



# SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Cutting Edge Publication by The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

June 2019

Volume 44

Number 06

## What's New!

- The newest edition of the **Bonsai Care Booklet** is here. Pick yours up at the next meeting. The new edition is only \$15.
- **June 15<sup>th</sup> – Pine Workshop** – Kevin and Hattie P. are hosting a workshop dedicated to pines on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Bring your Black and Red pines that need candle work and John R. will demonstrate what to do. Kevin and Hattie will provide a few food and drink items, but it is encouraged to bring items to share with others. Remember to bring your tools as well!!! Kevin's and Hattie's address is San Antonio, TX.
- **July 14<sup>th</sup> – Bending Branch Winery Boxwood Workshop** – Representing SABS, Ryan O. is leading a bonsai workshop for wine enthusiasts that want to learn the about bonsai and bring home a small bonsai. Volunteers please arrive 30 minutes early to prep the pots, wire, and screening, as well as gather the supplies. Additional volunteers are still greatly appreciated. Email Ryan O. if you can assist.
- **August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kerrville Dietert Boxwood Workshop** – Representing SABS, Ryan O. is leading a bonsai workshop for bonsai enthusiasts that want to learn the about bonsai and bring home a small bonsai. Volunteers please arrive 30 minutes early to prep the pots, wire, and screening, as well as gather the supplies. Additional volunteers are still greatly appreciated. Email Ryan O. if you can assist.
- Please welcome new members **Erik E.** and **Coco C.**

All lecture/demonstration meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7pm, at the Lions Field Adult and Senior Center, 2809 Broadway Street, SATX 78209

Our Bonsai Study Group is held every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 7pm, Lions Field. All members are invited to attend for hands-on assistance by experienced bonsai artists.

## JUNE'S EVENTS

### Lecture/Demo:

**June 13<sup>th</sup> – Suiseki and Daiza  
Lecture by Jay N.**

### Food/Beverage Host(s):

Larry A., Tammy B-R., & Ryan O.

### Bonsai Study Group:

June 26<sup>th</sup>

## JULY'S EVENTS

### Lecture/Demo:

**July 11<sup>th</sup> – Bonsai Show**

### Food/Beverage Host(s):

Carol B., Donna D., & Chancey B.

### Bonsai Study Group:

July 24<sup>th</sup>

## MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership fees for The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. are below and include our monthly newsletter, annual BBQ and bonsai tour, multiple auctions, special trips, and name tag.

<u>Individual</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Senior (60+)</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Senior (60+)</u>	<u>Family</u>
\$30	\$50		\$25		\$40

# President's Message

Klaus C.  
collklaus@yahoo.com

This June 13, we will have a Suiseki and Daiza lecture. Our Bonsai are enriched by this art of stone appreciation. If this topic is new to you or you have just some knowledge of Suiseki and Daiza, then do some research and double the impact to your knowledge base.

Please bring raffle items and purchase some tickets.

Our tropical and semi tropical trees are at the right time for repotting. Think Ficus, Schefflera, Bougainvillea etc....We will have pots. Bring your pots, bonsai mix, tools, wire.....We have devoted time for this exercise at this meeting as well. We have willing members that can help those hesitant to get the job done. We are known for our friendliness. Please send me a note indicating the number of trees you will bring.

Our convention is at this time next year. A nice presentation could be your bonsai that is blooming about now.

Our focus for the upcoming study group is Bougainvillea.

I have asked Kevin for detail from the Houston and Longview conventions. Some topics include financials, detail on what it cost for artists, raffles, and various activities. Maybe we can focus where our seed money is going and if we recoup it for our Bonsai Society.

Please ask some question. FYI.... concerning the Convention. We are looking for your involvement in a number of things.

## Convention Updates!

Next Convention meeting will be held July 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am. Location to be Announced in July's newsletter.

For Convention Committee members, please bring all drawings, plans, ideas, brochures, and achievements since our last meeting. We are getting to a critical point in our convention development planning whereby specifics of each aspect of the convention need to be discussed and voted upon.



# Program Corner

Nick B.

Nick.browne637@gmail.com

Wow! I have to give Austin Heitzman a standing ovation. He has really taken the art of bonsai stands to the next level. Top quality presentation was very thoughtful and informative. Also a big thank you to Kyle, Vicki, Bryan, and Wendy who brought some very delicious food, it was quite the meal.

## You Speak... Editor Prints...

### How not to Fertilize...

by crataegus

Last year I wrote a post about fertilizing, refine your fertilizing this year! I wanted to expand on that and offer a few more notes, since, after all, it's a brand new year for dung related issues-

Blogging is really a bit assumption-ridden, because we make one simple statement as if it's unconnected to a million variables. For example, when I say 'fertilize', I assume that we're using a fertilizer that has all 6 macronutrients, Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), Calcium (C), Magnesium (Mg), and Sulfur (S), which, if I don't say that, or some other variable you're assuming and I'm not, we're NOWHERE. And we are better if we're somewhere. At least.

- There are very few instances in bonsai, in early training or maintenance, where you don't want a fertilizer with at least all 6 macronutrients. (i.e., without magnesium your tree can't create chlorophyll, and without chlorophyll the idea that your plant can create food for itself is sort of unconnected to reality, and hence, bending a branch is cosmically silly-)

Ok, covered that variable.

A few fertilizing comments for this 2014 season:

- Many problems we might see---burned leaves, browning needle tips, leaves that are too dark green, etc. --- are very often basic care issues that have nothing to do with fertilizing. Just to take that last one, very dark green leaves is an indication a bonsai that is not getting enough sun.

- There's rarely a need to slam a tree with twice as much fertilizer as the directions suggest. More of enough is not better in the world of plant nutrition.

## How not to Fertilize... (cont.)

- Normally, flowering trees are first fertilized after the flowering period. But this is another general statement. Some plants are nearly perpetual bloomers, like the quince I've talked about so much here, Chojubai, and those should be first fertilized when they are growing shoots in the spring even though they might still be flowering.
- If we fertilize flowering accents randomly or broadcast, you may diminish the blooming of some. Fertilize them like your trees, when they finish blooming, not before.
- If we fertilize an old tree too much---a pine with craggy, old bark for instance---it may shed that old bark and begin looking young. Many plants are perennials in ways we cannot be, for they can be restored to youth quite literally.
- If we under-fertilize a young tree it will begin to look older than it is...for one thing, it will develop bark faster. But it may take much longer to achieve the other goals we seek in bonsai, too, like substantial trunks, etc.
- Get your water and soil tested! Fertilizing will be different for different pH ranges. For example, recent research suggests that phosphorus (P) from bone meal is only available to plants in soils with a pH below 7.0. In fact, for most bonsai, if you can get close to 6.5 pH, most plant nutrition problems are greatly minimized.
- Finally, fertilizing is much less important than optimizing the big ones: Sun and water. If we optimize the big ones, we won't be turning to fertilizer as if it were a magic bullet. It isn't one. It's a distant second stage booster on our little rockets.

Are you yawning yet? Well, I know it's not jazzy stuff. The world of bonsai has more exciting parts to it, and can get pretty romantic, too. Hybridizing with flowers, for instance, is a sure way to make at least a few people blush. But hopefully you're yawning more interestedly now about fertilizing.

Fertilizing incredibly well is only for really cool people. Join the Smelly dorks! We're a band of organic fertilizing rebels called the Secret Smelly Society, and we're not growing very fast, Ironically.

crataegus | May 15, 2014 at 1:41 pm | Tags: chojubai, fertilizer, fertilizing | Categories: Uncategorized |

Bonsai Artist Michael Hagedorn

<http://crataegus.com/author/crataegus/>

# Bonsai Techniques

Courtesy of John Miller  
from the Dallas Bonsai Society

Since I have been somewhat feeling my age (and under the weather a bit also) I have been fortunate to have had more rain than usual. Haven't ignored them but my local weather kept them warm enough and watered. They did good enough but any pruning was left until this last month.

You may still have time to leaf prune if you need to but be careful, it could turn hot in a hurry. Remember do it only on healthy vigorous trees. Put the tree in a semi-shaded location out of the wind until new foliage appears. Again never leaf prune the atropurpeum varieties of Japanese maples, they don't want to rebud.

When night temperatures stay above 60 degrees you can think about repotting some of the tropicals. I would wait another month though for the buttonwood.

It is important to continue the twig pruning of your trees on a regular basis. While doing this chore look at the tree to see if there is a need to do some refinement pruning. Refinement pruning is a deeper pruning to replace a branch that has grown too long or too big with a smaller one. This is usually done with the secondary or tertiary branches not the primary branch coming from the trunk. I prefer to do this refinement pruning on deciduous trees in the winter when I can see the branch structure. But on bonsai like the yaupon hollies I like to do it at this time when the tree is actively growing so that any winter dieback is apparent. Trees that weep a lot from cuts such as maples or pines should not be done at this time.

Even if the days are relatively cool the sun can still get pot pretty hot. Not only does this dry out the soil very fast but the tree roots don't like a hot soil. A temperature I have heard given is 120 degrees that will kill roots on most plants. I cannot give you a precise to-do list since your backyard is different from mine but you should be sure that the sun does not hit the pots directly. If you use a cover of any kind be sure that the side of the pot is protected also. A loose weave cover is preferable to solid paper or foil.

Get to know your trees like your children. Which ones use more water and which ones stay moist between waterings. If some are difficult to keep happy you can try moving those to a cooler location (but be sure they get their sunlight). Another trick is to group these together so that you can hit them with a shot of water twice a day and not have to spend the time going thru all your trees.

The extended cool and damp weather is good for fungal diseases like black leaf spot. Treat with potassium bicarbonate or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda). If the foliage is hardened a bit you can treat with 1% hydrogen peroxide (1 part peroxide to 2 parts water) weekly. Warm damp weather will bring its own fungal problems like mildew. Same treatment.

Also watch for signs of insect problems. The spider mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, and mealy bugs. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and cider vinegar per gallon water) to control all these. You can use some of the other organic controls or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully and don't apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods.

All pathogen controls must be sprayed with a sprayer that has a nozzle which produces a fine spray in order to cover the entire leaf surface. You need to get all them bugs or they come right back. And you need to spray on a regular basis. Any hiding in cracks will repeat the infestation.



Even with the temp below 90 the sun is getting quite intense. Most plants in pots will not enjoy a full day of this. Partial shade should be provided. A shade cloth awning is the best as it will protect in the middle of the day. Late afternoon sun will also hurt by shining under to shade cloth or branches and heating the roots to the point where they will suffer.

Consider that here are two aspects to bonsai, the artistry in creating the bonsai and the gardening in keeping it healthy. The artistry you learn at the club, from demonstrations, or from books. The gardening aspect is no less important but is sometimes put on a back burner or ignored. You know that not watering will result in a 'finished' bonsai so that gets taken care of in some form or other. However many do not try to learn how plants grow, what their needs are, or how they are all made unique by nature in some way. To be really successful in bonsai you need to study this aspect of our hobby also. One of the first places to start is by learning about the planting medium. What is makes a good planting mix? How does the size of particles affect the plant? How do the various species require their own particular type of mix? Try finding some of these answer in the gardening section of your local library and watch your trees show their appreciation by being easier to care for.

### Various good looking bonsai (to fill up space!!!!)



## BONSAI FUNNIES

**You need to  
have the right  
person for some  
tasks!**

*Images provided by various internet  
sources.*



## 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ◆ President: Klaus C.
- ◆ Vice President/Recorder: Nick B.
- ◆ Treasurer/Membership: Leydana R-M.
- ◆ Secretary: Bryan B.
- ◆ Raffles: Diane C.
- ◆ Directors at Large: Larry A., Carol B., Tammy B-R., and Jay N.

### Technical Support to Board of Directors

- ◆ Webmaster/Editor/Publicity: Ryan O.



The informal upright style (Moyogi) is considered the most popular shape in all bonsai, especially suited to our Texas 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. This emblem was adopted as the official logo in September 1977.

### The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

Snips 'N Clips is published monthly by The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, who maintains membership in the Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Inc., Bonsai Clubs International, and the American Bonsai Society.

All correspondence may be addressed to:  
The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 6658  
San Antonio, TX 78209