



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

February 2021 vol 125

## Our News

**President's Message**  
*page 2*

**Vice President's Message**  
*page 3*

**Zoom Meeting/Workshop Photos**  
*page 4*

**Board Minutes/Treasurer's Message**  
*page 5 - 6*

**General Winter Protection Guide**  
*page 7*

**February Bonsai**  
*page 8 - 9*

**Recruiting Authors**  
*page 10*

## Calendar of Events

- **February 10**  
**Andrew Robson**

## 2021 Board of Directors

**Roland Lopez**  
President

**Summer Lee**  
Vice President

**Ruwan Perera**  
Secretary

**Gloria Norberg**  
Treasurer

**Morgan Bean**  
Member-At-Large

**Jakob Clark**  
Member-At-Large

**Mike Garza**  
Member-At-Large

## Volunteers

N/A

# President's Message

*By Roland Lopez*

Hello Austin Bonsai Society,

One of the busiest times of the year for bonsai practitioners is quickly approaching us. Are you ready? I think we all enjoy the planning of trees we're going to collect and the change of clothes (containers) our trees will receive. It's exciting! All winter long we've been dreaming of when our trees will wake up, hoping to push them to the next level of their development. In the meantime, I hope you've enjoyed the less frequent watering and the beauty of winter that your trees reflect. It's wonderful to see them bare with everything exposed. You can also enjoy the changes of color on your evergreen trees as well. Marvelous! This quiet time for the trees reminds me of change and how necessary it is for life. Enjoy this important time with your trees.

This first month of ABS has been exciting and rewarding! Todd Schlafer's demo was well received and it's great that we could continue our connection with him. His oneseed juniper was wonderful. Watching Todd bring a bonsai out of a wild tree is always inspiring and impressive. Our friend, Brandon Baldauf, guided our members in our first ever virtual workshop. I am happy to tell you it was a success! Brandon gracefully demonstrated his knowledge and helped the participants expand their experience with juniper design. It would have not been possible without the help from our friend, Ruwan! I believe Ruwan has been an important component in our club's growth and survival. Last year he helped us into the virtual world and he continues to support us. Your patience and kindness are appreciated, Ruwan.

We are growing and going to places we've never been before. Right now, I feel like we're heading into uncharted territory and there are riches to be discovered! This is most certainly an exciting time for ABS. I look forward to the journey with you all.

This month, we are proud to bring you Andrew Robson! Andrew is a deciduous tree whiz and is Michael Hagedorn's protege. He will be discussing nebari and deciduous repotting - a topic I am eager to learn about! Andrew runs RAKUYO-en, a deciduous bonsai garden, school and nursery in Portland, Oregon. I am looking forward to his presentation and I'm sure we could all use his knowledge and apply it to our upcoming repotting work.

See you soon and take care everyone.

With a warm smile,

Roland

## Reminder for club membership

### 2021 membership fee

Individual	\$32.50
Family	\$37.50
Newsletter monthly advertisements:	\$37.50
Directory advertisement:	\$11

You may contact [payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com](mailto:payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com) for convenient electronic payments options (processing fee included).

## Get Connected!

Join our online  
discussion



## Official Website

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

## Facebook



Like our Facebook page  
AustinBonsaiSociety

## Twitter



Follow us on Twitter  
@ATXBonsai

## Instagram



Follow us on Instagram  
@austinbonsaisociety

## ABS Library

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

## YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSkNkBNld3EOYwjkjNIneA>

# Vice President's Message

By Summer Lee

"Aloha Bonsai Family!

I hope that this message finds you all happy and healthy! I just got back from an awesome glamping trip in the hill country and feel so refreshed. I woke up and ran outside to capture a beautiful sunrise with my camera every morning. The rest of the day was spent staring at trees and getting some inspiration for designing my bonsai trees.

I'd like to say, I really enjoyed Todd's presentation. He did a great job in walking us through his thought process on his One Seed Juniper. I attached before and after photos for your viewing pleasure.

As for Brandon's workshop...Wow! I was impressed all around. First of all, Brandon was amazing in the detail he provided while working on his juniper. He has taken the years of instruction from multiple bonsai instructors along with his own experience and provided a well thought out workshop.

Ruwan did an AWESOME job at setting up the equipment to live stream and record the workshop. I was surprised that he transformed my theater into a filming studio! We had the main camera, detail cam, and Brandon was mic'd up for audio. A monitor was set up so that workshop attendees could show their trees and ask questions. I'm so grateful to have Ruwan volunteer his time to take us to a whole new level of providing virtual content. I've included some shots I took during the workshop.

For our February presentation, Andrew Robson will be presenting on Deciduous repotting and nebari techniques. This should help prep us for repotting season! I'm really looking forward to seeing Andrew again and I hope everyone will enjoy his presentation.

That's all I have folks! Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

-S"

## Regular Meeting (Todd) and Workshop (Brandon)



# ABS Board Minutes

## *January 2021*

7:07 - Announcements start

Roland welcomes the club for a new year.

We have a short finance report from Gloria. We currently have a small deficit of \$18. Everyone needs to make sure to pay their membership fee. So far we only have about 21 people who have paid. We would like to thank Brandon for the auction items

7:11 - Todd Begins

Board meeting Minutes:

Attendees: Roland ,Summer, Ruwan, Gloria, Simon, Jakob

Meeting starts at 7:06

—We discuss the first meeting and thank Todd for the demo.

—The board decides to wait till 2024 to host the LSBF

We spent much of the meeting discussing and arranging the presenter schedule for the year. We will finalize the schedule at the next meeting.

7:43 - Jakob Joins

We discuss a document repository. An easy way to share information between board members and store all our information for the future. We will make a decision in two weeks.

We decided to make a public slack channel in addition to the private one only for group members. This will help the community interact with us online.

In addition to Slack we decided to create an ABS facebook group to help reach out to the wider community and demographic. Jakob will start it.

We discuss how to add more value to an ABS membership. Some things we are open to doing:

Summer volunteers her tea house and some tools for members to come and use. Ask the club for volunteers as well.

Create a public video library of information.

Start a Mentorship Program for new members where we pair a new member with a more experienced one to learn from. We need to find mentors within the club, advertise, and organize it.

Marketing to get more members

—We need new members and we need a way for people to learn about us. We need to use social media advertising. Jakob offers to make ads for us. This is a separate project we will discuss more at the next meeting. Ads and marketing need to be front loaded at the start of the year for the most benefit.

Vendors

— Create a packet with different levels of vendor sponsorship to hand out.

— Ruwan will create an excel sheet of vendors to advertise with. We will split the places to contact. Payment and designs must be in by Feb 28th.

Meeting ends: 9:23

# Treasurer's Message

## January 2021

Hi Folks,

Our annual membership fees pay for a quarter to a third of our ABS expenses. Thank you to those folks who have been proactive in making their payments this year!! The deadline for getting your information into the Directory is Feb. 28.

We all miss our in-person gatherings enormously. However, we are able to stay connected digitally and, using Zoom, we are able to interact with outstanding artists by paying only their fee but without paying their travel, lodging and food. I am well aware that it is a sad trade-off but it is what we must do to keep everyone safe until we hear that Zilker is opening. I bring this up because it is not unreasonable to stay within our budget under the current circumstances if we keep our membership payments up and if we are generous with donations of items for raffles and our annual auction.

Please help!! Information for payment is provided below as well as at our club website. Directories listing active members will be mailed out in March as soon as they are ready. If you are interested in advertising in our Directory (annual) and Newsletters (monthly), such fees are also due Feb. 28. Contact [payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com](mailto:payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com) for payment options.

Thanks in advance for your dues that are due!!  
Gloria

### **International BONSAI is Free Online:**

Bill and Diane Valavanis recently sent out a message regarding the bonsai magazine they publish:

“Dear customers and friends,  
In order to advance classical bonsai art to a broader and world-wide audience, I have decided that after publishing International BONSAI for 42 years and producing 164 issues, to suspend the printed edition.

Instead I will expand my educational offerings with the introduction of International BONSAI OnLine which is a FREE digital bi-monthly magazine, it will continue with the high standards of quality we have introduced to English language bonsai magazines. It continues to be the first and only professional bonsai magazine published in the United States.

With the introduction of the Free bi-monthly magazine in a digital edition, I feel we can reach more people and International BONSAI OnLine has the potential of having the largest circulation making it ideal for advertisers to offer their products and services; as well as to promote bonsai exhibitions, conventions and other gatherings. You can easily subscribe FREE at:  
[www.internationalbonsaionline.com](http://www.internationalbonsaionline.com). ... “

### **Golden Statements Magazine is also Free Online:**

Golden Statements Magazine is the official publication of the Golden State Bonsai Federation which is made up of member clubs in California and affiliate clubs in the adjoining States. The free subscription allows you to receive a quarterly automatic email notification when the magazine is posted online. To view and subscribe, go to <http://www.gsbfbonsai.org/Articles.asp?ID=291>.

## New Members

**Spicer E**  
**Nicholas L**  
**Arlo M**  
**Jacob K**



## General winter protection guides for Bonsai/plants

### Need protection from cold weather

Aralia - all varieties	Cardboard Palm	Okinawa Holly (Malpighia variety)
Barbados Cherry	Ficus – all varieties	Orange, Lemon – all citrus
Bougainvillea	Fukien Tea (never below 45F)	Papyrus
Brush Cherry	Ivies - all varieties	Satinwood
Burcera Fagaroides	Jacaranda	Sea Grape
Bucida Spinosa (Black Olive)	Indoor Oak (Nicodemia)	Sageretia
Bucida Burcera (Black Olive)	Ixora	Serissa (Snow Rose)
Buttonwood	Jasmine – Duke	Texas Ebony
Calliandra (Powder Puff)	Jaboticaba	Zamia Floridana
Carissa (Natal/African Plum)	Malpighias - Cocigera & Glabra	

### Semi-hardy

Bamboo - in pot	Gardenia	Yaupon Holly – never below 25F
Blood Grass	Olive - Olea Europs	Rosemary
Camellia (don't let buds freeze)	Podocarpus – never below 20F	Tallow
Hokkaido & Seiju & Catlin elms	Pyracantha – never below 25F	

### Need 6-8 weeks cold period

Abelia	Ginkgo	Pine
Althea	Grape	Pyrus Kawakami/Calley
Apple/Crabapple	Holly - most	Pittosporum
Arbovitae	Honeysuckle	Plum
Azalea - Satsuki may be indoors	Jasmine – confederate	Pistachio
Bald Cypress	Juniper – most	Quince
Barberry	Ligustrum/Privet	Raphiolepis (Redbud)
Camellia	Maples – all	Spirea
Chamaecyparis	Myrtle – all	Spruce
Cotoneaster	Nandina	Sweet Gum
Cryptomeria	Oaks	Viburnum
Cypress	Osmanthus	Willow
Elms - Chinese & American	Peach	Wisteria
Forsythia	Persimmon	Zelkova

Courtesy of Edith Sorge, former member of Austin Bonsai Society – 1989

Addendum and revised – 11/2017

# February Bonsai

*By John Miller*

Bonsai tasks in February sometime pile up on each other. Generally repotting is not finished before some species need to have their trimming started. And watering, feeding, and pathogen control must be attended to. Check your work and family schedules and see if there may be conflicts arising. You may need to make adjustments such as doing the repotting at an earlier time than is optimum or twig pruning instead of watching tv.

Usually the first part of the month requires you to continue the winter care. Check the watering, make sure no varmints are doing their thing, watch for signs of new growth. The sun gets pretty hot on some February days. Do not let your trees get too much heat and break their dormancy. If they do you will need to provide frost and/or freeze protection for them and you will need to get their repotting do fast. New foliage will require some wind protection also.

The optimum time to do repotting on cold hardy plants is when the buds are just beginning to swell. It should be finished by the time the new green is starting to show. One exception is the dwarf yaupon holly. It may be held and re-potted a little later as it grows best when the temperature is nice and warm. Juniper may be done a little later also, it is hard to determine when growth starts. Do the pines when the buds begin to elongate. As a rule this will put your repotting from the middle of February to the end of March. Again if your schedule is uncertain it is better to repot early. Note: Do not handle trees by their trunks, that will damage the bark and make it look like reverse taper.

The critical thing to have excellent bonsai is to do the trimming of the new growth correctly. This is what develops the ramification, twiginess and small leaves you desire. This trimming is where the real work of keeping your bonsai as bonsai is. Basically there are three types of growth on your trees, opposite leaves, alternate leaves, and the adult juniper growth. The best example of opposite growth is the maples, of alternate would be the elms and oak. When pruning for development, that is growing the branches you need and developing the secondary branches you will

allow the new growth to elongate and thicken the base of the branch. Be sure to wire it in order to have the proper angle where it originates. When it is thick enough you will cut it back and grow another tip. This develops taper and motion in your branch.

After the tree is styled you will prune to develop the twigs and small leaves which give the tree the look of age. Not done correctly, the twigs will be too fat and heavy and the leaves larger than they need be.

On alternate growing type of plants, let the new growth grow to 4-5 leaves. Then cut it back to 2 or 3 leaves. Decide on which direction you wish the new leader to go and cut to the leaf on that side. A new shoot is also emerge from the leaves behind that one. Keep this up as long as the tree is putting out new shoots.

Watch the new growth of alternately leaved tree closely. You will see the bud opening with two new leaves spreading apart. Between the two new leaves a new growing tip will be seen. The sooner this tip is removed, the shorter will be the internodes. If it not removed, the stalk behind the leaves will continue to grow. This stalk becomes the internode when the twig continues to grow. On maples especially, the proper tool to use is tweezers that have a fairly sharp point. You must clip the tip behind its leaf node. Sometimes you will need to gently open the new leaves to get the tip in time. This is also true for doing oaks.

Everyone uses the term pinch when describing how to trim junipers however that is not a good term. When working on scale foliage you do not want to use scissors because they will cut across the scale and create brown tips on your branches. The proper technique is to pluck the tips by hold-ing the new foliage between the fleshy parts of your thumb and finger. Never use the nails which would bruise the scale foliage. I do this also on the bald cypress although it is possible to cut with scissors without cutting their needles.

On the subject of pruning, you can still do styling work It can be done until the sap begins as evidenced by the buds swelling. Check last years wiring especially at the



# February Bonsai

*By John Miller*

base of the branch. Remove it if necessary. Branches will swell when growth begins.

Spring flowering plants have their buds set. Wiring and other work could damage them. Would be best to leave them until after they bloom. If the azaleas have too many buds you should remove some. The flowers should have enough room to open without being unduly crowded.

Wisteria blooms on new growth. The new growth should be left to get long enough to have flowers. (American wisteria, *wisteria frutescens*, will bloom on very young plants and will re-bloom several times if new growth is pruned after it blooms.)

While you get your trees out of winter storage, look for candidates for showing in your club events. Put them where you will give them more TLC. Keep their grooming right up to snuff from the beginning, don't wait and try to do a last minute trim. If the pots are clean a light coating of Leaf-Shine will help keep them that way and make any last minute touchup easy.

Aphids will show up about as soon as new foliage. The new foliage can be tender so be careful of sprays. Spider mites and scale will be in any warm locale on evergreens and in the greenhouse. The organic spray (one table-spoon each of liquid kelp, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon water) works well for me. If you use chemical sprays be sure to read the label closely. If you get moss on the bark of your trees, try isopropyl alcohol. After the moss is killed pick it off carefully so as to not pull the bark away.

Take advantage of any collecting trips you can go on. They make it easy to have a 50 or 100 year old tree within your life time.



**BRITE IDEAS**

**AQUAPONICS  
HYDROPONICS & ORGANICS**

[Http://www.bihydro.com](http://www.bihydro.com)

Owner: Troy Smith

12110 Menchaca Rd. Ste.103 Austin, TX 78748 (512)444-2100	2521 Rutland Dr. #475 Austin, TX 78758 (512)459-4353
---	--

## 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](mailto: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!

**JADE GARDENS**  
HOME OF THE



Owners **Chuck and Pat Ware**

JADE GARDENS  
Wimberley, Texas

12404 Ranch Road 12  
Wimberley, TX 78676  
Visa & MasterCard  
(512) 847-2514  
e-mail: [bonsaijg@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaijg@gmail.com)  
<http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

**MBP Bonsai Studio**  
Importers, Retail & Wholesale  
Your source for:  
High quality Yagimitsu & Ryukoh tools  
Organic Bonsai Fertilizers  
Imported and Domestic Trees  
Bonsai Pottery, Soils and supplies  
Classes & Seminars  
*Open Tuesday Through Sunday*



ph: 512-202-3403  
-mail: [mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net](mailto:mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net)  
601 Kay Lane  
Pflugerville, TX 78660  
(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.