



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

June 2026 vol 189

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Calendar of Events

June 3, 2026

- ◆ Topic: BYOT (Conifers and Junipers)
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden (Clubhouse)
- ◆ Time: 6:30pm (Mingling/Setup) 7:00pm (Meeting)

June 28, 2026

- ◆ Shohin Society of Texas (SSOT)
- ◆ Topic: Pine
- ◆ Time: 1pm - 4pm
- ◆ Location: Spicewood Springs Library
- ◆ Address: 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78750

2026 Board of Directors

Eric B.
President

Sachin A.
Vice President

Simon T.
Secretary

Jonathan W.
Treasurer

Fred W.
Member-At-Large

Ross C.
Member-At-Large

Abby B.
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Refreshments
John H.

Tree Hosts
Bjorn F.

President's Message

By Eric B.

<<June Meeting is on June 3rd, not June 10th>>

Greetings all, and welcome to the June 2026 ABS newsletter. We just finished our 2026 Show and Sale, and it went off without a hitch. Well, except that I did not know I needed to request night attendants, and because of that we were crunched for time in both setup and takedown. I already requested night attendants for any shows we may have next year, so this won't be a problem then. But even with the time constraint you all came through and we had another great show! We had almost 1,400 visitors, and made a profit of over \$500. We also had 6 new members join our club, and several others who expressed interest. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, and everyone who put a tree into the show. Your hard work and dedication are always invaluable, the very lifeblood of the Austin Bonsai Society.

Our June meeting is on the first Wednesday in the month, June 3rd. We have another club-favorite BYOT night, focused on junipers and other conifers. Don't worry, if you don't have a conifer you want to work on, or at all, you can still bring in any tree you want. Just please be sure the tree is free of pests, etc. before bringing it to the meeting. Also, bring tools, wire, and whatever else you may need.

Also at the June meeting we will have a sign up available for a "mini-workshop", to be held during our July meeting, which is another BYOT night. We will have two types of trees that members can purchase from the club. First is Anacacho Orchid Trees in 5 gallon pots and second is a Coralberry, also in 5 gallon pots. The price is TBD, but should be quite affordable. We will work on the trees at the July meeting. Again, don't worry - you don't have to purchase one of the trees to participate; you can bring in any tree you want.

The next big club event is our annual auction, in late September. That's a while away, but please be thinking about anything you can donate for sale in the auction. Every little bit helps. We will also need volunteers, so please consider that as well.

Thanks for reading, and see you at the next meeting!
Eric

Vice President's Message

By Sachin A.

Hello Austin Bonsai friends,

As we move into June and the start of the Texas summer season, I want to extend a sincere thank you to all of our members, volunteers, vendors, and supporters who helped make our Annual Bonsai Show such a success. Your participation, enthusiasm, hard work, and generous donations helped create a wonderful event for both our club and the community. Events like these only happen because of the dedication and passion of our members, and we truly appreciate everyone who contributed.

With summer temperatures beginning to rise, now is also a good time to pay close attention to your trees. The hotter days are ahead, and our bonsai can quickly feel the stress of the Texas heat. Keep an eye on watering needs, monitor for signs of heat stress, and consider adjusting shade and placement as needed. A little extra attention during these warmer months can make a big difference in keeping your trees healthy and thriving.

Looking ahead, don't forget about our upcoming club meeting at **Zilker Botanical Garden on June 3rd from 6:30–9:00 PM**. This will be a **Bring Your Own Juniper** workshop meeting, so be sure to bring a juniper tree to work on. It's a great opportunity to get hands-on practice, learn from fellow members, learn from one another, and continue developing your skills.

Also, please make note that this meeting is taking place on the first Wednesday of the month rather than our usual second Wednesday schedule, so be sure to mark your calendars accordingly.

We look forward to seeing everyone there and continuing to grow together as a bonsai community.

Regards,
Sachin

May Meeting (Dinner with Dawn)



May Meeting



May Meeting



May Meeting (Raffles & Refreshments)



Annual Show 2026 (Setup)



Annual Show 2026



Annual Show 2026



Annual Show 2026 (Demonstration)



Annual Show 2026 (Vendors)



Annual Show 2026 (Raffles)



Annual Show 2026 (Raffles)



Annual Show 2026 (TTSBE Exhibit Guided Tour)



Annual Show 2026 (Restoring the space after a wonderful show)



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ABS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: May 19, 2026

Location: Virtual

Meeting Attendees:

- ◆ Eric (President)
- ◆ Sachin (Vice President)
- ◆ Simon (Secretary)
- ◆ Jonathan (Treasurer)
- ◆ Abby
- ◆ Ross
- ◆ Fred

President:

- ◆ Preparations are underway for the upcoming year's events and activities, with particular attention given to artist engagement and program development.

Annual Show recap:

- ◆ The Austin Bonsai Society's Annual Show was a resounding success, a true testament to the artistry and dedication of our members. Through our collaboration with the Austin Area Garden Council and the Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy, we were able to shine a spotlight on Zilker Botanical Garden and welcome visitors into a world of living sculpture. Guests experienced an extraordinary display of bonsai—from venerable, decades old specimens to innovative works from emerging artists—each one reflecting the passion and skill of our community. This year's show strengthened our shared mission to elevate horticultural education, celebrate craftsmanship, and inspire the next generation of bonsai enthusiasts.

Vice President:

- ◆ Alignment of programs and artists, with contributions from the full board..

Secretary:

- ◆ The meeting commenced at **7:32 pm**.
- ◆ The latest report was approved as submitted, with no amendments necessary.

Treasurer:

- ◆ The treasurer has provided the most up-to-date financial report, including the income-versus-expense summary for the May show.

Meeting adjourned at **8:28 pm**

How To Clean Up Juniper Foliage

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)

You may find the soft “clouds” of mature juniper foliage pleasant.

Eventually this gets out of hand and we have a big thundercloud of foliage obliterating the structure of the tree. Which you may have spent a lot of effort wiring and setting.

At this juncture some retooling is in order.



This juniper has outgrown its shape and could use redefining. This is a mature tree, meaning it has no pointy shoots charging off, rather, all the growth is slow and from small tips.

How To Clean Up Juniper Foliage

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



First step, find the larger dangling shoots that are woody (brown at the base) and cut off with scissors. Maybe 10% of this redo was by scissors.

How To Clean Up Juniper Foliage

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



Next, use the fleshy part of your fingertips to PULL off the part of the shoot that dangles below the horizontal. Green shoots pull off easily. About 90% of this reset was by pulling.

How To Clean Up Juniper Foliage

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



A pad of foliage with shoots that dangle below the horizontal, which are small enough to be pulled off.

How To Clean Up Juniper Foliage

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



After pulling off the dangling shoots.

How To Clean Up Juniper Foliage

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



Now we'll thin what remains. Open up the pad to find the older shoots. These are further back along the branchlets, and tend to look like the one on the left: still alive, but without growing tips. Pull off these inactive shoots. Shoots that look like the one on the right may remain, as they are bright green and growing. They are the future of the branch.

How To Clean Up Juniper Foliage

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



At the end of the rework, the tree has recovered the openness and clarity in the branch structure and twig structure. None of this was done by wiring or repositioning, just by trimming and pulling.

Larger, older shoots were cut off, with the smaller shoots pulled off leaving clean undersides and a thinner, more airy pad. Notice that no pinching of the remaining growing tips was done.

Depending on how fast the tree is growing, this sprucing up can be done once or twice a year..

Reminder: 2026 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 2026 Directory.

New/Renewed Members for 2026

May & Simon	Jonathan	Alisan & Lynn (honorary)	Elaine (honorary)
Hani & Jane T.	John P.	Nilda G.	Andrew I.
David G.	Mike G.	Eric B.	Shawn W.
Jorge V.	Dana L.	Susan C.	Hunter J.
Roalnd L.	Jay N.	Dash C.	Reid F.
Jared M.	Diego M.	Jacob & Catherine C.	Barbara R.
Maddison K.	Chris F.	Jared M. & Kendra D.	William "Bill" M.
Randall R.	Bill M.	Cole J.	Audre & Zetta H
Robert P.	Salik & Khadya M.	Nikki & Kenneth G.	Jordan & Crystal S.

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!

Reminder for club membership and advertisement

2026 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).

Gift certificate for memberships is also available, please send inquiry to payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com

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601 Kay Lane
Pflugerville, TX 78660
(call for directions)

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Austin Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 340474
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 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