



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

March 2024 vol 162

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Calendar of Events

March 13, 2024

- ◆ Topic: Water elm
- ◆ Artist: Evan Pardue
- ◆ Time: 6:30pm (Social) 7:00pm (Meeting)
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden

March 14, 2024

- ◆ Topic:: Make your own bonsai with Evan
- ◆ Artist: Evan Pardue
- ◆ Time: 6:30pm - 9:00pm
- ◆ Location: MBP at Pflugerville
- ◆ Fees: \$55 plus cost of trees

March 10, 2024

- ◆ Shohin Society of Texas
- ◆ Location: Spicewoods Springs Library (1pm - 4pm)

2023 Board of Directors

Jonathan W.
President

Eric B.
Vice President

Simon T.
Secretary

Gloria N.
Treasurer

Dashiell C.
Member-At-Large

Judy G.
Member-At-Large

Ever V.
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Refreshments
Angie & Patrick H.

Tree Hosts
Sachin A.
Quoc H.

President's Message

By Jonathan W.

What a great repotting presentation last month by Joey McCoy and Greg Setter! Absolutely stunning trees! Grateful for your bonsai expertise... The Club enjoyed getting to see the whole process, learn tips and tricks, and gain knowledge of the critical horticultural details that make repotting of bonsai successful. I enjoyed demonstrating a technique to fuse acer palmatum roots onto a maple pre-bonsai in order to improve nebari and surface roots. It's good to know that otherwise phenomenal trees with nebari concerns can be remedied with root fusion/root grafting techniques.

Spring is here and I'm having a lot of fun seeing my Japanese maples bud out. Reds, yellows, greens, oranges and pinks are starting to show as deciduous trees wake up from their short slumber. This is one of my favorite times of the bonsai calendar... seeing trees put on their show! Repotting season was rather intense this year and I still have a few days left to repot the remaining dormant trees. Last year, I missed my window to tend to some trees in need of transitioning into new pots, which made for double-work this season. Also added some containerized maples for color and future potential bonsai projects. Anytime I get a dormant landscape nursery tree, I change out the soil and go through the nitty gritty steps of removing the mulch-like compost, which often stays too wet for bonsai use and can lead to root rot. I like to think of the network of bonsai roots as if they were the lungs of the tree: they continuously need fresh air and a limited amount of water, or all kinds of problems and infections can develop. Cont...

ANNOUNCING ONE (1) FREE APRIL 2024 BONSAI CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP FOR A NEW CLUB MEMBER WHO JOINED ABS IN YEAR 2023!!

(BY SIMPLE APPLICATION) General Requirements to be eligible: **(1)** Must have become a NEW Austin Bonsai Club member for the first time in the year 2023. **(2)** Must be relatively new to the bonsai art. **(3)** Must be willing to pre-pay for the APRIL 25-28 2024 Convention in Houston, TX and then be reimbursed by Austin Bonsai Society for the approximate \$295.00 cost of event Registration (paid workshops and hotel lodging are not eligible for reimbursement with the \$295.00 Scholarship). **(4)** Must apply by sending a simple email application of interest to the Bonsai Society Board/Scholarship Committee via **JONATHAN.WOODJS@GMAIL.COM** outlining some reasons Austin Bonsai Society should consider you for the scholarship, how long you have been studying bonsai, whether or not you have registered yet for the Bonsai on The Bayou Convention in Houston, which workshops or special convention events you plan to participate in, and what day you plan to arrive and depart from the Convention (it is approx 3 and ½ days in

President's Message

By Jonathan W.

Houston, TX ... April 25 thru 28th, 2024). NOTE: This scholarship is part of Austin Bonsai Society's non-profit commitment to support and promote both bonsai education and to help provide educational opportunities to emerging bonsai artists in the Central Texas / Greater Austin area.

Continuing the President's Message Welcome new members! Keep coming to 2nd Wednesday meetings and special workshop events as a way to get to know future friends and mentors in the bonsai art. Reach out and say hi! Maybe even bring a friend or two who takes interest in bonsai to Wednesday meetings from time to time.

Our annual Bonsai show is just a few months from now... it is time to begin thinking about trees we may want to have ready for display this May 18th and May 19th in the Zilker Botanical Garden Auditorium. We will need lots of volunteers for that weekend so please consider setting aside a day or a half day to help us monitor and answer questions from the public.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Wood, ABS President 2024

Bonsai quote:

"One of the things I learned from John (Naka)...and it's one of his proverbs that he would say...I heard him say it again and again and again, 'a live donkey is better than a dead doctor'. The meaning of that is that when you're working on bonsai, it's better if your bonsai is kind of like that live donkey. It's got to be alive. ...You have to do the techniques that you are doing to create a master piece...if those techniques are going to kill the tree...it's better to have a lesser tree that's green than this master piece that's dead. And he (John Naka) was always, always sensitive to the life blood in the tree, and that fact that it needs to be healthy and vibrant. That's more important than being artistically perfect. "

-- Cheryl Manning <http://bonsaificusretusa.com/cheryl-manning-bonsai-artist-interview/>

Vice President's Message

By Eric B.

Greetings everyone!

Thanks to all who showed up to the meeting last month on Valentine's Day, showing your true love for bonsai! And a BIG thanks to club members Jonathan Wood, Joey McCoy, and Greg Setter for their very informative repotting demonstrations. We learned about doing a root graft, choosing the proper wire to secure a tree in a pot, a nice 4-point tie down method, soil considerations, pot choice, and so much more.

Our next visiting artist is Evan Pardue, traveling from Underhill Bonsai in Folsom, Louisiana, on Weds., March 13th. Evan will be working on a Water Elm, which will be available in the raffle at the end of the meeting. I'm excited to see this tree and what Evan does with it.

I'm also excited to announce that Evan will be offering trees for sale, from 6:00 to 7:00, and after the demo for another 15-20 minutes. We have to be out of the gates by 9:30, so we're going to be strict about the time allotted for tree sales. I made a post on ABS's Slack, with a list of some of the kinds of trees Evan can bring, and you should receive an email from ABS with the same information. Please take a look and let me know your preferences for types of trees Evan should bring, so he can make best use of the limited space he has to transport trees.

Evan will also lead a workshop the following evening, Thursday, March 14, from 6:30 pm to 9 pm, at MBP Bonsai Studio (601 Kay Ln., Pflugerville, TX 78660). The workshop fee is \$55, plus the cost of a tree and other materials. Evan will have trees (water elms, and others) available for purchase, at a variety of prices. There are only 3 slots left, so sign up at the next meeting!

Evan is also offering private study, for \$75 per hour, or \$450 for a full day. Evan is a great artist and teacher, so consider an hour or two of private study with him to make some good progress on a tree or two. In April we have a demonstration on Making Bonsai with Saplings, led by our own Dashiell Collins. Dash conceived of this program, and garnered a generous donation of 30 seedlings from Treefolks. The donated seedlings are 10 bald cypress, 10 box elders, and 10 lacey oaks. Dash will use 10 of them in the meeting demonstration. The other 20 trees will be used in April's workshop, on Saturday the 20th, 1-4 pm, at MBP Bonsai Studio. Be sure to sign up at the next meeting!

Also in April, from the 25th to the 28th, is the Lone Star Bonsai Federation annual convention. This year's theme is Bonsai on the Bayou, and it is being hosted by the Houston Bonsai Society. It's not too late to register and attend this opportunity to see some amazing trees, and attend lectures, demos, and workshops by some world-class bonsai artists. Head to <https://houstonbonsaisociety.com/bonsaionthebayou> to check out the schedule, and register. I hope to see you there!

In May, back by popular demand, we are having another member-led Bring Your Own Tree mini-workshop night! There will be three or four "stations" where you can work on a certain aspect of your tree (such as, refinement, wiring, etc.), with an experienced club member's guidance. The exact topics and guides are still TBD. The main focus of this event will be readying trees for display in the ABS annual show later in the month, May 17-19. Of course, you can bring in any tree you want; it doesn't have to be for the show, but that is encouraged. This is a great chance to get advice and guidance on a tree or two.

Vice President's Message

By Eric B.

As I already mentioned, May 17-19 is the annual show, and that means we need volunteers! We will have a sign-up sheet available, and need people to help set up, act as docents during the show, man the front door, sell raffle tickets, perform demos, tear down and clean up afterwards, and a whole host of other things I'm not thinking of right now. It's definitely a group effort, and the larger the group the easier it will go, so please consider donating time to make the show a success.

Thanks for reading, and I'm really looking forward to sharing all of these great events with y'all!
Today's words of wisdom: It's not hoarding if it's bonsai

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discussion



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ABS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 20, 2024

Location: Virtual

Meeting Attendees:

- ◆ Jonathan (President)
- ◆ Eric (Vice President)
- ◆ Gloria (Treasurer)
- ◆ Members-At-Large
 - Dash (Secretary for the evening)
 - Ever
 - Judith

President:

- ◆ Jonathan kicks off the meeting at **7:35pm**
- ◆ Talked about many aspects of the program, survey, rooms for improvement and more

Vice President:

- ◆ Finalized schedule for the year
- ◆ ABS needs to provide a \$100 value item for the convention raffle. 2025 convention has been stripped from Dallas, San Antonio and Corpus Christi have bid for 2025 host.
- ◆ Explore QR codes for upcoming workshop

Secretary:

- ◆ Last report was accepted without edits

Treasurer:

- ◆ Provide financial updates and balances
- ◆ The treasurer would like to remind the announcer at the podium to utilize the microphone to project clear communication to the audience at the back of the room

Amended motion adopted without objection:

Vote on allowing sales for presenting professional artists who wish to sell bonsai material, limited to trees, in 2024. Sales are before and after club meetings, NOT during meeting hours starting at 7pm. Sales will only be indoors, and must be completed no later than 9:20 pm. These sales are private transactions between artists and members of the club. ABS collects no profits or fees.

Meeting adjourned at **8:54pm**

Bonsai on the Bayou (Houston Convention 2024)

Register link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bonsai-on-the-bayou-2024-tickets-684270350037?>



Our Headline Artists

[View full bios](#)



Bjorn Bjorholm



Sergio Cuan



Min Hsuan Lo



Sean Smith

Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

Date	Event Type	Artist	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
SUN 3/10/24	Bonsai Meet-up: Shohin Society	Shohin Society of Texas (SSOT)	Shohin Society of Texas meet-up with lots of tiny trees! 1:00 - 4:00PM ***Daylight Savings time change applies*** RSVP to may-chanlau@gmail.com	Spicewood Springs Public Library 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78759	\$ N/A
WED 3/13/24	Club Night - Demo / Lecture	Evan Pardue https://underhillbonsai.com/evan-pardue/	Water Elm - Bonsai Styling and Demonstration	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd Austin, TX	Raffle Table Items/ Donations Welcome
THURS 3/14/24	Workshop	Visiting Bonsai Artist: Evan Pardue leads this workshop https://underhillbonsai.com/evan-pardue/	Make your own bonsai w/ material sourced/purchased from Artist's Louisiana nursery 6:30-9:00PM RSVP to: jebenson99@gmail.com	MBP BONSAI STUDIO 601 Kay Ln Pflugerville, TX 78660	\$55 workshop fee + \$ cost of tree purchased from Vendor
WED 4/10/24	Club Night - Demo / Lecture	Dashiell Collins (ABS club member), Seedlings donated by TreeFolks https://www.treefolks.org/ready-set-plant/#overview	Demonstration: Turning young seedlings into amazing bonsai projects – various species and a variety of special techniques	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd Austin, TX	donation table items welcome
SAT 4/20/24	Workshop	Dashiell Collins (ABS club member)	Workshop: Working with seedlings as pre-bonsai material RSVP to: dashiellcollins@gmail.com	MBP BONSAI STUDIO 601 Kay Ln Pflugerville, TX 78660	\$ TBD
THURS to SUN 4/25/24 4/26/24 4/27/24 4/28/24	Convention- Bonsai Workshops, Demos, Sales, Vendors, Banquet, Public Display	Bjorn Bjorholm, Sergio Cuan, Min Hsuan Lo **Registration underway! First-class, exciting, international bonsai weekend**	Bonsai On the Bayou 2024 Convention - LSBF + Bonsai Clubs International Houston Bonsai Society https://www.facebook.com/HoustonBonsai	Houston Marriott Westchase (800) 452-5110 2900 Briarpark Dr, Houston, TX 77042	RSVP room reservations, workshops, and registration EARLY before it sells out!
WED 5/8/24	CLUB Night / Demo/ Presentation	ABS Club Members	BYOT (Bring Your Own Tree) For Styling Help – Member-led Mini-workshops / Stations around the room to work on your bonsai	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd Austin, TX	donation table items welcome
FRI 5/17/24	Volunteers Set-up Show	ABS Club Members	Volunteer Afternoon/Evening: – Volunteers Set-up room for Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show , and drop off bonsai for display	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd Austin, TX	N/A
SAT 5/18/24	Public Bonsai Show	ABS Club Members - trees on public display	Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show --Volunteers needed approx 9:00AM to 5:30PM	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd Austin, TX	donation table items welcome
SUN 5/19/24	Public Bonsai Show	ABS Club Members - trees on public display	Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show --Volunteers needed approx 9:00AM to 5:30PM	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd Austin, TX	donation table items welcome

February Meeting



March Bonsai

by John Miller

The lack of a real winter this year has caused problems with doing tasks on a calendar schedule. You will need to observe your trees and adjust to their needs. Also you will need to be on the lookout for a late freeze sneaking in. Be ready to protect newly growing plants, new roots are especially tender. Some species (chinese elm) break dormancy in response to temperatures while others (cedar elm) seem to respond to the length of daylight and wait.

March will see you working to control new growth, continuing your repotting, disbudding azaleas, and working (i.e. enjoying) on spring bonsai exhibits. You just may have time problems if other members of the family want to get out of the house to go Easter shopping or whatever and you have to go with them.

You may continue repotting on deciduous species until you see a tiny bit of green on the tips of the swelling leaf bud. Be sure to keep the newly repotted tree out of the wind and late morning or afternoon sun. Broadleaf evergreen species will generally be okay to repot later on. Yaupon do better if you wait until it warms a bit more. Even though it gets quite warm now, we can expect a freeze in March so you may have to protect trees that have started growth and those that have been repotted this winter.

Bonsai work depends on whether your tree is in the development or ramification stages. In development you let the branch grow to thicken, then cut back to a bud to change direction and let that grow again and repeat. In ramification you have your branch structure and need to develop fine twigs and fruiting spurs, a much more detailed and slower work. My articles are slanted toward ramification.

Keep your shears handy (and sharp) so you can keep the new growth on your trees pruned. The shoots of species with alternate leaf growth (like elms) should grow only to 5-6 leaves and be pinched back to 2 or 3 (depending on which direction you wish the new growth to take). Shoots of trees with opposite leaf growth (maples) should have the new tip pinched (tweezers work better than scissors for this) as soon as you can see it. Doing this regularly is the only way to keep the leaves and internodes small and give you nice twiginess.

Anytime there is new tender growth, the spring bugs like aphids will show up. If you have been doing a good - organic program the ladybugs will keep the aphids and other soft bodied insects in check. The praying mantis come along later on when the weather is warmer. I am seeing a lot more mantis eggs since I don't use chemical sprays.

Warm humid days favor the development of fungal diseases such as leaf spot on elms and yaupons. Again the organic program will work on them as well. If hydrogen peroxide is used as a fungicide it should be diluted to a 1% strength (normally 1 part H₂O₂ to 2 parts water).

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 soil-less 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 applied 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 and create an undesirable surface. Be sure that the material you use has a balanced formula and not high in nitrogen.

The original foliar feed formula given by Howard Garrett is one tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water. Chelated iron and epsom salts can be added at 1 tablespoon per gallon. Always make sure you use a fine spray and cover top and bottom of leaves and the trunk. A commercial mixture is sold under the name of 'Garrett Juice' which you should be able to find at organic nurseries but it doesn't seem to have the insect control capability that the original formula does. It is fine as a fertilizer though.

Reminder for club membership and advertisement

2024 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).

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

Ever V.

Mary Lou W.

Jaime L.

Dash 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!

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ph: 512-202-3403
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601 Kay Lane
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(call for directions)

Bonsai Notebook

Austin Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 340474
Austin, Texas 78734



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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.

For additional information, contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, TX 78734 or

Email: webmaster.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com