



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

November 2020 vol 122

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Calendar of Events

- **Virtual Exhibit**
Video available [here](#)
Slides available [here](#)
- **Nov 11, 7:00 pm**
Zoom meeting

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,

Winter is approaching and you know that means it's time to shelter our cold sensitive bonsai! Let's do that dance.... As I write this, the first chills of the upcoming season are blowing in and I am slowly preparing the yard.

Super big thank you to Sergio Cuan of M5 Bonsai for joining our Zoom session in October. He shared his approach to styling and tending to Deciduous with some excellent Japanese Maple examples. Really excited to see how that peg graft experiment goes and it's inspiring to know there are folks in North America trying and developing advanced techniques.

For the November meeting, we will have a short get together with a few events which need to happen in order for Austin Bonsai Society to operate in 2021. Please attend and say hello to fellow club members, vote on our 2021 board, vote on our 2021 budget, and participate in an online raffle!

Events for November Zoom Meeting:

- Vote on 2021 Budget
- Vote on 2021 Board
- Austin Bonsai Society 2015-2020
- End of Year Online Raffle

Message me if you have any bonsai related items to donate for the end of year raffle.

Cheers,
Brandon

Potential 2021 Board:

Any Austin Bonsai Society Member can be nominated beyond the potential list below. These people have expressed interest and are currently nominated. If you want to be considered or have someone to nominate, please reach out and we will add them to the vote selection in Nov.

Nominated List for Voting:

- President - Roland Lopez
- Vice President - Summer Lee
- Secretary - Ruwan Perrera
- Treasurer - Gloria Norberg
- Member at Large 1 - Mike Garza
- Member at Large 2 - Morgan Bean
- Member at Large 3 - Jakob Clark

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Austin Bonsai Society is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: November Austin Bonsai Society Meeting

Time: Nov 11, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7910594092?pwd=bzA2QktaZUxud2RRbjBtT3k3ZGpndz09>

Meeting ID: 791 059 4092

Passcode: 9YEiCF

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,7910594092#,,,,,0#,,179171# US (Houston)

+12532158782,,7910594092#,,,,,0#,,179171# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 791 059 4092

Passcode: 179171

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd0yo7XY2p>

Get Connected!

Join our online
discussion



Official Website

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ABS Library

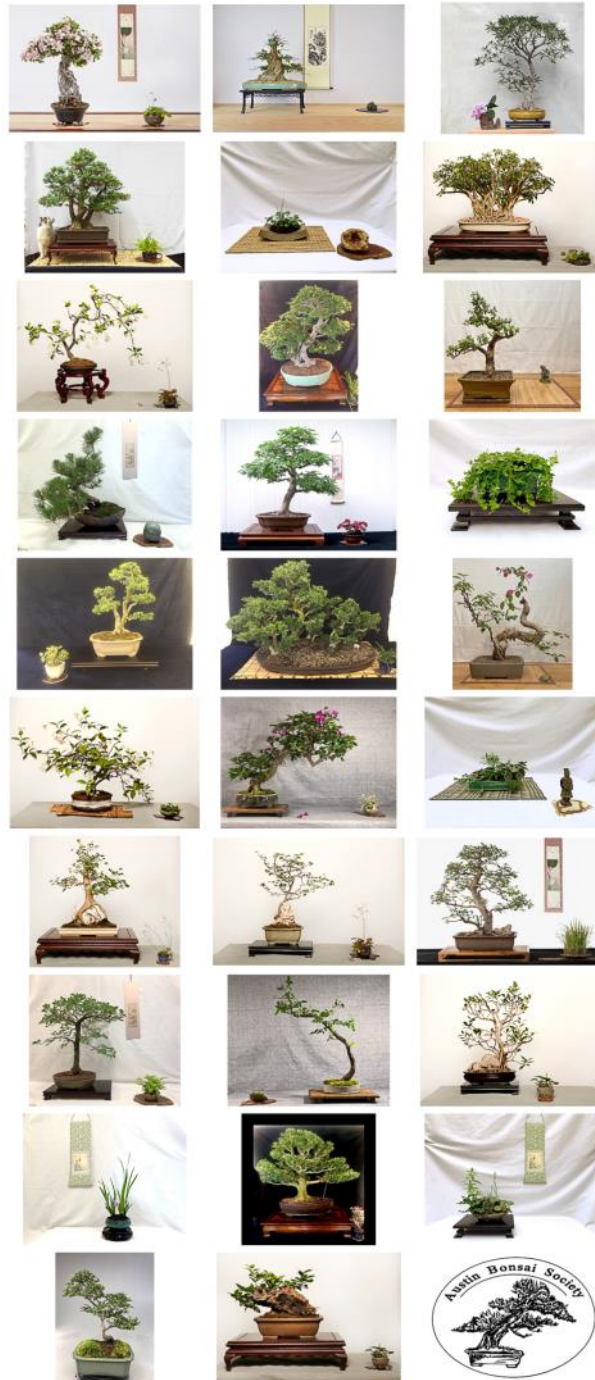
<https://abslibrary.libib.com/>

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLsknKbNLd3EOYwijkNIneA>

Virtual Exhibit

Austin Bonsai Society Virtual Show 2020



Regular Meeting Minutes

October 2020

No meeting minutes - Zoom meeting

Interactive Q/A

Online chat

Raffles

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

ABS Board Minutes

October 2020

October Board Meeting Notes

Board Attendees: Summer, Gloria, Brandon, Roland

Start 7:05

In the future we will record the Zoom meetings with guest artists to publishing on youtube.

Thank you to Sergio Cuban for his presentation last week, we will consider having Sergio out to Austin in the future!

The election of the 2021 ABS Board will be held in November on Zoom. There will be a survey presenting the slated 2021 board with an option for nominating other people before the November meeting.

The information for 2021 directory needs to be completed by February 28th.

We will publish Nov & Dec newsletters.

Summer planning to include a "how to use Slack" article in a future newsletter

We will have a November board meeting.

Adjustment to September Meeting Minutes:

"Board officially voted to withhold the \$500 annual TTSBE donation due to being in the red financially"

The majority of the board agreed to adjust this statement to read from

September:

"Board officially voted to withhold the \$500 annual TTSBE donation due to being in the red financially for the fiscal year of 2020."

The Board approves Gloria's proposed version 2 of the 2021 budget and we will vote on it in November..

End 8:03

New Members

John Bogard

Treasurer Minutes

November 2020

Money, Money, Money ...

This ABBA™ song came to mind as I discuss with you this year's ABS budget and the proposed budget for next year during these pandemic-ridden times. Our ABS Board has done an exceptional job in keeping us together and following our originally scheduled artist presentations albeit virtually since March. The Board highly encourages you to join us using SLACK™ Messaging and ZOOM™ video communications to keep us going as a vibrant group. Summer Lee and Brandon Baldauf have volunteered to assist with getting us virtually connected and Simon Tse handles our PayPal account. If you need their contact info to get connected, email me at gnorberg@austin.rr.com.

Our income for 2020 is ~55% of what we had projected and our expenses are ~64% of what we had projected which left a deficit for the year of \$770. Fortunately, we had a surplus from last year to cover this. Needless to say, we are carefully monitoring our expenses and encouraging everyone to donate items to our raffles and our auction next year so that we are able to continue with virtual bonsai education.

Our proposed budget for 2021 and a member's vote to approve will be held at our November 11th meeting. Both income and expenses are set at 53% of the 2020 budget. Regarding projected expenses, I've added the cost of a Zoom annual subscription to the "subscriptions" line item which was \$157 this year and which expires in June '21. The web hosting (3 year term) fee will be renegotiated this next year and I've removed the ABS sponsorship of a '21 convention registration from the "donation" line.

Contact Gloria if you have questions or would like clarification of any of the budget items for either year prior to the November vote. My contact info is below.

Bonsai On!
Gloria

Gloria Norberg
gnorberg@austin.rr.com

November Bonsai

By John Miller

You may need to reconsider your preparations for taking your bonsai into winter this year. If they were damaged with the high temperatures they may be growing new roots or the new foliage may not get sufficiently hardy. If you had damage I would suggest you work on the safe side and give those trees a little more protection and care. New roots would require closer attention to watering.

Have your winter quarters clean and ready so that you can put your trees there quickly in the event a freeze is forecast. But don't put them there too soon as they are easier to care for up on the bench. Some use an unheated garage. I prefer to set the pots on a gravel area on the ground. This utilizes the ground heat to keep the roots from freezing. The pots can then be covered with a loose mulch for insulation. Do not cover the ground with plastic, it will hold puddles of water.

Watch the weather so you can protect tender and semi-hardy plants. I prefer to keep them outside as long as possible but you should remember that frost, which can damage tender leaves, can occur at temps in the upper thirties. I watch the dew point temp which is when the moisture condenses out of the air. Clear nights with no wind along with that low dew point really spell trouble.

Most important in winter is to keep the soil moisture at a proper level. This sometimes is hard to do because the trees do not use as much water as when they are growing. However the cold winds will dry out the tops quickly. I believe that most winter damage in Texas is due to the lack of water rather than low temperatures. Mulch helps keep the roots warm and retards evaporation but it makes for difficulty in seeing if the soil is damp enough. Most soils with enough organic material to keep the tree happy in the summer will be too wet, if watered daily in the winter and wet cold means root rot. Try to position them so you can check the soil. If you are not watching the soil in their pots you may either get root rot fungus or it dries out, either way — you have a finished (for you beginners that reads dead) bonsai. It is easier to care

for if you have them under roof, that way you know you need to tend to watering.

Fall is an important time in controlling pathogens. Try to get any eggs, over-wintering insects, and fungal spores. A horticultural oil spray should be applied (but not on buttonwoods) during the winter to control scale. It will also get any over-wintering insects or eggs. This purpose is what lime-sulphur was first used for, and some Japanese still use it, but the oil is safer on bonsai and may be used on evergreens where the lime-sulphur should not be used. Again, do not use oil based spray on buttonwoods.

After moving the bonsai, it would be a good idea to spray the benches with a stronger lime-sulfur to kill insect eggs and mold spores. If you will be putting the trees back under them for the winter, move the trees away and spray them. It would be good to have enough cold to stop the insect activity on the trees so you will not re-infest the area when the trees go back to await to cold weather.

By this time any tropicals you have should be under cover. Most do not like the temp below 50 degrees. All tropicals should be checked and treated for any insect problems since any insects will multiply fast when they get into warmer quarters. Spider mites and scale can be especially damaging if the plant is moved in the house where the humidity is low.

The semi-tropical plants like crape myrtle pomegranate and pyracantha need to go dormant to stay healthy over a long time but they cannot take much cold on the roots. They will be killed by temps somewhere between 25 and 30 degrees. These I set down on the ground and mulch for light freezes and then bring into a protected area for the colder winter. Sometimes I will let them go dormant for a month and then take them and some shohin into the greenhouse to start early and I can enjoy their new foliage in January.

November Bonsai

By John Miller

The general wisdom is that dormant trees need no fertilizer. However, as long as the soil is not frozen there will be some root activity. I do not add any fertilizer to dormant trees but I will leave the organic fertilizer cakes on until spring in case they happen to get some good out of them. The organics will not break down much in cold weather anyway.

Evergreen types (e.g. pines junipers yaupons and live oaks) however continue some activity and therefore can use a small amount of low nitrogen fertilizer

BIG NOTE: If you have a tree that is weak and unhealthy you should not attempt to style it in any way, just get it happy by adjusting its soil, feeding, and getting rid of any parasites. Styling just adds to its stress and problems.

Fall and winter is the proper time to do wiring, styling, and plucking work on pines. Repotting is saved until growth starts in the spring and candle pruning in summer. Other conifers may also be worked on.

When trees go dormant which indicates a reduced sap flow they may be pruned, that is having major limbs removed. Trimming may also be done while the leaves are off the trees and you can see what you are doing. Evergreen types will probably still be active. Pruning them should be held until later.

Take advantage of the slowdown in bonsai care to determine your repotting needs.

Do you need a different pot?

Do you need to get more soil components?

How about mixing some potting soils for your needs?

Be sure to label the use of each type of mix so you won't forget what is what.



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Austin, TX 78748	Austin, TX 78758
(512)444-2100	(512)459-4353

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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Austin Bonsai Society
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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.