



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

October 2024 vol 169

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## Calendar of Events

### October 9, 2024

- ◆ Topic: BYOT
- ◆ Advisors: Joey M., Chuck W., Greg S.
- ◆ Time: 6:30pm (Social) 7:00pm (Meeting)
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden

### October 15, 2024

- ◆ Board Meeting

### November 2-3, 2024

- ◆ TTSBE Annual Seminar
- ◆ Artist: [Suthin Sukosolvisit](#)
- ◆ Location: Austin Water Center for Environmental Research
- ◆ More information [here](#)

## 2024 Board of Directors

**Jonathan W.**  
President

**Eric B.**  
Vice President

**Simon T.**  
Secretary

**Gloria N.**  
Treasurer

**Judy G.**  
Member-At-Large

**Ever V.**  
Member-At-Large

**Vacant**  
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 Odegaard back as our Auctioneer for a 3rd year – 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 2024. Voting for board members will take place at the November Holiday party Meeting.

We are needing a few volunteers for the 2 events below (Oct 25th and Nov 2nd) If you are able to attend please email [Jonathan.WoodJS@gmail.com](mailto:Jonathan.WoodJS@gmail.com) – Your help sharing your bonsai art and enthusiasm with members of the community is greatly appreciated!

FRI 10/25/24	PUBLIC COMMUNITY EVENT Austin Area Garden Council	Volunteers needed - Please RSVP to: Jonathan.WoodJS@gmail.com	<b>60th Anniversary of Austin Area Garden Council (AAGC)</b> - 2 to 4 ABS members host a booth to answer questions and promote our club's Long history as part of AAGC. Setup approx 9:15AM - OPEN HOUSE Event Time: 10:00AM - 11:30AM	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd Austin, TX	n/a
SAT 11/2/24	PUBLIC COMMUNITY EVENT	Volunteers needed - Please RSVP to: Jonathan.WoodJS@gmail.com	<b>Austin Bonsai Meet and Greet with the community @ Roots 'n Wings Festival Weekend 2</b> 3 or more ABS members host a booth to answer questions and promote Bonsai Club Awareness __Event Setup – 11:30am – 12:15 pm __Event open to the public – 12:30pm __Event end time – 4:30pm (we close at 5pm that day)	2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX 78757 Austin Public Library - John Gillum Branch (New name – was formerly called "North Village- Austin Public Library")	n/a

# President's Message

*By Jonathan W.*

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."



*Special display by Kathy Shaner, Terry and Sheila Ward (Shohin Society of Texas archive)*

# Vice President's Message

*By Eric B.*

Happy October, everyone! Fall is here and the weather's getting cooler - why, it only got up to 93 today! Some of my trees are still having a growth spurt, while others are starting to slow down a bit. Watch your watering, because while the temperature may be lower, it's been much drier recently so soil can still dry out quickly.

**Julian Tsai's** visit was a delight. He worked on a Contorted Philbert, and gave a great lecture at the same time. We hope to have him visit again in the future.

The **ABS annual auction** on Sept. 21 went very well, with a full house and lots of donated material. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped set up, run the auction, and clean up afterwards. As always, it is you, the members, who make all of our events work. Thank you, all.

In October we have another **Bring Your OwnTree** night. **Chuck Ware, Joey McCoy, and Greg Setter** have graciously agreed to be on hand to answer questions, provide advice, and generally share their more than 100 years of combined bonsai experience. So bring in a tree or two, and let's have some fun!

I regret to inform you that I am unable to arrange a workshop for October. Please accept my apologies.

In November, we have our **Annual Holiday Party!** It will be a potluck, with turkey provided by ABS. We will need tons of volunteers for this, to help set up, to bring side dishes, to bring plates, cups and cutlery, to clean up afterward, and a host of other things. I will set up an Evite; I will provide a link at the October meeting. Oh, and there will of course be an optional **White Elephant Gift Exchange**, which is always lods of fun.

Thanks for reading, and I'll see you at the meeting!

# 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

## YouTube



[https://www.youtube.com/  
channel/  
UCLSknKbNLd3EOYwijkNIneA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSknKbNLd3EOYwijkNIneA)

**Date: September 17, 2024**

**Location: Virtual**

### Meeting Attendees:

- ◆ Jonathan (President)
- ◆ Eric (Vice President)
- ◆ Simon (Secretary)
- ◆ Gloria (Treasurer)
- ◆ Ever
- ◆ Judy

### President:

- ◆ Touched on name tags, artists, materials, auction, slack, raffles and other topics
- ◆ Aligned speakers/artists for first quarter of 2025
- ◆ Volunteer hours submitted
- ◆ Talked about collaboration with Zilker on 10/26 and 11/2
- ◆ Looking for AAGC representative

### Vice President:

- ◆ Discussed Julian's visit
- ◆ Talked about programs and preparation for the rest of the year
- ◆ BYOT might will invite Joey, Chuck and Greg

### Secretary:

- ◆ Meeting starts at **7:33pm**
- ◆ Last report was accepted without edits

### Treasurer:

- ◆ Provide financial updates and balances
- ◆ Need more raffles items, discussed tiers of raffles and implementation
- ◆ Mentioned auction logistics and items solicitation

Meeting adjourned at **9:12 pm**

## Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

Date	Event Type	Artist / Presenter	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
WED 10/9/24	CLUB MEETING - WORKSHOP	Member Guided	<b>BYOT (Bring Your Own Tree)</b> - 3 stations around the room. Major styling, Refinement, and Wiring assistance 6:30PM doors open /Social time, 7:00PM start time	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd Austin, TX	donation table items welcome
FRI 10/25/24	PUBLIC COMMUNITY EVENT Austin Area Garden Council	Volunteers needed - Please RSVP to: Jonathan.WoodJS@gmail.com	<b>60th Anniversary of Austin Area Garden Council (AAGC)</b> - 2 to 4 ABS members host a booth to answer questions and promote our club's Long history as part of AAGC. Setup approx 9:15AM - OPEN HOUSE Event Time: 10:00AM - 11:30AM	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd Austin, TX	n/a
SAT 11/2/24	PUBLIC COMMUNITY EVENT	Volunteers needed - Please RSVP to: Jonathan.WoodJS@gmail.com	<b>Austin Bonsai Meet and Greet with the community @ Roots 'n Wings Festival Weekend 2</b> 3 or more ABS members host a booth to answer questions and promote Bonsai Club Awareness __Event Setup – 11:30am – 12:15 pm __Event open to the public – 12:30pm __Event end time – 4:30pm (we close at 5pm that day)	2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX 78757 Austin Public Library - John Gillum Branch (New name – was formerly called “North Village- Austin Public Library”)	n/a
SAT SUN 11/2/24 11/3/24	BONSAI SEMINAR: The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit (TTSBE)	<b>Special Event with Guest Artist:</b> <a href="#">Suthin Sukosolvisit</a>	<b>TTSBE Bonsai Seminar Weekend with Suthin Sukosolvisit</b> – **Registration and Pre-Payment is Required ** Space is limited ** Details ( <a href="http://ttsbe.org">ttsbe.org</a> ) ! RSVP <a href="mailto:webmaster.ttsbe@gmail.com">webmaster.ttsbe@gmail.com</a>	Austin Water Center for Environmental Research 2210 FM 973 Austin, TX 78725 (SOUTHEAST AUSTIN)	RSVP and Pre-Payment required. \$ Cost for Seminar \$180. Workshops are additional pre-paid cost of \$120 - \$150

## Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

Date	Event Type	Artist / Presenter	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
WED 11/13/24	Club Night - Party / Social	Holiday Party	For Club Members and Guests– Potluck, Gift Ex- change Game, Decorated Bonsai Displays, Social Time and Memories!	Zilker Botanical Gar- den Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX	Sign up for Potluck items and Please RSVP Attendance thru “Evite” email so we have enough tables and chairs
WED	***	***	*** NO MEETING in Decem- ber ***	***	***

## October Bonsai

by John Miller

Time to take a good look at your tropicals. Before going into the dry low light conditions most of us have for winter quarters they need to be vigorous, pruned and free of problems. Give them a good feeding preferably with an organic fertilizer. If you use a water soluble type use a low dilution and feed every 2-3 days. Prune all new growth back to the trees best shape. To increase ramification on developed trees keep any new growth pinched to 2-3 leaves. Use your desired insecticide and/or fungicide now and again just before you take them in.

Remember that some tropicals do not like to go below 50 degrees while others are only semi tropical and will take a frost but does not want their roots frozen. The buttonwood is an example of the first group and the crepe myrtle would be in the second. Here in the Dallas-Ft Worth area we will probably not see a freeze until late in November but there may be some cool nights in October. I prefer to leave the tropicals out as long as possible. I want the semi-tropicals to go dormant and then put them in a cool location to stay dormant all winter.

Now is the time to start your outdoor trees toward their winter siesta. If you wait until the temperature drops, you get too rushed and omit some of the little housekeeping duties. Start now by making sure that the area will be free of insects and other vermin.

When the leaves start turning the sap has quit for the year and you may check the branches and twigs to see if any need to be trimmed. Cutting back any protruding branches will keep them from snagging and possibly breaking other trees when you put them down close together. Don't cut the buds off the spring flowering plants unless absolutely necessary if you want flowers next spring.

Kathy Shaner suggests removing the top half inch of soil and replenishing it with new soil. This will remove weed seeds that have blown in and will make next year's job easier. Of course if you plan on repotting next spring that is not necessary.

Winter quarters: Remember that here in Texas more trees are lost in the winter due to drying out than to the cold. Of course that does not 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. (Ask your grandmother about hanging the wash and letting it dry while frozen stiff.) So while you protecting the roots be sure to give it a wind screen and make sure that you can check the soil for watering needs. (it helps here if you know which particular plants dry out faster and so you can situate them together). A lot of winter kill comes because the soil has frozen and the sun 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.

For the beginners, plants like the cedar elm, oak, maple that are hardy much further north can be set on a clean gravel bed. When the real cold (26 or lower) gets here cover the pots with 3-4 inches of a fairly loose mulch so that the ground heat will help keep your pots warm.. Plants that grow south of Dallas, crape myrtle, firethorn, some azalea, need to have more root protection. I like to let them get frostbit but bring



them in before freezing. Of course the tropicals need to be babied.

All this is basically talking about the broadleaf deciduous trees. Evergreens do not go fully dormant in winter and need to be exposed to sunlight. Some broadleaf evergreen types like boxwoods slow way down but still need sunlight. Some leave the needled evergreens on top of benches all winter but I prefer to give the roots the same basic winter protection of deciduous trees but they have a higher water need.

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. The organic spray given below 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

Insects will continue to be present. Cooler (but not cold) days mean a resurgence of the aphids. Mites will also still be around and will jump into action during a warm spell. 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 (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water) should still be used on a regular schedule and will work on evergreens and will also give them some nutrients. The dead scale shell will probably have to be removed physically. A soft toothbrush works for me (I sometimes need to wet the branch to loosen the scale shell).

When the leaves start turning the sap has quit for the year and you may check the branches and twigs to see if any need to be trimmed. Cutting back any protruding branches will keep them from snagging and possibly breaking other trees when you put them down close together. Don't cut the buds off the spring f lowering plants unless absolutely necessary if you want flowers next spring.

Some may repot in the fall but I feel that it is counter-productive to do so if you can do it during bud break in the spring. New roots are more prone to freeze damage if we get a bad winter. It has been stated that the key to safe repotting is to minimize root disturbance and to exclude severe root pruning. This seems to me to be a recipe for developing root problems, poor drainage leading to root rot and the inability of the old 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 repot at the proper time next spring which is when the buds swell and new growth is imminent.

## **Reminder for club membership and advertisement**

### **2024 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).

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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Chong S.& James M.

## 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



**BRITE IDEAS**  
AQUAPONICS  
HYDROPONICS & ORGANICS

[Http://www.bihydro.com](http://www.bihydro.com)  
Owner: Troy Smith

12110 Menchaca Rd. Ste.103 Austin, TX 78748 (512)444-2100	14611 Burnet Rd #110 Austin, TX 78758 (512)459-4353
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-mail: [mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net](mailto:mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net)  
601 Kay Lane  
Pflugerville, TX 78660  
(call for directions)

# 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 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](mailto:webmaster.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com)