



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

May 2025 vol 176

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Calendar of Events

May 14, 2025

- ◆ Topic: Tropical
- ◆ Presenter: Gilbert Cantu
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
- ◆ Time: 6:30pm (Mingling), 7:00pm (Meeting)

May 16 - 18, 2025

- ◆ Annual Show at Zilker (5/17 - 5/18)
- ◆ Pre-show setup begins at 1pm on 5/16 (Friday)
- ◆ Post-show cleanup on 5/18 (Sunday)
- ◆ Volunteers needed

May 31, 2025

- ◆ Shohin Society of Texas
- ◆ Topic: Developing a 2-3 year old trident maple to get taper and movement
- ◆ Time: 1 - 4pm
- ◆ Location: Spicewood Springs Library (8637 Spicewood Springs Road)

2024 Board of Directors

Eric B.
President

Sachin M.
Vice President

Simon T.
Secretary

Jonathan W.
Treasurer

Jorge M.
Member-At-Large

Ross C.
Member-At-Large

Ben M.
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Refreshments
Corbin S.
Jorge V.

Tree Hosts

President's Message

By Eric B.

Hello everyone, I hope this finds you and your trees healthy and happy. I don't know about anyone else, but I've been playing "Bonsai Shuffle" for the last month, moving my trees under cover when bad weather threatens, only to have it not happen. Luckily my collection is small enough that I can move it all in less than an hour, and I spur myself to do it by thinking how I would feel if my trees got pummeled by hail because I didn't take about 45 minutes to protect them. Plus, I get a little exercise.

That wind in the third week of April was something else! I had trees blowing over and one that came out of its pot a little bit. Again I had some luck and it was only some taller sapling trees in light pots, some only in nursery pots, and I just stood them back up. Repeatedly. Then again. Finally I ended up weighting a couple of them down with heavy rocks. I certainly hope nobody had any damage to their trees due to wind or other recent inclement weather.

April's Bring-Your-Own-Tree night went over about as well as it usually does, which is to say it went very well. A lot of nice trees were present, and we hope to see more than a few of them in the show! Thanks go out to Joey McCoy and everyone else who helped others with their trees. That's what ABS is all about! I've said this before, but it bears repeating: videos, pictures, books, and other resources are great, but nothing compares to actually working on trees in person. I look forward to the next opportunity for all of us to work on our trees together.

For our next Club Meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, we are honored to have Gilbert Cantu, of Little Jade Bonsai in Corpus Christi, as our visiting artist. Gilbert is fun and entertaining, and his skill working with Dwarf Jade (*Portulacaria afra*) is truly a must-see. As usual, the tree Gilbert styles will be put in the raffle at the end of the night. Tickets for the demo tree will be \$10 each, 6 for \$50, and \$10 tickets will roll over to the \$5 raffle after the demo tree is won. I hope to see you there!

Several of you have signed up for volunteer positions in the Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show and Sale, May 17th & 18th, 2025, and I thank you for your generosity. There are still positions that need volunteers, so I hope that some more club members will be able to donate some time - and have a lot of fun! - by helping out before, during, and/or after the show. Show setup begins Friday, May 16, at 1:00 PM at Zilker Botanical Garden Clubhouse. Setup involves getting the show displays and other materials out of storage and transporting them to Zilker - anyone with access to a truck or van would be of great help with this. Once the displays are delivered, they will need to be assembled and put into place. The more people we have working on this, the faster and easier it goes. (Also, there are rumors of pizza...) After the show, on Sunday, May 18 starting at 5:00 PM, we will take down all the displays and related materials, pack them up, and move them back into storage. We are required to have the premises vacated by 9:00 PM, so once again the more trucks or vans and the more people we have, the easier and faster it will go. Please consider signing up!

Later in May, on Saturday, May 24, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, I am hosting another Air-Layering Workshop, open on a first-come basis to 8 paid ABS members. As with last year's workshop, this one is in two parts. The one this month is starting the air-layer, and the second part in September will be removing the air-layers and putting them in pots. The fees for this workshop is \$5 for the first part to cover materials, and nothing for the second part as you will bring your own materials to pot the tree. The material provided is a stand of cedar elms

President's Message

By Eric B.

growing from the roots of a downed mature tree. So, all the air-layers will be genetically the same tree! Or if you want you can bring one or two of your own trees that you would like to propagate.

Wow, an awesome demo at our meeting, the Big Show, and a workshop...that's a pretty full May! Be sure to be there for all of it, if you can!

Thank you all for reading, and I'll see you all at the May meeting!
Eric

Reminder for club membership and advertisement

2025 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).

Gift certificate for memberships is also available, please send inquiry to payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com

Vice President's Message

By Sachin M.

Dear Austin Bonsai Society Members,

The beginning of summer is upon us here in the Austin area, and with it comes an exciting lineup of events for our club! I'm thrilled to announce that on Wednesday, May 14th, we'll be welcoming Gilbert Cantu—a talented Texas bonsai artist known for his outstanding work with dwarf jade bonsai. Gilbert brings both expertise and a great passion for teaching. Whether you're new to bonsai or have years of experience, his presentation will have something for everyone. This event will take place at the **Zilker Botanical Garden**.

We're also gearing up for one of our biggest events of the year—the Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show, happening on Saturday, May 17th and Sunday, May 18th, also at Zilker Botanical Garden. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our members' trees, connect with the community, and celebrate the artistry and dedication behind bonsai. Whether you're displaying or attending, your involvement helps make this event truly special.

As part of the show, we'll be holding a raffle, and we'd love your help! If you have any items you'd like to donate—bonsai tools, pots, books, trees, or anything garden-related—they would be greatly appreciated. These contributions help support the club and add a little extra excitement to the weekend. You can bring donations to the May 14th meeting or directly to the show.

Thank you all for your continued enthusiasm and support. Let's keep growing—both our trees and our bonsai family.

See you at Zilker,
Sachin Attavar

54th Annual **Austin Bonsai Society** **Show and Sale**

Saturday May 17th–Sunday May 18th 2025 ~ 10am-5pm

**Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs
Rd.
Austin, Tx 78746**

**Free admission after
Botanical Garden entry fee**



- Bonsai Display, Q&A with members
- Demonstrations each day
- Vendor Room Sales of Bonsai and Supplies
- Raffles on Saturday & Sunday!

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

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discussion



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Date: April 15, 2025

Location: Virtual

Meeting Attendees:

- ◆ Eric (President)
- ◆ Sachin (Vice President)
- ◆ Simon (Secretary)
- ◆ Jonathan (Treasurer)
- ◆ Caleb
- ◆ Ross

President:

- ◆ Talked about AAGC, ZBG and volunteer hours
- ◆ Greeter team: All board members with Ross, Caleb and Jorge as leaders
- ◆ Reservations with Zilker regarding 2026 ABS meeting dates
- ◆ May show in planning

Vice President:

- ◆ Confirmation on programs and preparation for the rest of the year
- ◆ Updates on scheduling and other essential topics

Secretary:

- ◆ Meeting starts at **7:38 pm**
- ◆ Last report was accepted without edits

Treasurer:

- ◆ Provide financial updates and balances
- ◆ Talked about membership and raffles update
- ◆ Transition of Treasurer in progress

Meeting adjourned at **9:17 pm**

Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

**** Calendar subject to change in 2025- Please review dates in each future Newsletter ****

Date	Event Type	Artist / Presenter	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
WED 5/14/2025	Club Night / Meeting	Guest Artist : Gilbert Cantu	6:30PM social time 7:00PM start time Presentation/ Demonstration: Guest artist will style a quality bonsai and give expert care tips		Free to attend - Donation table items welcome :-)
FRI 5/16/2025	Group Set-up of Bonsai Show		2 groups of volunteers combine efforts to set up a spectacular Bonsai Show for the public to enjoy. Pizza dinner for volunteers around 6:30PM		
SAT 5/17/2025 SUN 5/18/2025	Bonsai Show	Current ABS members display their bonsai for the public	10:00AM-5:00PM Both Days Austin Bonsai Society hosts a spectacular public display at Zilker Botanical Gardens Auditorium. Vendor area for bonsai supplies and sales by members. Educational Bonsai Demonstration each afternoon. 50 or more bonsai to view in the auditorium.	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX	Free for the public to Attend (with paid park admission). *Special assigned parking areas for Volunteers, please check with show committee for parking details

Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

**** Calendar subject to change in 2025- Please review dates in each future Newsletter ****

Date	Event Type	Artist / Presenter	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
<p>Saturday 5/31/25</p>	<p>Bonsai Meetup: Shohn Size Trees</p>	<p>Shohin Society of Texas May L. and Joey M.</p>	<p>Developing a 2-3 year old trident maple to get taper and movement.</p>	<p>Spicewood Springs Library 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78759 (1pm - 4pm)</p>	<p>Free to attend</p>
<p>THURS thru SUN 9/18/25 9/19/25 9/20/25 9/21/25</p>	<p>Bonsai Convention</p>	<p>Pre-Registration is encouraged (for both the convention and hotel!) Come for 1 specific day or join us for all days! Workshops fill up fast and tend to be first come, first served with paid registration</p>	<p>September 18-21, 2025 LSBF “Bonsai on the Bay” Convention in Corpus Christi. Featuring Jonas Dupuich, Jennifer Price and Mike Lane – Unique Pots, tools, supplies, bonsai material AND quality Bonsai workshops. Jointly hosted by the Corpus Christi and San Antonio Bonsai Clubs!</p>	<p>Holiday Inn Corpus Christi Downtown Marina 707 N. Shoreline Blvd Corpus Christi, TX 78401</p>	<p>Pricing will be released a few months prior to the event</p>

Why are there so many right flow trees?
by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



Right flow Japanese Maple. In display the accent piece would be to the right. *Luis Vallejo Bonsai Museum, Spain.*



Left flow Chinese Hackberry. *Luis Vallejo Bonsai Museum, Spain.*

A common comment is, “The majority of my bonsai flow to the right”. Just this week we did an inventory of right vs. left bonsai on the benches here at Crataegus Bonsai, and our results support this observation.

41 bonsai flowed left. 63 flowed right. Which makes 65% with a right flow.

The next question is, “Why?”

One theory is how we read. That because we read left to right we are predisposed to “see” bonsai as right flow objects. Might be.

I’ve wondered if when we select trees—when we are choosing material—we choose them through the lens of how we read. That maybe our preferences predate the styling of the tree.

Another idea tossed about is handedness. That because most of us are right handed (I am) we create more bonsai weighted to the right.

I've never done a flow inventory in Japan. Until recently the Japanese were strict in their schooling, forcing kids to write with their right hands. Not anymore. But if handedness in flow were true I think we'd see a strong bias there to right flow. The last question would be "Does this matter?"

It may, if you enjoy setting up bonsai displays of multiple trees. Not only does a bonsai have flow, but a display does as well. Outdoors, with a group of posts, the bonsai on the ends should flow inwards or the display looks haphazard and in disunity.

Even in my large bonsai garden with lots of options I often have trouble setting up a display with the appropriate flow, if I wish for a wide mix of species.



In the garden of David Benevente, Spain. Notice the flows of the outer trees, which flow to the inside.

I'd be curious to hear your thoughts and the flow percentages in your yards!

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 for 2025

May and Simon T.

Matt S.

Phina & Marlon C.

Lizzle and Nathan G.

Jonathan W.

John M. and Blake S.

Eric and Leigh B.

Ross C.

Ruby C.

Alisan C., and Lynn H.

Mike and Candy H.

Julia and Betty D.

Quoc H.

Debbie and John H.

Hunter J.

Jacob K.

Roland L. and Krystal W.

Joey M.

Andrew M.

Michael and Gloria N.

Lyon O.

Corbin C.

Wyatt S.

Spindel, Abraham, and Kelly S.

Jorge V.

Chuck and Pat W.

Janelle W.

Fred w.

Elaine W.

Shawn and Chris W.

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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Austin Bonsai Society
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Austin, Texas 78734



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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 6:30 pm, followed by our program at 7:00 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.

For additional information, contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, TX 78734 or

Email: webmaster.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com