



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

July 2025 vol 178

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Calendar of Events

July 9, 2025

- ◆ Topic: BYOT - 3 experts critique
- ◆ Panel: Greg S., Joey M., May L.
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
- ◆ Time: 6:30pm (Mingling), 7:00pm (Meeting)

2024 Board of Directors

Eric B.
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Refreshments
Lyon O.

Tree Hosts
Greg S.

President's Message

By Eric B.

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Austin Bonsai Society July Newsletter. So far, June has been...not that bad. The temperatures haven't been too high, and we've gotten some rain (at least I have at my house, I hope all of you are also getting rain but not too much). So in previous years, I have put up 50% shade cloth over my trees during the hottest part of the summer, and my trees have done well with that. But, I am concerned about coarse growth due to less light, so this year I decided to not use any shade cloth over my deciduous and conifers, with a 30% cloth over my tropicals, boxwoods and maples. The trees under the 30% cloth are looking good, but the trees with no shade started crisping a bit, so I broke down and put up 30% shade cloth over the uncovered trees. It's only been a couple of weeks, but the trees already look better. At least I think they do.

Sylvia Smith's visit went well. She took that massive juniper in a direction I hadn't considered, opting for a literati/bunjin style, which fit the tree very nicely, I think. That's why we have artists come in to do these demonstrations, to give us new perspectives, seeing the choices professional artists make and why. I looked at that tree and thought, "cascade", but Sylvia saw "literati", and then explained why. That to me is the most valuable part of our artist visits, the different perspectives.

Our next club meeting, on **July 9, 2025**, is a Bring Your Own Tree night. We will have club experts available to take a look at your tree and offer advice on future development, etc. So, bring in a tree or two, and let's work on taking them to the next level! These BYOT meetings are always among my favorites, as I get to see everyone's cool trees. So, bring your trees in, and let's have a bunch of fun!

Our **club auction** is coming up 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.

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. Get tickets before July 8 for a discount. 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!

Thanks for reading, and I'll see you at the July meeting!

Eric

Vice President's Message

By Sachin A.

Hello Austin Bonsai Society Members,

I hope this message finds you well and staying cool during the Texas summer heat! As we move into July, I want to thank all of you for your continued enthusiasm and support for our bonsai community.

Our next club meeting will be on Wednesday, July 9th at 6:30 PM, held as always at the Zilker Botanical Garden. This month, we have something special planned: a Tree Critique Session that promises to be both educational and engaging. We're thrilled to welcome a panel of respected local bonsai experts: Joseph M., May L., and Greg S.. Each panelist brings a unique perspective and years of experience to the table.

This session is a great opportunity to receive valuable feedback on your trees—whether you're looking for design guidance, health advice, or simply another set of eyes. We encourage you to bring a tree or two for critique, or just come ready to learn and participate in the discussion.

Whether you're a beginner or seasoned artist, these critiques are a fantastic way to grow your skills and deepen your understanding of bonsai design.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Warm regards,
Sachin Attavar

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

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Date: June 17, 2025

Location: Virtual

Meeting Attendees:

- ◆ Eric (President)
- ◆ Jonathan (Treasurer)
- ◆ Caleb
- ◆ Ross

President:

- ◆ Discussion covered Sylvia's demonstration and associated travel expenses.

Vice President:

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

Secretary:

- ◆ Meeting started at **7:33 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 **8:12 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 with Sylvia



Meeting and Raffles



June Bonsai Projects

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)

A few projects from the 2025 June Seasonal workshop—with notes on Styrax, Black Pine, Red Maple, a ground-layered Beech, and a magnificent flowering carnivorous plant.



Jody and Nick defoliate a Styrax.



The Styrax after defoliation. The top is getting strong, as it does every year, but after years of letting the lower shoots grow out, it isn't as lopsided in energy as usual.

June Bonsai Projects



One front option. At this point it looks like a reclining figure in a windstorm.



And another good front option. With the amount of development left to go there's no rush deciding on front. We left some bottom shoots long to maintain the current energy balance. The goal now is not a polished tree but a sensible one, so we leave more than we want.

June Bonsai Projects



Patrick lightly balancing a Red Maple, which was in the Pacific Expo '24. Now, after hardening off, strong shoots were shortened to one pair of leaves, then one leaf was cut off. For moderately strong shoots, one leaf of a pair was cut off, but shoots themselves were not shortened. On weaker shoots with small leaves, no trimming was done on shoots or leaves.

We leave the tree this way through the summer. Then in early fall another trim takes remaining multiple internodes down to one. This strengthens weaker areas in the growing season.

The internodes at this point are 1/4" or less. Fertilizing is mostly done after the growth has hardened off, but age appears to be the factor most implicated in internode length. At about 20 years of age this maple stopped growing long internodes.

June Bonsai Projects



You may recognize this Black Pine, restyled by Patch Clark, my apprentice, recently. The pine responded well to the restyle, so we decandled it this year. This photo is before decandling and needle pulling.

June Bonsai Projects



After decandling and needle pulling. Density will take a few years to even up top and bottom, but at least we are making progress killing off that low branch. More about that planned removal in the restyle post.

June Bonsai Projects



A Beech being ground-layered. Beech are notorious for their reluctance in pushing roots from a layer. This may well take 2-3 years. Like all layers, it helps to keep the top pushing strong (no cuts!) and in good light. A shaded layer brings poor root growth.

June Bonsai Projects



And this is most unusual...a Pitcher Plant in bloom.

The Pitcher Plant flower is as exquisite as the pitchers. The flower is non-carnivorous, but is in on the game. If you're not sufficiently terrified by the pitcher, and are small and have 6 or more legs, you should be. The flower will lure you with exotic scents to the pitchers, where in a stupor of happiness you will slip into the last liquid you will swim in. Your little chitinous parts will float about, dissolved of their innards—converted into, among other things, nitrogen. A last squeak of joy on your mandibles. Ah! An exquisite end.

Gothic stories don't have the same punch in the summer, do they?

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