



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

October 2023 vol 157

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Calendar of Events

October 11, 2023

- ◆ Topic: Deciduous
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
- ◆ Meeting begins at 7 pm
- ◆ Social starts at 6:30 pm

November 8, 2023

- ◆ Holiday celebrations

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
Zerita R.
Elaine W.

Tree Hosts
Roland L.

President's Message

By Jonathan W.

What an incredible auction we had in September! Rows and rows of auction items from our club members pitching-in to donate to the cause. It was great having Ryan Odegard back as our Auctioneer – always a fun time to be a part of this event and we thank him for his service to our club! Special thanks to our club members for so many thoughtful donations items that sustain our Bonsai Club. Our annual auction is usually the largest source of program funding. As club members, we should all be proud and grateful for the generous donations and winning bids on bonsai, pre-bonsai, pots, and similar items. Thank you, Thank you, Thanks!

We will have sign ups for the November Holiday party potluck so think a bit about what scrumptious dish you may wish to contribute — we have signups to try and cover a diversity of food options, vegetables, entrees, meats, vegetarian items, gluten free items, desserts etc.

Also, at our October meeting, our Nominating committee will announce the nominated Board member candidates for 2023. Voting for board members will take place at the November Holiday party Meeting.

Please remember to RSVP for the November 3-5 Kathy Shaner Seminar – limited space and fantastic topic: Deciduous Bonsai!

Happy Styling,
Jonathan Wood ABS President

Bonsai Quote:

Masahiko Kimura said, "*One of the most important things any beginner needs to learn is how to expose the structure of a tree. Until we do this, our plants are just bushes.*"

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 for convenient electronic payment options (processing fee will be added).

Vice President's Message

By Roland L.

Hi my friends,

I hope all is well and that your trees are starting to look happy again. We made it through this hellish summer. I lost a few trees but that's okay. Autumn is approaching with promises of cooler weather. Fall is the time to make sure your trees have fertilizer. So please make sure they have it and they'll reward you for it.

Sorry I could not be present for our last meeting. I was in Tennessee studying with Bjorn Bjorholm at Eisei-en. I'm looking forward to hearing how the meeting went from y'all! I encourage members to take advantage of moments like that. I remember frequently getting stuck when I was working on a tree by myself. When I was able to get guidance from more experienced members, it gave me the confidence to make those design decisions. We have many talented members here to help you if needed.

There is a change of plans for this month's meeting. Our LSBF touring artist, Jim Doyle had to cancel his Texas tour for personal reasons. So for this month's meeting we are honored to have Mr. Pete Parker of the Houston Bonsai Society with us discussing deciduous trees! I think we are a deciduous heavy kind of club. And rightly so! We are blessed with many amazing broadleaf species here in central Texas. So I think this meeting will be especially beneficial to ABS. There will also be a tree for raffle that you DO NOT want to miss out on!! And guess what...it's a deciduous tree.

Hope to see all of you there!
Roland

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

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discussion



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Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting Minutes, September 19, 2023

Meeting Attendees:

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

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM.
2. **Secretary's Report** for August Board meeting reviewed and approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** reviewed and approved.
4. **Preparation for October meeting:** discussion of alternative program since Jim Doyle had to cancel.
5. **LSBF Delegate Report:** Next LSBF Board meeting is Sept. 26.
6. **TTSBE Announcements:** Busy preparation for Kathy Shaner Seminar (Nov 3-5).
7. **Future Items:** Discussion of a Slack tutorial/workshop, perhaps over Zoom, or at a meeting.
8. Meeting closed at 8:49 PM.

Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

Date	Day of Week	Event Type	Artist	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
10/11/23	WED	Club Night - Demo/ Presentation	Guest <u>Artist</u> : Pete Parker from Houston Bonsai Society	Deciduous Bonsai <u>presentation</u> – Get to know Pete Parker a bit in this interview he did for local news : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-poi6I9KqQ	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX	donation table items welcome
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 ** https://www.ttsbe.org/2023kathyshanerseminarinfinal.pdf	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!	Zilker 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
4/25/24 4/26/24 4/27/24 4/28/24	THUR FRI SAT SUN	Convention: Bonsai Workshops, Demos, Sales, Vendors, <u>Banquet</u> , <u>Public Display</u>	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” https://www.facebook.com/HoustonBonsai	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**

October Bonsai

by John Miller

Some years October here is quite warm with temps in the 90 while other years may see some frosts. All you can do is have your area ready and watch the forecasts.

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. When removing wire you should follow one wire from one end down the branch all the way to the other. If you jump from one wire to another, it is very easy to miss a section. That would cause the branch to have a large swelling. Then the only solution would be to cut the limb off and grow a new one. A long repair job.

Cut back on the watering now that the temperature is a little lower but don't 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 so water by checking the soil and not just on a given schedule.


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. Evergreens and any deciduous trees whose foliage turns can be treated with an 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.

Feeding of deciduous trees should be discontinued for the winter. Evergreens and conifers will benefit from a low nitrogen feeding. One such mix might be 70% cottonseed meal and 30% bonemeal. Being organic, this will breakdown into nutrients more slowly as the season gets cooler and the trees activity slows also.

As the trees loose 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 the make the tree look too dense. Be particularly attentive to 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.

Some may repot in the fall but I feel that it is counter-productive to do so. It has been stated that the key to safe repotting is to minimize root disturbance and to exclude severe pruning. This seems to me to be a recipe for developing root problems, poor drainage leading to root rot and the inability of the soil to hold enough water to last all day. No heavy pruning will lead to the lack of refinement and a top heavy tree. I would recommend that you do the above paragraph this fall and repot at the proper time next spring.

Tropicals are the group that give most people trouble. If you do not have a greenhouse you have to find a place that does not freeze, has enough light, and will allow you to water properly. Florescent lights on shelves in the garage could be a solution. The lights should be within six inches of the plants for best results. If you try to keep them in the house, just remember that most houses are very low humidity in winter and that the sun coming thru the glass can be



very hot and scorch the leaves.

Some plants like the pyracantha and crepe myrtle will grow outdoors in the ground in this area but the roots are not cold hardy. Those plants I try to let have some cold but get them protected before a freeze. Usually they get set on the ground with a light mulch for the light freezes (to 25 or so).

Deciduous trees should be getting ready for winter. You should be holding back on the nitrogen fertilizers now so that you discourage and new growth. Flowering and fruiting bonsai may be given some phosphorous and potassium if you desire. Insect damage is minimal at this time and is usually only cosmetic. If you have had scale problems, use a horticultural oil spray to keep them from over wintering on your trees

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

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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(call for directions)



Hawk Eye
Bonsai

Bonsai Notebook

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 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.