



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

October 2020 vol 121

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Calendar of Events

- **Virtual Exhibit**
Video available [here](#)
Slides available [here](#)
- **Oct 14, 6:00 pm**
Sergio Cuan

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,

Welcome to Fall!!! The weather is refreshing and all of the bonsai are just loving the constant rain these last couple of days! Mega thank you to everyone who made it out for the auction in September. We were able to raise a decent amount of funding to help with future events this year and next year!

Check out the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society virtual show! They have some great specimens displayed online and I was able to be in Colorado earlier this month to help film a demo for their club. You can see the demo on their site - <https://www.rmbonsai.org/copy-of-51st-exhibition> Demo : European Olive (Olea) Bonsai

The October meeting will feature Sergio Cuan of M5 Bonsai (on Instagram) who will be remotely joining our Zoom session. He will share his knowledge and experience about Deciduous trees.

Sergio's bio:

I am a Cuban-American artist and graphic designer with a BFA in Art and Design from Pratt Institute. I discovered my love for art and nature very early on as a child. I first saw a bonsai tree when I was a teenager, and when I learned what these curious tiny trees were, the marriage between art and nature simply captured my imagination. Bonsai to me is a unique art form that holds commonalities to painting, drawing and sculpture. But unlike those art forms, bonsai is alive. Practicing bonsai is an intimate dialogue between artist and tree. It is cause and effect. It is interactive. That give and take is what gives bonsai its own unique dimension. It's fascinating to think that in a very small, contained space you can experience nature in all its complexity and mystique.

For the November meeting, we will have a short get together on Zoom where we vote for the 2021 board and chat for a bit catching up before the calendar end of 2020. Hope to see you there! Reach out to Brandon if you are interested in participating on the ABS board!

Cheers,
Brandon

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

October Zoom Meeting Information:

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

Topic: October ABS Meeting

Time: Oct 14, 2020 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84611541113>

Meeting ID: 846 1154 1113

One tap mobile

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+16699009128,,84611541113# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

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Meeting ID: 846 1154 1113

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84611541113>

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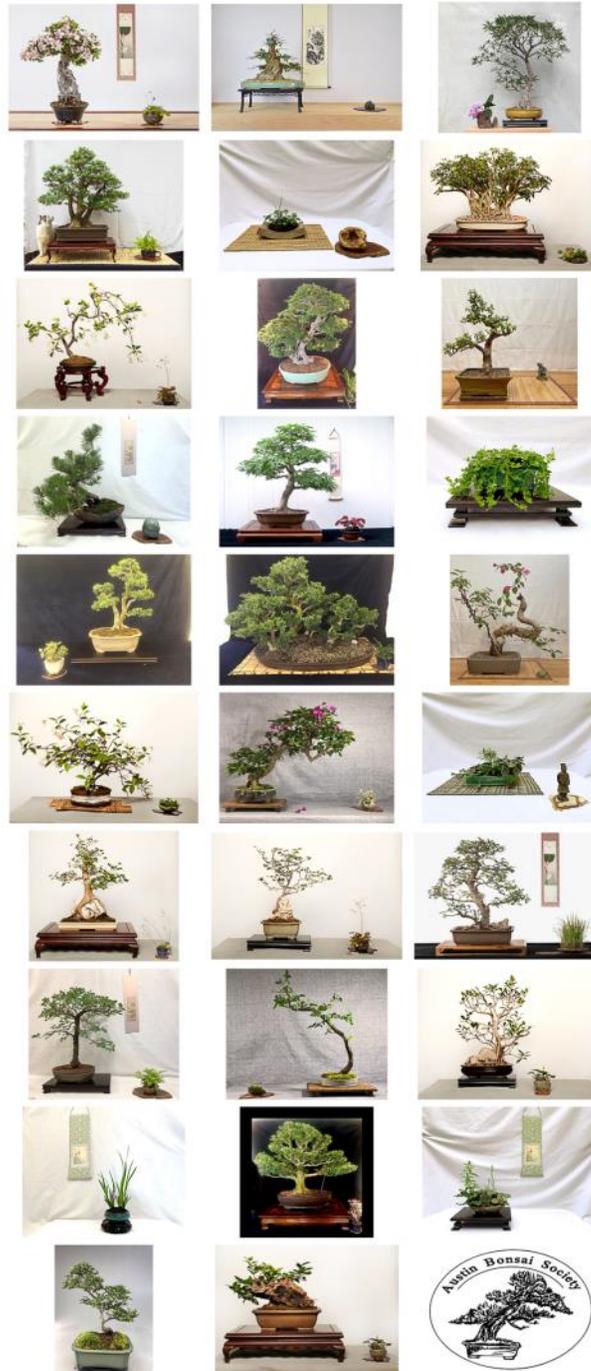
YouTube



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channel/
UCLsknKbNLd3EOYwijkNIneA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLsknKbNLd3EOYwijkNIneA)

Virtual Exhibit

Austin Bonsai Society Virtual Show 2020



Regular Meeting Minutes

September 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 (Brandon/Roland)

September 2020

Start Time 7:05

Attendees: Roland, Gloria, Brandon, Chris, Mike

Agenda:

Auction Feedback

2021 Programming

LSBF 2021

2021 Board

2021 Budget

2020 October & November

Gloria will be meeting with Meshal (Crowne Royal connection) this Thursday
Summer and Roland are planning 2021 programs, let them know what topics or artists you are interested in!
2021 Budget to be proposed at October Board Meeting

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

2021 board nominations are in progress and will be officially voted on in our November meeting
October has a deciduous program with Sergio Cuan (m5 bonsai)
To raffle off a Japanese Maple at the event.
Todd is planning on a virtual presentation for January `21 program

End Time: 7:41

New Members

John Bogard

October Bonsai

By John Miller

Take a good look at your bonsai before you put them away for the winter. Is the foliage pretty ragged looking after our hot summer? Something you may get to try next year is a product with silicon in it which is supposed to make for stronger and thicker cell walls. Stronger cells in the leaves will help them withstand more heat and wind. There are probably several brands--one that I know about is Dyna-Gro Pro-tek. It has a 0-0-3 formula with silicon so you could use it for a fall fertilizer if you desire. Check website www.dyna-gro.com.

Some may re-pot in the fall but I feel that it is counter-productive to do so. New roots are more prone to freeze damage if we get a bad winter. Repot at the proper time next spring which is when the buds swell and new growth is imminent. However, as Kathy Shaner (and Sylvia has said it too) has recommended that you remove the top 1/4 to 1/2 inch of soil and replace it with fresh soil. This will help eliminate weed seed that has blown in and may make watering easier.

Watch your watering now that the temperature is a little lower. Cut back on the watering but do not allow the trees to dry out. Trees require less water during the shorter days and lower temperatures. However you need to remember that the wind can still stress the trees and dry out the soil so you should water by checking the soil and not just on a given schedule.

If you have not checked your wiring yet this fall, you had better look at it. The fall growth can make the tree swell up and get bad wire marks in a hurry. If the tree/limbs do not stay where you want them, then rewire it placing the new wire in a slightly different path or possible wrap in the opposite direction.

While you are looking at the wires look also at the lower trunks. If there is any moss growing on the bark spray it with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. Moss may look aged but it rots the bark quickly.

Insects will continue to be present. Cooler (but not cold) days mean a resurgence of the aphids. Mites will also still be around. Scale also can be a problem. Treat with a light horticultural oil which will kill the adults and also wipe out the eggs and over-wintering pupae.

Be sure to cover all the cracks in the bark to get to the eggs. The organic spray that I use for all insects (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water) will work on evergreens and will also give them some nutrients. The dead scale will probably have to be removed physically. A soft toothbrush works for me (I sometimes need to wet the branch to loosen the scale).

Feeding of deciduous trees should be discontinued for the winter. Evergreens and conifers will benefit from a low nitrogen feeding. Organic fertilizers are better as they will breakdown into nutrients more slowly as the season gets cooler and the trees activity slows also. Be sure to use one that supplies the 13 micronutrients needed. The organic spray given above can be used as a soil drench but dilute it a little more. Kelp is an excellent source of the essential minor elements needed by plants.

After the trees lose their foliage, you can study their trunk lines and branch structure. Any faulty styling and the general design features can be observed more easily and corrections planned. Look for crossing branches. Cut vertical growing twigs both growing up and those growing down. Reduce long internodes by cutting back and growing new extensions. Clean out heavy branch clusters that make the tree look too dense. Be particularly attentive to prevent the formation of heavy branches in the top part of the tree where faster growth often occurs. Work can be done now or later during the winter at your leisure but it is too easy to forget about it when the tree is in winter storage.

Winter quarters: Here in Texas more trees are lost in the winter due to drying out than to the cold. Of course that doesn't mean for you to leave the tropicals out or to let the roots freeze on southern trees like the crape myrtle. Even in a greenhouse or sunny window the soil can dry out amazingly fast. The wind in winter has amazing drying powers too. So while protecting the roots be sure to give it a wind screen but make sure that you can check the soil for watering needs. (it helps here if you know which

October Bonsai

By John Miller

particular plants dry out faster and situate them together. Winter kill usually comes because the soil has frozen and the sun and/or wind is removing water from the tops. The roots cannot obtain water to replenish the loss and the top desiccates to the point of death.

Creating some shohin bonsai can lead to some winter enjoyment. Since they do not take much room you can find a space in the house or a small greenhouse. Let them go dormant for a short period and you can take them in and have new growth in a very short time. Small elms are especially good for this. Then set back and enjoy your little fellows in the house while the winter wears on.

And finally, look for some good potensa at nurseries who are clearing out their area to make room for the Xmas trees. Remember that stuff half dead may be great--you are only interested in the lower trunk so don't look at the green bushy top (after all it is merely junk to us)



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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 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!

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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.