



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

November 2025 vol 182

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Calendar of Events

November 7-9, 2025

- ◆ Annual TTSBE Seminar
- ◆ Featured Bonsai Master: [Suthin Sukosolvisit](#)
- ◆ Topic: Wiring to Create Fluid Lines in Our Bonsai
- ◆ Location: Anderson Mill Garden Club
- ◆ Friday workshop, Saturday/Sunday seminar, Sunday workshop.
- ◆ Details: [Registration \(TTSBE.org\)](#)

November 12, 2025

- ◆ ABS Annual Holiday Celebration
Join us for a joyful gathering filled with cheer and community spirit!
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
- ◆ Festivities Include:
 - ◆ Holiday Gift Exchange
 - ◆ Tree Decorating Fun
- ◆ Everyone is encouraged to bring a decorated tree and a favorite side dish to share

2024 Board of Directors

Eric B.
President

Sachin A.
Vice President

Simon T.
Secretary

Jonathan W.
Treasurer

Jorge M.
Member-At-Large

Ross C.
Member-At-Large

Ben M.
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Refreshments
Everyone

Tree Hosts
Everyone

President's Message

By Eric B.

Hello everyone, and welcome! As the sun shifts south, the days get shorter, and the nights get cooler, it's time to think about our winter bonsai activities. Of course, taking care of our trees is the first priority so get started on winter preparations to shelter trees from wind, put pots on the ground and/or insulate them, and so forth. But, there's still other work we can do while our trees are dormant. Once deciduous trees go fully dormant, we can do cleaning (such as removing dead leaves from the tree and soil), pruning (to clear dead branches, thin out crowded areas etc.), and wiring to prepare the tree for spring. Winter is also a good time to use the knowledge from **Joey McCoys's** September presentation and do some maintenance on your tools - they could probably use a good cleaning and sharpening. This is also a good time to clean benches, tables, or other areas where you keep your trees. There's lots of things to do in the winter, so get busy!

Our October meeting was a load of fun, as **Adam Lavigne** both entertained and educated us while he worked on a Tiger Bark Ficus. Adam drove here to tour through Texas for the **Lone Star Bonsai Federation**, and we were glad to have him visit. Also, congratulations to new ABS member **Bjorn Fredrickson**, on winning the demo tree in the raffle! It's good to know that the ABS "tradition" of a new member at their first meeting winning the demo tree.

At the **November Club Meeting**, we have our annual **Fall Holiday Party and Gift Exchange**, on Nov. 12, 6 pm to 9:30 pm. The party is a potluck, so please sign up to bring a dish and/or other party supplies. You should have received an Evite invitation via email, and that Evite has a "What to Bring" list where you can sign up for a dish, party supplies, and to volunteer with setup and cleanup. For this year's party, I will be providing the turkey, and there is a sign-up on the "What to Bring" list for ham. I'll put this next request in the Evite as well, but if you have something to help keep dishes warm, such as a hot plate or heating pad or the like, please bring them to the party, along with an extension cord or power strip if you can.

There is also a voluntary White Elephant gift exchange, which you can participate in by bringing a small (\$10 - \$30) gift. Please put the gift in a bag or wrapping, but do not identify who it is from.

Also at the November meeting we have some club business to take care of, namely electing next year's Board of Directors, and approving the 2026 budget. At the October meeting we presented the candidates for next year's Board, who are:

Eric Benson - President
Sachin Atavar - Vice President
Jonathan Wood - Treasurer
Simon Tse - Secretary
Ross Canlas - Member at Large
John Hooper - Member at Large
Fred Wettling - Member at Large

We will hold the vote after club members have time to discuss the candidates, ask questions, and so forth. After that, our Treasurer Jonathan Wood will present the 2026 ABS budget, and after discussion and/or questions from members, take a vote to adopt it.

Thanks for reading, see you all at the party!
Eric

Vice President's Message

By Sachin A.

Hello Austin Bonsai Society members,

As the year winds down and the leaves begin to turn, it's time for one of our most cherished gatherings—the Annual Fall Holiday Party and Potluck, happening at our November meeting on Wednesday, November 12th, from 6:00 to 9:30 PM.

This is always a wonderful evening of food, fun, and friendship. Please remember to sign up to bring a dish and/or party supplies to help make the event special for everyone.

We'll also be holding a voluntary White Elephant Gift Exchange. To join in, simply bring a wrapped or bagged gift (valued between \$10–\$30)—just be sure not to label it with your name. It's always a highlight of the night and brings lots of laughs!

Most importantly, I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for a fantastic year. Your participation, enthusiasm, and willingness to help have made every club event a success. Whether you helped organize a meeting, brought snacks, shared your bonsai knowledge, or simply showed up with a smile—you've contributed to the warm and welcoming spirit that defines our club.

Let's close out the year in celebration. I look forward to seeing you all at the party!

Warmly,
Sachin Attavar

Reminder for club membership and advertisement

2025 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).

Gift certificate for memberships is also available, please send inquiry to payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

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discussion



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Date: October 14, 2025

Location: Virtual

Meeting Attendees:

- ◆ Eric (President)
- ◆ Sachin (Vice President)
- ◆ Simon (Secretary)
- ◆ Jonathan (Treasurer)
- ◆ Caleb

President:

- ◆ We conducted a review of the annual club auction and covered several additional key topics.
- ◆ Preparations are underway for the upcoming Holiday Celebration in November. Plans include sending out an eVite, organizing a gift exchange, and circulating volunteer sign-up sheets for side items and extras.

Vice President:

- ◆ September: Tool showcase was well received by attendees.
- ◆ October: Preparations underway for Adam's visit.

Secretary:

- ◆ The meeting commenced at **7:35pm**.
- ◆ The latest report was approved as submitted, with no amendments necessary.

Treasurer:

- ◆ The proposed 2026 budget was approved by the board with minor revisions.
- ◆ "One Day in Bonsai 2026" is scheduled to take place in Zilker this February.
- ◆ Study group discussions are underway.
- ◆ The club's financial position remains strong and stable.

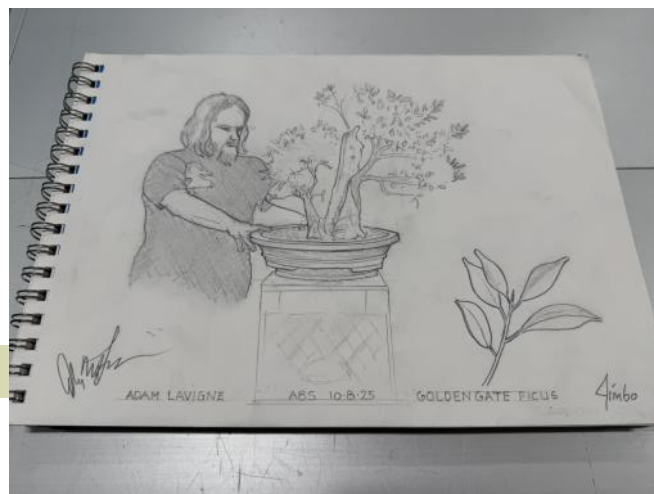
Meeting adjourned at **8:45 pm**

ABS Meeting
Adam Lavigne



ABS Meeting

Raffle winners and others



ABS Meeting

Raffle winners and others



What do we do with Bonsai in October?

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)

In fall, bonsai are starting the slow slide into slumber. The following photo essay shares a few ideas of how to read the results of our summer work, and what to do in the bonsai garden in fall.



This Satsuki Azalea is telling us that watering and fertilizing were adequate over the summer, as we can see flower buds setting. The flower buds are the 3 light yellow buds in the center of the shoots. Without enough summer water and fertilizer we wouldn't see these, and the Satsuki would flower sparsely next year.

What do we do with Bonsai in October?



It's also a good time to assess how the timing of decandling and summer fertilizing of Japanese Black Pine went. Even if the decandling timing was right, without some fertilizer during the summer we may not get reasonable needle length in the regrowth. These needles are about right, 1 1/2" for a medium-sized tree. Now we increase fertilizing as fall advances to set the buds up well for spring decandling. Spring decandling success is highly dependent on the energy of the buds the previous fall.

What do we do with Bonsai in October?



Though short needles seem nice, these Japanese Black Pine needles are too short for a medium-sized tree, and could have used more fertilizer during the summer, or the candles could have been cut a couple weeks earlier.

What do we do with Bonsai in October?



October a good time to prune almost anything. Pruning sets up remaining buds well for spring. After a trim on the red marks on this Vine Maple, fertilize. Fall is an excellent time to fertilize well, including with nitrogen—there's a chapter in *Bonsai Heresy* that explains why some nitrogen is important for bedtime.

Using Birds in Bonsai Display



Alder after a shoot trim. Buds can be seen forming in the axils of the petioles, ready for next spring. If cut too late in the fall, or even into the winter, this chance at bud activation is lost.

What do we do with Bonsai in October?



Although others may use different terms, I consider pruning a big cut with a tool like a concave pruner (left), and trimming is cutting a shoot with a bud scissors (right). Fall is a good time to do both.

What do we do with Bonsai in October?



Scots pine with a strong shoot with big buds. If in development, maybe leave alone to help build trunk and branches and roots. If in refinement, consider trimming this off at the red mark and leaving the smaller shoots below it.

What do we do with Bonsai in October?



Another fork in the road with technique chosen based on tree development. This is Kishu Shinpaku with long shoots. If you're still building the design and need branch length, consider leaving and wiring (we can wire just about anything in fall, though maybe wait until deciduous are just out of leaf). If the tree's branch structure is set, then trim at red marks and the remaining shoots will fluff up into those lovely clouds that make juniper such a favorite for bonsai.

What do we do with Bonsai in October?



A Rocky Mountain Juniper with extensions. Rocky makes many more extensions than Shinpaku, even late into refinement. About twice a year these need to be trimmed at the red marks, just inside the canopy of the foliage. This redistributes the energy and over time it evens out, the pads get denser, and the extensions get shorter. This selective scissor trim is the same technique for Hinoki, Cypress, and Cryptomeria.

What do we do with Bonsai in October?



Another job for fall is taking off unwanted fruit. This is a Dwarf Japanese Quince, 'Chojubai'. If left on, resources that could have gone to bud development for next year are put into the fruit.

What do we do with Bonsai in October?



This Harland Boxwood grew late into the early fall—as is common with subtropicals in my temperate climate—and we'll keep an eye on the soft growth and protect it early before any convincing cold sets in.

A few more thoughts:

- ◆ single flush pines may be wired now (since mid-summer), but decandled black pines may still be growing their needles, which are soft and are easily broken when wiring
- ◆ in many areas it rains more in the fall, so at this time a slow-release fertilizer may be desired as you won't be watering as much—and rain can leach in solid fertilizer rather than flushing out liquid fertilizer
- ◆ depending on climate, it's also a good time to get a game plan for winter cold—prepare for the worst storm, not the average storm
- ◆ check for tight wire—early fall is a good time to catch any that you missed earlier

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 for 2025

May and Simon T.

Matt S.

Phina & Marlon C.

Lizzle and Nathan G.

Jonathan W.

John M. and Blake S.

Eric and Leigh B.

Ross C.

Ruby C.

Alisan C., and Lynn H.

Mike and Candy H.

Julia and Betty D.

Quoc H.

Debbie and John H.

Hunter J.

Jacob K.

Roland L. and Krystal W.

Joey M.

Andrew M.

Michael and Gloria N.

Lyon O.

Corbin C.

Wyatt S.

Spindel, Abraham, and Kelly S.

Jorge V.

Chuck and Pat W.

Janelle W.

Fred w.

Elaine W.

Shawn and Chris W.

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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Bonsai Notebook

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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 6:30 pm, followed by our program at 7:00 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