

# BONSAI NOTEBOOK

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

June 2017 vol 78



## *Calendar of Events*

- Wed. June 14. 7:30pm Tropicals, Tropicals, Tropicals!  
with Elaine White
- Tues. June 20. 7:00pm Board Meeting
- 7:30pm Members Workshop - Tropicals
- Wed. July 12. 7:30pm Franken Tree with Dario Octavio
- April 20 - 22, 2018 LSBF Convention in Longview, TX . at the Hilton Garden Inn.

## OUR NEWS

### PRESIDENTS

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### ABS SPRING SHOW

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### JUNE BONSAI

BY JOHN MILLER P.7

## *2017 Board of Directors*

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President

**ZACH RABALAIS**  
Vice President

**BRANDON BALDAUF**  
Secretary

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## *June Meeting Volunteers:*

**JUNE 14 FOOD:**

**CANDY & MIKE  
HANSEN  
SIMON & MAY TSE**

**JUNE 14 TREES:**

**ZERITA ROGERS  
SIMON & MAY TSE**

# *President's Message*

by **Simon Tse**

May is a month to remember. We were honored to have Bob Pressler visit our club. His styling on the Blue Alps Juniper gathered a lot of attention and was well received. Mike Garza, one of our newest members, was the lucky winner and is now a proud owner of this Blue Alps Juniper. Congrats Mike!

Our annual Bonsai Show was also held during the third weekend of May, and we could not have had such a successful show without all the volunteers. Our chair, Joey McCoy, meticulously placed every Bonsai and display it in its glory, making sure each one was paired with either an accent plant or Kusamono. Our senior advisors - Chuck, Pat, Terry, Sheila, Elaine, Alisan - also offered their expert advice and personal collections for the show. We had a wonderful time conversing with newcomers and old friends. The beauty of the trees attracted over 900 visitors, sparking many interests. Overall, it was a terrific success!

Over the memorial weekend, we had a club dig to collect some dwarf Yaupon Holly. The humidity was 90% plus and the Bonsai excavation team was hard at work for several hours. Each ABS member collected some wonderful Bonsai specimens. Most of all, we all enjoyed the company and the extra day for all of us to recover.

For June, our monthly topic is "Tropicals" and we are pleased to have Elaine White as our presenter. You are welcome to bring your Tropicals for questions and advice. Looking forward to seeing everyone!



Photos from the  
Yaupon Holly  
Club Dig  
Thank you to Olivia  
Chacon for the trees!



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Or message Joey:

[jvmccoy@](mailto:jvmccoy@sbcglobal.net)[sbcglobal.net](mailto:jvmccoy@sbcglobal.net)**FACEBOOK**

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Terrific place for us to  
gather, chat, and talk

Bonsai!

# Vice President's Message

## *Spring Show!!*

*by Zach Rabalais*

Summer is finally here, and that means a lot of things for bonsai in central Texas. The temperature will start to climb well into the 100's on some days. Delicate plants will need to be protected and moved to shady areas to keep their leaves from becoming completely scorched in the Texas heat. Some trees will need to be watered 2-3 times a day or have their pots protected to keep up with the rate that the Texas sun dries up our bonsai soil. For some trees though Summer is the perfect time to get some work done. I'm talking of course about tropical species.

The Austin Bonsai Society program for June will be presented by Elaine White, and will be all about care, development, and repotting tropical species in central Texas. If they are taken care of correctly, tropical species can thrive in our unique Austin climate. If you are a lover of tropicals, or maybe someone new that picked up a ficus and has some questions than the June program is a must attend.



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# Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show

May 20-21, 2017





ABS Board Meeting Minutes  
May, 2017

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**Date: May 16th 2017**

**Start Time: 7:07**

**Austin Bonsai Society is excited to prepare for our upcoming show this weekend.**

**Brandon Baldauf has officially accepted the nomination to be the Secretary for our club.**

**Social Media update: We now have an Instagram account to help share the beautiful pictures of our trees. <https://www.instagram.com/austinbonsaisociety/>**

**If any of our members want to send photos to Brandon, they will be shared with our community. The posts will not contain any personal information.**

**The board is actively planning our speakers for next year. If there are specific workshops or topics the club members want covered, please let us know.**

**Financials: As of April 30th Income over Expense = \$718.78**

**Special thanks to Jonathan for the display at the CASA volunteer celebration!**

**End Time: 7:40**

# June Bonsai

by John Miller

A subject brought up in the azalea workshop at the LSBF convention indicated that a lot of people do not really know what the growing conditions are in their back yards or what plants need. Or that it may depend on local mini-environments. I have a maple that was red in December in Dallas but now turns in November only 30 air miles away.

Most plants in pots will not enjoy a full day of 90 plus sun. Partial shade should be provided. A shade cloth awning is the best as it will protect in the middle of the day. A vertical shade cloth on the WEST side may be needed to protect from the late afternoon sun. This is the worst sun as the temperature is already high and the drier air makes the rays more intense.

A higher humidity on the coast may alleviate the problem some. Even if the days are relatively cool the sun can still get the pots pretty hot. Not only does this dry out the soil very fast but the tree roots cannot live in a hot soil. A temperature I have heard given is that 120 degrees will kill roots on most plants. I cannot give you a precise to-do list since your backyard is different from mine but you should be sure that the sun does not hit the pots directly. If you use a cover of any kind be sure that the side of the pot is protected also. A loose weave cover is preferable to solid paper as it lets you water more easily. Leave an air space between the cover and pot and soil. Do not use foil, it reflects rays back up into the underside of the leaf giving it a double dose of too much.

Use of shredded long fiber sphagnum moss on the surface of the soil will also help and will keep the soil surface more damp. The dampness will help keep it cool and will allow your tree

New business  
by ABS member  
Daniel Pintauro -  
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HOURS: THURS-SUN 12-8

## New Members Corner

Bob Charpentier  
[candcbob@msn.com](mailto:candcbob@msn.com)

Daniel Lora  
[daniellara242@yahoo.com](mailto:daniellara242@yahoo.com)

Harsh & Rekha Nath  
[hnath01@yahoo.com](mailto:hnath01@yahoo.com)

Jenny & Howard Tang  
[tang.jenny.sy@gmail.com](mailto:tang.jenny.sy@gmail.com)

to have roots in the surface layer. Without it the top roots die from dryness as well as heat. You might still be able to leaf prune if you need to but be careful, it could turn hot in a hurry. Remember do it only on healthy vigorous trees.

Put the tree in a semi-shaded location out of the wind until new foliage appears. Again never leaf prune the atropurpeum varieties of Japanese maples, they do not rebud but will usually come out again next spring.

However, some tropicals can be leaf pruned all summer. I think the *Ficus nerifolia* especially benefits by leaf pruning and can be done more than once each summer. That will help develop the heavy twiginess you see in the *Ficus* bonsai from the Far East.

When night temperatures stay above 60 degrees you can think about repotting some of the tropicals. I would wait another month though for the buttonwood.

It is important to continue the twig pruning of your trees on a regular basis. While doing this chore look at the tree to see if there is a need to do some restoration pruning. Restoration pruning is a deeper pruning to replace a branch that has grown too long or too big with a smaller one. This is usually done with the secondary or tertiary branches not the primary branch coming from the trunk. I prefer to do this restoration pruning on deciduous trees in the winter when I can see the branch structure. But on bonsai like the yaupon hollies I like to do it at this time when the tree is actively

growing so that any winter dieback is apparent. Trees that weep a lot from cuts such as maples or pines should not be done at this time.

Any extended cool and damp weather is good for fungal diseases like black leaf spot. Hot and damp bring other fungals like mildew. Treat with potassium bicarbonate or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda). After the foliage is hardened a bit you can treat with a 1% hydrogen peroxide (1 part 3% peroxide to 2 parts water) weekly. Also watch for signs of insect problems. The spider mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, and mealy bugs. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and cider vinegar per gallon water) to control all these.

It also get any caterpillars and even bagworms. You can use some of the other organic controls like horticultural oil or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully and DO NOT apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods.

It does not do much good to spray if you do not do it correctly. Hose end sprayers have too coarse a spray and usually do not cover very good. All pathogen controls must be sprayed with a sprayer that has a nozzle which produces a fine spray in order to cover the entire leaf surface, top and bottom. You must get all them bugs or they



come right back. And you need to spray on a regular basis. Any bugs or spores hiding in cracks will repeat the infestation.

If ants, or any other creature, are building nests in the soil, the tunnels and cavities will prevent proper watering and result in loss of roots. After you get rid of the ants be sure to grab your chopsticks and work the soil down and eliminate any holes. You will probably need to add a little more soil on top.



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## Austin Bonsai Society P.O.Box 340474 Austin, TX 78734

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 info contact the address above.

