



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

March 2026 vol 186

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Calendar of Events

March 11, 2026

- ◆ Topic: Bonsai Structure, Styling, and Development Techniques
- ◆ Artist: Zach Adamz
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden (Clubhouse)
- ◆ Time: 6:30pm (Mingling/Setup) 7:00pm (Meeting)

March 22, 2026

- ◆ Shohin Society of Texas (SSOT)
- ◆ 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

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
Lupita
Martin

Tree Hosts
Bjorn

President's Message

By Eric B.

Greetings and felicitations, my good tree friends! I hope your March is going well. It's a wonderful time of year, watching our deciduous trees wake up from dormancy and start pushing out new leaves. So far I have repotted about a quarter of my collection, which isn't much but it's kept me busy.

Our February meeting went very well. Everybody loves a BYOT night! I'd like to say thanks to Jonathan Wood for showing the quick yet very informative wiring videos at the start of the evening. Some of the club's boxwoods got wired, many member's trees got wired as well, and much fun was had by all!

Also in February we held our first Day of Bonsai, on Saturday the 28th. The event featured about 30 trees, a scroll making station, a Chinese calligraphy station, 2 workshops (one led by visiting artist Randy Bennett and one led by our own Joey McCoy), and a live demo by Randy Bennett, on a collected bald cypress. The day was a big success, with almost 650 people visiting the exhibits throughout the day. The Day of Bonsai was conceived of and spearheaded by Jonathan Wood, who put in many hours of work to make this event happen.

Thank you Jonathan and Simon, for all your effort, not just in this but in everything you do for ABS. Also, thanks to all the volunteers who showed up to help set up for the event, be there on the day of and helped take it all down. All told, from start to finish, set up to take down, the entire event took place in less than 36 hours. That's quite an achievement!

Our next meeting is on March 11th, when we have visiting artist Zach Adamz. Zach will be critiquing members' trees. For more details, see Sachin's Vice President's message below.

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

Vice President's Message

By Sachin A.

Hello Austin Bonsai friends,

Spring is here, and we all know what that means—repotting season is in full swing! This is one of the busiest and most important times of the year for bonsai enthusiasts. As you work through your trees and prepare them for the growing season, I hope you're enjoying the energy and renewal that spring brings.

At the Austin Bonsai Society, we understand how busy this season can be, and we appreciate you taking the time to stay engaged with the club during this critical period for your trees.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and volunteered at our Day of Bonsai event on February 28th. From setup and demonstrations to welcoming guests and sharing your knowledge, your efforts made the event a tremendous success.

Our March monthly meeting will be held on March 11th at 6:30 PM at Zilker Botanical Garden. We are excited to welcome Zach Adamz, owner of Komorebi Bonsai, as our guest artist. Based out of Mississippi, Zach is highly regarded for his expertise in deciduous species and understanding the growth habits and nuances of different trees.

The focus of the evening will be on deciduous species. Zach will provide feedback on member trees, so we encourage you to bring one deciduous tree. We will do our best to give as many members as possible the opportunity to receive his guidance and insights.

Spring is a season of growth and renewal—both for our trees and for us as artists. We look forward to seeing you and your trees on March 11th.

Warm regards,
Sachin

Austin's Day of Bonsai 2026

February 28, 2026



Austin's Day of Bonsai 2026

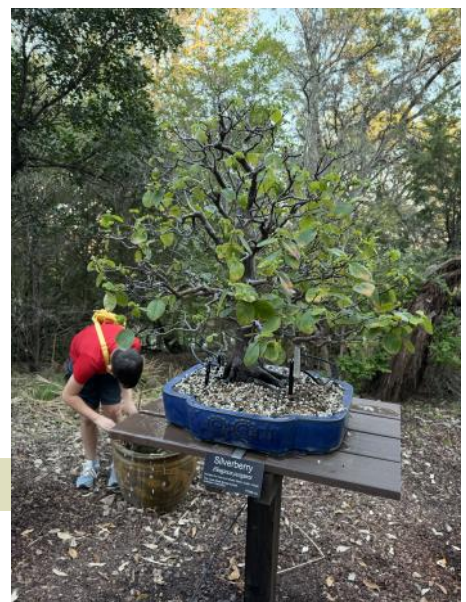
February 28, 2026



Austin's Day of Bonsai 2026



Austin's Day of Bonsai 2026 (TTSBE Exhibit)



Austin's Day of Bonsai 2026



Austin's Day of Bonsai 2026

Workshop



Austin's Day of Bonsai 2026

Workshop

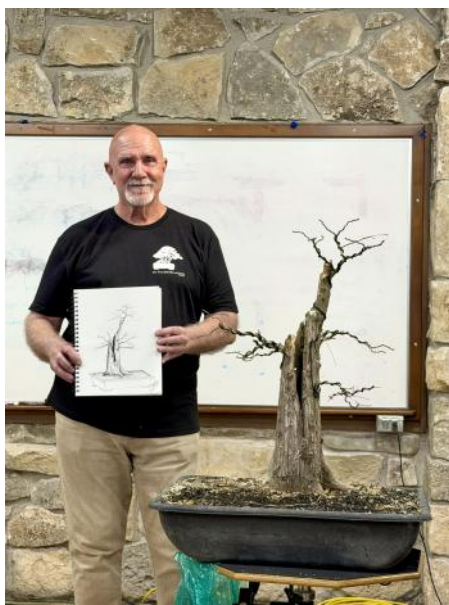


Austin's Day of Bonsai 2026



Austin's Day of Bonsai 2026

Featured Demonstration (Bald cypress)



Austin's Day of Bonsai 2026

Restore to its original state



Get Connected!

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discussion



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ABS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 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.
- ◆ Key highlights include the Austin's Day in Bonsai initiative, which continues to foster community participation, and recognition of The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit (TTSBE) on the occasion of its 10th anniversary.

Vice President:

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

Secretary:

- ◆ The meeting commenced at **7:33pm**.
- ◆ The latest report was approved as submitted, with no amendments necessary.

Treasurer:

- Deliberations placed significant focus on the One Day in Bonsai initiative, recognizing it as a central element of planning.
- 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.

Board Member:

We are pleased to welcome Abby as our newest board member.

Meeting adjourned at **8:58 pm**

2026 Kokufu-ten: Part I

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)

A few of the ridiculous trees in Part I of the Kokufu-ten. Wednesday was the take-down and switch-out to new trees. And now it's open again for Part II.



The entrance to the show looks down on the large displays. This is in the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum in Ueno. This view gives a sense of the scale and impact these huge trees might have only a few feet away.



Needle Juniper. A well-known juniper making an appearance in the 100th Kokufu.

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



Chinese Quince. Every last twig had once been wired on this massive specimen.



Japanese Black Pine; Kokufu Prize. Huge tree.

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



Korean Hornbeam; Kokufu Prize.



Ume. Excellent Ume in this year's show.

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



Satsuki Azalea.



Shinpaku Juniper; Kokufu Prize.

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



Magnolia. Resets the tone with an airy whimsicality.



Shinpaku Juniper; Kokufu Prize.

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



Selaginella, or club moss (light green plant).



Japanese White Pine. A quiet multiple-trunk bunjin. The Kokufu highlights thicker-trunked trees.

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



Trident Maple. Grown in a small pot it's whole life, maybe 75 years.



Ume.

2026 Kokufu-ten: Part I

by Michael Hagedorn (Permission to repost)



Red Pine from the Imperial Family. Notice the lack of conformity to modern bonsai expectations, particularly the lack of compaction.



The White Pine was shown in the first Kokufu-ten in 1934. It's a great addition to this 100th show (not *year*, they took two years off and some of the early years had double shows). The entry is a nod to the durability of the show and the trees in it.

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



Zelkova.



Dwarf Flowering Quince 'Chojubai'.

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



Honeysuckle.



Chinese Quince. The intense ramification at this small scale is not easy.

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



This medium sized display won a Kokufu Prize.



And the shohin displays notched a prize winner.

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



An unusual raised-root Japanese White Pine—the lowest branch falls away to the back.



Ume.

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



Ezo Spruce. Only a few spruce in this year's show.



A gathering of global bonsai friends—left to right—myself, Juan Andrade, Mario Komsta, Peter Gregg, John Eads, Carmen Leskoviansky, Evan Cordes, and Masaki Shimada.

I'm back home already, but with spies abroad I hope to offer a photo reel of Part II—

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.

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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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