



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

April 2026 vol 187

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Calendar of Events

March 22, 2026

- ◆ Shohin Society of Texas (SSOT)
- ◆ Topic: Elms
- ◆ Time: 1pm - 4pm
- ◆ Location: Spicewood Springs Library
- ◆ Address: 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78759
- ◆ Everyone is encouraged to bring back the Shohin projects they are currently working on

April 8, 2026

- ◆ Topic: Bring Your Own Trees (BYOT - Preparation for Annual Show in May)
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden (Clubhouse)
- ◆ Time: 6:30pm (Mingling/Setup) 7:00pm (Meeting)

2026 Board of Directors

Eric B.
President

Sachin A.
Vice President

Simon T.
Secretary

Jonathan W.
Treasurer

Fred W.
Member-At-Large

Ross C.
Member-At-Large

Abby B.
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

Refreshments
Joey M.

Tree Hosts
Gloria N.

President's Message

By Eric B.

Hello again everyone! I hope this finds you and your trees doing well in this summer-but-wait-there's more "spring" we're having. As I write this, yesterday saw a swing of about 54 degrees from high to low, and tonight it's supposed to get down to the low 30s. I guess I shouldn't have taken all my tropicals outside...I had to schlep them all back inside yesterday. I guess this is the "Learning Process" I hear so much about.

The March meeting was truly fantastic! Zachary Adamz provided a lot of info on deciduous care and styling, while he critiqued members' trees. Several people brought trees, and I really loved all the spirited discussion and suggestions given as Zach studied - and sometimes styled - the trees. Zach really has a great teaching style, and I hope we can have him back in the future.

In April we have another club-favorite BYOT night! As we did last year, this meeting is for you to bring in a tree or two you would like to put into the Annual Show on May 16-17. We encourage everyone to display at least one tree in the show, and this event is an opportunity to do some "fine tuning". Plus, there will be enough time for the trees to recover from any pruning, etc. before the show. So, please bring in a tree or two and let's make them all look great!

Speaking of the show, as always we need volunteers to make it all come together. On Friday, May 15 we will need several volunteers to help bring the show supplies to Zilker and set it all up in the auditorium. Any truck or van owners, your assistance would be very appreciated! We will also need people to help run the activities on the days of the show. There will be a sign-up sheet at the April and May meetings. Please do consider doing so, even just a couple of hours is helpful!

Thanks for reading, and see you at the next meeting!
Eric

Vice President's Message

By Sachin A.

Hello Austin Bonsai friends,

Hopefully we will have a good spring season and can continue repotting and working on our trees. Spring is always an exciting time as our bonsai begin to wake up and push new growth. It's a great opportunity to repot, prune, and start shaping our trees for the growing season ahead. This is also one of the best times to observe how our trees respond to the changing weather. Paying attention to watering, sunlight, and new growth helps us better understand what each tree needs.

We had a great meeting in March with Zach Adamz. Members were able to learn a great deal through the tree critiques, and Zach shared helpful advice and ideas on how we can continue improving our bonsai. Thank you to everyone who brought trees and participated in the discussion.

As we approach May, it is time for our Annual Society Show. To help prepare for the show, we will be holding a tree critique to help members get their trees ready. We encourage members to bring a tree or two that you are planning to display at the annual show.

During the critique, you will receive advice and suggestions from a panel of experienced society members. This is a great opportunity to refine your tree, improve its presentation, and get helpful feedback before the show.

Our April meeting will be held at Zilker Botanical Garden on April 8th from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. We hope to see many members there and encourage you to bring a tree for the critique if you are planning to participate in the show.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting and continuing to learn and grow together.

Warm regards,
Sachin

March Meeting with Zach Adamz



March Meeting with Zach Adamz



Club Dig



Club Dig



Club Dig



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discussion



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ABS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 17, 2026

Location: Virtual

Meeting Attendees:

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

President:

- ◆ Preparations are underway for the upcoming year's events and activities, with particular attention given to artist engagement and program development.
- ◆ Austin's Day in Bonsai was warmly received, and this year's program continued to strengthen community engagement while highlighting the Texas State Bonsai Exhibit (TTSBE) as it celebrates its 10th anniversary.

Vice President:

- ◆ Alignment of programs and artists, with contributions from the full board..

Secretary:

- ◆ The meeting commenced at **7:39 pm**.
- ◆ The latest report was approved as submitted, with no amendments necessary.

Treasurer:

- Deliberations placed strong emphasis on the May Show, the Annual Auction, club materials and planning for Austin's Day of Bonsai 2027.
- Membership renewals expected to remain steady.
- Revenues and expenditures were reconciled, with all outstanding items closed.
- 2025 Annual Audit Report was formally certified by two ABS members during our January meeting.

Meeting adjourned at **8:43 pm**

2026 Kokufu-ten: Part II

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)

Many thanks to Evan Cordes, Carmen Leskoviansky, and Masaki Shimada for these photos of Kokufu-ten Part 2. The Kokufu is well-known to showcase impressive, thick-trunked, dizzyingly developed old bonsai. I've included some of those meat and potato trees, but whimsy also shows up here and there. In this Part 2 I've included some of that.



Shinpaku. Crazy live vein.



Japanese White Pine. A formal-ish upright bunjin in a simple bridge pot.

2026 Kokufu-ten: Part II
by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



Hitting the same note twice, here's a formal upright Ume. Never seen that before. Appears to be in a hexagonal rectangle.



Japanese White Pine. Big famous tree. This was in Mr. Suzuki's garden when I first arrived in 2003.

2026 Kokufu-ten: Part II
by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



Hornbeam.



A Harland Boxwood. Unusual in the Kokufu. Excellent nebari. You'd struggle to get a fine and detailed nebari like this in the ground, likely pot-grown from a cutting or air-layer.

2026 Kokufu-ten: Part I
by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



Root over rock Trident Maple.



This shohin display got a Kokufu Prize.

2026 Kokufu-ten: Part II
by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



A swirling Shinpaku. Likely grafted foliage, it usually is when fine and tight. But not always.



A smaller Trident Maple.

2026 Kokufu-ten: Part II
by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



Lovely accent.



Hinoki forest. That tenjin deadwood rising off the right side strikes me as odd and out of place. Especially coming from one of the younger trees.

2026 Kokufu-ten: Part II
by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



Needle Juniper. Kokufu Prize.



Japanese Maple.

2026 Kokufu-ten: Part II
by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



A dancing pair of Shinpaku and Chojubai.



Japanese Red Pine.

2026 Kokufu-ten: Part II
by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



A stone exhibited by former apprentice Andrew Robson.



And another stone shown by Andrew's father, Jeffrey Robson.

2026 Kokufu-ten: Part II
by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



A floating Spirea.



A basket of Winterberry.

Reminder: 2026 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 2026 Directory.

New/Renewed Members for 2026

May & Simon	Jonathan	Alisan & Lynn (honorary)	Elaine (honorary)
Hani & Jane T.	John P.	Nilda G.	Andrew I.
David G.	Mike G.	Eric B.	Shawn W.
Jorge V.	Dana L.	Susan C.	Hunter J.
Roalnd L.	Jay N.	Dash C.	Reid F.
Jared M.	Diego M.	Jacob & Catherine C.	Barbara R.
Maddison K.	Chris F.	Jared M. & Kendra	William "Bill" M.
Randall R.			

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!

Reminder for club membership and advertisement

2026 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

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Austin Bonsai Society
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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