



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

AUGUST 2016

VOLUME 41 NUMBER 8

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

BONSAI 101:—HELD EVERY 4TH WEDNESDAY, 7 PM, LIONS FIELD. New members receive a tree to work on. All members are invited—bring in trees to work on, experienced members are there to help.

BONSAI WORKSHOP: —HELD THE SATURDAY AFTER THE THURSDAY NIGHT CLUB MEETING. LOCATIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED. Topic of discussion will be a follow-up to the Thursday night presentation. See website for locations. <http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

Mini-Show – .

AUGUST 11TH: SABS CLUB MEETING. Owen Reich our guest, **AGAIN!** **HOSTS: Steve B.**

AUGUST 13TH: Workshop Ryan O's house 9 am to 1 pm.

17 September 2016: **Shohin Society of Texas** meeting featuring set-up display for the convention & decide the 2017 schedule.

10-11 September 2016: 5th US National Bonsai Exhibition at Rochester, NY. For additional information and to submit photos for entry contact: Wm. N. Valavanis, wvnv@internationalbonsai.com, '585-334-2595.

13-16 October 2016: LSBF 2016 Convention—Bonsai: Living Art hosted by the **Corpus Christi Bonsai Society** at the Emerald Beach Hotel, 1102 S. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, TX. 78401

President's Message

By Ryan O.

bonsaiode@gmail.com

SABS strives to mentor, educate, and enhance the art of bonsai through the use of demonstrations, hands on workshops, lectures, and though the use of member's gained knowledge. SABS works hard to provide many opportunities for all members to attend events dedicated to all skill levels to help those with questions/concerns or wanting to learn more. Sadly, SABS isn't an App that can be placed on your workbench to answer/solve/assist during all times of the day. What is though is technology.

I continue my discussion from February 2015 where I first mentioned a few technology driven sources to find more information. In my quest to learn more and pass on my findings, I have come up with a slightly larger list of resources to assist all of you. I don't mention an actual web-based bonsai contributors, but rather the starting point for you to connect with a group or individual that is pleasing to you.

YouTube – Entering the word “bonsai” into the search function of YouTube comes up with over 700,000 videos on bonsai. Yes, not all of them are related to the art of growing trees, but this is a great way to start and watch actual techniques (good and bad ones!). Take your search a step further to searching within the Channels of YouTube. Searching for bonsai again comes up with over 10,000 groups/channels dedicated to bonsai (again, not all associated with trees though). You can see YouTube offers a vast amount of videos describing techniques, styles, art of display, stands, tools, sharpening, etc. to assist you.

FACEBOOK – Facebook just isn't a site to post your latest news, but rather to get information too. Searching for “bonsai” on FACEBOOK produces over 500 pages/groups discussing bonsai. These pages/groups include individuals posting on their experiences, techniques, acquisitions, and time spent with others working on bonsai.

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Many post pictures of their work offering visual ideas to the designing of your bonsai. Did you know that **FACEBOOK** offers more including auctions? There are auctions for all types of bonsai related items, including individual pages just for trees, pots, and tools. In addition, there are various pages for selling items in a standard format other than through an auction. This provides another venue to purchase trees and supplies other than Ebay and individual online stores. Not to mention, a worldwide snapshot of others creating bonsai.

Linkedin and **Twitter** – **Linkedin** and **Twitter** are two websites full of individuals and groups posting their experiences designing bonsai.

You can even find people posting hundreds of items on **Pinterest** too. There are also podcasts and blogs where you can find someone discussing bonsai nearly every day. The list goes on and on!!!!

I won't leave out the technically challenged book readers too. As always there are thousands of books, good and bad, describing everything you need to know about bonsai as well.

Despite all the technological information out there to learn from, don't forget that while all this information is great and provides a vast amount of material to learn from, there is no better educational experience than that of working on a tree, in front of you, with an experience/knowledgeable person coaching, mentoring, or assisting right next to you.

As David details below, August's Club meeting is "**Bring Your Own Tree**", but with a twist. **We have Owen Reich revisiting the San Antonio area in August.** He will be present at our meeting to review, assist, and help in planning of a bonsai. All members are allowed to bring in 2 trees for Owen to review.

We ask that you bring in a primary tree and a secondary tree. All primary trees will be looked at first and if there is time secondary trees will be viewed. Trees will be arranged for viewing on a first come/first viewing by Owen.

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Saturday's workshop is at Ryan O's house from 9 am to 1 pm. All are welcome to attend. The address is .

SABS has scheduled our annual Progressive Bonsai Tour and BBQ for September 10th where we visit the backyards of three members, enjoy their bonsai, and have munchies along the way. Kevin and Hattie have volunteered their house as the third visit to also host the BBQ. John R. has added his house and gardens to the list too. **SABS** is looking for one additional volunteer to make it a trio of gardens. Please email/see Ryan O if you're interested.

I'm in the process of updating SABS' records of member information. If you have not confirmed or made changes to the hand-out I've passed around the last 2 meetings, please email me with any changes to your home address, email address, and/or phone number. If nothing has changed in the past 2 years, you are good.

Ryan O., President

Program Corner

David W.

redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

Aug 2016: This month's program is **Bring Your Own Tree**. This is an opportunity to bring that problem child to the meeting and get some input from your fellow members on what to do with the it. Maybe you found a nursery stock tree with great nebari but now what? Or the yamadori you collected last year and can't quite decide the best style to show off its natural beauty. Oh, and be sure to bring a cutting tool or other appropriate tools and equipment – you may want to do some trimming or fixing right there!

DAVID

And some summer haiku for y'all –

**Parched earth and hot winds
Sun climbs high into the sky
Puffy clouds vanish.**

**Cloudless skies begging
Relief from the blazing sun
Hot cruel wind laughing.**

**Sun scorches across
Skies bleached out from searing heat
Dog Days of summer.**

Trisha W.

August Monthly Tips

David W.

redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

Aug 2016: During August, continue repotting our Tropicals and Semi-tropicals like Fukien tea, Bahamas Black Olive, Buttonwood, Jaboticaba, Ficus. When repotting, be sure to wire the tree securely in the pot to give it good stability against the winds

Dog Days of Summer! They are here again and as I like to say **“When it’s hot, protect the pot!”** Bonsai pots are small and often dark colors, with the relentless South Texas sun they can overheat quickly. Cooking your roots is never a good thing, if you’ve got some trees that are not looking very happy right now, that could be the problem. One solution is to elevate the pots from what they are sitting on to promote better airflow under the pot, you can use some cut pieces of lumber, one-by-ones or two-by-twos, to raise the pot up. Using cut boards, such as old fence boards, to cover the edges of the pot to keep some of the sunlight off. Also, consider relocating trees to a shadier spot for the height of summer, some relief from the midday sun can help. Our own sensei, Marty, had a very cool device that allows her to bring up a “curtain” to shade just the pots and the shelves they are sitting on without shading the trees.

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With the Dog Days, also comes summer dormancy. To some trees, extreme heat is just as taxing as extreme cold, they will “shut down”, so to speak. They won’t be putting out any fresh growth and will quite likely, despite the heat, will take up less water. Be very careful not to over water these trees that are showing signs of summer dormancy and do not fertilize right now. Elms are one of the trees I have that go summer dormant, sometimes even native species will go dormant due to confined roots and space.

High humidity is usually a problem in summer too, even when temperatures are hitting triple-digits. Notice no one ever says “but it’s a dry heat” around here?! The heavy humidity can cause fungus or root rot trouble. Using a fungicide; such as Maneb, Benomyl or any systemic fungicide; on a monthly basis is a good preventive maintenance during the summer.

Unfortunately, insects *don’t* slow down during the Dog Days, frequently take a real close look at your trees. Pests can move in overnight! Not only look for the actual pests but also look for signs of activity from unseen pests – such as half-gone leaves, webbing, frass, fused or curled up leaves. Don’t confuse spider webs with spider mite webbing. Daily vigorous spraying of the foliage when you water the plants prone to spider mites (junipers, cedars, and similar species) can greatly deter spider mites from moving in. Numerous summer insects are nocturnal, during their damage in the darkness of night and most excellent at hiding during the day. Let me jump up on that beneficial soapbox again – encourage your beneficial predators!! Ladybugs and lacewings, along with their larvae, are voracious predators of scale and aphids. Spiders are great, while praying mantis are ruthless hunters. Even wasps can be beneficial, hunting for small worms or caterpillars on your plants. If something does get an insect problem that’s getting out of hand, spot treat that tree with the appropriate pesticide.

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One of the biggest assets you can have in your yard for the nighttime fight against bad bugs is the lowly, homely Toad. It doesn't take much to make a toad happy – places to hide during the day and some moisture for them in the evening. Our toads hide everywhere – literally! In large plant containers, under concrete flats that plants are sitting on, under the edges of the patio, old snake holes, into whatever shady nooks or crannies they can squeeze their squat little bodies into. Providing moisture can be as simple as putting a shallow dish on the ground with water in it. And this is where NOT broadcasting pesticides really comes in – toads “drink” through their skin and because of this, they can also absorb poisons through their skin! Residuals can even be picked up from the evening dew as they go through the yard so try not to broadcast those pesticides. A shallow dish, an old pie pan, small pet water bowl, any of these can be a “pool” for toads. Even a low spot in the garden that will hold water for a couple of hours will make them happy. Place your “pools” near the foundation of your house or where you’ve noticed toad activity. Toads start to make their appearance around dusk, hopping out from wherever they’ve hidden during the day. And after a scorching day, the first thing they look for is a drink. Once they’ve enjoyed their soak in the pool, they are eating machines for the rest of the night, relentlessly searching your garden for insects.

DAVID



**DAVID AND THE DEMO TREE,
NEEA BUXIFOLIA**

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR
THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY**

Individual \$30

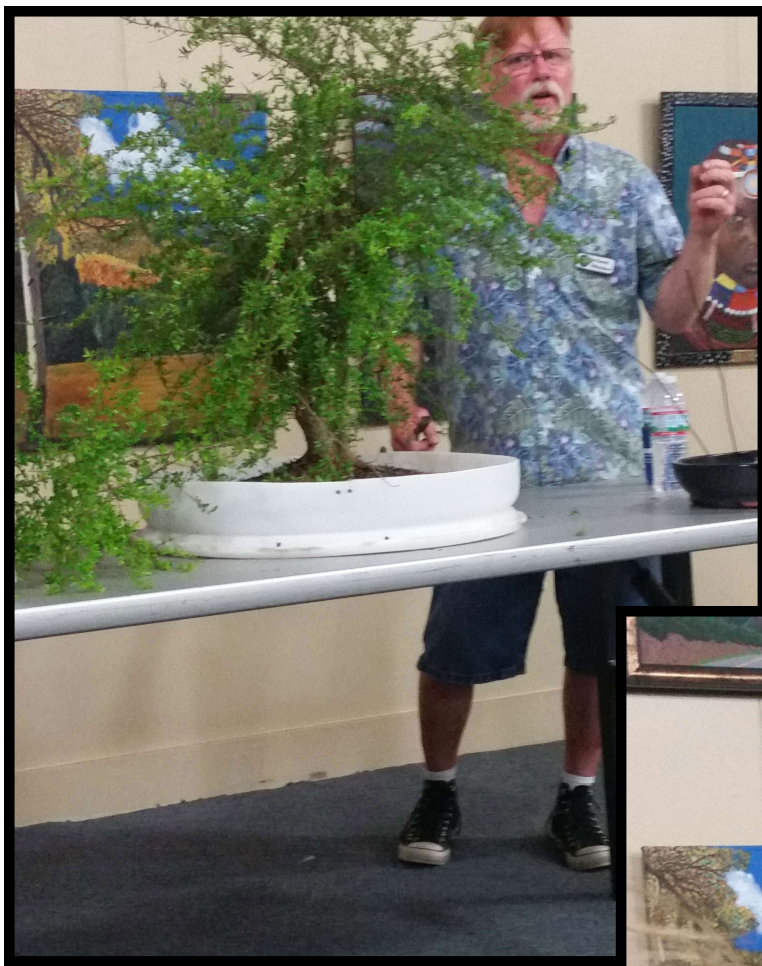
\$50 family

\$25 senior

\$40 senior family

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK





THE TRIMMING BEGINS, INCLUDING DAVID'S HAIR, OOPS!!

HAD A BIG DEBATE ON WHERE THE FRONT SHOULD BE, THAT FINALLY DECIDED THEN THE LAST CUT OR TWO PERFORMED.

NOW THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO TAKE THIS ONE HOME BUT, ALAS, THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE WINNER.

LARRY A. HAD THE WINNING TICKET!! CONGRATS AND ENJOY!!





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.

THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.

sanantoniobonsai.org

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Snips 'N Clips is published monthly by The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.
Subscription and membership is \$30.00 per year.

Advertising for Snips 'N Clips is based on the minimum size of 3 1/2" by 2 1/2" for \$45 per year. Single ads of the above size can be run for \$5. Ads must be camera ready. The Editor must receive changes in existing ads by the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication. Send ads and payment to San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc., Attn: Advertising, P.O. Box 6658, San Antonio, Texas, 78209. For situations other than the above, please contact the Editor, two2views@yahoo.com. Original articles from Snips 'N Clips may be reprinted only in their entirety. Full credit must be given the author and to Snips 'N Clips.

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The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. is a member of the **Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Inc.**
Bonsai Clubs International, and the **American Bonsai Society**,
SABS is a non-profit 501c (3) organization



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