

# BONSAI NOTEBOOK

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

May 2017 vol 76



## *Calendar of Events*

- Wed. May 10 7:30pm L/D with Robert Pressler
- Tues. May. 16 7:00pm Board Meeting
- 7:30pm BYOT workshop & show tree cleanup
- Fri. May 19 4:00pm to 9pm Show setup
- Sat. May 20 10:00am to 5:00pm Annual Show
- Sun. May 21 10:00am to 5:00pm Annual Show
- Wed. June 14 7:30pm Tropicals with Elaine White

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**May  
Meeting  
Volunteers**

**MAY 10TH  
FOOD:  
TERRY &  
SHEILA WARD  
PHINA CHEN**

**MAY 10TH TREES:  
PHINA CHEN  
KEVIN  
PATUREAU**

# President's Message

by Simon Tse

**A**pril was a busy yet productive month for Austin Bonsai Society. Some of us have attended LSBF convention in Dallas featuring Bjorn Bjorholm, Daisaku Nomoto and Juan Andrade. It was a fun, educational and special conference to create new memories and friendships. The live demonstrations and workshops were informative and well executed. Volunteers from TTSBE also had a booth to promote the awareness of the exhibit.

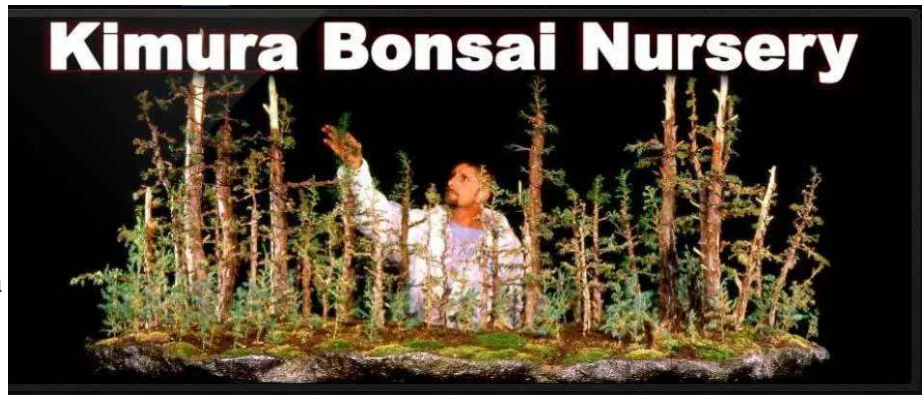
**T**he Kusamono presentation from Sooncheng Chuah was also a great success. Her masterful illustration and demonstration gathered a lot of interest. Our member workshop, helmed by Sheila Ward and May Lau, was also a popular event. A sincere appreciation and thank you from the bottom of my heart to both Sheila and May for their expertise and assistance. The Kusamono displays from our members' workshop are available here:



<https://www.facebook.com/AustinBonsaiSociety/photos/rpp.1398071960425287/1929952527237225/?type=3&theater>

**O**ur annual May show is around the corner! Are you ready? We look forward to another excellent display of bonsai from our members. Preparing a bonsai for a show or display is primarily attending to details. The foliage should be groomed for display by removing any damaged or discolored leaves or needles. Branches that are not in the correct position should be wired and positioned correctly. Wiring should be neat and as unobtrusive as possible. The soil surface should be neat and free of weeds and debris. We usually have some moss available but extras are always welcome. The pot should be cleaned to remove dirt, stains, or calcium deposits. A small amount of mineral oil can also be applied to the pot to improve appearance. The tree should be healthy. It should be fertilized properly and treated against any disease or insect well in advance of the show. Bring your newly created Kusamono to accompany your bonsai. Joey McCoy will provide more details as time approaches.

**L**ast but not least, our May feature artist is Bob Pressler from Kimura Bonsai Nursery in California. One of his spectacular masterpieces is a 110-tree forest planting of Foemina Junipers created in late September of 2001 as a



memorial to those who lost their lives on 9-11. The slab is made from fiberglass and rebar and is shaped much like the lower part of the island of Manhattan. The number one tree stands roughly where the Empire State Building would be, the 110 trees stand for the 110 stories of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, and there are two burned, hollowed out trunks where the towers would be. Such a meaningful way to build a bonsai monument. Hope to see you all in our May gathering.

Cheers, Simon

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ABS ON THE

INTERNET:

Online Discussions

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Sharing

Question and Answer

Section

Upcoming Event

Discussion

NO SPAM

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

Or message Joey:

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

LIKE US ON

FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/AustinBonsaiSociety)[AustinBonsaiSociety](http://www.facebook.com/AustinBonsaiSociety)Terrific place for us to  
gather, chat, and talk

Bonsai!

# Vice President's Message

## *Spring Show!!*

*by Zach Rabalais*

**W**e have a great program lined up for the month of May this year. We will have a demo/lecture on a large collected juniper performed by visiting bonsai artist Robert Pressler. Robert is the owner of Kimura Bonsai Nursery in Los Angeles, Ca, a member of the California Bonsai Society and John Naka's club Nanpuki. He has been studying bonsai since the early 70's when he started learning under Frank Okamura at the Brooklyn Botanical gardens. He then moved to California in the 80's and practiced bonsai there studying under John Naka and Ben Oki. He is currently continuing his training under Kenji Miyata and conducts classes and demo's at his nursery in California.

**T**he Austin Bonsai Society Spring Show is also approaching quickly. The workshop on Tuesday the 16th will be dedicated to last minute show prep and advice for anyone that is putting a tree in the show this year. If you have any questions or want a second opinion on your show trees, bring them by the workshop on Tuesday.



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# LSBF 2017 Dallas Convention

April 6th - 9th 2017

by Joey McCoy



**T**he LSBF Dallas Convention on April 6-8, one of the biggest bonsai parties of the year, did not disappoint! Visiting talent Bjorn Bjorholm, Juan Andrade, and Daisaku Nomoto held intensive workshops and performed some amazing demos for the crowd. All Japanese-trained, they each had a different style, but all had a calm professional attitude toward the trees. The exhibit critiques were especially enlightening - walking through and having each artist describe the beautiful highlights of the Bonsai while pointing out ways that each

can be made even better. There was a superb exhibit on display with outstanding trees from all over the state. The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit Cedar Elm, donated originally by Bill Cody, won Best Deciduous, and I'm humbled to say that my own collected Podocarpus won Best Tropical in the "Excellence in Bonsai" awards chosen by the visiting artists.

**T**here were many native species trees represented proudly alongside beautiful imported specimen. In fact the Best In Show was an amazing 6 foot tall Ashe Juniper named King of the Mountain. I love seeing our native Texas trees taking a spotlight at our shows! The Vendor room was bountiful with so many items to choose from, it was bewildering. Michael Ryan Bell was there with rare and precious Japanese pottery, Bald Cypress and other swamp specimens were sold next to imported exposed root



Japanese Azaleas looking like they were made of lacework, and there was even a potter (Byron Myrick) who drove all the way from Missouri to vend. Of course many familiar ABS faces also were also there in charge of the TTSBE table. We had a great presence by Austin Bonsai members, a fun group who started early and often stayed late chatting in the bar for the "Pub Committee." To those who have never been to a state convention, you must plan on it soon!

Joey





# PBS, ABS, and TTSBE

*Keep a look out on your local PBS stations for the wonderful Central Texas Gardener, which will air a segment about local bonsai, specifically the Austin Bonsai Society & Texas State Bonsai Exhibit.*

Channel	Day	Date	Time
KLRU	Saturday	April 29	Noon & 4
	Sunday	April 30	9 a.m.
	Monday	May 1	5:30 a.m.
KLRU Q (18/3)	Tuesday		6:30 p.m.
	Wednesday		7:00 a.m.
	Friday		9:30 a.m.
KLRN (San Antonio)	Saturday		11 a.m.
KNCT (Killeen & Waco)	Saturday		1:30 p.m.
KBDI (Denver, CO)	Sunday		2 p.m.
	Tuesday		2:30 p.m.
KPBT Midland (Permian Basin)	Monday		12:30 p.m.
KAMU (College Station)	Saturday		5:00 p.m.
Houston Public Media	Saturday		8:30 a.m.
KRSC (Claremore, OK)	Saturday		
	Tuesday		
KTWU (Topeka, KS)	multiple days & times		
Panhandle PBS	Saturday		11:30 a.m.
Arizona Public Media Ready TV, Tucson	Thursday		1:30 p.m.

also on UNCMX Raleigh-Durham and K32EO Colorado Springs





Sooncheng Chua and one of her beautiful  
Kusamono.



**ABS Board Meeting Minutes  
April, 2017**

Meeting Start: 7:10 pm (April 18, 2017)

~General Updates~

Joey & Simon accepted 9 trees donated by Ratana and Robert. ABS has 5 and TTSBE has 4. Simon and May have repotted the ABS trees and donated the pots to the club.

Barbara Ramsey donated \$40 to ABS at the MBP workshop.

John G. Durst has passed & he donated 3 boxes of regular pots. 53 in total of medium size. We discussed options as to how we will use this donation. Pat needs to write a letter recognizing the donation.

~Auction and News~

We discussed the need to finalize the process and will set up necessary items at

the next meeting.

Who is interested in helping run the trees being auctioned?

Brandon will be setting up an Instagram account for Austin Bonsai Society and posting on behalf of the club!

Any interested members can contact him to be involved.

~Treasurer Report~

Income/Expense = 951.18

Recent activity: Bob Prussler's airfare and extension of the website.

We are in good standing.

~Speakers for next year~

Many suggestions were discussed but until they have been confirmed, nothing is definite.

~LSBF~

It was brought up that we have not had any minutes from LSBF to be published in our newsletter to know what they are doing and will check with Nan.

Meeting Ends: 8:05 pm



# April Bonsai

by John Miller

The abnormal winter we had this year will cause you to need to adjust your work schedule. You already have for repotting and the first pruning. Now you should look at adjusting your fertilizing and any leaf pruning you may want to do.

Usually in the Dallas area, May is the time to do the leaf pruning job if you have to do it. If you have kept the new growth pinched properly, you have been getting the ramification usually attributed to leaf pruning. The only good reason for leaf pruning is to replace foliage that has been damaged by wind or insects. On some individual plants that have large foliage, the new foliage may be smaller. Leaf pruning should only be done on strong healthy trees and should be done after the spring foliage has matured and supplied the tree with enough nutrients to produce a good crop of new foliage. It must be done well before the summer heat causes the plant growth to slow or stop. I consider the very latest time (and not at all desirable) to be Memorial Day. Leaf pruning is done by cutting the stems of those leaves that have them (maples) or cutting across the leaf about 1/16 inch from the twig if leaves are attached direction on the twig (elms). The tree should be well fertilized 7 - 10 days before the operation. It will not need as much water until the new foliage has developed.



New business  
by ABS member  
Daniel Pintauro -  
Tabares

\*Offering beginner  
and intermediate  
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Osuka  
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HOURS: THURS-SUN 12-8

New Members  
Corner

Michael Garza  
mikepgz@gmail.com

Kristen & Mark Ermis  
teslakris@yahoo.com

Evevavdo Valdovinos  
e3valdovinos@gmail.com

**W**hen the nighttime temp stays above 60 degrees it is time to start repotting the tropical material. Since there are so many different requirements for tropicals I will not try to cover their needs here. But in general, I like to put them in partial shade and mist them until the new growth starts.

**W**arm humid days are favorable for fungal growth. Watch for mildew, black leaf spot on elms and yaupons, among other. As an organic control I use hydrogen peroxide in a 1% solution (mix 1 part of the normal 3% commercial product with 2 parts water). Baking soda is also recommended organically.

**A**phids, spider mites, and scale continue to be the most prevalent insects. The foliar feeding of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar (1 tablespoon each per gallon of water) is all the control I use for them. Scale is the most difficult because it is covered with a waxy coating (the scale). You may need to use a horticultural oil mixed as directed on the label. Be sure that the direction you read is for summer use as some have two dosages given, one for dormancy (usually the first and strongest) and one for summer. Don't use oil on buttonwood or any other plant not included on the label. A systemic applied to the root zone according to the label may be used. Don't stick a stem in your mouth if you use systemic or other chemicals.

If you see damage to the foliage or the plant is not doing well, look for other problems and if you don't recognize the culprit ask your favorite

nurseryman for help. A lot of root problems (insects or fungi) look like undernourished trees. Start checking your pots to see if the sun is heating them up.

**O**ur summer sun shining on dark pots can make the soil temperature soar and kill the roots. Try putting your hand on the pot. Roots are living organisms and cannot take high temperatures any more than you can. Heating also dries out the soil making you water more often. Any number of ways of keeping the pots cool will work, the requirement being to prevent the sun from getting to them. I do not care for the aluminum foil methods because I don't care to have the light reflected into my eyes. A simple cloth with a slit to go around the trunk works fine. A shade cloth should be used on the western side to keep late (after 4pm) day sun off.

**R**emember all the work that you did in the spring? Keep the new growth trimmed so that you haven't wasted your time. While trimming or watering check the wiring periodically and remove it before it damages the branch. If the branch springs back some rewire it.

**I**f you are not on a regular organic foliar/drench feed schedule be sure to use fertilizer cakes with supplemental feeding with a good liquid fertilizer, one that includes the minor elements. Such as the hollytone type made by Espoma. Most bonsai I see are malnourished. The liquid

water soluble fertilizer gets washed out with the next watering and the tree starves until the next infrequent feeding.

**T**ime to consider becoming more proficient at your hobby. You can learn all the rules but without practice you will not be able to perform. You need practice to learn to recognize the line of the raw material you are starting with. You get this practice and experience by taking part in the clubs various study groups, beginners classes, and workshops. If you are not a beginner, try teaching some beginners as the teacher learns as much as his students by trying to verbalize what he is attempting to teach. Visit conventions especially the local state convention and discuss trees with others who share your like for a particular style or species.

Photos from the Member Workshop on April 18th!  
Lots of beautiful Kusamono created by our members!



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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.

