



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

September 2023 vol 156

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Calendar of Events

September 13, 2023

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

September 16, 2023

- ◆ Annual Auction
- ◆ Anderson Mill Garden Center

2023 Board of Directors

Jonathan W.
President

Roland L.
Vice President

Eric B.
Secretary

Gloria N.
Treasurer

Simon T.
Member-At-Large

Jacob K.
Member-At-Large

Ever V.
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Refreshments
Gloria N.
Gustavo R.

Tree Hosts
Zerita R.
Elaine W.

President's Message

By Jonathan W.

Looking forward to a wonderful bonsai auction this Sept 16th 2023. Thank you in advance for your generosity that funds so many wonderful bonsai programs! Suggest arriving a little early to set up your donations for the auction and give members a chance to preview the items. Can't wait to see you all there!

Texas summer and extreme heat have taken a toll on some of my deciduous leaves. Maples need a lot of water and a lot of filtered light to make it through summer extremes. Normally I partially defoliate trees a bit this time of year (the ones that are healthy enough to withstand the procedure) and await a new flush of growth once summer dormancy ends. A thought I've had lately is about how beautiful a second flush of growth can be following a season of summer rain. Joey mentioned this several years ago on social media and I can't help but agree! It is fun to see my deciduous trees waking up again after summer dormancy, to put on shades of bright green and red tinted foliage. Quite fascinating that the trees can enter a summer dormancy while waiting for the cooling temperatures and rains of the fall season. My tridents and other japanese maples have been putting on new buds that are sure to be a joy to watch unfold soon!

Happy Styling, Jonathan Wood ABS President

"Learn to work with traditional forms and then forget them. When you master the form try hard to get soul into your tree. Don't try to make your little tree look like a bonsai, try to make your bonsai look like a tree - as John Naka said." - Excerpt from 2013 Brazilian interview with Walter Pall

Reminder for club membership and advertisement

2023 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).

Vice President's Message

By Roland L.

Hello my fellow practitioners,

Here we are in September. Holy moly! That was fast. I hope you are all well. You know, this tough summer has taught me a lot. I'm thankful for the struggle and now I know what I need to do for the future of my trees. How would we learn without mishaps? Don't ever be hard on yourself for mistakes. Those times are the most important in your life. Just pay attention and you're golden.

How about last month?! Gilbert was so much fun and I think we all really enjoyed his presentation. I feel *portulacaria afra* is a bit underused as bonsai. For some reason, it gets passed over for other common trees used as subjects. I think that's interesting. This plant gives you everything you want in my opinion, yet, people scoff at it. Hahaha! It's funny. I request that you think about giving this plant a try. And if you don't like it, you can bring it to a raffle or our annual auction. How about that?

This month we are trying something new. I'm excited about it! We would like members to bring their trees in for a bonsai consultation. There will be several stations set up within the auditorium. Members will be able to choose which station they would like to be at according to their tree's needs. Each station will offer a particular skill like wiring, pruning, etc. from a guiding teacher. We encourage you to work on your tree there with the guides or you can watch and learn. The choice is yours my friends. I look forward to seeing how this experiment goes. And I hope many of you will participate.

Please remember to leave trees at home if they are infested with any kind of pests as these could spread to other people's trees.

I hope to see y'all soon. Please take care.
Roland

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discussion



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AustinBonsaiSociety

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Follow us on Twitter
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@austinbonsaisociety

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSkNbNLd3EOYwikjNIneA>

ABS Board Meeting Minutes

Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting Minutes, August 15, 2023

Meeting Attendees:

Jonathan W.
Roland L.
Gloria N.
Eric B.
Simon T.
Jacob K.
Everardo V.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:36 pm
2. Secretary's Report for July Board meeting reviewed and approved
3. Treasurer's Report reviewed and approved
4. Preparation for September meeting: BYOT - all members bring in a tree for advice, etc. Limit to one tree per member. Set up 3 or 4 stations, e.g., wiring, pruning, etc.
5. Discussion of auction in September: auctioneer, setup, etc.
6. LSBF Delegate Report: Nothing to report
7. TTSBE Announcements: Auction is still in planning. Kathy Shaner Seminar in November.
8. Future Items: Discussion of Jim Doyle visit in October. Discussion of possible program/presenters for 2024. Report on 2026 convention progress.
9. Meeting closed at 8:25 pm

Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

Date	Day of Week	Event Type	Artist	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
9/13/23	WED	Club Night - Demo/ Presentation	Members bring in a tree for help / guidance/ light wiring help / light pruning / discussion	BYOT for Guidance to push your tree to the next level	Zilker Botanical Garden Center	donation table items welcome
9/16/23	SAT	Bonsai Auction Event	Members donate bonsai, tools, supplies, pots, stands, books etc	Fundraiser for Austin Bonsai Society - funds for Guest Artists /Lectures/Demos etc	Anderson Mill Garden Club Center Approx 10:00AM 13974 FM2769, Volente, TX 78641	Auction items needed – Thank you!!
10/11/23	WED	Club Night - Demo/ Presentation	LSBF touring Artist, Jim Doyle	Jim Doyle demonstrates techniques styling a Trident Maple Bonsai	Zilker Botanical Garden Center	donation table items welcome
11/3/23 11/4/23 11/5/23	FRI, SAT SUN	TTSBE - Bonsai Seminar	TTSBE Kathy Shaner Seminar Weekend	TTSBE Kathy Shaner Seminar Weekend	TBD	TBD
11/8/23	WED	Club Night - Party / Social	Holiday Party	For Club Members and Guests– Potluck, Gift Exchange Game, Decorated Bonsai Displays, Social Time and Memories!	Zilker Botanical Garden Center	Sign up for Potluck items and Please RSVP Attendance <u>thru</u> “Evite” email so we have enough tables and chairs
4/25/24 4/26/24 4/27/24 4/28/24	THUR FRI SAT SUN	Bonsai Convention, Workshops, <u>Demos and</u> Public Display	Bjorn Bjorholm, Sergio Cuan, Min Hsuan Lo	Bonsai On the Bayou 2024 (LSBF <u>and</u> Bonsai Clubs International Attendance) – Hosted by Houston Bonsai Society	Houston Marriott Westchase (800)452-5110 2900 Briarpark Dr, Houston, TX 77042	RSVP room reservations, workshops, and registration EARLY before it sells out

September Bonsai

by John Miller

This has been a horrific summer for bonsai. I have not lost anything but some really look bad. This year I was forced to really take care of them and consequently I proved to myself something I had kinda surmised but that does not agree with popular opinion. Trees do not go into summer dormancy. All my trees have continued to grow throughout the heat (100+ in daytime and above 90 at night). The elms, Chinese Catlin Cedar, and the oaks, (live oak, shumard, post oak), seem to relish the added watering. The only bad thing is that the Japanese maples continue to grow but the new tips get scorched.

The forecasts are indicating some relief soon but there should still be some days with pretty hot temps. Keep after the extra care. And as the sun changes its angle make sure that the pots do not get too much afternoon sun.

A strange item to be talking about with the temp outside now at 104 but the situation may change in a hurry so be ready. Help your trees go into dormancy. Withhold fertilizers from those outdoor trees in mid Sept. They would need less water as they quit active growth but on warm days trees with green foliage will still transpire and need that water. Most tropicals have a dormant season also but it is caused by dry conditions rather than cold. These types need to be hardened also by cutting the fertilizer to halt active growth and lighter watering. This will enable them to withstand the transfer to the greenhouse better.

Check the trees you still have wire on. When the cooler days get here some trees will expand their branches and get wire cuts rather quickly. You need to check them periodically over the winter also. Winter growth will usually be pretty slow but can occur, especially on the evergreens. Cut the wire off. You can easily break the branches trying to unwrap the wire and its just not worth trying to save the wire. If you need to reapply some wire take care.

Two other things you can do now. You should prepare your winter quarters and you should study your evergreen trees to determine if you need to do any restyling later on this fall.

Check on the place you expect to winter your bonsai. (1) Make sure that it is clean. Debris harbors insects and other plant pathogens. A strong lime-sulfur spray can be used to disinfect the area as well as your growing area after the trees are removed. (2) Also be sure that you will be able to check the water needs of the trees. (3) It should be somewhat protected from winds but should have some air movement to help prevent molds from developing. (4) Having it in a location where you can see the trees will allow you to enjoy the winter silhouette, i.e. the branch structure and twiginess, that is a great part of deciduous bonsai.

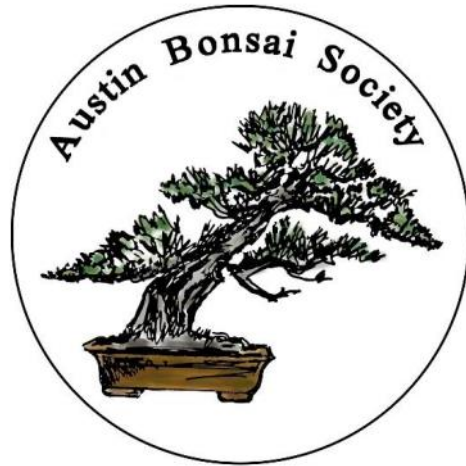
There is not too much to be done on deciduous trees at this time. Bugs and other problems are usually not a matter of concern since the foliage will be dropping soon. Scale on the stems must be taken care of. Evergreens and tropicals will still need to be watched for their insect problems, especially the spider mite which will be active into fall. Use the organic spray formula to control them. If we should have a stretch of damp weather you should be watching for fungal problems, leaf spot, mildew, etc. Treat fungal with potassium bicarbonate, (baking soda-sodium bicarbonate- will work about as well). I would be okay with using a 1% hydrogen peroxide solution at this time of the year for fungal control.

The organic spray formula is one tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water. This can be used as a foliar feed but I only consider it an insecticide.

Pruning and trimming 'can' be done any time that there is not a lot of sap flowing but is usually advisable to do it during dormancy. Sap flow is indicated by the foliar activity of the plant like in the spring.

If your tree went into summer dormancy? which occurs during hot weather then the cooler weather might result in a larger sap flow in late summer or early fall. If your plant gets a flush of new growth it would be advisable to postpone large pruning cuts for a while. Basically let your tree tell you when it is ok to operate.

Check nurseries for possible bonsai material. When the season is over they usually put everything on sale to clear it out so they can fill up with christmas trees.



ANNUAL ABS AUCTION!
ANDERSON MILL GARDEN CLUB
13974 FM2769, Volente, TX
SAT. Sept. 16, 2023
Arrive 9:30 AM; Auction 10:30 AM

Please donate bonsai, pre-bonsai, tools, supplies, & bonsai-related items for auction

Plan to BID and BUY!!
Consider it “crop rotation”!!

If your item is worth $\geq \$100$, enter it into the “Not-so-Silent” Auction and be refunded 50% of sales price.

RULES FOR THE ABS NOT-SO-SILENT AUCTION SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

1. The seller/donor must fill out the form below for each item to be offered and submit the completed form to the Treasurer by **Sept. 13 (the next regular meeting)** so that bidding sheets can be prepared. The Treasurer will mark the below form as to the date and time received. Up to 6 or 8 (depending on size) items will be accepted. **It is understood that 50% of the winning bid goes to the Club and 50% to the seller/donor** unless the seller/donor states on the form that it is a 100% donation to the club.
2. **Items must be worth \$100.00 or more and the donor is allowed to set a reserve price on this sheet below;** consequently, the beginning bid must be the reserve price or \$100. The reason for a not-so-silent auction is to save time and ensure the item is sold at a price that is acceptable to the donor. If the reserve is NOT met, the Treasurer will so announce and the item will be returned to the seller/donor.
3. There will be short breaks throughout the morning so that bids can be checked or added to.
4. At about 12:30 PM, the Treasurer will pick up the sheets and after the tallying, announce the winners. The winners can then pay, or add the amount to the total for whatever else they have won that day.
5. Send this completed form by **Sept. 13** as an e-mail attachment to gnorberg@austin.rr.com.

FOR THE ABS NOT-SO-SILENT AUCTION – SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

SELLER/DONOR NAME _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: _____

CHECK ONE: _____ 50/50 split _____ DONATION TO CLUB

WILL THERE BE A RESERVE? _____ YES _____ NO RESERVED PRICE: _____

RECEIVED BY: _____ DATE: _____ TIME: _____

Auction Item Tag

Item_____

Donor_____

Approx. Cost_____

Item_____

Buyer #_____

Final Bid_____

Auction Item Tag

Item_____

Donor_____

Approx. Cost_____

Item_____

Buyer #_____

Final Bid_____

Auction Item Tag

Item_____

Donor_____

Approx. Cost_____

Item_____

Buyer #_____

Final Bid_____

**Auction Item Tag**

Item_____

Donor_____

Approx. Cost_____

Item_____

Buyer #_____

Final Bid_____

Auction Item Tag

Item_____

Donor_____

Approx. Cost_____

Item_____

Buyer #_____

Final Bid_____

Auction Item Tag

Item_____

Donor_____

Approx. Cost_____

Item_____

Buyer #_____

Final Bid_____

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

Nastassja M.

Patrick & Angie H.

Christy & Marc R.

Alex P.

Matt H.

Ben M.

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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Owner: Troy Smith

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Imported and Domestic Trees
Bonsai Pottery, Soils and supplies
Classes & Seminars
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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



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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.