



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

September 2024 vol 168

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## Calendar of Events

### September 11, 2024

- ◆ Topic: Contorted filbert
- ◆ Presenter: Julian Tsai (LSBF / ABS)
- ◆ Time: 6:30pm (Social) 7:00pm (Meeting)
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden

### September 17, 2024

- ◆ Board Meeting

### September 21, 2024

- ◆ Topic: Annual Auction
- ◆ Time: 9:30am (setup) 10:30am (auction)
- ◆ Volunteers needed from 10am - noon on Friday (20th)
- ◆ Location: Anderson Mill Garden Club

### September 22, 2024

- ◆ Shohin meeting at Spicewoods Springs Library 1pm

## 2024 Board of Directors

**Jonathan W.**  
President

**Eric B.**  
Vice President

**Simon T.**  
Secretary

**Gloria N.**  
Treasurer

**Dashiell C.**  
Member-At-Large

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

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

## Volunteers

*Refreshments*  
*Lyon O.*

*Tree Hosts*  
*Joey M.*

# President's Message

*By Jonathan W.*

Looking forward to a wonderful bonsai auction this Sept 21st 2024 @ Anderson Mill Garden Club Center: 13974 FM2769, Volente, TX 78641. **Doors open 9:30 am for auction item delivery with check-in for bidding and social time, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00noon is the approximate auction time.** Thank you in advance for your generosity that funds so many wonderful bonsai programs! Suggest arriving a little early to set up your donations for the auction and give members a chance to preview the items. Please bring lots of auction items... Can't wait to see you all there!

Some exciting new calendar items for our club... **Shohin Society of Texas (SSOT)** meet-up will happen on SUNDAY Sept 22nd, 2024! 1:00 - 4:00PM RSVP to [ShohinSocietyOfTexas@gmail.com](mailto:ShohinSocietyOfTexas@gmail.com) or for questions about event details. Hope to see many of you at this special event.

Also, **TTSBE is hosting a Bonsai Seminar November 2nd and 3rd in East Austin.** Details are included on the "Looking Ahead Calendar". More details to follow soon about registration cost for a wonderful weekend with guest master artist, Suthin Sukosolvisit (<http://www.suthinbonsaistudio.com>) . **Please email [webmaster.ttsbe@gmail.com](mailto:webmaster.ttsbe@gmail.com) if you are interested in receiving a registration packet when they are available. This type of event is an excellent way to expand bonsai knowledge, artistry, and meet new bonsai friends!**

Texas summer and extreme 106+ degree heat have taken a toll on some of my deciduous leaves. Maples need a lot of water and a lot of filtered light to make it through summer extremes. **Trident Maple** is a variety that does well in our Central Texas heat and can withstand a bit more sun than **acer palmatum** varieties. To achieve a smaller flush of leaves and to redistribute energy around my large trident maples I normally defoliate by late August. This allows the new push of buds that follow summer-dormancy to be more balanced and refined for my **acer buergerianum** (trident maples). Normally I partially defoliate every other leaf on healthy acer palmatum varieties to remove any heat stressed, crispy outer leaves... especially if I see new buds swelling ahead of final summer growth spurt. This procedure is only done on maples that appear healthy enough to withstand the procedure, and await a new flush of growth once summer dormancy ends as temps fall back to the mid to low 90s.

A thought I've had lately is about how beautiful a second flush of growth can be following a season of summer rain. Joey mentioned this several years ago on social media and I can't help but agree! It is fun to see my deciduous trees waking up again after summer dormancy, to put on shades of bright green and red tinted foliage. Quite fascinating that the trees can enter a summer dormancy while waiting for the cooling temperatures and rains of the fall season. My tridents and other japanese maples have been putting on new buds that are are sure to be a joy to watch unfold soon!

# President's Message

*By Jonathan W.*

Happy Styling, Jonathan Wood ABS President

*"Learn to work with traditional forms and then forget them. When you master the form try hard to get soul into your tree. Don't try to make your little tree look like a bonsai, try to make your bonsai look like a tree - as John Naka said." - Excerpt from 2013 Brazilian interview with Walter Pall*

## Vice President's Message

*By Eric B.*

Hello, and a very Sweaty September to all of my bonsai people! Summer is finally really here. Keep up with your watering, and heat mitigation efforts. If you have tropicals, now is a good time for repotting.

**David Whitaker** sure did come through on his lofty goal! The three cascades he did were really something. David is always fun to have visit, and we hope to have him back in the future. And remember, the two cascades that were not in the raffle - the Green Island Ficus and the shohin Pink Pixie Bougainvillea - will be available in the club auction, details below.

This month we have LSBF visiting artist **Julian Tsai**, who will work on a **Contorted Filbert (Corylus avellana 'Contorta')** supplied by **Jonathan Wood**. Julian is an upcoming artist based in Los Angeles. In 2018 traveled to Japan, for an apprenticeship under Keiichi Fujikawa of Fujikawa Kouka-en located in Osaka. From his website, Julian's philosophy on bonsai is, "Trees, like us, are living and thus constantly changing and growing. Just as we strive to continuously learn and improve our own lives, we can adopt similar principles to bring the best out of our trees."

**A quick aside on a new raffle tier, decided at the August 2024 board meeting. On nights where there is a visiting artist working on a demo tree, there is now a new tier of raffle tickets for the demo tree. The new tier will be \$10 per ticket, 6 for \$50. After the drawing for the demo tree we will put the remaining \$10 tickets in the \$5 raffle drawing. After all the \$5 items are taken the remaining \$10 and \$5 tickets will be added to the \$2 raffle drawing.**

There is no workshop for September, because we have the **ABS annual auction** later this month, on **Saturday, Sept. 21, 9:30 am for auction item delivery, check-in for bidding and social time, 10:30 a.m. to noon auction time, at the Anderson Mill Garden Club, 13974 FM 2769, Volente, TX.** We need **volunteers** on **Friday, Sept. 21** to help set up for the event, and on **Saturday** to help run the event. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting, so please help out if you can (especially on Friday) so our auction can be a big success!

In October we have another **Bring Your Own Tree** night. There is no set agenda for this night, just let's all bring in a tree or two, get and give advice, and have a whole bunch of fun working on our trees together. It'll be a blast!

There will be a workshop in October, but the date and topic are still TBD.

Thanks for reading, and I'll see you on the 11th!

# 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: August 20, 2024**

**Location: Virtual**

### Meeting Attendees:

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

### 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

### Vice President:

- ◆ Discussed Whitaker's visit
- ◆ Talked about programs and preparation for the rest of the year

### Secretary:

- ◆ Meeting starts at **7:40pm**
- ◆ Last report was accepted without edits

### Treasurer:

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

Meeting adjourned at **8:55 pm**

## Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

Date	Event Type	Artist / Presenter	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
WED 9/11/24	CLUB MEETING - Presentation/ Demo	Special Event – Guest Artist <b>Julian Tsai</b>	<b>Program Details – Guest Artist Julian Tsai Live Demonstration</b>  <b>Contorted Filbert (Corylus avellana 'Contorta')</b>	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd Austin, TX	donation table items welcome
SAT 9/21/24	BONSAI AUCTION EVENT	Members donate bonsai, tools, supplies, pots, stands, books etc	<b>Fundraiser Auction for Austin Bonsai Society</b> - funds for Guest Artists / Lectures/Demos etc Approx Time: 10:00AM , see future schedule for details	Anderson Mill Garden Club Center Approx 10:00AM 13974 FM2769, Volente, TX 78641	Auction items needed – Generous Bidding Appreciated! Thank you!!
SUN 9/22/24	BONSAI MEET-UP : Shohin Society of Texas	Organized by: Club Member - May Lau	<b>Shohin Society of Texas</b> meet-up with tiny trees! 1:00 - 4:00PM RSVP to <a href="mailto:ShohinSocietyOfTexas@gmail.com">ShohinSocietyOfTexas@gmail.com</a>	Spicewood Springs Public Library 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78759	\$ N/A
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

## Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

Date	Event Type	Artist / Presenter	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
SAT SUN 11/2/24 11/3/24	BONSAI SEMINAR : The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit (TTSBE)	<b>Special Event with Guest Artist:</b> <b>Suthin Sukosolvisit</b>	TTSBE Bonsai Seminar Weekend with Suthin Sukosolvisit – **Registration and Pre-Payment is Required ** Space is limited ** Details Coming Soon! 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. Workshops are additional pre-paid cost
WED 11/13/24	Club Night - 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 thru “Evite” email so we have enough tables and chairs
WED	***	***	*** NO MEETING in December ***	***	***

## September Bonsai

by John Miller

During September your main job is to get your stuff ready for winter. Do not encourage new growth, hold back on the fertilizer and pruning. Get winter quarters ready. Be sure the tropical are healthy, no bugs or other pathogens.

If it rains days on end, tilt the pots to aid drainage and make sure the drains are not stopped up. When it is hot and dry, maybe water 2-3 times a day and protect plants and especially the pot from direct sun.

It is probably not late enough for the bonsai to go into their pre-dormancy slow down period. If they are still growing, continue twig pruning and other summer care. If air layers have developed roots they may be separated and potted.

In Sept and Oct there will still be some days with pretty hot temps. So as the sun changes its angle make sure that the pots do not get too hot in the late afternoon sun. Also watering now becomes harder. As trees slow their growth they do not take as much water. Neither will they transpire as much on the cooler days. So check each one separately and water as often and as much as the individual tree requires.

Check the trees you still have wire on. When the cooler days get here some trees will expand their branches and get wire cuts rather quickly. You need to check them periodically over the winter also. Cut the wire off. You can easily break the branches trying to unwrap the wire and it's just not worth trying to save the wire. Work from the outside end of the wire back so that you do not overlook a small piece of wire. If you have trouble seeing each twist of the wire don't cut, just unwrap the wire (with care). If you miss a turn of the wire you will make an unsightly bulge and the limb will probably have to be cut off. If you need to reapply some wire take care to not follow the same path.

Help your trees go into dormancy. The general rule of thumb on fertilizers is to stop giving nitrogen early in September and fertilize with one that has a formulation with 0 first number, like 0-10-10 or 0-0-10. They will need less water as they quit active growth but on warm days trees with green foliage will still transpire and will need that water. Most tropicals have a dormant season also but it is usually caused by dry conditions rather than cold. These types need to be hardened also by cutting the fertilizer to halt active growth and give them lighter watering. This will enable them to withstand the transfer to the greenhouse better.

Fruiting bonsai spend a lot of energy growing fruit. They should not be allowed to fruit heavily each year. They benefit from a light fertilization at this time. Flowering bonsai especially need to receive the minor elements. Get a good fertilizer, such as the Espoma plant-tone fertilizers, that include them in their mix for good color development. They should be listed on the label.

There is not too much to be done on deciduous trees at this time. Bugs and other problems are usually not a matter of concern since the foliage will be dropping soon. Evergreens and tropicals will still need to be watched for their insect problems, especially the spider mite which will be active into fall. Use the organic spray formula to control them. If we should have a stretch of damp weather you should be watching for fungal problems, leaf spot, mildew, etc. Treat fungal with potassium bicarbonate, (baking soda-sodium bicarbonate-



will work about as well). I would be okay with using a 1% hydrogen peroxide solution at this time of the year for fungal control.

The organic spray formula is one tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water. Spray top and bottom of leaves and trunk thoroughly on a regular basis (7-10 days). If you miss getting scale in their vulnerable crawler stage, you may have to go to a systemic.

Pruning and trimming 'can' be done any time that there is not a lot of sap flowing but is usually advisable to do it during dormancy. Sap flow is indicated by the foliar activity of the plant like in the spring. If your tree went into summer dormancy which sometimes occurs during hot weather then the cooler weather might result in a larger sap flow in late summer or early fall. If your plant gets a flush of new growth it would be advisable to postpone large pruning cuts for a while. Basically let you tree tell you when it is ok to operate.

Two other things you can do now. You should prepare your winter quarters and you should study your evergreen trees to determine if you need to do any restyling later on this fall. Bonsai in Texas should be a year around sport, you don't need to cover them completely like up north. Try to put them where you can see some of them. Just remember that they will still need to be watered and evergreens will need some sun. A mulch cover over the pots on the ground will minimize temperature extremes.

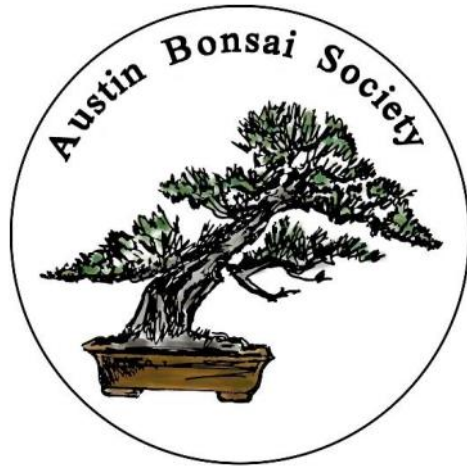
Make sure that it is clean and that you will be able to check the water needs of the trees. It should be somewhat protected from winds but should have some air movement to help prevent molds from developing. Being in a location where you can see the trees would allow you to enjoy the winter silhouette, i.e. the branch structure and twiginess, that is a great part of deciduous bonsai.

## 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).



**ANNUAL ABS AUCTION!**  
**ANDERSON MILL GARDEN CLUB**  
**13974 FM2769, Volente, TX**  
**Saturday, SEPTEMBER 21**  
**Arrive 9:30 AM; Auction 10:30 AM**

Please donate bonsai, pre-bonsai, tools, supplies, & bonsai-related items for auction

Plan to BID and BUY!!  
Consider it “crop rotation”!!

If your item is worth  $\geq$  \$100, enter it into the “Not-so-Silent” Auction and be refunded 50% of sales price.

**PROCEDURE FOR THE ABS NOT-SO-SILENT AUCTION SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**

1. The seller/donor must fill out the form below for each item to be offered and submit the completed form to the Treasurer by **Sept. 16 (Monday)** so that bidding sheets can be prepared. The Treasurer will mark the below form as to the date and time received. Up to 6 or 8 (depending on size) items will be accepted. **It is understood that 50% of the winning bid goes to the Club and 50% to the seller/donor** unless the seller/donor states on the form that it is a 100% donation to the club.
  
2. **Items must be worth \$100.00 or more and the donor is allowed to set a reserve price on this sheet below;** consequently, the beginning bid must be the reserve price or \$100. The reason for a not-so-silent auction is to save time and ensure the item is sold at a price that is acceptable to the donor. If the reserve is NOT met, the Treasurer will so announce and the item will be returned to the seller/donor.
  
3. There will be short breaks throughout the morning so that bids can be checked or added to.
  
4. At about 12:30 PM, the Treasurer will pick up the sheets and after the tallying, announce the winners. The winners can then pay, or add the amount to the total for whatever else they have won that day.
  
5. Send this completed form by **Sept. 16** as an e-mail attachment to [gnorberg@austin.rr.com](mailto:gnorberg@austin.rr.com).

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**FOR THE ABS NOT-SO-SILENT AUCTION - SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**

SELLER/DONOR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE: \_\_\_\_\_ 50/50 split      \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION TO CLUB

WILL THERE BE A RESERVE?    \_\_\_\_\_ YES    \_\_\_\_\_ NO    RESERVED PRICE: \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

**Auction Item Tag**

\_\_\_\_\_

Item\_\_\_\_\_

Donor\_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Cost\_\_\_\_\_

Item\_\_\_\_\_

Buyer #\_\_\_\_\_

Final Bid\_\_\_\_\_

**Auction Item Tag**

\_\_\_\_\_

Item\_\_\_\_\_

Donor\_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Cost\_\_\_\_\_

Item\_\_\_\_\_

Buyer #\_\_\_\_\_

Final Bid\_\_\_\_\_

**Auction Item Tag**

\_\_\_\_\_

Item\_\_\_\_\_

Donor\_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Cost\_\_\_\_\_

Item\_\_\_\_\_

Buyer #\_\_\_\_\_

Final Bid\_\_\_\_\_



**Auction Item Tag**

\_\_\_\_\_

Item\_\_\_\_\_

Donor\_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Cost\_\_\_\_\_

Item\_\_\_\_\_

Buyer #\_\_\_\_\_

Final Bid\_\_\_\_\_

**Auction Item Tag**

\_\_\_\_\_

Item\_\_\_\_\_

Donor\_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Cost\_\_\_\_\_

Item\_\_\_\_\_

Buyer #\_\_\_\_\_

Final Bid\_\_\_\_\_

**Auction Item Tag**

\_\_\_\_\_

Item\_\_\_\_\_

Donor\_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Cost\_\_\_\_\_

Item\_\_\_\_\_

Buyer #\_\_\_\_\_

Final Bid\_\_\_\_\_

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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**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)

# Bonsai Notebook

Austin Bonsai Society  
P.O. Box 340474  
Austin, Texas 78734



## Austin Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 340474  
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)