



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

March 2019 vol 101

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Calendar of Events

- **Wed March 13**
6:30pm - 9:00pm
Forrest/Group Plantings
- **Tues March 19**
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Member's workshop - Forrest/Group Plantings
Limited to 6 ABS members
Board meeting

2019 Board of Directors

Brandon Baldauf
President

Mike Garza
Vice President

Roland Lopez
Secretary

Gloria Norberg
Treasurer

Lawrence Priest
Member-At-Large

Chris Frechette
Member-At-Large

Pat Ware
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Elizabeth Hess
Everardo Valdovinos
Food

Quoc Hoang
Trees

President's Message

By Brandon Baldauf

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

I hope everyone had fun at our last meeting covering Yamadori & DIY containers, a special thanks to Mike Garza for co-presenting with me! We have more exciting and fun programs planned for this year. Coming up for March, our very own Joey McCoy will be sharing his approach for creating forest or group planting displays.

We have some upcoming events for your enjoyment, please reach out if you need more information:

3/2 & 3/3 - S. Texas Club Dig

7:00-9:00 3/19 - ABS Club Workshop - Supplied Material Creating Forests

Limited space workshop for six (6) ABS Members, lead by Joey McCoy

ABS will provide materials: trees, container, soil

All are welcome, if you are not signed up to participate, we ask that you keep the questions to a minimum

The board has finalized our 2019 Program Schedule, please expect to receive a 2019 Membership Directory at our March meeting. The upcoming programs will also be posted to our website, so be certain to check that as well or let friends/family know what our society has planned. Keep in mind our upcoming show in May and which bonsai you might want to display.

Cheers,
Brandon

Reminder for club membership

2019 DUES are DUE!!

Individual	\$30
Family	\$35
Newsletter monthly advertisements:	\$35
Directory advertisement:	\$10

Come to the meeting and pay by cash/check/credit card or send your payment to Gloria Norberg, 7413 Lady Suzanne's Court, Austin TX 78729.

Get Connected!

Join our online discussion
page! NO SPAM!

[http://
groups.yahoo.com/
group/austinbonsai/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/austinbonsai/)

Official Website

Visit our website at
austinbonsaisociety.com

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Like our Facebook page
[/AustinBonsaiSociety](https://www.facebook.com/AustinBonsaiSociety)

Twitter



Follow us on Twitter
[@ATXBonsai](https://twitter.com/ATXBonsai)

Instagram



Follow us on Instagram
[@austinbonsaisociety](https://www.instagram.com/austinbonsaisociety)

ABS Library

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

Vice President's Message

By Mike Garza

Bonsai Friends,

Well another crazy “winter” month has come and gone. Welcome to Central Texas I guess. This month has been full of surprises for me. If your February has been like mine it's been hectic scrambling around trying to get trees repotted before they brake dormancy. It's been lots of fun having something to do every day with my wonderful trees.

February was another new bonsai adventure for me because I co-hosted our monthly meeting with our President Mr. Brandon Baldouf. We put together a presentation on container selection and box creation for our collected yamadori. I hope we were able to prepare our new members for their soon to be yamadori adventures. On that note don't forget about our club digs coming up soon at Burton on February 24th and in South Texas March 2nd and 3rd. We look forward to seeing you there.

Next month's monthly meeting is going to be a great one. Our very own Joey McCoy will be leading the meeting with his presentation on Bonsai Forest Creations. Joey will take us in depth on his approach to placement and tree selection. I'm really looking forward to it and you won't want to miss it. Also, He will lead our monthly workshop for Forest creation as well. If you'd like to sign up please email me or Brandon. Spaces are limited.

February Meeting

Yamadori and containers



Photos by May Lau

February Workshop

Photos by Joey McCoy



Regular Meeting Minutes (Roland)

January 9, 2018

Yamadori and Containers

* Meeting began at 7:42pm

* Announcements -

- Marlon donated raffle items.

- Pat and Ruby brought the food.

- Alisan report - bylaws update and votes.

- Joey brought in Japanese maple from TTSBE collection. (Beautiful fall color)

- Gloria also brought in Japanese maple. Jimbo brought in tree too.

- Thank you Chuck for his demo last month.

- 4 boxes of magazines were donated to club.

- Treasurer update - club is doing well financially .

- TTSBE update - Kathy Shaner foster tree day was a success. Simon is the new Chairman for TTSBE, a position which Joey helped previously.

- LSBF updates- Lawrence is our back up delegate.

- ABS show announcement for tree entries.

- February club workshop (repotting with Chuck Ware). Jimbo will bring in trees for people who have none to repot.

- Club digs announced. (Burton, TX and South Texas) - need to receive waiver forms prior to the trips.

- 1 guest and 4 new members were welcomed.

*Brandon and Mike began their presentation at 8:05pm

ABS Board Minutes (Roland)

February 19, 2018

- Meeting began at 7:09pm
- Meeting ended at 9:00pm
- Lawrence volunteered to be LSBF delegate backup
- Still need volunteer for Garden Council Rep
- Board plans to offer engraved name tags for second year and up club members (optional) for 2019
 - Brandon to create sign up sheet and gather information
- Continue to work on club workshops and schedules

March Bonsai

By John Miller

This year has been very unusual in the Dallas-Ft Worth area. I have not watered my outdoor trees at all this year (and that probably goes all the way back to Dec 1 of 2018) while Steven in Ft Worth has been pretty dry. Other areas might also have been weird. You have to adjust your care and not just follow a set pattern or a timetable you read out of a book.

Regardless of where you live in Texas, there are probably three things calling for your immediate attention. Repotting is still being needed; new growth is running rampant and needs to be controlled; and you must keep any tree to be exhibited at the spring shows well groomed. Throw on top of that an aphid invasion or some scale and you should be plenty busy.

After growth starts some species can take a couple degrees of frost but unless you know what your particular tree can take you should keep it from freezing. Also, newly growing roots are more tender. In this area you should keep the new foliage out of the strong winds however they should have some breeze to help harden the new foliage and to help prevent insects and fungal diseases.

By this time most of you have finished repotting the early breaking species. Late starting species like the yaupons and most oaks might still be candidates for repotting this year.

In order to develop the ramification and fine twigs you want you must be pruning the new growth as it develops. Waiting until the

shoots are three or four inches or longer results in coarse twigs with long internodes. These will have to be cut off and new ones developed if you are to have a good bonsai.

Essentially there are two kinds of growing habits, those with leaves growing alternately on the twigs, e.g. elms, oak, and hawthorn, and those with opposite growing leaves, e.g. maple.

The alternate growing leaves start out with small leaves and each succeeding leaf will be larger and the internodes longer. Also each leaf will have a latent bud in each leaf axil. If you let the shoot grow to 4 or 5 new leaves and cut it back to 2 or 3, you will be keeping smaller leaves and also getting twice as many growing tips on each branch and each will be a finer twig. Keep this up and you will soon have nice development on the branches of your bonsai. In determining whether to cut to two or three, note the direction that you wish the end of the branch to take and cut to the leaf which has the bud on that side of the branch. **Note:** If last year's twig has been let grow long it should be cut back to the first 2-3 buds and start over.

Tweezers are almost a necessity in refinement working on maples. The opposite growing leaves clasp the new growing tip and will be extending from the old bud but on a lengthening stem. If the new tip is taken off as soon as the leaves separate, the result is that the leaves will be smaller and the stem will stop lengthening. Then two new tips will pop from the new leaf axils and you will repeat the tip plucking. Tweezers work much

better for this job. I will sometimes separate the new pair of leaves from the new tip with tweezers but be careful not to bruise them.

As the weather warms up the insects will surely make their appearance. Use the foliar spray (1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and 5% apple cider vinegar per gallon of water) as often as necessary to control aphid, mites, caterpillars, etc. Spring usually means wet weather so watch for fungal problems such as blackspot. I usually only get it on hollies and elms. You can use a 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide or baking soda spray for fungal problems. Do not mix baking soda with the foliar spray or any other acid.

Fertilizing is necessary once the trees start to grow. Too many trees exhibited do not have a good dark green foliage. Since we are using soilless mixes for the most part, a different technique is required than used for most potted plants. Water soluble chemical fertilizers should be used at half strength and more often since they will wash out with the next watering. The same is more or less true with liquid organic fertilizers. The best technique is to use solid organic fertilizers. Fertilizer cakes on the surface is the best way. They break down slowly and a small amount is carried into the root zone each time you water. Pelletized organic material can be spread on the surface also but they tend to crumble to create an undesirable surface and fill the open space in the soil. Be sure that the material you use has a balanced formula and not high in nitrogen.



Japanese maple
Part of TTSBE collection
Joey is the foster parent



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Austin, TX 78745
Local: 512.444.2100

2521 Rutland Dr., Ste. 475
Austin, TX 78758
Local: 512.459.4353

Owner: Troy Smith / Manager: Tim Hill Owner: Troy Smith / Manager: Nick Snyder

<http://www.bihydro.com>

New Members

Darrik Crawford

Nicole Ferguson

Curren Frasch

Jacob Hannusch

Brittany Hibdon

**William (Bill) McConnell,
Jr.**

Hailey Pate

Ruwan Perera

Chauncey Robbins/

Olivia Kurtz

Jakob Clark

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 Simon Tse at tse_simon@hotmail.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!

JADE GARDENS
HOME OF THE

Owners  Chuck
and Pat
Ware

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Open Tuesday Through Sunday



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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 \$30.00 for an individual and \$35.00 for a family membership. For additional information, contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, TX 78734.