



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

August 2023 vol 155

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Calendar of Events

August 9, 2023

- ◆ Topic: Portulacaria afra
- ◆ Presenter: Gilbert Cantu
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
- ◆ Meeting begins at 7 pm
- ◆ Social starts at 6:30 pm

September 16, 2023

- ◆ Annual Auction
- ◆ Anderson Mill Garden Center

2023 Board of Directors

Jonathan W.
President

Roland L.
Vice President

Eric B.
Secretary

Gloria N.
Treasurer

Simon T.
Member-At-Large

Jacob K.
Member-At-Large

Ever V.
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Refreshments
Quoc H.
Eric B.

Tree Hosts
Judy G.
Eric B.

President's Message

By Jonathan W.

Jonathan is dealing with an urgent matter and will not be able to deliver a message for this month. We hope to see him at our regular club meeting next week.

Reminder for club membership and advertisement

2023 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).

Vice President's Message

By Roland L.

Hello ABS,

I tell you, this summer is one of the most challenging I've had to deal with thus far in my bonsai practice. My deciduous trees are looking sad, with crispy brown leaves. Good news, I see new leaves emerging. Looks like I'm going to need some shade cloth structure next year. Bonsai is challenging. But I think that may be one reason I enjoy it so much.

I'd like to give a big thank you to our friend, Joey McCoy, for an awesome presentation last month! I hope he inspired many of you to go out and try our native trees and shrubs for bonsai. I don't like to call many people artists. I think that title gets tossed around a little too much. Joey is an artist. He is an individual who does what he wants to do and he isn't scared to explore. And the results of his works come out looking amazing. I'll say it again. We are super lucky to have him here.

For August, we have the jade master from Corpus Christi, Gilbert Cantu! Gilbert works exclusively with portulacaria afra, the tree-like succulent from Africa. He also has a very popular YouTube channel, Little Jade Bonsai, that he regularly pumps out content for. I suggest you check it out. Gilbert will give us a presentation on the jade as a bonsai subject. He will also demonstrate on a tree that he is bringing for us. One lucky raffle winner will take that tree home! Don't miss out.

The following day, on August 10th, Gilbert will be leading a portulacaria afra workshop at MBP Bonsai in Pflugerville, Texas. You can bring your own jade for one on one guidance or you can purchase a tree from Gilbert to work on. Or do both! There will be 6 spots open for this event. You can sign up at the meeting to reserve a spot.

Workshop Details -

Portulacaria Afra(Jade) with Gilbert Cantu

Date: Thursday, August 10

Time: 6:30PM

Place: MBP Bonsai, Pflugerville, TX

Cost: \$50

Spots Open: 6

*Gilbert will have jades to purchase for the workshop that range \$25-\$50 at MBP

Alright my friends. Take care and I hope to see y'all soon.

Roland

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discussion



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AustinBonsaiSociety

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Follow us on Instagram
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YouTube



[https://www.youtube.com/
channel/
UCLSkNbNLd3EOYwikjNlneA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSkNbNLd3EOYwikjNlneA)

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting Minutes, July 18, 2023

Meeting Attendees:

Jonathan W.
Roland L.
Gloria N.
Eric B.
Simon T.
Jacob K.
Everardo V.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:34 pm
2. Secretary's Report for June Board meeting reviewed and approved
3. Treasurer's Report reviewed and approved
4. Preparation for August meeting: Guest artist Gilbert Cantu; workshop on Thursday
5. LSBF Delegate Report: Nothing to report
6. TTSBE Announcements: Kathy Shaner Seminar, Fall Sales
7. Future Items: September BYOT meeting; auction; electronic payments
8. Meeting closed at 9:08 pm

Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

Date	Day of Week	Event Type	Artist	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
7/12/23	WED	Club Night - Presentation	Joey McCoy - http://hotbonsai.blogspot.com/	Native Trees of Texas - which species thrive in our climate and do well as bonsai material	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 6:30PM - 9:00PM	donation table items welcome
8/9/23	WED	Club Night - Demo/ Presentation	Gilbert Cantu https://www.littlejadebonsai.com/	Portulacaria Afra Bonsai with a Jade expert	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 6:30PM - 9:00PM	optional tickets for demo tree / donation table items welcome
8/10/23	THUR	Workshop	Artist and Youtube Sensation Gilbert Cantu leads this member's workshop	BYOTree or purchase a jade pre-bonsai to work on from jade expert, Gilbert Cantu	MBP Bonsai 6:30PM-9:00PM 601 Kay Ln Pflugerville, TX	Cost of Tree material and supplies
9/13/23	WED	Club Night - Demo/ Presentation	Members bring in a tree for help / guidance.	BYOT for Guidance to push your tree to the next level	Zilker Botanical Garden Center	donation table items welcome
9/16/23	SAT	Bonsai Auction Event	Members donate bonsai, tools, supplies, pots, stands, books etc	Fundraiser for Austin Bonsai Society - funds for Guest Artists /Lectures/Demos etc	Anderson Mill Garden Club Center Approx 10:00AM 13974 FM2769, Volente, TX 78641	Auction items needed – Thank you!!
10/11/23	WED	Club Night - Demo/ Presentation	LSBF touring Artist, Jim Doyle	Jim Doyle demonstrates techniques styling a Trident Maple Bonsai	Zilker Botanical Garden Center	donation table items welcome

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 100+ 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. Japanese 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

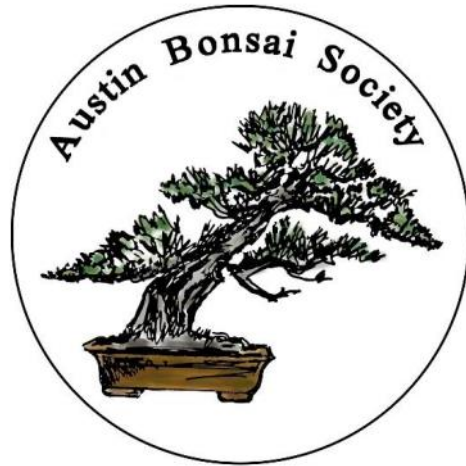
flowering. Some tropicals like the bougainvillea flower after a dry period which is their natural dormancy.

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 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 decent organic section. There are several chemical sprays available too.



ANNUAL ABS AUCTION!
ANDERSON MILL GARDEN CLUB
13974 FM2769, Volente, TX
SAT. Sept. 16, 2023
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.

RULES FOR THE ABS NOT-SO-SILENT AUCTION **SEPTEMBER 16, 2023**

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. 13 (the next regular meeting)** 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. 13** as an e-mail attachment to gnorberg@austin.rr.com.

FOR THE ABS NOT-SO-SILENT AUCTION – SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

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

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Donor_____

Approx. Cost_____

Item_____

Buyer #_____

Final Bid_____

Auction Item Tag

Item_____

Donor_____

Approx. Cost_____

Item_____

Buyer #_____

Final Bid_____

Native Trees of Texas

Joey McCoy



Native Trees of Texas

Joey McCoy



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.

New/Renewed Members

Nastassja M.

Patrick & Angie H.

Christy & Marc R.

Alex P.

Matt H.

Ben 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.

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



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Your source for:
High quality Yagimitsu & Ryukoh tools
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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)



Hawk Eye
Bonsai

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 \$32.50 for an individual and \$37.50 for a family membership. For additional information, contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, TX 78734.