



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

April 2019 vol 102

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Calendar of Events

- **Wed April 10**
7:30pm - 9:00pm
Suiseki - Appreciation of Stones
- **Tues April 16**
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Member's workshop - Annual Show Prep
Board meeting

2019 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

Pat Ware
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Jonathan Wood
Ann Diaz
Ross Canlas
Food

Jonathan Wood
Trees

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

This part of the year is especially exciting as we get to enjoy the waking up of our trees from winter dormancy. The recent club digs have been a grand time with many new faces getting the experience of collecting new material. Thank you to everyone who came out and helped make these events possible.

A super special thank you to Joey McCoy for presenting a fabulous demonstration during our monthly meeting. He created a 14 member Hackberry forest AND he lead the following workshop studying forest creation!! Thank you, we are lucky to have you as part of the club.

We are honored to have artist, Marlon Chen to share his experience with the art of Suiseki or Viewing Stones in our April meeting. He has traveled to many parts of the world in his search of interesting and captivating specimen. Join us at the meeting to be part of the discussion, gain appreciation for rocks, and see some interesting stones. Marlon and his family have been part of the club for many years. We look forward to your presentation!

Please remember to return ABS library material back to the Librarian when finished.

Cheers,
Brandon

Reminder for club membership

2019 DUES are DUE!!

Individual	\$30
Family	\$35
Newsletter monthly advertisements:	\$35
Directory advertisement:	\$10

Come to the meeting and pay by cash/check/credit card or send your payment to Gloria Norberg, 7413 Lady Suzanne's Court, Austin TX 78729.

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ABS Library

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Vice President's Message

By Mike Garza

Bonsai friends,

Spring is finally here and it has been lovely so far. All my trees are waking up and looking wonderful. March was a busy month with repotting and club yamadori digs and urban yamadori digs. I myself love the club digs because it's more than just the chance of getting a tree; it's also a chance to spend time in the trenches with wonderful bonsai friends.

I would also like to thank Joey McCoy for his fabulous presentation on forest and group plantings. He did an amazing job and has inspired me to build some forest plantings myself. He also did a great job of leading our March workshop. Everyone who joined the workshop left with a great looking group planting.

Next month I look forward to our very own Marlon Chen giving us his insight knowledge on Suiseki- Appreciation of Stones. I'm excited to learn about this art and how it ties into bonsai displays. I hope to see y'all there.

March Meeting

Group plantings



Photos by May Lau

March Workshop

Group plantings



Regular Meeting Minutes (Roland)

March 13, 2018

Meeting began at 7:34PM

Announcements

2 guests; 1 new member

Quoc and Jonathan are our trees hosts

Alisan – Looking for volunteer/companion to be on the Zilker Board committee

Scroll workshop announced

Gloria – Club is doing great financially

Mike – LSBF convention reminder

ABS Show is around the corner

March (forest/group planting) workshop time and cost announced

Marlon donated raffle items

Joey began his presentation at 7:52PM



ABS Board Minutes (Roland)

March 19, 2018

Meeting began at 7:12PM

Attendees: Brandon, Roland, Mike, Gloria and Pat

Board agreed to keep eyes open for demo trees for upcoming visiting artist this year

Motion to approve secretary minutes

Joey's group planting presentation received positive feedback by the board and members!

Club is seeing an increase in new members!

The board would like to remind guests and new members about our 50% discount membership for children under the age of 18

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM



April Bonsai

By John Miller

At a workshop recently I was helping a bit. I found on some trees that had been repotted more than once that some roots from the original 2" starting pot had bent back toward the center and were still there growing strong. That is the reason that on your first repotting, whether from a nursery grown plant or a collected tree, you should remove all the old soil so you can see and correct the rootage. Later on when you have grown the tree large enough you will have a good nebari as a base for your styling.

We have had more rain this year and not as cold as usual. This is favorable for having more problems from the insects and fungal diseases. Aphids especially are showing up. Mildew usually won't be seen until it warms more but with our Texas weather that could be here before this article gets in print. Leaf spot could be a problem.

Fungal diseases can show up with damp weather. Leaf spot can be serious on Catlin and Chinese elms and on hollies. There are organic fungicides available, baking soda is one. Check an organics nursery or publications. A 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide (dilute the standard 3% store bought stuff 2 parts water to each part peroxide) is also recommended but it can injure very new foliage.

A good organic program takes care of both the feeding and the insect problems. The trick is to be sure to thoroughly cover the plant including all the leaf axils. Use a hand or pump up sprayer to get a fine spray to cover all, a hose end sprayer does not cover

good enough. This is also true if you want to use commercial chemical sprays.

I recommend the organic mixture of 1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water. I use the mixture both as a foliar feed spray and as a soil drench fertilizer. As a weekly foliar spray, for me anyhow, it keeps aphids, mites, loopers, bagworms and other insects under control. I try to drench twice a month partly because I don't think the plant can absorb all the minor elements it needs thru the foliage. It is a good practice to also use fertilizer cakes on the surface of the soil which feeds a bit every time you water. Commercial water soluble fertilizers wash out with the next watering and result in poorly fed pale bonsai. They are intended for use in soil that retains water for a long period such as commercial house plant mixes.

(A commercial product called Garret Juice which is to be used the same way uses compost tea, dried seaweed, water, molasses and vinegar. As a fertilizer this should act the same but it does not seem to work as good as an insecticide.)

Late March or early April is when I repot things like Dwarf Yaupon Holly and Boxwood. They do well when kept in light shade and out of the wind. Repotting for the hardy bonsai has ended and it's still too early for the tropics. Depending on temperature some tropics may be done by the end of April.

If you have early blooming azaleas, you should remove some of the buds. Most

azalea have way too many buds to look good when they do not have room to open fully.

So what is left to do? Just trimming, feeding, trimming, check for insects, trimming, shows, trimming. You get the idea. Trimming, that is the pinching, plucking or whatever of new growth, is the process that both develops refinement on your tree but is vital to keep it from growing out of that desired state. This is not pruning which is cutting of branches which should not be done when there is a strong sap flow which starts when the tree breaks dormancy and continues until after the leaves harden or later.

At the risk of repeating the process too much I repeat it for the beginners. On elms and other trees with leaves appearing alternately down the shoot, do not let more than 5 new leaves appear. Cut back to 2 or 3 leaves, leaving the last leaf on the side that you want the new growth to appear. On maples and others with leaves coming in pairs on opposite sides of the twig if you let them grow you get very long internodes. Cut the center shoot as soon as you can determine it. Tweezers work best for this operation. Since the shoots do not all open at the same time this could be a daily chore for the best results.

Be sure to check your soils each day for proper water content. It is easy to assume that the soil has plenty of water when the days are cool or there has been some rain. A tree with full leaves may shed rain water outside of the pot or a good sun and low humidity after a front will

dry the soil. I suggest that you remove some of the moss so that you can see and feel the soil in order to determine how dry it is. (Moss growing on the trunk or roots will also cause the bark to rot.) An automatic watering system will be an aid but you should not rely on it to replace hand watering. Best use might be to use it for a shot of watering in the morning and again at noon, then do hand watering in the evening. Most automatic systems just water a spot or two in the pot. Hand watering covers the entire pot and allows you to adjust the watering for each tree individually and lets you see that the pot is draining properly. A clogged drainage hole can drown some trees in less than a week.

Most trees will do good in the full sun at this time of year. However, if you have had them in partial shade be careful about moving them directly to full sun. They probably should be acclimated gradually. Too much wind will cause the leaves to burn. Some damage may not show up until hot weather.





100 views of Mt. Fuji

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Http://www.bihydro.com
Owner: Troy Smith

4201 S. Congress Ave. # 310 Austin, TX 78745 (512)444-2100 Manager: Tim Hill	2521 Rutland Dr. #475 Austin, TX 78758 (512)459-4353 Manager: Nick Snyder
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New Members

Jason Duncan

Elizabeth Hess

Jakob Clark

Renewing Members

John Muller

Adrian Camarillo & Mom

Herminia

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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and Pat
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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 \$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.