



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

June 2023 vol 153

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Calendar of Events

June 14, 2023

- ◆ Topic: Saikei
- ◆ Presenter: David Whittaker
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
- ◆ Meeting begins at 7 pm
- ◆ Social starts at 6:30 pm

June 10 - 11, 2023

- ◆ LSBF Shohin/Mame Convention at Fort Worth

2023 Board of Directors

Jonathan W.
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Volunteers

Refreshments

Taha Y.

Pat W.

Alisan C.

Tree Host

Chuck W.

Alisan C.

President's Message

By Jonathan W.

The board and I are so very proud of our members of Austin Bonsai Society for putting together such a wonderful 2023 show here at Zilker Botanical Garden in Austin. Joey was our show chair this year and he did an excellent job organizing the support and volunteers. I know for a fact he went the extra mile to help us coordinate our spectacular show! Thank you Thank you Thanks to all of our members who helped bring this together! You should be proud of your contributions to raising awareness of Bonsai art in Austin. Quite a lot of work goes into the delivery, room setup, placement and take down and we appreciate all of your contributions :-)

We are grateful to Zilker Botanical Garden Facebook page as well for helping us get the word out to locals with botanical interests and for the Botanical Garden staff who coordinated parking and multiple gate entrances for such a busy weekend of attendance. Also thanks to the Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy and Austin Area Garden Council for their support of our clubs and educational programs.

Also special thanks to Simon for helping us to explore Eventbrite as a way to publicize the show and for how he and May went the extra mile to bring in some additional trees for display :-). I know some of us decided to stay up a bit late to prepare additional trees to help fill up the display.

For future years, we may want to see if members can pledge in February (or even the year before) to bring in a certain number of trees of various sizes. I know for myself I often worry which trees will look their best the 3rd week of May due to seasonal differences each year (and can make me hesitant to commit ahead of time). But it would be a great idea to have members commit several months in advance to be willing to display a certain number of trees of various sizes each year so we don't miss the opportunity to fill up the room :-). The public loves seeing bonsai! For example, as of present I figure I could have 2 medium trees, 1 shohin, and 1 large ready for display in 2024 (if there is enough space in the show).

Our bonsai vendors were on hand to meet the enthusiasm of visitors looking for just the right tree to start or add to their collection. Also to note was the popularity of the 2PM demo times, the seats were full on Saturday and Sunday was standing room only – definitely a lot of curiosity of “How To” make a bonsai.

As a club, let's be ready to extend a warm welcome to the visitors who are sure to join our ranks in June and July following their interest in the May show. We have an opportunity to welcome bonsai enthusiasts into our club as they visit after having their interests peaked by the show. Let's keep getting to know our visitors and make them feel welcome.

BONSAI QUOTE:

“Although bonsai is an art form, it is unique among other forms of artistic expression in that it includes the element of time: the design of the tree changes constantly and naturally as it grows, and as the seasons change.” from Harry Tomlinson's book, Bonsai (1995)

Happy Styling!

Jonathan Wood, Austin Bonsai Society President 2023

Vice President's Message

By Roland L.

Hello everyone,

We find ourselves in June now! That was quite fast. By now, I'll bet you're noticing how thirsty your bonsai have been. Make sure to keep them happy by watering when they are getting lighter in weight or the soil is lighter in color. I don't forget to hydrate yourself as well. Gotta love our summers!

Our May show was another success! Thank you to everyone who helped setup, breakdown, and brought trees. This show could not happen without our volunteers. And another huge thank you to our friend and show coordinator, Joey McCoy.

This month get ready for some saikei with David Whittaker! David will put together a stone and tree composition for us which will then be raffled off to one lucky winner. I have yet to see how this is done, so I'm really excited to see this execution. I'm sure you will be too.

Please see David's bio which is attached to the newsletter email.

Thank you everyone and I hope to see you 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).

Biography of David Whitaker

David Whitaker
Redhawk Bonsai Nursery
Nursery / Floral Class-2 #0822998
San Patricio, Texas
redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

I have been cultivating, teaching and enjoying bonsai since 1976. Because of 2 moves in/out of California over the years, I'm currently on my fifth collection of bonsai, though this is the longest time into a collection that started in July 1994 when I moved back home to Texas the second time and settled down in the Coastal Bend. Now we have reduced our collection to a measly several hundred plants. But many of them are starters, seedlings, cuttings and some collected stock in various stages of growth. I have lots of show quality and collected specimens too. I've collected yamadori (and suiseki) in Texas from the Hill Country down through the Brush country and Coastal plains down to the Rio Grande Valley, in the Louisiana swamps, Mississippi, in the Florida Keys and in Northern California from the Sierras to the Pacific Coast.

I started bonsai as a project during my senior year of high school, spring of 1976. My dad was retired from the USAF and he sparked my interest, talking about when he was stationed in Okinawa post WWII and saw plenty of bonsai while there. After high school I lived in New Orleans area until 1980, where I found the New Orleans Bonsai club, met Vaughn Banting and was introduced to the Bald Cypress trees as bonsai. My first move to California in January 1980 is when I became REALLY introduced to the world of bonsai!

I was very fortunate to see awesome bonsai specimens and start an all new variety of species. I went to several club meetings, shows and conventions in So Cal and from Lake Tahoe through Sacramento, San Francisco to San Jose and pretty much of all the clubs in the Bay area. I met and have taken multiple workshop/classes over the years from people with names like John Naka, Ben Oki, Harry Hirao, Yugi Yoshimura, Bill Valavanis, Masahiko Kimura, Chase Rosade, Melba Tucker, Vaughn Banting, Dorie Froning, Shigeru and Roy Nagatoshi, Mas Imazumi, Johnny Uchida, Carl & Shin Young, Kathy Shaner, Terry Ward, Warren Hill, Mary Miller, and Mary Madison.

In 1982 I moved (1st return) back to San Antonio and found Leonard & Edith Sorge, owners of the Bonsai Farm just east of San Antonio. My first time there was on a Saturday morning, I found the SABS's sensei Marty Klajnowski who I had previously met at a California State convention, and she said I was just in time for a workshop. I joined the workshop and club that day. I had the privilege of being a member of the SABS ever since; I was part of the incorporating of the Texas clubs, the beginning of the LSBF and been to several BCI, ABS and state conventions. In 1988 I had the experience of a BCI (Bonsai Clubs International) convention from behind the scenes as a club member, when SABS had the privilege to host it down on the (then new) River Walk, downtown San Antonio.

I moved back to Cali in late 1988, I finally got back to Texas in July 1994 and snuck back (Cali ag laws.. shhh) a couple of dozen shohin trees. They quickly died within a couple years due to not being able to adapt to South Texas heat and climate, go figure. That certainly teaches the lesson of growing what's native or adaptable to your area!

I am a Life member Corpus Christi Bonsai Club and co-editor of the newsletter with my wife from 2005 – 2012 and 2022 to present. I've been a longtime member of the San Antonio Bonsai Society, at present as VP and a Board member.

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discussion



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ABS Library

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YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSkNbNld3EOYwikjNIneA>

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting Minutes, May 16, 2023

Meeting Attendees:

Jonathan W.
Roland L.
Gloria N.
Eric B.
Simon T.
Jacob K.
Everardo V.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM.
2. Secretary's Report for April Board meeting reviewed and approved by a vote of 5-0
3. Treasurer's Report reviewed and approved by vote of 6-0
4. Preparation for June meeting: discussion of material and logistics for guest artist David Whittaker.
5. May Show: Discussion of volunteers, advertising, refreshments, scheduling, and materials needed.
6. LSBF Delegate Report: nothing to report. Next LSBF Board meeting is in June, at the convention in Ft. Worth.
7. LSBF Convention: Eric Benson nominated to receive subsidy for convention fee. Nomination accepted by Board on vote of 6-0.
8. Future Items:
Proposal and discussion of a fall or winter silhouette display. January 2024 as possible month. Maybe a one-day event. No decision was made.
9. Discussion of planning for 2026 LSBF convention, to be hosted by ABS.
10. Meeting closed at 8:48 pm.

Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

Date	Day of Week	Event Type	Artist	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
6/10/23	SAT	Bonsai Convention / Seminar	Club Members and Various Artists bring Shohin/Mame Size Trees to Display	Day 1: LSBF Texas Shohin/Mame Bonsai Seminar - "Tiny Trees on the Trinity" approx 8:00AM - 8:30PM https://www.lonestarbonsai.org/2023-lsbf-seminar/	Botanical Research Institute of TX Building @ Fort Worth Botanic Garden - Fort Worth, TX	\$100+ Early (for 2 day event); \$125+ Late. Workshop trees extra cost
6/11/23	SUN	Bonsai Convention / Seminar	Club Members and Various Artists bring Shohin/Mame Size Trees to Display	Day 2: LSBF Texas Shohin/Mame Bonsai Seminar - Approx 8:00AM - 12:30PM	Botanical Research Institute of TX Building @ Fort Worth Botanic Garden - Fort Worth, TX	\$100+ Early; \$125+ Late. Workshop trees extra cost
6/14/23	WED	Club Night - Demo/ Presentation	David Whittaker	Putting together a wonderful Saikei composition with rocks and plant material- Interactive audience participation encouraged.	Zilker Botanical Garden Center	optional tickets for seikei demo / donation table items welcome
6/17/23	SAT	Workshop	Roland Lopez - Member guided workshop	BYOTree Tropical repotting Event - members get help repotting their bonsai	MBP Bonsai 601 Kay Ln Pflugerville, TX	\$10 suggested donation
7/12/23	WED	Club Night - Presentation	Joey McCoy - http://hotbonsai.blogspot.com/	Native Trees of Texas - which species thrive in our climate and do well as bonsai material	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 6:30PM - 9:00PM	donation table items welcome
8/9/23	WED	Club Night - Demo/ Presentation	Gilbert Cantu https://www.littlejadebonsai.com/	Portulacaria Afra Bonsai with a Jade expert	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 6:30PM - 9:00PM	optional tickets for demo tree / donation table items welcome
8/10/23	THUR	Workshop	Artist and Youtube Sensation Gilbert Cantu leads this member's workshop	BYOTree or purchase a jade pre-bonsai to work on from jade expert, Gilbert Cantu	MBP Bonsai 6:30PM-9:00PM 601 Kay Ln Pflugerville, TX	Cost of Tree material and supplies
9/13/23	WED	Club Night - Demo/ Presentation	Members bring in a tree for help / guidance.	BYOT for Guidance to push your tree to the next level	Zilker Botanical Garden Center	donation table items welcome
9/16/23	SAT	Bonsai Auction Event	Members donate bonsai, tools, supplies, pots, stands, books etc	Fundraiser for Austin Bonsai Society - funds for Guest Artists /Lectures/Demos etc	Anderson Mill Garden Club Center Approx 10:00AM 13974 FM2769, Volente, TX 78641	Auction items needed – Thank you!!

June Bonsai

by John Miller

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.

This year has been pretty weird. I had a freeze in the middle of April. 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. The Ficus nerifolia especially benefits by leaf pruning and can be done more than once each summer. That will 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 tho for the buttonwood. I am going to work on some Grewia that need it but missed earlier due to convention. I will strip all the leaves and then repot. Ask me next month how they did. 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 refinement pruning. Refinement 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 refinement 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.

The 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.

Even if the days are relatively cool the sun can still get the pots pretty hot. Not only does this dry out the soil

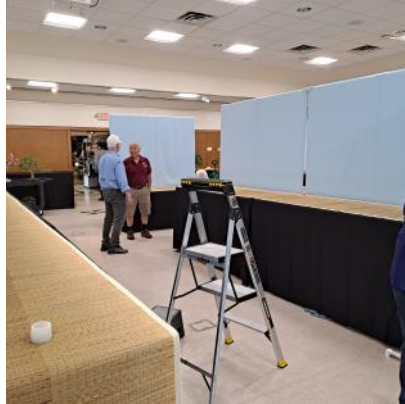
very fast but the tree roots cannot live in a hot soil. A temperature I have heard given is that 120 degrees will kill roots on most plants. I cannot give you a precise to-do list since your backyard is different from mine but you should be sure that the sun does not hit the pots directly. If you use 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 or foil. Leave an air space between the cover and pot and soil.

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 shade cloth on the west side will 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.

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 sun.

Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show

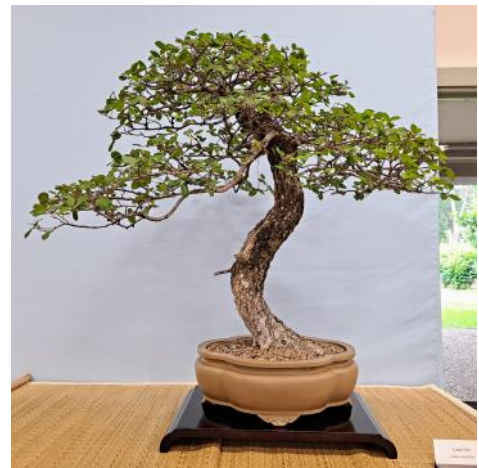
Setup



Demonstrations



Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show



Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show



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

Caleb P.
Aaron G.

Valerie H.

Monique V.

Juan A.

Sam A.

David D.

Deighton Z.

Eric S.

Omi C.

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!

Advertisements



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

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ph: 512-202-3403
-mail: mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net
601 Kay Lane
Pflugerville, TX 78660
(call for directions)



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.