



# Bonsai Notebook

[www.austinbonsaisociety.com](http://www.austinbonsaisociety.com)

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

May 2019 vol 103

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## Calendar of Events

- **Wed May 8**  
7:30pm - 9:00pm  
Stands and Display - Austin Heitzman
- **May 17**  
Annual show setup
- **May 18 -19**  
Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show
- **Tues May 21**  
7:00pm - 9:00pm  
Member's workshop - BYOT  
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

**Nan Jenkins**  
**Timmi Kuykendall**  
**Joey McCoy**  
*Food*

**Nan Jenkins**  
**Gloria Norberg**  
*Trees*

## President's Message

*By Brandon Baldauf*

Greetings Austin Bonsai Society,

April proved to be an exciting month of bonsai events with the ABS and LSBF convention in Houston, Austin Bonsai had a great turnout. What a strong community we represent within Texas Bonsai!

There are some upcoming events you should be aware of: Austin Heitzman is sharing his bonsai stand making craft in our May meeting. The board majority 4-1 voted to invoke an exception allowing Austin an opportunity to sell some jitas and stands after the presentation: this will occur at 9:00. Vending is not allowed during ABS meetings without board approval.

At the meeting we will also have a signup sheet for two upcoming workshops: a Scroll crafting workshop lead by Alisan on July 16th and a "Root Over Rock" workshop June 18th.

Our show is also just around the corner. There is a pink flyer (page 8) attached to the newsletter based on the beautiful pink bougainvillea Chuk brought in last year. Please post and share this flyer around Austin to raise awareness of our show. We put much effort into the trees and event and should share it with everyone possible! Reach out to Joey or myself with questions regarding the show.

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  
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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  
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## ABS Library

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

## Vice President's Message

*By Mike Garza*

Bonsai friends,

Wow; it has been a busy time for us in the bonsai community. April is here and it hasn't slowed down a bit. My trees have been growing and blooming so much; this is my absolute favorite time of the year.

I'd like to thank Marlon and his family for a wonderful and knowledgeable presentation last month on suiseki. I learned a lot from it and am excited to work on my first daiza soon.

As you all know, we had our annual LSBF Convention in April. This year was special because it was also the American Bonsai Society's Convention as well. I'd like to thank the Houston Bonsai Society for hosting; they did a phenomenal job! We had so many great Bonsai artist there like Boon, Ryan Neil, Will Baddeley and Jonus Dupuich to name a few. The vender area was fantastic also; all kinds of trees and custom pottery. I'm proud that we were able to have so many Austin Bonsai Society members there, too. I truly enjoyed it. I hope to see even more of y'all for next years Convention. It will be hosted by the San Antonio Bonsai Society. I know that they have been working hard to prepare for it and we will have a great time.

At our next meeting on May 8th we will have Austin Heitzman. He is a fantastic Stand maker and Artist. He will present his knowledge on Stands and Displays and his approach to the art. I look forward to it.

I'd also like to remind everyone that we have our annual show May 18th and 19th. Make sure you're prepping your trees and getting them ready to be exhibited. I'm excited to see what our club members bring to exhibit.

Hope to see all of you soon.

## April Meeting

Suiseki



Photos by May Lau

## April Meeting

Suiseki



Photos by May Lau

## Regular Meeting Minutes (Roland)

*April 10, 2018*

Announcements began at 7:36pm

- Welcome new visitors and new member
- HBS Convention announcement
- Treasurer – Club is doing fine financially
- TTSBE – Design for greenhouse information will be at convention table
  - Visit us at HBS/ABS Convention in Houston
- ABS workshop announced – Bring tree to prep for annual show in May

Marlon began his presentation at 7:47pm



# ABS Board Minutes (Roland)

*April 16, 2018*

Meeting began at 7:05pm

Attendees: Brandon, Mike, Gloria, Roland, Pat, Lawrence

- Suiseki presentation received positive feedback from board
- Board votes YES for 'Principles Of Bonsai Design' book to be updated from 1995 edition to 2015 edition for ABS library

Meeting ended at 7:49pm





# Austin Bonsai Society

## 2019 Bonsai Show & Sale

May 18-19  
10AM - 5PM

48th Annual  
Free Event

Zilker Botanical Garden  
2220 Barton Springs Rd  
Austin, Tx 78746



## Saturday & Sunday Raffles!



Bonsai  
Demonstration  
Here  
2:00pm



# May Bonsai

*By John Miller*

Bonsai Tonight has some great articles on the LSBF-ABS show and seminar held in Houston in April. Jonas spends some time expounding on the great diversity to be found in our Texas bonsai collections. Whatever your level of expertise is you all deserve a pat on the back for your work in learning how to grow them.

May is the time to continue work on most species of bonsai, do leaf pruning if necessary, debud azaleas if too many buds, start repotting tropicals, plan for summer protection, and treat for spider mites again.

In general, May is the time you do leaf pruning **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 will sometimes be smaller. Leaf pruning 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 in this area to be Memorial Day. Leaf pruning is done only on very **healthy** trees and never on the atropurpeum type of Japanese maple (Bloodgood is one). The tree should be fertilized 7 - 10 days before the operation. Cut the stems of those leaves that have them (maples) or cut across the leaf about 1/16 inch from the twig if leaves are attached directly on the twig (elms). It will not need as much water until the new foliage has developed.

I like to remove extra buds on azaleas so that the flowers have room to open fully. When the azaleas finish bloom remove all seed pods and do any reshaping that is necessary. You have 2-2 1/2 months (that is until mid-July) to work on them. They will start setting buds for next years flowers at that time.

When 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 individual needs here. But in general, I like to put them in shade and mist them

until the new growth starts.

Warm humid days are favorable for fungal growth. Watch for mildew, black leaf spot on elms and yaupons, among other. As an organic control you can use baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) or better use Potassium bicarbonate that you can get at a nursery. Hydrogen peroxide in a 1% solution (mix 1 part of the normal 3% commercial product with 2 parts water) can be used on mature foliage. It may burn tender foliage but its only by-product is water.

If you have insect problems you will need to apply your control, whatever you use, several times. For example, spider mites may go thru the cycle from egg to adult to egg in as little as 5 days. Therefore you should spray 4 times 5 days apart. Other insects will have a different cycle but that schedule should take care of almost everything.

Aphids, spider mites, and scale continue to be the most prevalent insects. Chemical controls may be used if you desire. A systemic type will be best for scale. Always follow the label directions explicitly. Do not use an oil based spray on buttonwood.

I use the foliar spray of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar (1 tablespoon each per gallon of water). Scale is the most difficult because it is usually covered with a waxy coating. 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. Always check to see if your plant is included on the label. **Please note:** the commercial organic spray sold as Garret Juice does not do the same as the above mixture. Use it as a fertilizer only.

If you see damage to the foliage or the plant is not doing well, look for other problems and if you dont recognize the culprit ask you favorite nurseryman for help.

Start checking your pots to see if the sun is heating them up. Our 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. An inch or more of air space around the pot is desirable. 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, but weigh it down with a rock.

Remember 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.

If 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. 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. There are a number of fertilizers in pellet or cake form on the market or you can make your own.

At a convention I once watched two good artists working on black pine. One had the student cut all needles to 1/4 inch. The other had them pluck all old needles and left the 1 year needles full length. Both techniques will work if followed by the correct care for that technique. For this reason I don't say much on conifers in this column. Whichever way you do it you should learn the complete method of your instructor and not mix them. Don't change methods unless you have a very good reason. Then it may take a full year to get everything on track.



## 2019 Austin Bonsai Show – May 18-19

Our Austin Bonsai show is really special: a club show without any competitive drama, but which has a full formal display to show off our trees to their best. As the 2019 Show Chair, I wanted to say a few words about this upcoming event.

The show is for the membership, so if you have a bonsai you are proud of, please consider showing it! I'd love for each member to have a bonsai on display at this event. It needs to be in a clean Bonsai pot (check underneath too!), be nicely trimmed and pest free, and any dead leaves or weeds removed. The surface can have the traditional moss artfully placed to represent grassy undergrowth, but can also be simply a clean layer of soil neatly applied to show off the surface roots and not distract the viewer. To elevate our bonsai from the plant in our garden into a piece of artwork to appreciate, we place it on a stand. These can be very elaborate handcrafted wooden pieces (which are artwork themselves!) or can be a simple but carefully worked piece of wood, slab of a trunk, or even a neutral patterned placemat made from wood or reed. If you don't have a stand, don't worry, many of us bring a few extras to share.

Many have seen shows with extra elements such as accent plants, scrolls, figurines or other elements, and this is where the fun of the art of display resides. With pieces which work together we can tell a story, whether it is about the struggle for life on a rocky outcrop, a verdant field in the Spring, the aftermath of a violent storm, to even the effect of humans on their surroundings. These displays are not only fun to create, but it gives visitors something to discover as they move from piece to piece in our exhibit. Be sure to let me know if you have pieces which go together so that they aren't rearranged (as we sometimes do to make the best exhibit space for the viewer). We have creative minds in our club, and I'd like for some to try to give the art of display a try. Just keep in mind that small pocket-sized elements can (and have) gone missing in the past, so try to display with safety. Also clearly label all of your items with a sticker on the bottom just in case it gets separated at the end of the show.

We will have a sign up sheet passing around at the next meeting, please sign up to help out in any way you can. We always need extra eyes on our trees, so extra docents (to answer questions but also to watch) are always a good thing.

The schedule:

- Set up Fri May 17, 4:00-9:00pm. Come to help us set up our show and bring your Bonsai at this time. We will have pizza for volunteers, and you get to see how the show looks from the inside out.
- Show Sat May 18 - Sun May 19, 10:00am-5:00pm each day. Volunteers and members park in the volunteer parking down by the greenhouse to save the regular parking for guests. We will need members as greeters, raffle sales and docents. Wear your Bonsai name tag and encourage viewers to enjoy their visit. Demonstrations begin each day at 2:00pm
- Show take down and clean up Sun May 19, after 5:00pm

I hope we get a great turnout and have an awesome bonding bonsai weekend. Looking forward to seeing everyone! Let me know if you have any questions.

Joey McCoy  
jvmccoy@gmail.com



Friends and members from Austin Bonsai Society who attended HBS/ABS Convention in Houston

**BRITE IDEAS**

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Manager:Tim Hill

2521 Rutland Dr. #475  
Austin,TX 78758  
(512)459-4353  
Manager: Nick Snyder

## New Members

**Allison Fries**

## Renewing Members

**Kevin Patureau**

**Madhavan Nampoothiri**

## 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](mailto: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!

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# Bonsai Notebook

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



## Austin Bonsai Society

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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 \$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.