



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

August 2020 vol 119

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Calendar of Events

- **Virtual Exhibit**
Video available [here](#)
Slides available [here](#)
- **Aug 12, 6:30 - 8:30 pm**
Q&A on Juniper Styling - Grafting (Zoom meeting)
Online auction/raffles

2020 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

Summer Lee
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

N/A

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

So far so good, the online events hosted over the last couple of months seem to have been moderately successful. Please reach out to let me know how you think we can make our virtual experiences more delightful! Since March, Austin Bonsai Society has introduced a live virtual demo, the 2020 virtual exhibit, a zoom presentation with an artist in Pennsylvania, a slack auction, and an online raffle! Why stop there? Your ABS board has been cooking up a couple of other exciting options for the bonsai enthusiasts in Austin! Stay tuned~!

For the August program, we have a little bit of a different approach this month. Bjorn Bjornholm of Eisei-en will be releasing a YouTube video sponsored by our club. The video is roughly 30 minutes long and covers the approach for styling Juniper species bonsai with a focus on the technique of grafting foliage.

August Event

All events are subject to change based on current events...

Bjorn Bjornholm of Eisei-en - Juniper Styling - Grafting

- 8/12 Wednesday - Video Presentation
 - 90 minute Q&A: **6:30 - 8:00 PM**
 - Will send an email with Zoom info
 - Will hold a raffle of donated material in #auction of Slack
- Ideally you watch the video before joining Q&A*

To go with this month's program, we're asking all members to consider donating a Juniper related item to the raffle. Reach out to Brandon if you have items in mind. This is the main method we raise funds for future programs! We're going to have the video and raffle items available for view a week before the meeting (8/5). That way, we can do the raffle drawing at the end of our monthly meeting!!

For September, we are planning an online raffle and auction event. Start to select some Bonsai related items to share with other club members. Reach out to Brandon with any questions. There will be the opportunity to do a club and donor dollar split for select items over \$100 of value. 50/50 split is available, message Brandon with pictures. There have been a number of people who asked me to help sell their trees recently.... this is a good opportunity to do so in the near future!

2021 LSBF Convention planning is well underway. I know everyone was anxiously excited for the 2020 San Antonio events. The SABS group is planning to try again in 2022. The 2021 LSBF convention board is aiming to get registration available by Mid-September.

Keep your chin up and your trees trimmed! Thank you all for continuing to support ABS! It's been a fun challenge to keep our club operating during these COVID times!

Cheers,
Brandon

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discussion



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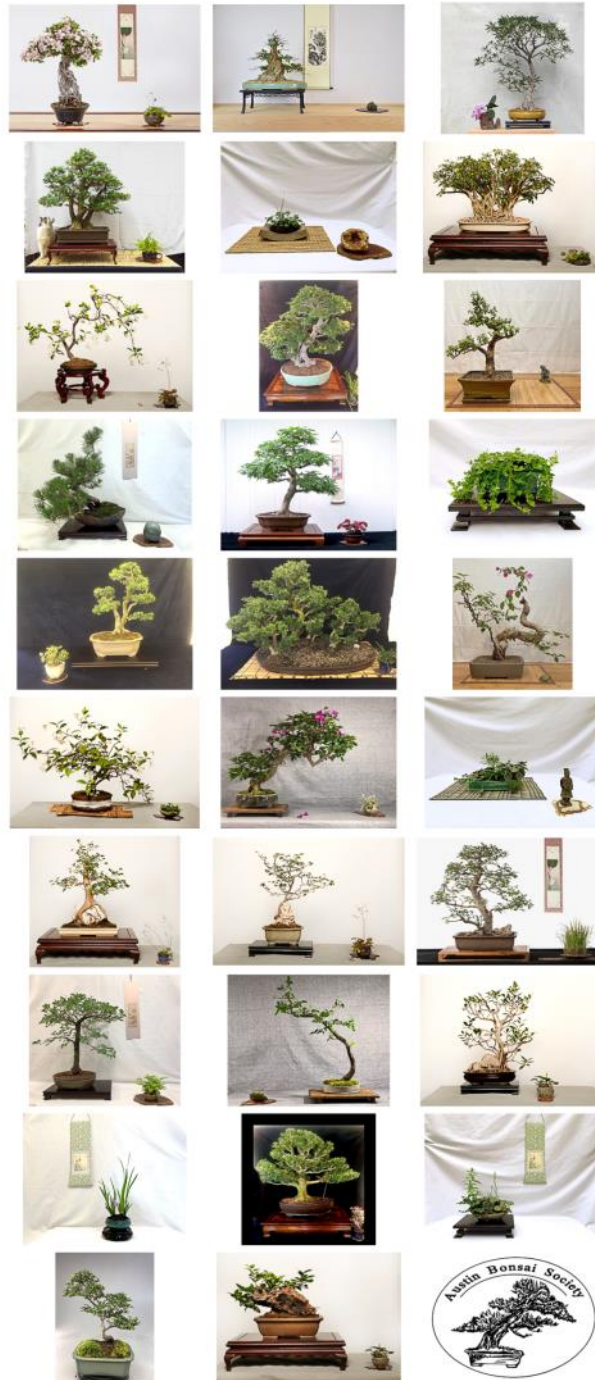
<https://abslibrary.libib.com/>

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLsknKbNld3EOYwijkNIneA>

Virtual Exhibit

Austin Bonsai Society Virtual Show 2020



Regular Meeting Minutes

July 2020

No meeting minutes - Zoom meeting

Interactive Q/A

Online chat

Reminder for club membership

2020 membership fee

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

You may contact Simon to pay electronically or mail a check to me at Gloria Norberg,
7413 Lady Suzanne's Court, Austin, Texas 78729.

ABS Board Minutes (Brandon/Roland)

July 2020

Attendees: Brandon, Gloria, Roland, Mike, Lawrence

Begin 7:04 PM

We are having Bjorn on Zoom - starting 6:30 - 8:00.
Watch the video beforehand!

Our September event is the annual auction, let's start identifying items to donate.

2021 Program Schedule is being planned for next year.

End 7:39

New Members

N/A

August Bonsai

By John Miller

You have only two main jobs in August: (1) keep your bonsai alive and (2) keep them healthy. Regardless of where you live in Texas you can expect 90+ temperatures and the direct sun will be merciless. The sun on the pots raises the temperature of the soil high enough to kill the roots. It also speeds up the drying of the soil. Many pathogens (e.g. spider mites) thrive in higher temperatures and the stressed plants cannot cope with added problems.

Two things can be done to cope with the sun. You can supply partial shade and you may provide a cover over the pots. The shade, whether from a natural source (tree cover) or a shade cloth material, should provide greater protection from the afternoon sun. Late afternoon sun can be a problem because the temperature is highest and the soil is usually drier at that time. A cover over the pot should not touch the pot. A non-porous cover may create an oven. There should be good air flow around the pot for cooling. Ideally watering should be done at 2pm or so. That would lower the soil temp to around 70 and would provide for some evaporative cooling the rest of the afternoon.

Keeping the plants healthy means taking care of insects and diseases promptly, keeping them out of water stress, and feeding properly. A good many species could take full sun (on the tops) if they are healthy. A 30% shade cloth over them during this time would be better. Japa-nese maples and others with thin leaves would need more shade.

During these extremely hot periods take care when using chemicals. This is true whether you are using organic chemicals or the other kind. I do not use my organic spray unless it can have a few hours before it gets to 90. Heat makes chemicals more active and they can damage your plants. Be sure to read the fine print on the label re temperature use. You may need to use them early in the morning or very late evening. Most commercial chemicals are sold in an oil based mixture which can damage some like buttonwood at any temperature.

When checking the results on your plants after spraying remember that the spray usually will not remove the 'evidence' of problems. The webs will still be there after the mites are killed, the shells of the scale will be attached to the leaf or stem. These will have to be removed by hand, by a jet of water, or some other way. A soft toothbrush works good on the scale shells.

Good fertilizer techniques will help you maintain healthy bonsai. The best technique is to use organic fertilizer balls on the surface. They will supply a very low dose of nutrients every time you water. Time release fertilizer will work but you do not have much control, it releases a lot when you first put it on and you do not know when it peters out. Water soluble fertilizers are concentrated chemicals that may be too active for high temp use. They also quickly wash out of the soil as you water and you are doing that more often now. Check to see that your fertilizer supplies the many micronutrients that plants need.

Azaleas set their buds in July. Other spring flowering plants also set buds in the fall. They should not be pruned after bud set if you desire the blooms. If you are in a developmental stage you can still prune them. Other flowering plants should have the dead blooms and seed pods removed. That may encourage more flowering. Some tropicals like the bougainvillea flower after a dry period which is their natural dormancy. Check growth habits for your species.

Check your trees for moss growing on trunks. Bark seems to hold moisture pretty good and the extra watering may cause moss to grow. Kill it with 90% isopropyl alcohol. Let it die before picking off gently with tweezers. Too much moss on the soil interferes with proper watering.

More on water practices. I prefer to water heavily in the evening (in normal weather). That gives the plant all night to renew itself without losing most of its water to evaporation. Then in the early morning, they get a quick foliage spray and wetting the surface of the soil which may have dried out overnight. Very porous soil may need more morning water. This was what I did while working since the morning task only took 10

August Bonsai

By John Miller

minutes or so. Now I still prefer to water heavily in the evening but the morning watering is more done more slowly and trees given a little more individual attention as some of them will not need water in the soil. Be sure to do the double watering bit--water thoroughly and then after a few minutes water again so that the dry soil particles will get moistened.

Also watch for signs of insect problems. The spider mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, and mealy bugs. Preventative medicine is best. By the time you see signs, the damage is already done, especially spider mites. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and 5% apple cider vinegar per gallon water) to control all these. You can use some of the other organic controls or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully. Do not apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods or other sensitive species. A hose end sprayer does not work very well, its droplets are too large and you have little control over where it goes. Use a pump sprayer with a fine spray and cover both top and bottom of leaves.

The humidity in summer varies quite a bit but when it sticks around for a few days look for fungal problems to appear, mildew being the most prevalent. Foliage spraying in the morning will usually not be a problem because it dries pretty quickly. Treat with potassium carbonate which you can find at any nursery with a de-cent organic section. There are several chemical sprays available too.



BRITE IDEAS

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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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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.