prep:

To make this happen, we will need everyone's help to collect pictures and information about trees people are donating to the auction. All items must be photographed and sent to Brandon by the end of day Friday, May 15th. There are options to donate 100% of earnings to ABS or to split the earnings 50/50 between donor and ABS.

The Event:

Sunday May 17th, anyone who is interested in bidding will need to be in Slack in the **#auction** channel. (let Brandon know if you need an invite to Slack)

Starting at 7:00 PM, we will post items which will be open for bids. Once an item starts being bid on, the last bid wins (if the reserve is met) if no higher bid comes in after 120 seconds or 2 minutes.

The Payment:

At the end of the auction or when you are done bidding, we're accepting online payments through Paypal.

The Delivery:

Won items will be made available for pick up at the donors house or at Brandon's house as a proxy delivery option. Please consider quarantine rules and sanitization best practices as we dont want to share any trouble.

Send Brandon a photo of the item you are donating to the auction!

QUESTIONS

Reach out in Slack or email (theswift@gmail.com) or text/call 979.777.3395 - Brandon

Contact your favorite board member as well with questions or photos or donations for the auction!

Reach out to Joey with questions regarding preparing trees for display.

Cheers,
Brandon

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discussion](#)



Official Website

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austinbonsaisociety.com

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ABS Library

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

SABS Convention Update

To all,

First off, thank you all for your patience with the San Antonio Bonsai Society (SABS) in terms of receiving announcements for the 2020 convention. Our Convention Committee has been discussing, on a daily basis, various concerns, ideas, and procedures on how to deal with the scheduling of the convention among the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been trying to balance the need for optimism on hoping the convention could happen in May with the need to act should we need to alter the convention. We didn't want to act too quickly and reschedule all activities should May still have worked, but not leave you stranded about the convention and what is happening with your money. It is clear that the Convention in May cannot happen.

Just this week our Committee has decided to reschedule the convention for **August 6, 7, 8, and 9, 2020 (Thursday thru Sunday)**. We have been making additional changes to ensure all aspects of planning the convention are followed through. Below are a few categories pertaining to the convention and any or no changes that have come about with rescheduling.

Guest Artist:

Both Boon Manakitivipart and Roy Nagatoshi are able to attend our convention in August and none of their workshops/seminars will be changed. Sadly, Arthur Joura is unable to attend. We are in the process of finding another artist to replace Arthur including for his workshops and his presentation scheduled for Sunday morning.

As soon as we determine our new guest artist, I, Ryan Odegaard, will email all groups the info.

Hotel:

For those that reserved hotel room(s) using the convention passcode, your room(s) have been transferred to the new dates in August. For those that reserved room(s) without using the convention passcode, your rooms were not changed. If you are unable to attend the convention in August, it is up to you to call/email the hotel for a refund.

The location of the convention has not changed. We are still at the same hotel in San Antonio.

Registration:

I am working with Eventbrite to transition all registrations to the new dates. You may see emails from Eventbrite stating your registration has changed once I figure out how to transition everyone. I am hoping that I can work with Eventbrite and not have you all re-register.

SABS Convention Update

To help with the economy, we are removing the additional cost associated with "late registration." I will make this change this weekend in Eventbrite. That means all future 3-day registrations will be \$140.00. For those that acquired a 3-day registration on/or after March 1st you will be compensated for the extra charge in one of three ways 1) refund in the amount of \$20 in raffle tickets, 2) refund in the amount of \$20 certificate to be used in the vendor room, or 3) refund in the amount of \$20 cash or check, now or at the event. It is up to you to email Ryan Odegaard (bonsaiode@gmail.com) your preference.

For those that can not make the August dates, please email Ryan through Eventbrite or bonsaiode@gmail.com to request a refund. At the time of this email, Eventbrite has eliminated the deduction of their fees from refunds, so if you sadly need to cancel your registration, please do it soon.

For those that have already requested a refund, a full refund has been approved and executed and included all apparel items.

Vendors:

We are currently contacting all our vendors to ensure they can attend in August. Should there be any cancellations, we will reach out to those that may have been looking for additional space or for new vendors to attend.

Convention Schedule:

At this time, we do not anticipate any changes to the day-to-day activities of the convention other than a replacement for Arthur.

For those taking workshops, please continue to send in your waivers to Ryan Odegaard.

Exhibit:

Donna Dobberfuhr is still accepting exhibit applications for trees, Kusamono, and Suiseki. You can send in your applications to Donna at two2views@yahoo.com

We know we have probably not answered every question/concern that may arise from this change and we apologize in advance. As we reschedule this event to ensure a seamless transition for all of you, we are quickly learning as we go along too. As always, if you have any comments, concerns, criticisms all are greatly appreciated and will be reviewed.

We hope that this announcement continues to find you safe and healthy and we at SABS are ensuring we comply with all CDC suggestions as we continue to plan for the 2020 Bonsai Convention.

Thank you,

Ryan O
Publicity Manager/Editor
San Antonio Bonsai Society

Regular Meeting Minutes (Roland)

April 2020

No meeting minutes

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.



ABS Board Minutes (Brandon)

April 2020

Start 7:05

Attendees: Gloria, Mike, Chris, Brandon, Roland

Topics:

- 2020 LSBF Convention is rescheduled to early August
- May Show
 - Zilker Botanical Garden will be closed on 5/2-5/3 impacting our annual exhibit plans
 - We're going to have a virtual bonsai exhibit
 - Details for virtual exhibit in the newsletter
- May Slack Auction
 - 50/50 option (50 donor / 50 ABS)
 - Proposal for 50/25/25 split (25 to ABS & 25 to charity)
 - Bonsai related supplies are okay
- June Program
 - Looking like it might be on, more to come
- Budget
 - March income/expense:483/1845

End 7:47



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	2521 Rutland Dr. #475 Austin, TX 78758 (512)459-4353
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May Bonsai

By John Miller

Does mycorrhiza work? Apparently all plants, not just pines, have a need for some form of mycorrhiza. The topic is too involved to be covered here. Go to the website www.fungi.com/mycogrow/amaranthus for a good article. If you have problems with that (as I did) go to www.fungi.com and click on the product Mycrogrow. Then scroll to the bottom and click on their link to Dr. Amaranthus article. If you can't find their product in the local store get whichever one has the most species of good fungi.

Three new tasks present themselves this month, repotting tropicals, leaf pruning and keeping roots cool.

Leaf pruning is the cutting off of many or all of the leaves in order to induce a new flush of growth similar to the growth after breaking dormancy. This should only be done on very healthy trees and should not do it two years in a row. Sometimes the excuse is made that you get two seasons of growth. However if you do the proper trimming during the growth phase the plant is continuing to produce the division of twigs necessary for ramification and the stress of leaf removal is unnecessary. The only real justification for leaf pruning is to replace old or damaged leaves with a newer set that will be prettier in a show or in the fall. The pruning must be done while there is still a month of good growing weather left meaning before the end of May in the D-FW area. The tree should be fertilized a few days before pruning. When pruning defoliate strong branches fully while leaving some leaves on weak branches. Usually interior branches will benefit by having their foliage kept on. When the leaves are off you can check the branches for undesirable characteristics. Cut vertical growing, hanging, or crossing branches. Leave any major work for next fall. After this work watch your watering, the tree will not use nearly as much water as when in full leaf so do not overwater. When growth starts get your tweezers out and keep up with the trimming. Do not let the new shoots get long internodes.

When the night temperatures are consistently above 60 degrees you can start thinking about repotting those tropicals. The need the warmth for good root

growth. Remember that the warmer temperatures and spring winds will cause the roots to dry quickly so have a spray bottle or some damp cloths handy. Keep them shaded until they recover.

The old methods were to repot azaleas after they finished blooming thinking that the tree needed nutrients from the roots for their blossoms. The newer thoughts are that the plant has all the necessary nutrients available in the bud and to repot the azaleas in the spring while they are still dormant. If you repot after blooming, do not remove as much soil and keep them shaded until they recover and are growing well. When the azaleas finish bloom remove all seed pods and do any reshaping that is necessary. You have 2-2 1/2 months (that is mid-July) to work on them. They will start setting buds for next years growth at that time.

The hot sun shining on the pot, especially the dark colored ones, can raise the temperature to the point of killing the roots. Especially sensitive are the nice growing tips at the edge of the rootball next to the pot. If the pot feels hot to your hand think about how the roots feel, after all they are living things too. These temperatures can be kept lower by shading the pot with any porous material. Putting sphagnum on the surface is good. Do not use any solid material like newspaper on the surface of the soil as it will cause you watering problems. And speaking of watering problems do not rely on rainfall to water for you, some plants shed the water to the outside & miss the pot. You must check them yourself.

Insects are waiting for a chance to get hold of some well fed and very tasty snacks. If you give them half a chance they will move into your bonsai almost overnight and are usually hard to spot until damage shows up. The most prevalent ones are aphids, spider mites, and scale. Leaf miners and various caterpillars will sneak in too. I use the organic foliar spray (1 tablespoon each of liquid kelp, fish emulsion, molasses, and apple cider vinegar in one gallon of water) to control all these. Horticultural oil spray can be used the year around. Note that the horticultural oil spray is a more refined and lighter version of the

May Bonsai

By John Miller

old dormant oil spray that could only be used in the dormant season. Do not use oils on those species such as the buttonwood that have a sensitivity to oil. If in doubt please read the label on the product you wish to use. Treat for fungal problems too. Leaf spot, mildew, and such can be treated by using potassium bicarbonate obtainable from any good nursery. A substitute would be sodium bicarbonate (baking soda). Use one tablespoon per gallon as a spray and be sure to cover both sides of the leaf. I would not use these products together with the foliar spray because they react with the acid vinegar. I would just as soon use them separately because only a few things (elms and hollies) at my place need the fungicide treatment.

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. There are a number of organic fertilizers in pellet or cake form on the market or you can make your own. These feed a tiny bit each time you water.



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!

JADE GARDENS
HOME OF THE

Owners  Chuck
and Pat
Ware

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Bonsai Notebook

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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.