



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

May 2024 vol 164

Our News

President's and Vice President's Message
page 2 - 4

ABS Board Meeting Minutes
page 5

Bonsai on the Bayou
Page 6 - 7

April Meeting
page 8

Bonsai Calendar - Looking ahead
page 9- 10

ABS Annual Bonsai Show
page 11

May Bonsai
page 12 - 13

New Members/Recruiting Authors/
Advertisements
page 14- 16

Calendar of Events

May 8, 2024

- ◆ Topic: BYOT (Show preparation and refinement)
- ◆ Artists: Chuck W, Joey M., Roland L.
- ◆ Time: 6:30pm (Social) 7:00pm (Meeting)
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden

May 18-19, 2024

- ◆ ABS Annual Bonsai Show (Saturday and Sunday)
- ◆ Pre-show setup: 5/17 (Friday)
- ◆ Post-show cleanup 5/19 (Sunday)
- ◆ Volunteers needed
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden

2024 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

*Lauren
Maddi*

Tree Hosts

*Ben M.
Dash C..*

President's Message

By Jonathan W.

It's showtime! – 2024 SHOW OVERVIEW –

Our May show weekend (May 18th-19th 2024) is just around the corner... One of my favorite times of the Austin Bonsai Society annual programming calendar. *Our annual show is an "all hands on deck" event* and is a shared service each and every available club member plays a part in. Special thanks to show Chairperson Joey McCoy, Co-Chairs Simon Tse and Eric Benson, and the volunteers who are coming together to assemble this year's show!

Can't wait to see what our members bring in to display. Also looking forward to time spent having fun and getting to know more volunteer members. Reminder: please drop off display trees at Zilker on Friday evening May 17th around 5:00 PM (Time window of 4:00PM-7:00PM at the latest) and please help set up table risers, show screens, and displays for approximately 50+ trees. Following past tradition, a celebratory pizza party will take place at Zilker around 6:30/7:00PM as volunteers finalize setting up the show Friday evening so don't miss out on good times! Then, come by Saturday and Sunday, bringing friends and family to enjoy the show. In years past we have had approximately 600 to 1,200 people tour our show, enjoying demonstrations, vendor and raffle tables. On Sunday evening @ 5:00PM, please come pick up your wonderful trees and help us disassemble and load-up the show items!

Parking reminder: Volunteers can request free parking at the Garden Center Gate @ 2220 Barton Springs Road! On the Saturday and Sunday of the show, volunteers ideally park in the volunteer lot down the gravel path at the far end of the parking lot (so the public has more parking spaces to come in and see our show). Also, there will be overflow parking for Visitors and Volunteers at 2228 Stratford Dr, Austin, TX 78746, with a 2nd entrance through the "Rose Gate" @ the Hartman Prehistoric Garden. ** Please note, Zilker will charge a park admission fee to all visitors, and this admission includes the cost of parking in the main lot or the cost of parking in the overflow lot, so please don't double-up parking cost.

Display Reminder: any bonsai tree you would like to have displayed (or any items you loan for club use like stands, accent plants, scrolls, mosses, etc) **must arrive on Friday late afternoon/ evening and remain in the show until Sunday evening @ 5:00PM. Also, Picking up trees early is not allowed** because it would leave holes in the show and take away from the hard work that goes into meticulously setting up and balancing the exhibit for the public.

Shared-Display Items Reminder: if you have accent plants, display stands, accent stands, mosses etc that you can loan for the show, simply label them on the bottom and we are quite sure to find a perfect pairing for your accessories. Sometimes our accessories save the day!

President's Message

By Jonathan W.

Welcome, welcome, welcome to our new members! Reach out and say hi! Keep coming to 2nd Wednesday meetings and bonsai events around Texas to get to know future friends and mentors in the bonsai art. Maybe even bring a friend or two who takes interest in bonsai to Wednesday meetings from time to time. Also, it's good to read each month's newsletter as soon as it comes out as it will have important dates and events listed.

I speak for many of us when I say we truly enjoyed the Houston Bonsai Convention! This was my firsttime attempting bonsai display at the state level. It was an honor (and a challenge) to prepare 2 trees for display in Houston alongside trees from all over Texas and Louisiana. It was heartwarming to see a huge turnout of members and vendors from the Austin Club – I don't have an official count, but I think we had between 20 and 22 Austin members in attendance this year! Way to Go ABS! There were too many highlights to mention in this article, but I will share 1 technique I picked up from Master Min Hsuan Lo. In his Hong Kong Kumquat tree workshop, he showed us how to fuse multiple contorted citrus trees and their roots to create gnarly shohin bonsai for fruiting display.



The technique inspired me to consider it for various fruiting and flowering species (like crab-apple, persimmon, etc.) The key to the technique was having wild, thickened roots of a few individual trees that could be interlocked, and then and allowed to grow and fuse together over time. It was a pleasure to be with Master Lo as he delightfully referred to the Kumquat pages of his masterful Book: *Bonsai Journey* by Lo Min Hsuan – The book is phenomenal, but not written in English – It was jaw-dropping to hear the final photos of his full-color book were narrowed down from 12,000 photos during the making of the book.

Sincerely, Jonathan Wood, ABS President 2024

Bonsai quote:

" Bonsai is not the result : that comes after. Your enjoyment is what is important." "The Bonsai is not you working on the tree; you have to have the tree work on you"

--- John Naka, Master Bonsai Cultivator



Vice President's Message

By Eric B.

Hello again to everyone, I hope all of your trees made it unscathed through our recent inclement weather. But that's May here in Texas, pretty much just a continuous thunderstorm watch for the whole month.

I don't know about you folks, but I thought the sapling demo by Dashiell Collins was both fun and informative. That one trick with the rocks to secure multiple saplings in the pot was pretty neat, and the other technique with a wire connecting the base of two trees in a group to keep their spacing while potting, were both just great things to learn. The workshop went very well also, with all the remaining saplings being used for some pretty nice group plantings. Thanks again to Dash for coordinating all of this, and to Treefolks for providing the trees.

The Lone Star Bonsai Federation annual convention was last month, and it was a blast! A big thank you to the Houston Bonsai Society, LSBF, and Bonsai Clubs International for putting on a stellar convention!

At this month's meeting, we are having another member-led Bring Your Own Tree mini-workshop night! There will be three "stations", led by Chuck Ware, Joey McCoy, and Roland Lopez, where you can work on a certain aspect of your tree (such as, refinement, wiring, show prep, etc.). The main focus of this event will be readying trees for display in the ABS annual show later in the month, May 18-19. Of course, you can bring in any tree you want; it doesn't have to be for the show, but bringing a tree in for the show is encouraged. This is a great chance to get advice and guidance on a tree or two.

As I already mentioned, May 18-19 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 (The show is on the 18th and 19th, but we need volunteers on Friday the 17th too, for setup), 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. For the June meeting we have Brandon Baldauf, working on an olive tree. The tree will be raffled off to a lucky winner at the end of the evening.

Later in June, on Saturday the 15th from 1 to 4 pm, we have a workshop on Basic Air Layering. If you've never done an air layer before, this is your chance to learn a method for obtaining more advanced bonsai material by making a branch grow roots while it's still attached to the tree. I know, it sounds like magic, but that's only because it totally is magic. The subject of the air layering will be some young cedar elms growing up from the roots of a large stump in my backyard. They're not anything special, but they are great material for learning - or improving - this skill. More details will be in future letters.

For our July meeting we are lucky to have guest artist Mike Lane joining us. He will do a demo on a tree that is yet to be determined. If you've never met Mike or seen him work on a tree, I highly recommend attending this meeting. There is also a possibility that Mike will have trees for sale, at a time and pace to be determined. Stay tuned for more info.

July's workshop is Tropical Repotting, at MBP Bonsai. More details will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

See you at the meeting!
Eric

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

Get Connected!

Join our online
discussion



Official Website

Visit our website at
austinbonsaisociety.com

Facebook



Like our Facebook page
AustinBonsaiSociety

Twitter



Follow us on Twitter
@ATXBonsai

Instagram



Follow us on Instagram
@austinbonsaisociety

YouTube



[https://www.youtube.com/
channel/
UCLSknKbNLd3EOYwjkjNIneA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSknKbNLd3EOYwjkjNIneA)

Date: April 16, 2024

Location: Virtual

Meeting Attendees:

- ◆ Jonathan (President)
- ◆ Eric (Vice President)
- ◆ Simon (Secretary)
- ◆ Gloria (Treasurer)
- ◆ Members-At-Large
 - Ever
 - Judith

President:

- ◆ Jonathan kicks off the meeting at **7:00pm**
- ◆ May meeting format
- ◆ Detailed discussions on club show in May
 - ◆ Sign, poster, logistics, volunteers, security, and numerous related topics
- ◆ Ben M. was the ABS sponsored scholarship recipient
- ◆ Discussions on Slack

Vice President:

- ◆ Finalized schedule for the year
- ◆ Explore QR codes for upcoming workshops

Secretary:

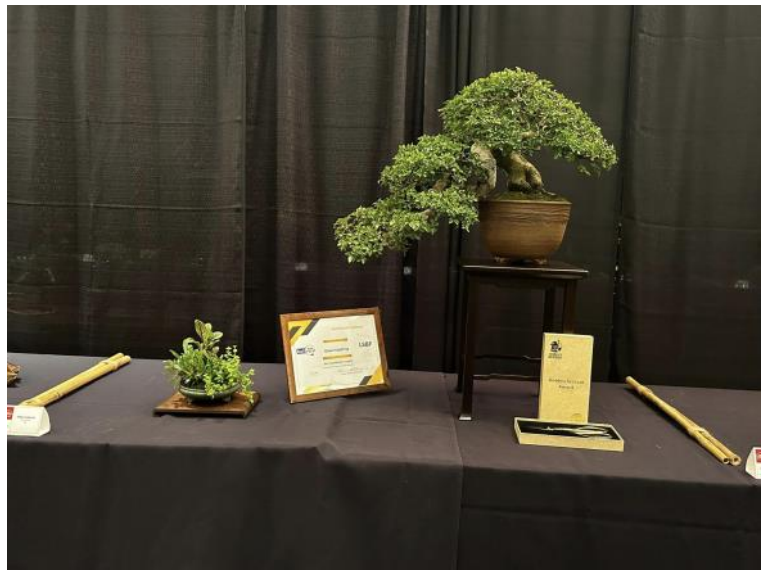
- ◆ Last report was accepted without edits

Treasurer:

- ◆ Provide financial updates and balances
- ◆ Show vendor format and new layout was discussed in details

Meeting adjourned at **9:00pm**

Bonsai on the Bayou (Houston Convention 2024)



Bonsai on the Bayou (Houston Convention 2024)



ABS Meeting (April)



Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

Date	Event Type	Artist / Presenter	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
WED 5/8/24	CLUB Night / Demo/ Presentation	3 ABS Club Members Lead this educational event: Chuck Ware, Roland Lopez, Joey McCoy	BYOT (Bring Your Own Tree) For Pre-Show Refinement and Display Help – Stations around the room to get help working on your bonsai. **1st Show Tree Challenge for newer members** Mosses, top dressing of soil, leaf cutting, bonsai pot preparation, refinement and more!)	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: Show Chair: Joey McCoy	Volunteer Afternoon/Evening: – Volunteers Set-up room for Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show , and drop off bonsai for display, pizza w/ volunteers	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
WED 6/12/24	CLUB MEETING - Demo/ Presentation	Brandon Baldauf (ABS Club Member),	Olive Bonsai Demo – Learn all about a tree species perfect for bonsai that often looks ancient rather quickly. Specially-acquired olive bonsai for this event!	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd Austin, TX	donation table items welcome

Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

Date	Event Type	Artist / Presenter	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
SAT 6/22/24	WORKSHOP	Eric Benson (ABS Club Member)	Air-layering: a way to make fantastic pre-bonsai material! Explore and practice this special skill at Eric B.'s home RSVP for materials and headcount to: Jebenson99@gmail.com	11807 North Oaks Dr., Austin (Please RSVP by email for headcount)	None
WED 7/10/24	CLUB MEETING - Lecture	Guest Artist : Mike Lane , Florida https://mikelannesshohinstudio.wordpress.com/ https://www.kitsunebonsai.com/	Bonsai Pro Mike Lane is sure to bring a wealth of expert knowledge as he demonstrates bonsai techniques on a special tree.	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Rd Austin, TX	donation table items welcome
SAT 7/27/24	WORKSHOP	ABS Club members lead this workshop event	BYOT Tropical Work, Styling and Repot help available for paid club members	MBP BONSAI STUDIO 601 Kay Ln Pflugerville, TX 78660	\$10

53rd Annual **Austin Bonsai Society** **Show and Sale**

Saturday May 18th–Sunday May 19th 2024 ~ 10am-5pm

**Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs
Rd.
Austin, Tx 78746**



- Bonsai Display, Q&A with members
- Demonstrations each day
- Vendor Room Sales of Bonsai and supplies
- Raffles on Saturday & Sunday!

May Bonsai

by John Miller

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 don't recognize the culprit ask your 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.

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

Mary Lou W.

Jaime L.

Jorge V.

Rick V.

Dan T.

Vincent D.

Ryan L & Monique M.

Cynthia D. V.

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



BRITE IDEAS
AQUAPONICS
HYDROPONICS & ORGANICS

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

12110 Menchaca Rd. Ste.103 Austin, TX 78748 (512)444-2100	14611 Burnet Rd #110 Austin, TX 78758 (512)459-4353
---	---

MBP Bonsai Studio
Importers, Retail & Wholesale
Your source for:
High quality Yagimitsu & Ryukoh tools
Organic Bonsai Fertilizers
Imported and Domestic Trees
Bonsai Pottery, Soils and supplies
Classes & Seminars
Open Tuesday Through Sunday



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

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.

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

Email: webmaster.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com