



# SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://bonsai-satx.org>

OCTOBER 2014

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 10

## BONSAI CALENDAR

All meetings are held on the second Thursday, 7 pm, at Lions Field Adult Community Center, Broadway at Mulberry St., SA, TX. 78209

*Each month the club features a "mini-show" of bonsai that anyone can bring in to talk about, **this month:** Any deciduous species to show prior to the mass exiting of leaves*

**OCTOBER 8<sup>th</sup>** – Austin Bonsai Society Annual Auction.

**October 9:** BYOT (Bring in your own Tree) Bring your tree in for styling and wiring  
**HOSTS:** Oscar G

**OCTOBER 11:** – Day of Bonsai at Houston Bonsai Society.

**OCTOBER 22: RICHARD HAYES BONSAI 101:** Beginners Workshop in Bonsai, everyone is welcome, Newbies and members, 7 pm at Lions Field.

**October 25** – SABS Bonsai display at *Water Garden Gems*.

**November 16<sup>th</sup>** - Grapevine dig field trip.

**DECEMBER 11: Special guest artist from Europe Walter Pall presenting to SABS AND the Annual Christmas Party,** please bring a covered dish and a contribution of canned goods for the San Antonio Food Bank.

## President's Message

By Ryan O

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The last weekend in September was filled with SABS displaying 11 beautiful trees at the **Home and Garden Show**. Attendance seemed greater this year with many attendees visiting our booth, admiring our display and trees, asking numerous questions, learning about various bonsai techniques, and of course wanting to purchase members' trees for pennies on the dollar. Through the sale of trees and pots, SABS made a profit. Additionally, Kevin and I worked on three demo trees and raffled them off daily to attendees that also won a free year membership to **SABS**. More importantly, we had nearly 10 people asking for membership information and registration forms. We hope to see a few of them soon!!!!

I would like to thank the following members for their contributions to another successful show, and they are (in no particular order): Mike G, Kevin and Hattie P, Paul T, Tom and Nancy K, Oscar G, Donna D, and Leydonna M.

**SABS** has recently released our newest edition of our **Bonsai Tree Care** booklet. Our latest edition includes a hard cover 3-ring binder stuffed with numerous informative sheets on a wide variety of species of bonsai. The 3-ring binder allows you to add additional sheet to take notes. Each binder is \$15.00 which goes to help support various club activities. Email me or see me at our meetings if you are interested in purchasing a booklet.

Please email me if you are attending the Austin Auction on Wednesday, October 8. I am leaving from Schertz if anyone wants to carpool from the Forum at 1604/35.

continued from page 1

Our October meeting is a workshop for all. Please bring any trees that you would like styled and need a little work. Experienced members will be in attendance to help and assist anyone.

**RYAN**

### **FROM BONSAI BANTOR**

*Hi Mary, I enjoyed your article on beneficial insects. A beneficial I use that you may want to mention is a tiny microscopic worm/parasite that hunts down and kills over 230 pest insects found in soil and are harmless to other beneficial's. The product name is **Scanmask** and works wonderfully!*

*Its kills everything from grubs and other larvae including fungus gnat larvae, and even borers and also carpenter ants and termites! I use them mostly for June Beetle control and fungus gnat larvae but they kill ANY pests found in the soil that feed on roots and organic matter in the soil.*

*It can be used in the ground and in potted plants such as bonsai. Such a fantastic soil drench. One application can apply between 5 to 25 million nematodes! Just thought I would share something I use that works great.*

*Thanks for your article again! Regards,  
Jake*

*On a personal note: I would like to thank the bonsai friends who came to my open house at **Sculptural Designs**, Thursday, September 28th.*

**Donna**

## **PROGRAM CORNER**

**David W**

[redhawk1yo@aol.com](mailto:redhawk1yo@aol.com)

October's Monthly Meeting is <BYOT (Bring in your own Tree) Bring your tree in for styling and wiring. This is a great opportunity to bring in any tree for advice and direction. From the simplest problems to just about anything. This workshop and others like it afford a intensive education in Bonsai. If you don't have a tree in need of work then come and observe and watch the work being completed on other members trees. A wealth of knowledge is yours for the taking.

### **October and Winter Care**

**By David W**

[redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com)

This will be the last monthly/seasonal care of the year. No repotting at this time until late winter/early spring unless in an emergency, but only in the same size or larger pot using fresh soil. **Absolutely no root pruning!** However, strangely enough, winter is a good time to collect specimens in the wild.

This is the time plants are slowing down for winter. We want to start slowing down the growth of our bonsai so that they are prepared for winter. The only "fertilizing" you will be doing this month (and also a couple times during the winter) will be ¼ strength or "very light" on tropicals and sub-tropicals. We are not trying to promote growth, just to keep up the nutrients.

**TREE  
CARE  
BOOK**



## ***Now to “winterizing” your bonsai...***

We're fortunate to be blessed with relatively mild winters with most of our cold snaps lasting hours or a couple of days at best. Our hardier specimens such as conifers, deciduous and others similar will benefit from the cold but be sure to keep the pots from hard freezes not going below the upper twenties – usually placing them on the ground is enough. Also with these hardier species watch for our “Winter-time heat waves” that we so often get here, best place these trees where they only get morning sun.

Now tropicals and sub-tropicals won't tolerate being too cold so fully protect them when the temperatures are going below the 38°F to 40°F (sub-tropicals) 45° (tropicals) ranges. *Does indoor bonsai ring a bell?* I try to acclimate my tropicals (& sub) to my area they seem to tolerate our winters better. Here is how I winterize. I start by bring them out in full sun (if not already) or as much as I can give them. They stay in their place until the overnight temperatures falls below the trees lowest temperatures. I use 38°F as the lowest temperature for sub-tropicals and try to keep my tropicals above 45°F, though most true tropicals like staying above 60°F to 65°F. Whenever the forecast predicts cold fronts I move them to a protected area (greenhouse or garage) until it passes, then they return back to their sunny place. My larger trees that are difficult to move stay in the greenhouse and the smaller trees go in and out as cold fronts pass & the weather warms back up. While in the greenhouse, I keep the lows above 45°F at all times. This winter plan works best for me, I have less leaf drop as I'm not moving them indoors into central heating.

With Indoor Bonsai we have to provide the correct light, humidity and correct day/night temperatures and these are all difficult to provide adequately.

Now is a good time to start getting those areas ready when you need to bring the bonsai in for their protection– clear the area around your sunny windows or rearrange the garage to take advantage of the light. Perhaps even put up frame work to drape with plastic sheets, creating a greenhouse type area to shelter the trees. Remember do not let the plastic touch any part of the plants during a cold spell, frost (or freezing temps) on plastic will wilt and can kill any part of the plant touching it. If you are covering just overnight, protect like you would protect yourself. I would rather cover up with a cloth sheet or blanket, than a plastic sheet. If it's going to be a freezing rain then put a plastic sheet over the blanket. Remembering to uncover when temps rise or the tree could bake inside the tent.

***Watch the soils every day so they do not dry out.*** With the cooler winter weather you probably won't have to water as often but remember those dry windy cold fronts can suck the moisture out of the soil very quickly. Inspect your bonsai from top to bottom, also inspect the drain holes. Inspect for **ANY** and all insects and treat accordingly. Also try to spray with insecticide and apply fungicide at least once every 4 weeks. If you discover an infestation, treat according to the label of the pesticide. Watch for Red spider mites, especially for your “indoor Bonsai”. When treating (***always treat outside***) spray the leaves (top and bottom) and thoroughly drench the soil, making sure the solution drains out the drain holes.

Check your training wires so they aren't cutting into the branches. If they are, remove them. If the branch did not hold, re-wire in a different locale, as not to put the wire in the same place. Use caution when wiring during the winter as the branches will be more rigid and brittle without the sap flowing and can break very easily. (Honey, where's the superglue!?)

**David**



## 2014 HOME AND GARDEN SHOW



TEXAS EBONY



BLUE ATLAS  
CEDAR

FUKIEN  
TEA



PORTULARIA

GINKGO



ONE OF THE TWO WORKSHOPS  
CONDUCTED BY PETER TEA, THE LSBF  
VISITING ARTIST FOR 2014.



**Tuesday, October 28, 2014, 7 pm, Lions Field Adult Community Center:**

**PROGRAM: Butterflies-Beauty-Botany-Biodiversity**

David Davidson will tie butterflies to the native plants on his property and talk about how he uses butterflies as botanists. He hopes to heighten awareness of why insects in general, but butterflies in particular, can be used as indicators of biodiversity.

**UPDATES TO THE MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2014**

**October:** BYOT (Bring in your own Tree) Bring your tree in for styling and wiring

**November:** Preparing your bonsai for the winter by Ryan O and pot swap to gather pots for re-potting in the spring.

**December 10: Special Guest Artist: Walter Pall** from Europe, He is presenting a lecture/demo to SABS. This is a very special opportunity as Walter was to attend the New Braunfels Convention in 2013, but had to cancel. More info in the November newsletter.

**December 10:** Christmas Party. Besides your party food contribution—***Please bring some canned food that will be given to the SA Food Bank to help those less fortunate.***





The informal upright style (Moyogi) is considered the most popular shape in all bonsai, especially suited to our native Ashe Juniper.

Our logo, represented by this informal style stands for the informal nature of the San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. This popular, interesting style depicts the objectives of the Society—promoting participation and enjoyment of Bonsai. The emblem was adopted as the official logo in September, 1977.

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### THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.

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