



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

November 2022 vol 146

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Calendar of Events

November 9

- ◆ 6:30pm - 9:00pm (6 PM Set-up)
- ◆ Annual All Holiday Party - Bring your favorite dish to share
- ◆ Gift exchange
- ◆ Isabel Glatthorn Bonsai Pot Auction and Display of Members' Newly-Made Workshop Pots

December

- ◆ No meetings due to Zilker Park Trail of Lights festivities

January 11, 2023

- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
- ◆ Meeting begins at 7 pm
- ◆ Social starts at 6:30 pm

2022 Board of Directors

Roland Lopez
President

Summer Lee
Vice President

Ruwan Perera
Secretary

Gloria Norberg
Treasurer

Morgan Bean
Member-At-Large

Jacob Keller
Member-At-Large

Gerrit Clemence
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

*HOLIDAY PARTY Food/Refreshments
Everyone bring a dish to share*

TREES

*Bring a decorated tree for use as a
table centerpiece*

GIFT

*Bring a wrapped gift for the gift
exchange*

President's Message

By Roland Lopez

Hello my friends!

This is my final message to you as your club president. It has been a great experience and I sincerely thank you all for your support and patience with me. I think this position has helped me grow as a person and I'll use what I have learned for the rest of my life. I will now serve you as your vice president. I am looking forward to it.

A big thank you to the board members who served with me this year. I couldn't have done it without y'all!

I'd like to give Pedro Morales another thank you for his presentation last month. He was a super nice guy and a very experienced teacher. I think we'll see him again in the future.

I am excited to tell you that our holiday party will continue this year! Let's get this tradition going again. Every year, ABS would have a club gathering for our meeting date this month. We haven't done this in 2 years. There will be food, drinks, decorations, and a gift exchange game. It is a wonderful way to end the year with friends and family. We hope you can join us!

I have attached a sign up sheet from our last meeting. Please look at it and if you can bring something that no one has signed up for yet, that would be wonderful!

Stay warm and content, everyone. And protect those tropicals.

See you soon.

With a big smile,

Roland



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ABS Board Meeting Minutes

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discussion



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ABS Library

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

YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSkNkBNld3EOYwjkjNlneA>

Meeting starts at 7:32pm

Motion to make Elaine White a lifetime member
Motion passes

Discuss budget, trending positive for the year
Annual donation to TTSBE will be reinstated

Discuss proposed budget for 2023
Auction did really well in 2022. Auction should again be held offsite for 2023
Ambitious budget planned for 2023 with guest artists
Proposal for monthly raffle purchases

2023 budget passes.

Discussion of holiday party food and decoration needs.
E-invite to the holiday party with information on what to expect/bring.
Planning to display pots created in the Isabel Glatthorn workshop at the November meeting.
Raffle for November meeting.

Board meeting planned for November to welcome 2023 board members to plan programs and learn duties.
Agenda items for November meeting on future board meeting dates/times as well as food/refreshment host duties for 2023.

Auditors for 2022 budget selected.

Meeting concluded at 8:39pm

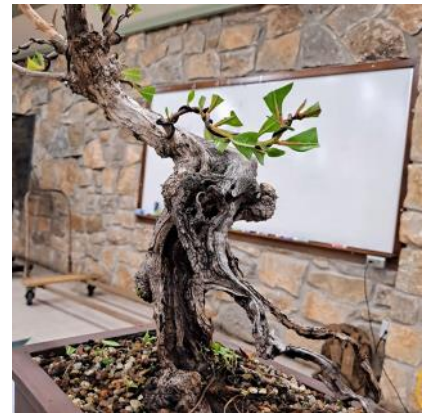
Reminder for club membership

2023 membership fee

Individual	\$35.00
Family	\$40.00
Newsletter monthly advertisements:	\$40.00
Directory advertisement:	\$11.00

You may contact payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com for convenient electronic payment options (processing fee will be added).

Pedro Morales



How Do We Avoid Pom-Poms?

Posted by crataegus on October 21, 2022 (Permission granted to repost)

A reader on this blog raised this great question. It's an excellent one as it leads to a central tenant of good bonsai maintenance.

First, how are pom-poms created?

To speak not to *shape* but to *density*, pom-poms are created when we nibble at growth. If all we do is nibble at the exterior—like pinching or trimming—the exterior will get really dense. Crowding out light. And weakening and killing interior shoots.

And we may create a secondary uncool thing with this nibbling: branches that don't have taper. Thick, stubby branches result from pom-pomming (the verb of nibbling).



While the shape of these garden pom-poms is one thing, trimming at the exterior of pads in bonsai over time creates similar stubby branches with no taper.

What then is the alternative?

Thinning the exterior, and occasionally cutting further into a branch pad, to a side shoot.

This develops taper for the branch and removes foliage at the branch ends.

The result? We have airy, natural-looking pads that have branch taper. The airy pad is important for making space for new growth.

How Do We Avoid Pom-Poms?

Posted by crataegus on October 21, 2022 (Permission granted to repost)

Note that we can still pinch or trim, if that's the technique we should use, but then we need to follow that with thinning, and, less frequently, pruning. The above describes "worst case" when we nibble year after year without cutting back inside.

It's the work we do *after* pinching or trimming that will prevent our pads from dying of density. There's nothing wrong with density...unless it goes on for years without thinning.

And then shape...well, pruning and wiring will prevent pads from becoming mystical floating balls.

<https://crataegus.com/2022/10/21/how-do-we-avoid-pom-poms/>

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

Michael T.

Jeff H.

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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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 \$32.50 for an individual and \$37.50 for a family membership. For additional information, contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, TX 78734.