



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

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Calendar of Events

August 13, 2025

- ◆ Topic: BYOT
- ◆ Panel: Senior members of the club
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
- ◆ Time: 6:30pm (Mingling), 7:00pm (Meeting)

August 16, 2025

- ◆ TTSBE One Day Sale
- ◆ Location: Elaine's residence
- ◆ Time: 11:00 am - 3:00pm

2024 Board of Directors

Eric B.
President

Sachin M.
Vice President

Simon T.
Secretary

Jonathan W.
Treasurer

Jorge M.
Member-At-Large

Ross C.
Member-At-Large

Ben M.
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Refreshments
Shawn W.

Tree Hosts
N/A.

President's Message

By Eric B.

Greetings, all my tiny tree people! I hope your trees are handling the heat and dryness well, now that summer has finally decided to show up in full. I've started watering my trees twice a day, morning and evening if they need it, especially those in smaller pots. I'm happy with the 30% shade cloth I put up; 50% was just too much.

A big thank you is owed to **May Lau, Joey McCoy, and Greg Setter** for sharing their expertise with us at our July meeting. Even though I didn't submit a tree for critiquing, I still got a lot out of the discussion from three of our resident masters. May, Joey, and Greg, we're lucky to have you!

Our next club meeting, on **August 9, 2025**, is another Bring Your Own Tree night. So, bring in a tree or two and let's get our bonsai freak on! And, please be sure any trees you bring in are pest and disease free.

The club auction is now less than 2 months away in **September**, so please take a look at your collection to see if there's anything you would like to donate. Also, if you have something you might like to sell that's a bit more on the expensive side, you can put it in the auction and split the sale price with ABS. It's a great way to clear out some space in your collection. Then you can fill that space right back up with trees you buy at the auction! Think of it as crop rotation. We will also need a few volunteers, to help set up before the auction and clean up afterward, and two or three people to provide refreshments.

A reminder: the Lone Star Bonsai Federation's Annual Convention is being held in Corpus Christi, TX, Sept. 18-21, 2025. The theme is Bonsai on the Bay, and tickets are currently available on Eventbrite. The artists headlining the convention are Jennifer Price, Mike Lane, and Jonas Dupuich. The conventions are always great fun, so I hope to see you there!

That's all for now, see you in August!

Eric

Vice President's Message

By Sachin A.

Dear Members,

As we roll into the heart of summer, it's been a refreshing change to see such a wet start to the season. The rain has certainly encouraged vigorous growth across our bonsai collections. While this is great for development, don't forget to stay on top of pruning and wiring—our trees are taking full advantage of the extra moisture, and they're not slowing down!

Looking ahead, I'm excited to invite you to our **August club meeting**, which will be held on **Wednesday, August 13th at Zilker Botanical Garden**. This month's format is a "**Bring Your Own Tree**" session—a fantastic opportunity to work on your trees in a relaxed setting, get advice from fellow members, and share tips and techniques. Whether you're refining an advanced piece or need help styling a pre-bonsai, we encourage everyone to participate.

Also, a friendly reminder to those who have signed up for the Andrew Robson workshop—it's happening Sunday, August 2nd at MBP Bonsai Studio. Andrew always brings an incredible depth of knowledge and artistry, and we're lucky to have him here. Be sure to arrive a little early, bring your tools, and come prepared to learn and be inspired.

Stay cool, stay hydrated, and most importantly, enjoy your time with your trees. I look forward to seeing many of you soon!

Warm regards,
Sachin Attavar

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

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Date: July 17, 2025

Location: Virtual

Meeting Attendees:

- ◆ Eric (President)
- ◆ Sachin (Vice President)
- ◆ Jonathan (Treasurer)
- ◆ Ross

President:

- ◆ Discussion covered Sylvia's demonstration and associated travel expenses.
- ◆ Convention details were discussed.

Vice President:

- ◆ Andrew Robson's visitation details have been finalized, and the special workshop is now at full capacity.
- ◆ Talked about August BYOT meeting.

Secretary:

- ◆ Meeting started at **7:31 pm**
- ◆ The most recent report was approved as submitted, with no revisions required.

Treasurer:

- ◆ The mutual fund situation was discussed, and half of the fund has been liquidated following a unanimous 'yes' vote by the four board members present at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at **8:44 pm**

Reminder for club membership and advertisement

2025 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

Club Meeting (3 experts critique)



Satsuki Azalea Early Summer Work: Fishtail

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)

The major season of work on Satsuki azalea is after blooming. Remaining flowers are removed. The ovaries are cut off. And the shoots are selected, shortened, and the leaves reduced to 2, a technique known as fishtail.

Let's take a look at this key azalea maintenance technique.



A Satsuki azalea at the end of bloom cycle in late June. Some flowers are still out, some are finished, and vegetative growth is well underway.

Satsuki Azalea Early Summer Work: Fishtail



First, take off any remaining flowers.

Satsuki Azalea Early Summer Work: Fishtail



The ovary has a long, light-colored pistil attached. Cut off at the base.

Satsuki Azalea Early Summer Work: Fishtail



Next, on the typical branchlet there are several shoots growing from one point. We only want to leave two. (On a thinly-branched azalea you can leave 3 shoots for a year or two.)

Satsuki Azalea Early Summer Work: Fishtail



First shoot being removed. This one is growing up.

Satsuki Azalea Early Summer Work: Fishtail



Second shoot removed. Also growing up.

Satsuki Azalea Early Summer Work: Fishtail



Third shoot cut off (one is hidden by the scissors). This middle shoot is very strong.

Satsuki Azalea Early Summer Work: Fishtail



Two shoots are now left from the five. Not too strong, not too weak.

Satsuki Azalea Early Summer Work: Fishtail



Next, cut the shoot tip off, leaving at least two full size leaves.

Satsuki Azalea Early Summer Work: Fishtail



Extra leaves are cut off, leaving two.

Satsuki Azalea Early Summer Work: Fishtail



Final shoots with a pair of leaves each. Looks fishy, yes?

Satsuki Azalea Early Summer Work: Fishtail



The area from the first photo again after flower removal, cutting shoots, and thinning leaves. From this trim, the plant will regrow new shoots over the summer. At their ends will be next year's flower buds.

In the fall we'll come back to select which of those should remain. Sound familiar? This 2-step annual technique is a close mirror of Japanese Black Pine. Minus the flowers.

Ideally fishtail is done within the first week or two of July, or whenever flowering is wrapping up. A 2-3 month summer growing season is sufficient to set blooms on the regrowth. Be sure to water and fertilize well through the summer to help set flower buds for next year.

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 for 2025

May and Simon T.

Matt S.

Phina & Marlon C.

Lizzle and Nathan G.

Jonathan W.

John M. and Blake S.

Eric and Leigh B.

Ross C.

Ruby C.

Alisan C., and Lynn H.

Mike and Candy H.

Julia and Betty D.

Quoc H.

Debbie and John H.

Hunter J.

Jacob K.

Roland L. and Krystal W.

Joey M.

Andrew M.

Michael and Gloria N.

Lyon O.

Corbin C.

Wyatt S.

Spindel, Abraham, and Kelly S.

Jorge V.

Chuck and Pat W.

Janelle W.

Fred w.

Elaine W.

Shawn and Chris W.

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!

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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