



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

February 2023 vol 149

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Calendar of Events

February 8, 2023

- ◆ Topic: Azalea
- ◆ Presenter: Dr. Hoe Chuah
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
- ◆ Meeting begins at 7 pm
- ◆ Social starts at 6:30 pm

2023 Board of Directors

Jonathan W.
President

Roland L.
Vice President

Eric B.
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Gloria N.
Treasurer

Simon T.
Member-At-Large

Jacob K.
Member-At-Large

Ever V.
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Refreshments
Jeff H.
Joey M.

Tree Host
Joey M.
Gloria N.

President's Message

By Jonathan W.

Welcome new members! Keep coming to 2nd Wednesday Austin Bonsai Society Club meetings (I suggest trying to make several in a row as we cover a wide variety of topics over the year). Also consider participating in future special events and workshops to get to know future friends and mentors in the bonsai art. Reach out and say hi! Maybe even bring a friend or two who takes interest in bonsai to Wednesday meetings from time to time. Our Social time 30 minutes before the start of presentations is a great time to meet new people who share a similar hobby and to mingle around to observe the display trees that members have signed up to bring.

What a great presentation last month by Brandon Baldauf! We had a packed auditorium and enjoyed learning so much about the various species of junipers, how they grow, their genetic trait differences, where they grow, and how to care for them. Thank you for going the extra mile, Brandon, to bring in so many juniper specimens, for your excellent powerpoint presentation and your generosity with items for people to win and take home with them! Thanks also for serving as a past ABS Club President and your passion for this horticultural art is inspiring! It was heartwarming to learn of your daughter raising her own tree alongside her Dad's collection :-).

Spring is around the corner BUT a February cold snap could always be on the way. While we have a mild February forecast as of the time of this writing, historically February has been one of coldest months here in Austin and we have had several icy Valentine's days in Central Texas. Our Bonsai friend Joey has spoken many times about "The Dance" of bringing trees in and out of the cold weather to protect them in the winter and we need to be mindful of trees budding out and then risking freezing temps again.

I'm looking forward to seeing a great membership turnout for Dr. Hoe Chuah's Flowering Azalea Presentation on February 8th. We are lucky to have both the Dr. in February and his wife, Sooncheng Cheah in a future month, share expert presentations with us in the 2023 line-up. Let's show them our Austin Hospitality :-)) and be ready to learn some amazing things.

"Happy Styling",
Jonathan Wood, ABS President

Bonsai quote:

"One of the things I learned from John (Naka)...and it's one of his proverbs that he would say...I heard him say it again and again and again, 'a live donkey is better than a dead doctor'. The meaning of that is that when you're working on bonsai, it's better if your bonsai is kind of like that live donkey. It's got to be alive. ...You have to do the techniques that you are doing to create a master piece...if those techniques are going to kill the tree...it's better to have a lesser tree that's green than this master piece that's dead. And he (John Naka) was always, always sensitive to the life blood in the tree, and that fact that it needs to be healthy and vibrant. That's more important than being artistically perfect. "

-- Cheryl Manning <http://bonsaificusretusa.com/cheryl-manning-bonsai-artist-interview/>

Vice President's Message

By Roland L.

Hello ABS,

We had a wonderful start to the new year with Brandon's presentation! I think he's grown so much as a practitioner over the years I have known him. He is now a regular presenter and I think it's so cool to see him up there now. His Juniper discussion was stellar. I especially liked all the wonderful examples he brought in! Thank you Brandon for sharing your knowledge and passion with us all. It's very inspiring.

This month we have Hoe Chuah from the Houston Bonsai Society visiting us. Dr. Hoe will be discussing azalea bonsai, a species I personally don't have any experience with. The focus will be on how to grow and maintain azaleas here in Texas. I am looking forward to learning about these wonderful flower laden bonsai subjects. Hoe is a plethora of bonsai information and is a very kind person. I'm excited to have him back in Austin! He will also be leading a Bring Your Own Tree workshop while he is here in town the day after his presentation.

Don't forget to bring any items for our raffle and please bring a friend or family member to join us.

See y'all soon!

Roland

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).

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discussion



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ABS Library

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

YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSkNbNld3EOYwjkjNlneA>

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

Secretary's Report for Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting on January 18, 2023

Board Members Attending: Jonathan, Roland, Gloria, Simon, Everardo, Jacob and Eric

No visitors or club members attended.
Meeting called to order by Johnathan, at 7:30 pm.

Secretary's Report:
No amendments to the Secretary's Report.
Motion made by Roland Lopez to accept minutes
Minutes approved by vote of 7-0

Treasurer's Report:
Budget for 2023: A spreadsheet was provided showing January Income over expenses so far this month has been \$1,407 (\$1,180 in dues, \$90 in directory ads, and \$137 in raffle items.
501 (c)3 application status: Treasurer reports that the application is still being filled out, as advice on certain sections of the application is solicited.

Request to reinstate free monthly member workshop: Possible Workshop Locations: MBP Bonsai approx \$50 per workshop event, with board vote approval of any cost. Board needs to find a variety of possible venues for future bonsai workshops that have tables, chairs, and would be ok with repotting and soils etc. Possibly a nursery center? Also a suggestion to have more club digs on the weekends.

Preparation for Next Club Meeting - Feb. 8, 2023
Guest Artist: Dr. Hoe from Houston - Azalea Presentation - Roland Lopez volunteers to assist

Refreshment Hosts: Jeff Harvey and Joey McCoy
Tree Hosts: Joey McCoy and Gloria Norberg

Publicity needs for the next special event: Discussion of more promotion for special events. Possibly listing club meetings with guest artists/presenters with the Zilker Garden Council, so they will notify their members. Board will reach out to members for social media announcements

Additional Reports/ Announcements:
LSBF Delegate Update: now held as online meeting - 2 or 3 times per year Eric Benson is our appointed delegate for these meetings to represent ABS at State-Level "Lone Star Bonsai Federation" Board.

TTSBE announcements: Observe Simon, Joey, Elaine, Alisan, and other TTSBE board members, repot TTSBE historical trees, followed by BYOT repot for club members. Bonsai soil and bonsai related items for sale during BYOT repot. Approximately 18th or 19th February, 2023. Alternative day would be Feb 25th/26th.

ABS Board Meeting Minutes (Continue)

Zilker Garden Council: Email Survey Link for Garden Feedback - let's see more bonsai display, more parking etc.

Old Business

Proposed Calendar for 2023: Roland will provide calendar of club events to Simon, for website and newsletter

New Business

Deciduous Weekend: March 18-19 at Cabela's in Buda, with artist Sergio Cuan. Planning committee: Gloria, Simon, Joey and Quoc. May need more ABS volunteers to set up and take down the event.

Slack: more accessible for membership or balance Slack use with email and in person communication.

2026 Austin/LSBF Bonsai Convention Chair: Simon Tse volunteers to continue his work in this role.

BYOT Club Workshop Member-run repotting session: discussion started, then the Board learned of the TTSBE BYOT repot in February, and decided to promote that to club members. Perhaps have a BYOT club repot later in the year for tropicals.

Tabled Business

No tabled business

Close Meeting

Motion to Close Meeting: Gloria N.

Vote: 7-0 to close the meeting

Meeting Closed: 8:45 pm

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit (TTSBE)

There has been a large increase in membership of the Austin Bonsai Society in the past several years. Do you know that you are also members of The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit (TTSBE) at no additional costs?

This separate organization is also non-profit funded in 2000 by 9 ABS members to care for and display to the public, donated bonsai from estates and others who can no longer care for their bonsai.

We occasionally ask for volunteers for special projects, especially for lifting and moving our 4 to 10 man trees when trimming or repotting. Volunteers hours and contributions are recorded.

A Master Plan for Zilker Botanical Gardens are in the planning stages and TTSBE hopes to become a permanent part of this grand vision. Meanwhile, we have a Bonsai Exhibit of 11 bonsai on display (rotated seasonally) towards the upper end of the koi pond. As part of our educational endeavors, we have flyers there to help answer the questions the public always has about bonsai. Please plan a visit soon.

Elaine W.

** TTSBE is planning to have an open to public repotting day on 2/18. New and existing members of ABS are invited to bring their own small/medium trees (BYOT) for repotting. Some historical trees in the TTSBE collection will be repotted and we'll have several stations to demonstrate techniques and best practices. Bonsai soil, pots and other related items will be for sale as part of our fundraising effort. More information to follow.

Sergio Cuan Workshop

March 18 - 19



*****March 18-19 – Deciduous Weekend with Sergio Cuan at Cabela’s in Buda*****

ABS and Gloria N. are thrilled to announce that Sergio Cuan is coming to Austin (well, actually Buda) for a weekend of work on deciduous trees.

Sergio is a visual artist who graduated with a BFA in Art and Design from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. He works professionally as a creative director for a major entertainment company in New York City. He also has a passion for painting and horticulture alike. Early on he realized that bonsai was the ideal synthesis of his training, skills and passions.

Further information on Sergio’s trees shown here is found by clicking on the images at www.m5bonsaiworks.com.

2014



2022



This Japanese white beech forest was shown at the 6th US National in 2016. In December 2016, this tree was honored with the "BEST IN SHOW" award at the Winter Silhouette Bonsai Expo in Kannapolis, NC. This bonsai stands 26" tall from the base of the trees with a 36" wide canopy.

Sergio's particular interest and passion is for a wide range of deciduous species including maples, elm and beech. He sees bonsai as a true art form holding commonalities with painting, drawing and sculpture.



For Sergio, this tree gave rise to a total obsession with Japanese maples. Throughout the years he has worked carefully in building a densely ramified canopy while keeping all areas in balance with each other. He also has carried out root grafts to further improve the nebari.



The Japanese maple 'Arakawa' has beautifully textured bark with brilliant spring and autumn color making this variety an exceptional choice for bonsai. This tree has appeared in International Bonsai Magazine issue# 3, 2020.

Unlike other art forms, bonsai is alive and constantly evolving which gives rise to an intimate and continued dialogue between the artist and nature. This relationship gives bonsai its own unique dimension for we must allow the tree to guide us as we strive to bring out its beauty and elegant form that teases you to pause with "Wait! I want to see that again!"



The 'Kashima' maple is basally dominant so lower areas must be kept in check to prevent the apex from weakening.



This yatsubusa elm stands 7" from soil level. Its most striking features include the incredibly fissured bark and tiny leaves which impart a very believable scale to the image it presents.



A stunning three-point display of this bald cypress.

Sergio has worked with folks in Houston at Timeless Trees and is familiar with Texas trees, especially cedar elms. He works with yamadori, beginning trees, styled trees and helps good trees become great trees!!

Saturday the 18th will be a Bring Your Own Deciduous Tree(s) for 8 participants from 9:30 AM to 4:45 PM.

Sunday the 19th will have a Deciduous Morning workshop (10AM – 1:45 PM), with Japanese palmatum Arakawas for 8 participants (preferably advanced deciduous artists; Arakawas are tricky trees). Choose your tree at 6:30 PM Feb. 8th regular ABS mtg.

Sunday the 19th will have a Private Afternoon (2:15 to 5:45PM) BYOT Workshop for one or two participants.

In-person registration will open at 6:30 PM at the February 8th meeting of our club. Further details and prices are listed in the accompanying notice.

Deciduous Weekend with Sergio Cuan March 18-19

Sergio is known for taking good trees a giant step toward becoming great trees!

Three Workshops; Sign up for One, Two or All Three

*In-person Enrollment opens at 6:30 PM on Feb 8th at the regular mtg of
ABS*

----- Workshop No. 1 -----

Saturday, March 18 – All Day: Bring your own deciduous tree(s) (max of 2)

Cost - **\$185****

of open spots - 8

When - **9:30 AM to 4:45 PM**

Lunch – a catered sack lunch *** (see below)

Bring – tools, wire and any supplies (for grafting, repotting, hand carving?)

----- Workshop No. 2 -----

**Sunday March 19, 10 AM to 1:45 PM – *Acer palmatum* ‘Arakawa’
workshop**

Cost – **\$135 + Arakawa cost****; choose yours at the Feb. meeting (\$100-
\$300)

of open spots – 8: (preferably for advanced deciduous registrants)

When - **10 AM to 1:45 PM – NOTE: one-half day!**

Lunch – *not provided*; workshop ends at 1:45 PM

Bring – tools, wire and supplies

----- Workshop No. 3 -----

Sunday, March 19 2 PM to 5:45 PM – BYOT Semi-Private Deciduous work

Cost - \$225/person**

of open spots - 2

When - 2:00 PM to 5:45 PM

Lunch – none provided

Bring – tools, wire and any supplies (for grafting, repotting, hand carving?)

Where: All workshops will be at Cabela's - 15570 S I-35 Frontage Rd, Buda, TX
Conference room is upstairs in the back of the building

**** (PayPal? - if yes, add 10% to total fees)**

***** Lunch Options for Saturday Only; let Gloria know your choice when you register**

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| A. Ham & Swiss AND Turkey & Swiss mini sandwiches. | B. Chicken Salad on a Croissant |
| C. Veggie | D. Gluten Free |

All lunches will come with pimento cheese with crackers and toasted pecans, a bag of chips, piece of fresh fruit, and a dessert of the day.

2022 Award-Winning Displays

by Jonas Dupuich (Bonsai Tonight) - Permission to reprint

We proudly present the winning displays from the 2022 Pacific Bonsai Expo.

Best in Show: Ponderosa Pine by Randy Knight

\$2500 Award sponsored by the Golden State Bonsai Federation

trophy by Dennis Aman



Image courtesy Aki Yamakawa

2022 Award-Winning Displays

by Jonas Dupuich (Bonsai Tonight) - Permission to reprint

Best Conifer: Shimpaku juniper by Jeff Stern

\$2000 Award sponsored by Bob Pressler, Kimura Bonsai and Landscape Nursery
trophy by Nao Tokutake and Aaron Kupferman



Image courtesy Aki Yamakawa

2022 Award-Winning Displays

by Jonas Dupuich (Bonsai Tonight) - Permission to reprint

Best Deciduous: Winter hazel by Andrew Robson
\$2000 Award sponsored by Peter Tea, PTBonsai.com
trophy by Nao Tokutake and Aaron Kupferman



Image courtesy Aki Yamakawa

2022 Award-Winning Displays

by Jonas Dupuich (Bonsai Tonight) - Permission to reprint

Best Broadleaf Evergreen: Chinese Banyan Tiger Bark Ficus by Jeff Stern
\$2000 Award sponsored by John and Michelle Kim, Joshua Roth Limited
trophy by Nao Tokutake and Aaron Kupferman

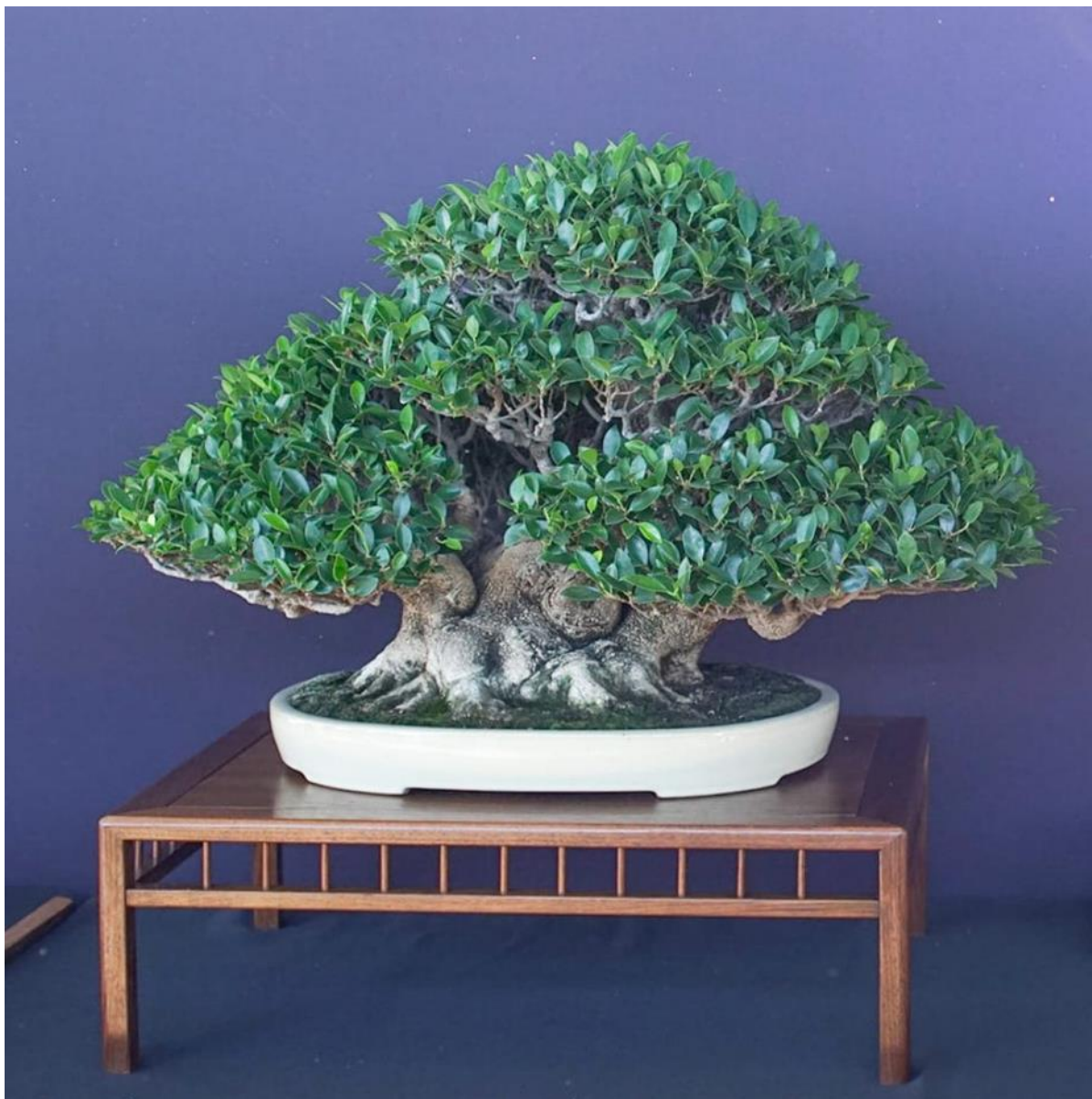


Image courtesy Julian Tsai

2022 Award-Winning Displays

by Jonas Dupuich (Bonsai Tonight) - Permission to reprint

Best Medium Display: Korean hornbeam and Japanese black pine by Jonas Dupuich

\$2000 Award sponsored by Encinal Nursery and Jeff Stern

trophy by Nao Tokutake and Aaron Kupferman



Image courtesy Aki Yamakawa

2022 Award-Winning Displays

by Jonas Dupuich (Bonsai Tonight) - Permission to reprint

Best Shohin Display: Coast redwood, Japanese quince, Trident maple, Japanese maple, olive, and potentilla by Jeff Stern
\$2000 Award sponsored by the California Shohin Society
trophy by Nao Tokutake, Mary J. Lai, and Aaron Kupferman



Image courtesy Jeng Fonseca

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

Simon T. and May L.	Jacob C.	Kathryn J.	Marlon C.
Jonathan W.	Tim and Melanie M.	Austin F.	Tia D.
Roland L. and Krystal W.	Russell W.	Joey M.	Quoc H.
Jennifer B. and Jeff D.	Eric B.	Thomas N.	Chuck and Pat W.
Justin C.	John P.	Another Thought (Doc)	John and Debbie H.
Gerritt C.	Jeff H.	Jay N.	J. D.
Gloria and Michael N.	Lyon O.	Vicki A.	Greco, Lucas and Tiffany
Nilda G.	Brandon S.	Jim B.	Mike G.

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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**Hawk Eye**
Bonsai

Bonsai Notebook

Austin Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 340474
Austin, Texas 78734



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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 \$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.