



# Bonsai Notebook

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

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

January 2023 vol 148

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## Calendar of Events

### January 11, 2023

- ◆ Topic: Juniper
- ◆ Presenter: Brandon B.
- ◆ 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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Member-At-Large

**Jacob K.**  
Member-At-Large

**Ever V.**  
Member-At-Large

## Volunteers

*Food/Drinks*  
*Gerrit C. & Jake*

*Tree Host*  
*Dashiell C.*

# President's Message

*By Jonathan W.*

Let's start this President's message with a heartfelt ThAnK YoU to the outgoing Austin Bonsai Society Board. You kept our club going through times of great change and you helped us adapt during and after a global pandemic!

Many of the activities of the club are carried out behind the scenes by veteran members and newcomers alike. Special acknowledgement to Roland, Gloria, Ruwan, Jacob, Morgan and Gerritt of our past board for carrying the torch for us the past few years! Once we re-opened, top notch artists were brought in to provide lectures and demonstrations for our general club meetings. We had a very well attended Bonsai tree show @ Zilker Botanical Garden in May of 2022 in Austin, a generous bonsai club charity auction event, and we celebrated our friendships and love of bonsai with a festive holiday party in November. It was a joy to see the number of memberships grow as more and more people found out about our club through technology and social media. Let's keep up the momentum as our Austin Club continues to promote the art of bonsai and bring educational awareness of this special form of hobby and high-level artistry.

The new Board and I are looking forward to upholding past ABS traditions while being open to club member ideas to make this a great year!

For those who helped set up, take down, and participate in the Holiday banquet we are very grateful for your time. As members we share some duty in cleaning up after events and club meetings so we are always grateful for those who can give a hand. Also, thanks to those who brought the scrumptious pot-luck items shared with the attendees... quite an elegant assortment with even Vegetarian, Vegan and Gluten Free items! Morgan and Victoria, thanks so much for your thoughtfulness in the festive decorations and Alisan's floral arrangements brought the holiday spirit up a notch or two as well! Was so fun to see the decorated trees and Joey's fall color display. These group dining events are wonderful for our fellowship, our sense of contribution, and feeling of belonging to such a wonderful group of caring people sharing similar interests... it's like a home away from home for many of us. It was heartwarming to see Elaine White receive the Austin Bonsai Society lifetime membership honor at our club holiday party. Elaine was one of the first people to share her knowledge and club hospitality with me when I was new and has made untold contributions to the growth, history, and sustainment of our club.

Thanks to our photo contributors like Joey and May L., our greeter, Quoc H., and members like Simon who work so diligently behind the scenes to support our club activities in areas of technology, payment systems and meticulously planned events of The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit!

The program calendar and guest artists coming up in 2022 are sure to be engaging and peak the interests of bonsai enthusiasts of all experience levels. It's an exciting time to be a part of the Austin Bonsai Society!

In the year ahead, we can look forward to the continued sharing of knowledge among members. Those of us in the early years of the bonsai arts have so much wisdom available to us -- just remember to reach out to a few folks at general or workshop meetings and ask! We can get in-person help and guidance from those eager to pass on pointers and their extensive depth of knowledge.

If I have missed thanking anyone, please let me do so at the next opportunity. Volunteers, service, and enthusiasm make this a well-oiled machine!

Happy Bonsai Styling!

- Jonathan Wood, Club President for 2022

# Vice President's Message

*By Roland L.*

Hello ABS and Happy 2023!

We're all so excited to get this year started with you. We have a great program coming your way!

We are getting this year started with a Juniper study led by Brandon Baldauf! We will, together, dive into the characteristics and nuances of different juniper species we practice with here in central Texas. Please bring in a Juniper or two you would like to discuss. This presentation will go great with your trees there.

Don't forget to bring items for a raffle if you have any. We appreciate it as it helps us raise money for future artists and events.

The meeting is next Wednesday, January 11. Social time starts at 6:30 PM and the presentation begins at 7 PM.

Hope to see you there!

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](mailto:payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com) for convenient electronic payment options (processing fee will be added).

# ABS Board Meeting Minutes

## 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSkNkBNld3EOYwjkjNIneA)

Meeting starts at 7:32pm

Motion to make Elaine White a lifetime member  
Motion passes

Discuss budget, trending positive for the year  
Annual donation to TTSBE will be reinstated

Discuss proposed budget for 2023  
Auction did really well in 2022. Auction should again be held offsite for 2023  
Ambitious budget planned for 2023 with guest artists  
Proposal for monthly raffle purchases

2023 budget passes.

Discussion of holiday party food and decoration needs.  
E-invite to the holiday party with information on what to expect/bring.  
Planning to display pots created in the Isabel Glatthorn workshop at the November meeting.  
Raffle for November meeting.

Board meeting planned for November to welcome 2023 board members to plan programs and learn duties.  
Agenda items for November meeting on future board meeting dates/times as well as food/refreshment host duties for 2023.

Auditors for 2022 budget selected.

Meeting concluded at 8:39pm

## Conifers at the Pacific Bonsai Expo

by Jonas Dupuich (Bonsai Tonight) - Permission to reprint

If seeing great deciduous bonsai at the Pacific Bonsai Expo felt like a treat, seeing the conifers offered a different feeling. It felt like a great opportunity to catch up with trees, and species, that I don't get to spend a lot of time with.

Hemlock is the first species to come to mind. We struggle to keep hemlocks, mountain or Western, healthy in the Bay Area so they aren't a common species here (warm winters and hot summers take their toll). Whenever I have the chance, I appreciate the time I get to study them.

It was also fun to see some trees I hadn't seen in person before, like the fantastic blue atlas cedar by Konnor Jensen below.



Blue atlas cedar by Konnor Jensen  
(Average score: 3.8) Photo courtesy Jeng Fonseca

It's rare to see well-developed atlas cedars, and really rare to see them clinging to a rock at an improbable angle. This tree was a great addition to the exhibit.

In terms of the scores the conifers received from the judging panel, the main thing that comes to mind is the tension is between the percentage of the score attributable to core characteristics of a tree and the percentage attributable to the work of the artist.

## Conifers at the Pacific Bonsai Expo

by Jonas Dupuich (Bonsai Tonight) - Permission to reprint

Put another way, how do we score a tree with a great trunk that's styled poorly against a tree with a so-so trunk that's styled beautifully?

Although I can't answer the question with a strict point-value (I can't say "subtract 1 point for poor wiring" without additional context), I can say that I appreciate conifers that have been bonsai long enough to accrue characteristics that reflect the repeated application of bonsai techniques.

That's a long way of saying I like conifers that show great age in the trunk and in the branches. Here are some of the coniferous highlights from the exhibit. All of the trees show great age in the trunks while the branch development varies from tree to tree.

Can I tell whether the scores reflect characteristics inherent to the tree (like the bark or a great trunk-line) or characteristics that developed in the garden (like branch density)? I can't – but I can say that when trees have both they tend to score well.



Mountain hemlock by Paul Krasner  
(Average score: 3.5) Photo courtesy Julian Tsai

Conifers at the Pacific Bonsai Expo  
by Jonas Dupuich (Bonsai Tonight) - Permission to reprint



California juniper by Cholo Lucero (Average score: 3.2) Photo courtesy Aki Yamakawa



Black pine by Scott Elser (Average score: 4.3) Photo courtesy Julian Tsai



Conifers at the Pacific Bonsai Expo  
by Jonas Dupuich (Bonsai Tonight) - Permission to reprint



Western hemlock by Scott Elser (Average score: 3.8) Photo courtesy Julian Tsai



Sierra juniper by Howard Correa (Average score: 3.9) Photo courtesy Aki Yamakawa



Conifers at the Pacific Bonsai Expo  
by Jonas Dupuich (Bonsai Tonight) - Permission to reprint



Mountain hemlock by Jason Eider (Average score: 3.8) Photo courtesy Julian Tsai



Shimpaku by Boon Manakitivipart (Average score: 3.7) Photo courtesy Aki Yamakawa

Conifers at the Pacific Bonsai Expo  
by Jonas Dupuich (Bonsai Tonight) - Permission to reprint



Mountain hemlock by Ken Wassum (Average score: 3.9) Photo courtesy Aki Yamakawa



Western juniper by Peter Tea (Average score: 4.0) Photo courtesy Aki Yamakawa

For photos of the award-winning conifers and more info about the judging, see "[2022 Award winners](#)" at the Expo website.

## Your Bonsai and Winter Temperatures: How Low Is Too Low?

by J. R. (Bill) Cody

*When the subject of over-wintering our bonsai in Central Texas arises, the primary question is: Just how cold a temperature can our bonsai tolerate. To help the guessers, I compiled the results of three studies that have appeared in the horticultural literature, which are designed to aid commercial nurserymen protect their stock during the winter (table 1).*

*Some species that are native to our bonsai culture do not appear, but I believe that there is enough information for us to make a more educated guess as to where to “red-line” projected greenhouse/cold-frame low temperatures as we over-winter our bonsai. See Figure 1.*

*Compare the ambient temperature with that inside the clay root ball near the center of the container—they are essentially equivalent. The slightly lower temperature of the containers sitting on the ground is likely due to their position - four feet lower and colder air sinking to the floor, there being no advantage from ground heat. I believe that this information can be easily extrapolated to fit the weather patterns in other parts of the State.*

*Table 1 - A compilation of average root killing temperatures (Fahrenheit) for some woody plants. All temperatures are killing temperatures except the third column that lists minimum safe temperatures for that species. The values in columns one and two for “immature” and for “mature” roots are combined from two sources. Note that of the 21 species in which a “minimum safe” vs. a “killing” temperature is known, that the average difference is only 4.71F.*

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### 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

Jeff D. & Jennifer B.

Justin C.

Name of Plant	Type of Roots		Temperature	
	Immature	Mature	Min. Safe	Killing
Acer palmatum 'Atropurpureum'			17	14
Acer pseudoplatanus	4	-5		
Buxus sempervirens	27			15
Cornus florida	21	11	24	20
Cotoneaster horizontalis			22	18
Cotoneaster adpressa var. praecox			20	16
Cotoneaster conjesta	19	-1		
Cotoneaster dammeri	23 to 10	-1		
Cotoneaster dammeri 'Skogholmen'	19			
Cotoneaster microphyllus	25	9		
Crytomeria japonica			20	16
Cystus x praecox			20	15
Daphne cneorum			24	20
Euonymus alata 'Compacta'	19	7		
Euonymus fortunei 'Carrieri'				15
Euonymus fortunei 'Colorata'			10	5
Euonymus fortunei 'Graciles'				15
Euonymus fortunei var. vegetus	23 to 16	12 to 3		
Euonymus kiautschovica	21	16		
Hedra helix 'Baltica'				15
Hypericum spp.	23	18		
Ilex 'Nellie Stevens'	23	14		
Ilex 'San Jose'	21	18		
Ilex cornuta 'Dazzler'	25	18		
Ilex crenata 'Convexa'			24	20
Ilex crenata 'Helleri'	23 to 19	5		
Ilex crenata 'Hertzii'			24	20
Ilex crenata 'Stokesii'			24	20
Ilex glabra				15
Ilex opaca	23	9	24	20
Ilex x meserveae 'Blue Boy'	23	9		
Juniperus conferta				15
Juniperus horizontalis				0
Juniperus horizontalis 'Douglasii'			10	0
Juniperus horizontalis 'Plumosa'	12 to 12	-4 to -2	10	0
Juniperus squamata 'Meyeri'	12	-2		
Kalmia latifolia	16			
Koelreuteria paniculata	16 to 16	-4 to -5		
Leucothoe fontanesiana	19			5
Magnolia stellata	21	9	26	23
Magnolia x soulangeana			26	23
Mahonia bealei	25	12		
Pachysandra terminalis				15
Picea glauca				-10
Picea omorika				-10



Pieris floribunda				5
Pieris japonica	16		15	
Pieris japonica 'Compacta'				15
Potentilla fruticosa				-10
Pyracantha coccinea 'Lalandei'	25	18	22	18
Rhododendron 'Gibraltar'				10
Rhododendron 'Hino-crimson'	19			
Rhododendron 'Hinodegiri'	19			10
Rhododendron 'Purple Gem'	16			
Rhododendron (Exbury Hybrid)	18	3		
Rhododendron (P.J.M.Hybrids)			10	0
Rhododendron carolinianum			15	
Rhododendron catawbiense		3	15	
Rhododendron prunifolium	19			
Rhododendron schlippenbachii	16			
Stephanander incisa 'Crispa'	18	0		
Taxus x media 'Hicksii'	18 to 17	-4 to-5		
Taxus x media 'Nigra'			15	10
Viburnum carlesii			20	15
Viburnum plicatum forma tomentosum	19	7		
Vinca minor				15

**Winter Root Tempatures in Containers  
Inside an Enclosure**

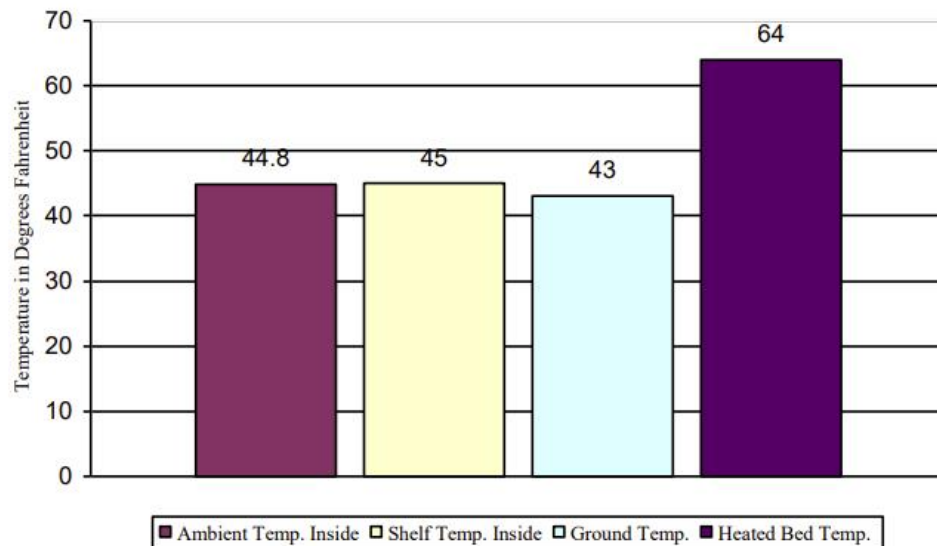


Figure 1. These temperatures were taken during February 2003 within a double-walled room with a woven plastic “insulator blanket” top. The trees were misted using an electronic leaf to activate the misting. The soil thermometer was inserted into the clay root balls of Ashe junipers collected in January and February of 2003. The thermometer was inserted four inches into the growth medium and root ball, making the end of the thermometer about four to five inches from the surface upon which the container was sitting - essentially in the center of the root ball. The “shelf” temps were taken in containers on a shelf four feet from the ground. “Ground” temps were containers sitting on the ground inside the room, and the third group temps were taken in containers buried in a bed of sand, beneath which was an 800 watt system of heating coils. The thermostat was set at 77F.

Since cold hardiness varies among species, between cultivars of a species, and even between various tissues of the same plant (e.g., crown and roots), it is no wonder that there may be confusion as to how to protect our bonsai against the rapidly changing, many faces of Central Texas weather. Temperate zone woody plants develop ‘cold-hardiness’ in response to declining photoperiod (light) and thermoperiod (heat) as the shorter days and longer nights of fall approach. The temperature reduction brought on by cool days and cooler nights contribute to root hardiness by slowing or stopping root growth. However, since temperatures above 60F. tend to slow this hardening process, I’m sure you can appreciate the quandary we face as our plants confront the bouncing-ball daily temperatures of Central Texas. We place our bonsai in enclosed structures to protect them from that surprise blue-norther that is coming through tonight, only to have the enclosure’s ambient temperature reach 70F. the next day even during the dead of winter.

There are two types of cold injury to plants and plant roots: Freezing and chilling. In the case of freezing, damage to the roots occurs when ice particles form within the root cells (intracellular water), causing the rupture of cell membranes that is a lethal injury. This type of injury is generally the result of a sudden, rapid fall in the temperature. Ice particles may also form in the water outside the cells (extracellular water). This is a non-lethal and common occurrence in many plants during the winter. However, this phenomenon may result in damage to cells by shifting intracellular water into the extracellular space, causing cell dehydration with resulting cell damage.

Chilling injury occurs when a susceptible plant, especially tropicals, is subjected to temperatures that are actually above freezing. Cooling of the root system and increased viscosity of extracellular water within the plant, as well as changes in the cell membranes between the extracellular and intracellular spaces, interferes with the entry of water into the vascular system. These changes reduce the ability of the plant to move water from the roots to the plant’s tissues at the same rate at which water vapor is being lost into the atmosphere - a desiccation injury ensues much like the wind-chill injury we see during winter windstorms.

Root systems can become acclimated (more resistant) to chilling conditions. Studies show that increased cold hardiness of the root system is related to the degree of unsaturated fatty acids in the membranes of the roots. Increased unsaturated fatty acids result in more rapid water transport through the root tissues at lower temperatures. Phosphorus nutrition seems to be important for root hardiness.

As was mentioned, there is a difference in the cold hardiness of the top of the tree versus the root system. Old roots are hardier than new roots and the latter seem to be unable to acclimate themselves despite the changes in temperature and light of approaching fall. As might be expected, this year’s rooted-cuttings are less able to withstand over-wintering than plants that have spent the previous year in one-gallon containers.

Studies show that similar protection is offered root systems of container plants whether they are over wintered in white or clear plastic enclosures—either single- or double-walled. White plastic sheeting for your winter enclosure is of greater value in reducing the accumulation of heat during sunny winter days than clear plastic. Temperatures of 40F above



outside temperatures have been recorded inside single-wall clear plastic enclosures and the temperatures were higher when there is a double wall. Double-walled white plastic is the most effective in reducing mid-day heat accumulation. The capability for the ventilation of these enclosures is imperative in those regions which have labile winter temperatures.

The temperatures within containers exposed to high or low ambient temperatures for long periods of time, i.e., all day or all night, eventually approach that of ambient. In February 2003 there were two mornings that the temperature was 23F. Each morning the temperature in all four of the containers was 23F. For this reason the time-honored practice of placing bonsai beneath their respective benches for the winter may not be as safe as we are led to believe. Obviously, the hardiness zone in which one resides and species of plant must be taken into account, but Figure 2 should give the reader some idea of the safety of this practice in his/her back yard.

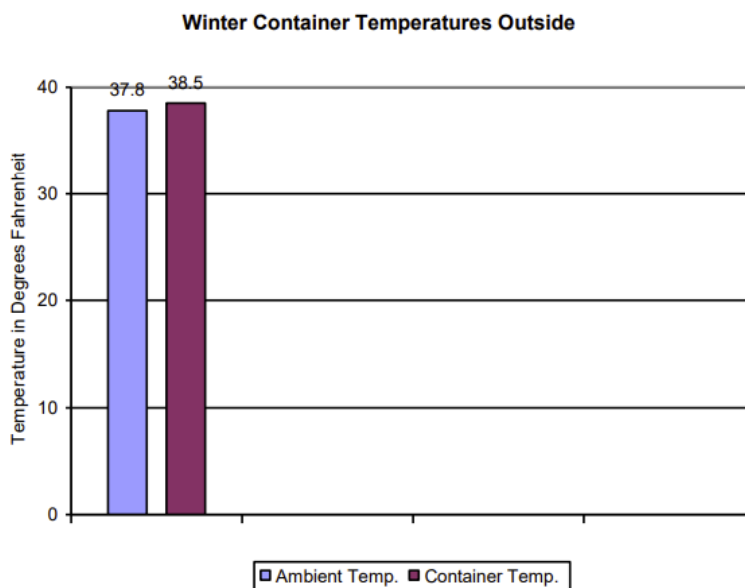


Figure 2. Three large, four inch deep ceramic containers were filled with sharp sand. Two were covered with wind-proof material; the third was not. All had two thermometers inserted two inches deep and two inches from the edge of the container. All were set upon the ground with a northern exposure but without overhead cover. Readings were taken at 0700 CST. On mornings that the wind was 20-30 mph, there would be a 2-3 degree colder temperature in the unprotected container, otherwise all temperatures were equal to or +/- one degree of the ambient reading.

References: Newman, S. E., Root Stress in Containers, Proceedings of the International. Plant Propagation Society, Vol.36:384. 1986.

Good, G. L., et al, Winter Protection of Containerized Ornamental Plants, J. Arboriculture, Vol.2(3):51. 1976.

Ingram, D. L., et al, Effect of Heat Stress On Container-Plants, Proceedings of the International. Plant Propagation Society, Vol. 39:348. 1989.

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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: [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!

## Advertisements



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**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.