



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

September 2025 vol 180

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Calendar of Events

September 10, 2025

- ◆ Topic: Tools Sharpening and Demonstration
- ◆ Artist: Joey M.
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
- ◆ Time: 6:30pm (Mingling), 7:00pm (Meeting)

September 13, 2025

- ◆ Annual ABS Auction
- ◆ Location: Anderson Milll Garden Club
- ◆ Time: 9:30am (Setup), 10:30am (Auction begins)

2024 Board of Directors

Eric B.
President

Sachin M.
Vice President

Simon T.
Secretary

Jonathan W.
Treasurer

Jorge M.
Member-At-Large

Ross C.
Member-At-Large

Ben M.
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Volunteers

Refreshments
N/A.

Tree Hosts
N/A.

President's Message

By Eric B.

Hello everyone, I hope that the last month has been kind to both you and your trees. My trees are weathering the heat fairly well. I've been having a bit of trouble with mealy bugs...I keep treating for them and they keep coming back. If anybody has a silver bullet, I'm all ears. I'm beginning to entertain thoughts of drastic measures. I mean, trees are ok with a *little fire, right?*

Once again, **Joey McCoy** shared his extensive bonsai knowledge with us, at last month's Bring Your Own Tree night. I actually brought in a little Harlandii boxwood this time, and Joey gave me some great guidance for the tree's future. Now I just have to remember to take the wire off! Thanks again, Joey, for all you do for the Austin Bonsai Society.

At our next club meeting, on **September 10, 2025**, we will have a demo/presentation by **Joey McCoy**, on **Bonsai Tools**. Joey will cover best practices with various bonsai tools, by demonstrating on a tree. He will also talk about proper maintenance for your tools, so you can keep them in good shape for years to come. The demo tree will be added to the raffle at the end of the night.

The **club auction** is this coming weekend, on **Saturday, September 13, 2025**. For time and location please visit our Facebook group, or scroll down a bit in the newsletter. Please take a look at your collection to see if there's anything you would like to donate. Also, if you have something you might like to sell that's a bit more on the expensive side, you can put it in the auction and split the sale price with ABS. We will also need a few volunteers, to help set up before the auction and clean up afterward, and two or three people to provide refreshments.

The **Lone Star Bonsai Federation's Annual Convention** is being held in **Corpus Christi, TX, Sept. 18-21, 2025**. The theme is **Bonsai on the Bay**, and tickets are currently available on Eventbrite. The artists headlining the convention are **Jennifer Price, Mike Lane, and Jonas Dupuich**. The conventions are always great fun, so I hope to see you there!

That's all for now, see you in September!
Eric

Vice President's Message

By Sachin A.

Dear Austin Bonsai Society Members,

I hope everyone is staying cool and keeping their trees hydrated during this hot stretch! As we head into September, we have a packed month of exciting events to look forward to—perfect opportunities to learn, connect, and grow in our shared love of bonsai.

Monthly Meeting – Wednesday, September 10th



Zilker Botanical Garden



6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

This month's meeting will feature a special presentation by **Joseph McCoy**, who will be diving into one of the most essential parts of bonsai practice—**tools**. Joey will cover:

- The different types of bonsai tools and their specific uses
- How to properly **care for, clean, and sharpen** your tools
- A **live demo** on using tools to shape a bonsai tree

Whether you're new to bonsai or have years of experience, this session is sure to give you some valuable takeaways.

ABS Annual Auction – Saturday, September 13th



Anderson Mill Garden Club



Drop-off: 9:30 AM



Auction Starts: 10:30 AM

One of our most anticipated events of the year! The **Annual Auction** is a great chance to sell or buy trees, pots, tools, stands, and more. Whether you're looking to expand your collection or pass along material to fellow bonsai enthusiasts, there's something for everyone.

Please label your items clearly and come early to allow time for setup. Bidding is always fun and friendly, and proceeds help support the club.

Vice President's Message

By Sachin A.

LSBF Convention – *Bonsai on the Bay*



Corpus Christi, TX



September 18–21, 2025

Join bonsai artists and enthusiasts from across the state at the upcoming **Lone Star Bonsai Federation (LSBF) Convention**, hosted in beautiful Corpus Christi. Titled "**Bonsai on the Bay**," this event promises incredible workshops, demos, vendors, and opportunities to connect with the broader bonsai community.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bonsai-on-the-bay-2025-tickets-1078863532869>

Spots fill up quickly, so don't wait to secure your place!

Looking forward to seeing many of you throughout the month—at our meeting, the auction, or the convention. Let's keep growing together!

Warm regards,
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

Get Connected!

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discussion



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Follow us on Instagram
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Date: August 19, 2025

Location: Virtual

Meeting Attendees:

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

President:

- ◆ Topics covered included the annual club auction, refreshments, member sign-ups, logistics, and other relevant matters.
- ◆ Convention details were reviewed thoroughly.

Vice President:

- ◆ September: Tools demonstration scheduled.
- ◆ 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 credit card application was unanimously approved, following a motion by Eric and a second by Sachin.
- ◆ Appreciation was expressed for the advertising efforts led by Ross and Simon.
- ◆ Membership status and updates were reviewed.
- ◆ Preparations for the upcoming auction were discussed.

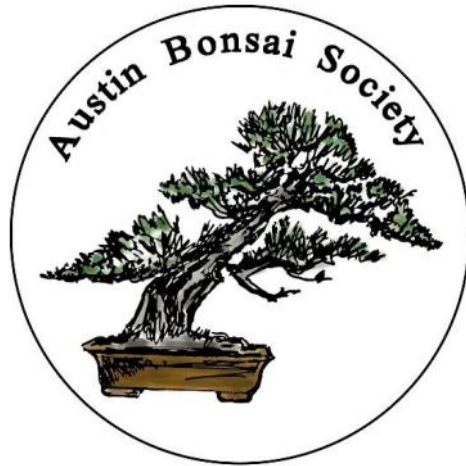
Meeting adjourned at **9:00 pm**

The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit (TTSBE) Fundraiser 2025



The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit (TTSBE) Fundraiser 2025





ANNUAL ABS AUCTION!
ANDERSON MILL GARDEN CLUB
13974 FM2769, Volente, TX
Saturday, SEPTEMBER 13
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.

PROCEDURE FOR THE ABS NOT-SO-SILENT AUCTION SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

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 (Day of Auction)**. 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. The completed form can also be emailed to jonathan.woodjs@gmail.com.

FOR THE ABS NOT-SO-SILENT AUCTION - SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

SELLER/DONOR NAME _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: _____

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

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_____



Why Are My Pine Needles Twisted?

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)

The shape of pine needles gives us clues to our pine care.

Generally the straighter and shorter the needle the better. For clean profiles on our mature pine bonsai that is the preference. The tree looks tighter, less gangly, and we can organize foliage pads with greater precision—handy if the tree will be in a show.

If the needle is too short then the pine might weaken, so this is just a general guideline.

In summer, needles have stopped growing and we have an opportunity to see what our spring transgressions or victories have been.

These are needles from well-maintained pines, straight and not twisting. Well-maintained for mature bonsai, that is. If your plant is in development, long needles or twisting is of little importance. From left: Shore Pine, Limber Pine, Japanese White Pine.



Why Are My Pine Needles Twisted?



These needles are from pines that have either been over-watered or over-fertilized. They are long and have significant twists. Ponderosa Pine, left, Japanese White Pine, right.

Overwatering is not necessarily your fault. Not that it's your neighbor's, but a rainy spring can cause excessive needle elongation. Fertilizer also can play a role.

Like many plants, pines are opportunistic. If given a resource in excess of their needs they will use it, not always in a manner we would like. Excess of either water or fertilizer in pines is expressed in long needles, often with twists.

Developing A Harland Boxwood

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)

While Boxwood is considered a beginner's tree in the west, in places like Taiwan it is a well-regarded plant for bonsai. A few years back I acquired two Harland Boxwoods from a friend and have greatly enjoyed having them around. This week one of them got up on the workbench.



Harland Boxwood, *Buxus harlandii*, in summer, before work. This is our first trim of the year.

Developing A Harland Boxwood



Trimming shoots. Small narrow leaves distinguish them from other boxwood species.

Developing A Harland Boxwood



Branch pad after trimming.

Developing A Harland Boxwood



From the front, looking up. Here we've finished the full trim. Fabulous bark on Harland Boxwood.

Developing A Harland Boxwood



From the left, looking up.

Developing A Harland Boxwood



The back, looking up.

Developing A Harland Boxwood



The left side.

Developing A Harland Boxwood



View from the top rear.

Developing A Harland Boxwood



The back, at viewing height.

Developing A Harland Boxwood



And the front. This little one has a ways to go but we stopped here for now.

Developing A Harland Boxwood



Being in early development, we kept the trim inside the future canopy line. This way the plant will ramify inside that and make for a more dense plant by the time growth reaches our goal. A canopy line is a good guide for wiring and pruning. Usually we determine the canopy line by taking a look at the trunk. A thin trunk should have a narrow canopy. A thick trunk like this one should have a broad canopy.

The small leaves of Harland Boxwood make them well-suited to smaller bonsai. This one is a chuhin. The bark is also superb, and develops fast on young plants.

This tree was grown by my friend from a cutting. It was in a large grow box for some years, and it's been in my garden now for 3 years in a bonsai pot. It's about 20 years old now.

1-3 year old branches are flexible and easy to wire, older ones are brittle and hard. All the trunk and branch movement on this one came from the early years.

Developing A Harland Boxwood



Taiwanese bonsai artist Huang Seshan with his Harland Boxwood. Photo courtesy of the Taiwan Bonsai Creators Association / Hsieh Juezhong / Jose Rodriguez.

A CORPUS CHRISTI & SAN ANTONIO BONSAI EVENT



LSBF 2025
BONSAI
on the **BAY**
 FROM THE RIVER WALK TO THE BEACH

SAVE *the* DATE

September 18th–21st, 2025
 Holiday Inn Corpus Christi Downtown Marina
 707 N. Shoreline Blvd
 Corpus Christi, TX 78401




2025 BONSAI CONVENTION FEATURED ARTISTS





Jennifer Price **Mike Lane** **Jonas Dupuich**



LSBF 2025
BONSAI
on the **BAY**
 FROM THE RIVER WALK TO THE BEACH

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

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 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