



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

August 2017 vol 80

## Our News

President's Message

*page 2*

Vice President's Message

*page 6*

Monthly Photos

*page 7*

Silent Auction Rules

*page 9*

Meeting Minutes

*page 11*

August Bonsai

*page 13*

## Calendar of Events

- **Tuesday, August 15**  
Good or Bad Tools *with Joey McCoy*
- **Wednesday, September 13**  
Annual Auction
- **April 20-22, 2018**  
LSBF Convention in Longview, TX at the Hilton Garden Inn

**THERE WILL BE NO MEMBER'S WORKSHOP  
OR BOARD MEETING THIS MONTH**

## 2017 Board of Directors

**Simon Tse**  
President

**Zach Rabalais**  
Vice President

**Brandon Baldauf**  
Secretary

**Pat Ware**  
Treasurer

**Ruby Chaing**  
Member-At-Large

**Kevin Patureau**  
Member-At-Large

**Vacant**  
Member-At-Large

## August Meeting Volunteers

Ruby Chaing & Winnie Tan  
*Food*

Els Ulug & Ruby Chaing  
*Trees*

## President's Message

*By Simon Tse*

Summer is definitely here! Echoing my prediction from previous month, there have been some days with triple digit temperatures. To protect your trees, you can keep your more sensitive or delicate bonsai in the shade, make sure your trees get enough water, and pay extra attention to your recently repotted bonsai.

Regarding tools, Joey is going to discuss and demonstrate tool maintenance. Feel free to bring a couple of tools and seek advice.

We had a wonderful July meeting. Alisan provided us with a glimpse into Ikebana and her journey at her regular club presentation and workshop. We are truly blessed with her gracious presence and artistic talents. As a certified and experienced Ikebana/Ikenobo instructor, she demonstrated various techniques, styles and secrets which turned a regular bouquet into something spectacular. Thank you Alisan!

Meanwhile, maintenance on our normal meeting venue at Zilker Botanical Garden has been scheduled from August 7th - 11th, so we were strongly encouraged to postpone our regular meeting to the following week, August 15th. This is the third Tuesday of the month, so please plan accordingly. There will be no members' workshop for the month of August.

Our annual auction is fast approaching and will be held on September 13th. As a non-profit organization, this is our main event to

raise funds to support visiting bonsai artists, monthly programs, annual show and workshops. Our all-volunteer board is passionate about bonsai and want to provide guidance and education for individuals who wish to expand their knowledge and skills in the art of bonsai. Please donate generously!

Jonas Dupuich will be in Austin from October 10th to 11th. We are pleased to announce that he will host a bring-your-own-tree workshop (members only) on October 10th and be our visiting artist at our regular meeting on the 11th. The maximum number of participants is 8 people and the fee will be \$50 per person. Please email Pat and I as soon as possible to secure a spot. Jonas Dupuich studies extensively with Boon Manakitivipart and learn from his senpai Akio Kondo and Daisaku Nomoto. He has also spent two months studying with Junichiro Tanaka at Aichi-en in Nagoya, Japan, during which he worked on trees from Tanaka's collection and participated in exhibits including Gomangoku, Meifu-ten, Taikan-ten and Sakufu-ten. We have also learned that he studied with Kathy Shaner.

We are grateful for the generosity from Marlon, Phina, and other members for the raffle items last couple of months. Our club members really appreciated the donations and are looking forward to raffles in our monthly club meetings. We will need a steady flow of contributions if we wish to keep this tradition, so please consider donating other bonsai related items. If you

need additional information or assistance,  
please contact Brandon, Pat or myself.

Cheers, Simon



**ABS monthly meeting  
raffle items given out  
at the end of the  
meeting**  
*(Photo by May Lau)*

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and Pat  
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## July Meeting: Ikebana

Alisan demonstrates the art of Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) and explains the symbolism and logic behind the art form.



**After the presentation,  
the members each tried  
their hand at Ikebana**  
*(Photos by May Lau)*



**Flower frogs (pictured below) help hold the Ikebana arrangements in place**

*(Photos by May Lau)*



**Joey's boxwood on display**  
*(Photo by May Lau)*





## Get Connected!

Join our online discussion page! NO SPAM!

[http://  
groups.yahoo.com/  
group/austinbonsai/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/austinbonsai/)

Or message Joey at:  
[jvmccoy@sbcglobal.com](mailto:jvmccoy@sbcglobal.com)

## Official Website

Visit our website at  
[austinbonsaisociety.com](http://austinbonsaisociety.com)

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## Vice President's Message

*By Zach Rabalais*

As everyone may or may not know, we will NOT be having our regularly scheduled meeting at Zilker this Wednesday the 9th, and instead, it will be on the 15th.

The focus of the Tuesday meeting will be all about bonsai tools. If you are new, or even a seasoned bonsai hobbyist, you need to know about bonsai tools. What to use for what job, how to sharpen your cutting tools, cleaning and maintenance to prevent rust. Your bonsai tools are a major part of the process of turning a scruffy shrub into a bonsai masterpiece.

Joey McCoy will be going over the ins and outs of bonsai tools at the Tuesday meeting, so make sure to attend to learn all about how to select the right tool for the job, and make sure that the tools that you do have are in the best possible shape they can be in. If you have a tool that needs some love, make sure to bring it in for the meeting.

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## July Photos

**ABS  
Boxwood dig**  
*(Photos by  
May Lau)*



**Members hard at work  
digging up Boxwood**  
*(Photos by May Lau)*





**ABS July member workshop**  
*(Photo by May Lau)*



**Our youngest member working hard on her own take on Ikebana**  
*(Photos by May Lau)*





RULES FOR SILENT AUCTION

1. A description of any item to be offered must be submitted to either the President or the Treasurer by September 6th so that sheets can be prepared. A form to be filled out is attached below and will show date & time received by either the President or Treasurer. Only 6 or 8 (depending on size) items will be accepted; so it is possible that the item will not be accepted if too many are submitted. It is understood that this is a 50% to club and 50% to owner of the winning bid unless the owner so states that it is a donation to the club, so that the club gets 100%.

Items must be worth \$100.00 or more; consequently, the opening bid is \$100.00

2. If there is a reserve, the bidding sheet is to be so marked and the Treasurer is the only one to know what the reserve is. If after bidding, the reserve is NOT met, the Treasurer will so announce and the item will be returned to the owner.

3. There shall be short breaks throughout the evening so that bids can be checked or added to.

4. At the prescribed time (tentatively set for 8:30 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 evening.

-----

**FOR SILENT AUCTION - SEPTEMBER 13, 2017**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE:  50/50 split  DONATION TO CLUB

WILL THERE BE A RESERVE?  YES  NO RESERVE 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**

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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 \_\_\_\_\_



## Austin Board Meeting Minutes July 18th, 2017

Attendees: Ruby, Simon, Pat, Brandon  
Start: 7:17

### ~General

We have been notified by AAGC of some maintenance occurring in the main meeting room during the second week of August. Our regular monthly meeting will happen during the typical workshop date. So we will only meet on August 15th this month.

We are actively building the schedule for next year. So far we have confirmed Juan Andrade for January of 2018. More to come, Juan does offer private sessions, message Simon if interested.

We will be putting up an ABS poster at Country Side Nursery to help raise awareness of our club and upcoming auction.

The annual Austin Bonsai Society is having it's annual auction in September. This year we will have a silent auction as well where members can put their tree up for others to bid on. There will be a 50/50 split between the seller and ABS. Let Simon know if you have any trees you want to enter.

### ~Treasurer

As of June 30th; our income over expense = \$1,618.77. We have paid all previous presenters, the AAGC membership, our LSBF membership, and the web expenses.

### ~Secretary

We have added an Instagram account @austinbonsaisociety and we are up to 404 followers as of July 18th. Feel free to tag us with tree updates! Please send any pictures you want to share to Brandon.



**Ikebana  
arrangements made  
at the ABS July  
member workshop**  
*(Photo by May Lau)*

## Regular Meeting Minutes July 12th, 2017

**Topic:** Ikebana

Thank you Zach for the snacks this month!

TTSBE has extended an invitation to ABS to participate and volunteer at the Home and Garden Show in August. Message Joey if you are interested and want details. This evening we will have two raffles: items donated by Marlin and others as well as a raffle for Alisan's flower arrangements.

Alisan introduced the art of Ikebana or Japanese flower arranging. She introduced the logic and thought behind the art. The presentation providing insights to the deliberate intent applied when selecting what flower will be in what position of the arrangement.

Joey brought in a lovely Boxwood to complete the full tradition of how the Ikebana arrangement is to accent and greet the viewer when entering a room.

After the presentation, there were many different people who brought in supplies. The members participated and each tried their hand at making flower arrangements as instructed. We might have unlocked some hidden potential!

**ABS monthly  
meeting on  
Ikebana with  
Alisan**  
*(Photo by May  
Lau)*





## August Bonsai

By John Miller

The big task this month is keep the roots cool. A big factor that will often be overlooked is the effect of humidity. Humidity will make you do things differently in Houston than in Ft Worth, in the evening than in the morning, and even sometimes from day to day. Higher humidity will absorb some of the sun's energy before it get to your tree and pot. But the effective value is what is termed relative humidity (RH) which is the amount of water vapor in the air compared to the maximum amount of water the air can hold at a specific temperature. As temp rises it can hold more so unless water is added (from a swamp or the gulf or other source) the RH drops and lets more of the sun's heat thru. This is the effect in Dallas-FW late on a summer day--the RH can drop close to 10% which is why I fuss about knowing your backyard and shade cloth on the west side.

A good place this month to get some info and pictures is Mary Miller's Bonsai Banter newsletter [www.bonsaimary.com](http://www.bonsaimary.com) and find 'read past issues' and click on it. I suggest new members subscribe to her newsletter.

Normally you will need to watch for changing water needs. Porous soil dries faster than one that is dense or has a high organic content. Wind dries the soil both directly and by taking moisture from the foliage. Heat from the high temps or from the sun heating the pots evaporates the water.

This is a good time to remember to water twice. Dry soil particles, especially clay and organic particles tend to resist absorbing water. This is due to the surface tension of the water. Wait a few minutes after the first watering for the dry soil particles to absorb some of the water on

**New business**

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and intermediate  
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HOURS: THURS-SUN 12-8

## New Members

There have been no new members this month.

their surface. Then the second watering gets the whole particle wet. During this period especially you should consider foliage spraying. The humidity is usually very low in the afternoon and many junipers close the stoma during the day and open at night to absorb the dew. The foliage spray cools the plant and the environment so it can recover a bit overnight.

Shade should be provided. Tridents maples, most elms, oaks as well as junipers and pines do good with 30% to 40% shade cloth. Thin leaf trees like Japanese maples are understory species and work with 50% cloth. 60% and higher should be avoided. It might be used on the western exposure to protect from the extremely hot late afternoon rays. Local sources (Home Depot, Lowes) are high percentage not really useful for plant protection. I order shade cloth from the internet, cheaper that way too.

Chopped long fiber sphagnum moss should be used on the pots soil to help retain moisture. New Zealand moss is the highest quality, South American is almost as good, North American usually is poor quality.

Fertilizer should be used sparingly during August. Organic fertilizer cakes are the safest to use however they should not have any 'hot' ingredient like rabbit or chicken droppings. After Labor Day switch to a winterizing type of fertilizer that is high in the third number--potassium. However for tropicals keep your regular schedule going, just be sure the soil is cool enough that the chemicals do not burn the roots.

Deciduous bonsai may be pruned, wired, or styled during this period. Any trees wired in the spring (or earlier) should be carefully checked. If the wire is snug it should be removed and the tree rewired.

Tropicals are in their glory as long as you keep their roots reasonably cool. Defoliate, wire, and prune to your hearts content. Repotting should have been done earlier.

Summer flowering plants should be fertilized carefully so as to not burn the roots. Remove any seed or fruit that may form, they rob the plant of needed energy. Crape myrtle need to be deadheaded. Cut them back so the new shoots that form will not be too long. They should bear flowers each time. If you have the American wisteria (*wisteria frutescens*) they should rebloom each time you prune them.

Do not prune azaleas any more this year if you want flowers next spring. Buds have been set by now. If you are still developing your azalea, go ahead and prune. Some varieties will set a few buds anyway. In general, when pruning look for the cluster of twigs at the site of last spring's bloom. Cut out all and leave two, usually the ones growing horizontally. Be sure to



cut back strong growing shoots to a couple of leaves.

The combination of heat and dry conditions are optimum for the growth of the spider mites. Scale will be extremely dangerous sucking the sap from the plant. Cedar elm is subject to a very small white scale hard to see. Controls for these will generally take care of any other pest you may have. Be sure you read and follow the manufacturer's directions for any control you use. Organic controls have no residual action and need to be used on a regular basis. Used regularly they get scale when it is in the reproductive stage outside of the shell. The only way to get scale under the shell is by a systemic poison.

My organic control is one tablespoon of each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses, in one gallon of water. Spray with fine mist sprayer covering top and bottom surface of leaves and into crevices in the bark.

Extreme dry conditions will keep fungal problems in check but watch out if we happen to get a few days of rain. Warm and wet mean an eruption of leaf spot and mildew. Control them with the 1% hydrogen peroxide spray. I like that because it does not leave a white residue like the baking soda or potassium peroxide.



**One of Joey's Boxwood  
from the ABS dig**

*(Photo by JoeyMcCoy)*

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(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 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.