



# Bonsai Notebook

[www.austinbonsaisociety.com](http://www.austinbonsaisociety.com)

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

November 2023 vol 158

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## Calendar of Events

### November 8, 2023

- ◆ Holiday celebrations
- ◆ 6:30pm - 9:00pm (6pm Set-up)
- ◆ Annual All Holiday Party - Bring your favorite dish to share
- ◆ RSVP via EventBrite
- ◆ Gift exchange (Optional)

## 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*  
*Everyone*

*Tree Hosts*  
*Everyone*

# President's Message

*By Jonathan W.*

Our Holiday Party is happening November 8th... It will be so nice to spend time with our bonsai friends and family, enjoying food and making memories.

Can't believe our year is coming to a close! Much thanks to the 2 dedicated board members who are rotating off from their service to our club. Roland Lopez has been serving for several years, is a past President of our club, and has brought excellent programs and artists to our club as Vice President. His dedication and passion for bonsai has been a great asset to our club for many years and I can speak for us all when saying our club has been made better by his contributions and jovial love for Bonsai and the Club. Jacob Keller has also brought an enthusiastic and supportive presence to our board and we have enjoyed having his insight and camaraderie during his time on the board and the special contributions he has made. We are a volunteer-run organization and appreciate all the effort it takes to keep our Society strong while carrying many decades of traditions to a vibrant emerging community of bonsai artisans. I can't wait to see what our future board has in store for us in 2024!

\*\*\*Remember to Register and make hotel reservations EARLY for the 2024 Texas Bonsai Convention in Houston – As of now, Nov 4, 2023 is the estimated date for registration to begin. It is highly likely the Hotel will sell out of rooms quickly for this Intentionally-inclusive bonsai convention with Bonsai Clubs International. We are fortunate this will only be a 2.5 hour drive from Austin, TX and are hoping to see a big turnout from our membership \*\*\*

Happy Styling!

Jonathan Wood, Austin Bonsai Society President 2023

## BONSAI QUOTE:

*"Bonsai is horticulture, first and foremost. No matter how beautifully formed, a dead stick in a glob of mud is not bonsai. After the requirements for the living organism have been set, it is time to look to expression." -- Cheever, "The Tableau of Bonsai," Bonsai Journal of The American Bonsai Society (Summer 1992)*

## 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](mailto:payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com) for convenient electronic payment options (processing fee will be added).

# Vice President's Message

*By Roland L.*

Seasons greetings ABS!

It's been another wonderful year full of friends, fun, and learning. We are very fortunate to have a club like ours. I know for a fact that some of our guest artists love joining us to share their knowledge. Let's keep it going in 2024!

This was my last year serving on the board. I'd like to thank all of you for allowing me to serve you. It was a great experience and I believe I've grown as a person because of it.

I'd like to give a huge thank you to Pete Parker from Houston for his presentation last month. Pete is a talented practitioner with so much to teach us. His trees were stunning and his presentation was full of great information! Thank you for joining us Pete on such short notice and for saving our October meeting!

Please join us for our November holiday party, everyone! Let's celebrate with food, drinks, and friends. This is our last meeting of the year, so don't miss a chance to bond with other club members before our winter break.

Love you ABS! I'll see you soon.

Big hugs,  
Roland

# ABS Board Meeting Minutes

## Get Connected!

Join our online  
discussion



## Official Website

Visit our website at  
[austinbonsaisociety.com](https://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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSkNkBNld3EOYwjkjNIneA)

### Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting Minutes, October 17, 2023

#### Meeting Attendees:

Jonathan W.  
Roland L.  
Gloria N.  
Eric B.  
Simon T.  
Everardo V.  
Jacob K.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM.
2. **Secretary's Report** for September Board meeting reviewed and approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** reviewed and approved. Discussion of proposed 2024 budget, which was approved with amendments.
4. **Preparation for November meeting:** discussion of holiday celebrations.
5. **LSBF Delegate Report:** None.
6. **TTSBE Announcements:** Busy preparation for Kathy Shaner Seminar (Nov 3-5).
7. **Future Items:** Discussion of Honorable Members and 2024 calendar/events.
8. Meeting closed at 9:00 PM.

## Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

Date	Day of Week	Event Type	Artist	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
11/3/23 11/4/23 11/5/23	FRI, SAT SUN	TTSBE - Bonsai Seminar	TTSBE Kathy Shaner Seminar Weekend	TTSBE Bonsai Seminar Weekend <u>with Kathy Shaner</u> – FOCUS: Deciduous Bonsai **Registration and Pre- Payment Required ** Space is limited ** <a href="https://www.ttsbe.org/2023kathyshanerseminarinvitede_final.pdf">https://www.ttsbe.org/2023kathyshanerseminarinvitede_final.pdf</a>	Austin Water Center for Environmental Research 2210 FM 973 Austin, TX 78725 (SOUTHEAST AUSTIN)	RSVP and Pre- Payment required. \$180 for Seminar. Workshops are additional pre- paid cost
11/8/23	WED	Club <u>Night</u> - Party / Social	Holiday Party	For Club Members and Guests– Potluck, Gift Exchange Game, Decorated Bonsai Displays, Social Time and Memories!	<u>Zilker</u> Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX	Sign up for Potluck items and Please RSVP Attendance <u>thru</u> "Evite" email so we have enough tables and chairs
12/13/23	WED	***	***	*** NO MEETING in December ***	***	***
1/10/24	WED	Club <u>Night</u> - Demo / Lecture	TBD	TBD	<u>Zilker</u> Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX	Raffle Table Items/Donations Welcome
4/25/24 4/26/24 4/27/24 4/28/24	THUR FRI SAT SUN	Convention: Bonsai Workshops,  Demos, Sales, Vendors,  Banquet,  Public Display	Bjorn Bjorholm,  Sergio Cuan,  Min Hsuan Lo	Bonsai On the Bayou 2024 Convention by LSBF (LSBF + <u>Bonsai Clubs International</u> Attending) – Hosted by Houston Bonsai Society – Registration begins November 4! Gearing up to bring you a first- class and exciting international in scope weekend" <a href="https://www.facebook.com/HoustonBonsai">https://www.facebook.com/HoustonBonsai</a>	Houston Marriott Westchase (800) 452-5110 2900 Briarpark Dr, Houston, TX 77042	RSVP room reservations, workshops, and registration EARLY before it sells out – Registration Begins on Nov 4, 2023**

## November Bonsai

by John Miller

A couple of years ago I dug out an interesting fact that is surprising. There was only one month of the entire year, in the Dallas records, that the high temperature did not reach 90 and that month the record high was 89. Surprisingly that month was not January, it was November.

All of this means that you should have your winter quarters ready. Select one for deciduous trees that will be out of the sun. Air circulation is good but too much wind will desiccate them especially in freezing temps. Be sure you will be able to check their watering. Clean up all debris.

Before putting the trees into winter storage treat them for over-wintering insects and eggs. Dormant oil spray is good on trees with no green, foliage or buds. A dilute solution of lime sulfur is an old gardener's dormant spray for insect and fungus control. Use it on very cool days and dilute it 1 part lime sulfur to 20 parts water. Be sure to read the label on your bottle in case there are different strengths available. This solution should also be applied to benches tops, posts and the soil surrounding them (if you have gravel instead of grass) to eliminate hiding eggs and spores. If you have a greenhouse treat it also before the weather gets too cold to put your plants outside or move them to one end while you treat the other end.

At this time of the year deciduous plants do not need fertilizer. Evergreens will continue a slow growth and will benefit for a light fertilizer feeding. Use one with a lower nitrogen (first number) like 0- 10-10 at no more than half the recommended feeding rate.

Watering should be done with care during the cool and/or cold weather. Deciduous trees will use some water to replace that lost to winds and evaporation. Evergreen trees will need a little more but not as much as in summer. The easiest way is to sort your pots into groups, those that dry quickly, those that are slower to dry, and those that seem to stay damp. This will let you water faster and yet not over-water the ones staying damp. Make a mental note to repot the ones staying too damp.

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 lack of water rather than to 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.

Repotting of hardy trees can be done anytime the trees are dormant. However it is safer to do that chore in the spring as the buds are swelling. New roots will start forming immediately upon repotting in order for the tree to absorb water. If you do repot in the fall you should protect the new roots from freezing during the winter. Do you need to change the pot? Making notes at this time while getting the trees ready for winter will give you 3-4 months to find the proper pot.

When trees go dormant which indicates a reduced sap flow they may be pruned, that is have 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.

**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.

By this time any tropical 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 into the greenhouse to start early and I can enjoy their new foliage in January.

Learn to think in terms related to plant characteristics instead of calendar periods (i.e. use 'when dormant' instead of October, 'candle growth' instead of April, etc). That will enable you to read bonsai articles correctly whether written in Japan Florida or wherever. Note that some tree cultivars (like the cork bark black pine) are notably weaker than the standards of the species and require different pruning and care.

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.

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## New/Renewed Members

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Brandon R.



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## 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](mailto: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



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AQUAPONICS  
HYDROPONICS & ORGANICS

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Owner: Troy Smith

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**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

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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.