



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

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

May 2019

Volume 44

Number 05

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.
- **May 11th – World Bonsai Day** – The North American Bonsai Federation sponsors a “World Bonsai Day” celebration on the second Saturday in May. This special day, clubs, organizations, and individuals throughout the world are encouraged to reach out to their respective communities and share the joy and brotherhood we all feel because of our involvement with bonsai. Take this time to teach a friends, neighbors, coworkers, and/or family members the art of bonsai.
- **May 25th – Rainbow Garden - Bandera Bonsai Workshop.** SABS is holding two bonsai workshops (10am and 2pm) for customers 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 **Conrad G.** and **Veronica T.**

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

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

MAY'S EVENTS

Lecture/Demo:

May 9th – Bonsai Stands by traveling artist Austin Heitzman

Food/Beverage Host(s):

Vicki A., Kyle J., Bryan B., & Wendy B.

Bonsai Study Group:

May 22nd

JUNE'S EVENTS

Lecture/Demo:

June 13th – Nick B. Presents Overall Plant Care

Food/Beverage Host(s):

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

Bonsai Study Group:

June 26th

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

What we do for those that might have an interest in bonsai and do it out of genuine care, will return to us in kindness many times over. Don't hover over the student, let them learn. Be available but hesitate doing the actual work. Remember how you were treated by a competent Sensai. This could be a lifelong art for them or snuffed out.

We, a group of nine, just did that last Saturday at Rainbow Gardens-Thousand Oaks. Our primary SABS recruiter, Ryan O. led us and we followed. One comment was that we learn when we teach. The other was that you recognize where your strengths are and where your areas of refinement could be. There is another workshop in May, please join us.

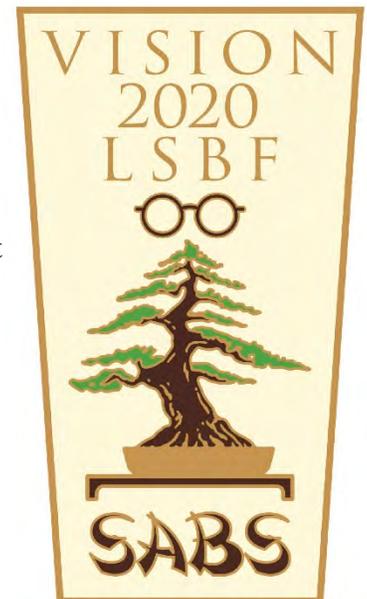
Our traveling artist for May is Austin Heitzman. Our goal for 2019 is showing bonsai in their most favorable light. Austin will have a presentation using stands fabricated by himself.

We seek a healthy plant first and foremost. One that remains that way over the long term. Water is probably the most important component that allows photosynthesis to occur optimally. Our bonsai medium and an understanding of fertilizers plays an important contribution. Potting in an appropriate pot enhances the presentation. Austin will give us an understanding of how to present our trees in a favorable perspective.

Convention Updates!

Next Convention meeting will be held May 18th, at 9:00 am at the Lobby of the Drury Plaza Hotel at 823 North Loop 1604 East San Antonio, TX 78232.

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

Very excited about Austin Heitzman coming down this month. Be sure to check out his website <http://www.austinheitzmanfurniture.com/>. This will be a great primer for our bonsai show in July and will tie into our overall theme for the year of presentation and building confidence for showing your bonsai. Hope to see you all there!

You Speak... Editor Prints...

Stones in the Japanese Garden

In studying Japanese practices in choosing and placing garden stones, we find that the same principles can be used in saikei, suiseki, and bonsai because the same rules apply. There are two areas of consideration: individual stones and relationships between two or more stones as they enhance each other to create a harmonious whole.

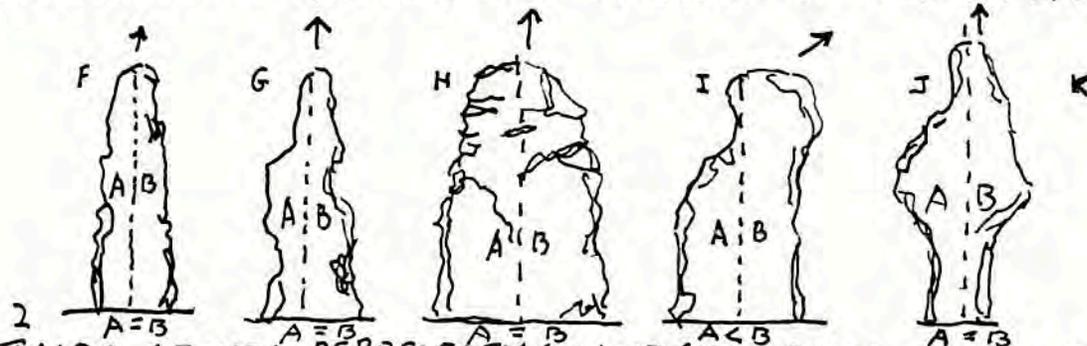
Gogyoseki, natural stones, are divided into five categories as can be seen in the illustration. These stones are directly related to the ancient Chinese philosophy of physical and chemical learning. As you refer to the illustration, note that the stone masses are both equal and unequal by weight. The arrows indicate the movement of “spirit” of the stones. Grasping the concept of movement is necessary in order to arrange stones/trees properly. Try to study for understanding the motion of any stone or stones in your collection. These rules are not always strict, and in the case of suiseki, most information seems to advise against equal masses of A and B sides. This article does not deal with suiseki types, concentrating on other areas.

The following is advice from Japanese gardener on choosing stones: “... Black stones are preferable to brilliant red or blue ones; nevertheless, brightly colored stones can be used in a refined way. Avoid contrasts between red and blue and combine lavender stones with blue stones to form an entirely blue appearing final result.” Majja Tamm continues with “The subtle use of bright stones depends upon the skill of the person who uses them. From the viewpoint of subtlety, stones without jagged points are more refined [whereas] knobby, bumpy stones like lava are hectic and ail to give a composed impression... it is more tasteful to use too few stones.”

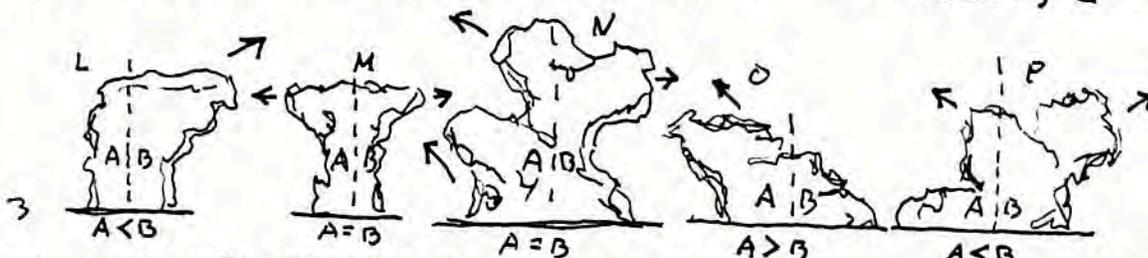
- Richard Hammond
Snips ‘N Clips, April 1983



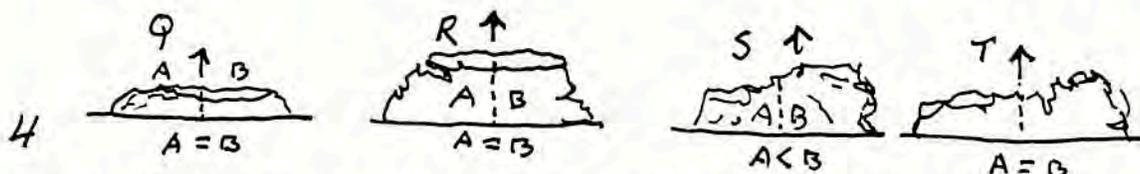
REISHO STONES, REPRESENTING STABILITY OF GOLD OR STEEL (A THRU E)



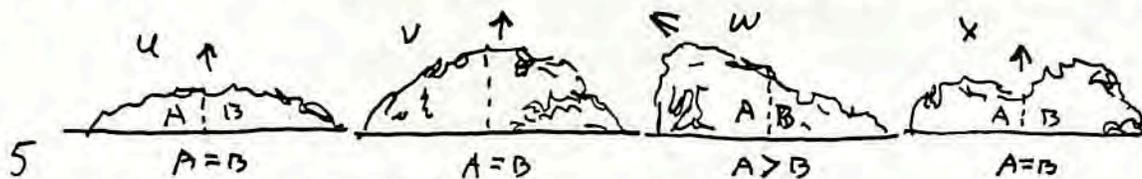
TAIDO STONES, REPRESENTING WOOD (HIGH RISING TREES) [F THRU J]



SHIGO STONES, REPRESENT FLAMING MOTION OF FIRE (L THRU P)



SHINTAI STONES, REPRESENT CALM WATER (Q THRU T)



KIKYAKU STONES, REPRESENT EARTH, THESE SWELL ABOVE THE SURFACE (U THRU X)

- Row 1 Gardeners call Reisho principal stones.
- Row 2 Taido stones are called body stones.
- Row 3 Shigo are called peeking stones.
- Row 4 Shintai are used as base level stones.
- Row 5 Kikyaku are root or prostrate stones.

Richard Hammond

Bonsai Techniques

Courtesy of John Miller
from the Dallas Bonsai Society

Bonsai Tonight has some great articles on the LSBF-ABS show and seminar held in Houston in April. Jonas spends some time expounding on the great diversity to be found in our Texas bonsai collections. Whatever your level of expertise is you all deserve a pat on the back for your work in learning how to grow them.

May is the time to continue work on most species of bonsai, do leaf pruning if necessary, debud azaleas if too many buds, start repotting tropicals, plan for summer protection, and treat for spider mites again.

In general, May is the time you do leaf pruning if you have to do it. If you have kept the new growth pinched properly, you have been getting the ramification usually attributed to leaf pruning. The only good reason for leaf pruning is to replace foliage that has been damaged by wind or insects. On some individual plants that have large foliage, the new foliage will sometimes be smaller. Leaf pruning should be done after the spring foliage has matured and supplied the tree with enough nutrients to produce a good crop of new foliage. It must be done well before the summer heat causes the plant growth to slow or stop. I consider the very latest time in this area to be Memorial Day. Leaf pruning is done only on very healthy trees and never on the atropurpeum type of Japanese maple (Bloodgood is one). The tree should be fertilized 7 - 10 days before the operation. Cut the stems of those leaves that have them (maples) or cut across the leaf about 1/16 inch from the twig if leaves are attached directly on the twig (elms). It will not need as much water until the new foliage has developed.

I like to remove extra buds on azaleas so that the flowers have room to open fully. When the azaleas finish bloom remove all seed pods and do any reshaping that is necessary. You have 2-2 ½ months (that is until mid-July) to work on them. They will start setting buds for next year's flowers at that time.

When the nighttime temp stays above 60 degrees it is time to start repotting the tropical material. Since there are so many different requirements for tropicals I will not try to cover their individual needs here. But in general, I like to put them in shade and mist them until the new growth starts.

Warm humid days are favorable for fungal growth. Watch for mildew, black leaf spot on elms and yaupons, among other. As an organic control you can use baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) or better use Potassium bicarbonate that you can get at a nursery. Hydrogen peroxide in a 1% solution (mix 1 part of the normal 3% commercial product with 2 parts water) can be used on mature foliage. It may burn tender foliage but its only by-product is water.

If you have insect problems you will need to apply your control, whatever you use, several times. For example, spider mites may go thru the cycle from egg to adult to egg in as little as 5 days. Therefore you should spray 4 times 5 days apart. Other insects will have a different cycle but that schedule should take care of almost everything.

Aphids, spider mites, and scale continue to be the most prevalent insects. Chemical controls may be used if you desire. A systemic type will be best for scale. Always follow the label directions explicitly. Do not use an oil based spray on buttonwood.

I use the foliar spray of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses, and apple cider vinegar (1 tablespoon each per gallon of water). Scale is the most difficult because it is usually covered with a waxy coating. You may need to use a horticultural oil mixed as directed on the label. Be sure that the direction you read is for summer use as some have two dosages given, one for dormancy (usually the first and strongest) and one for summer.

Always check to see if your plant is included on the label. **Please note:** the commercial organic spray sold as Garret Juice does not do the same as the above mixture. Use it as a fertilizer only.

If you see damage to the foliage or the plant is not doing well, look for other problems and if you don't recognize the culprit ask your favorite nurseryman for help.

Start checking your pots to see if the sun is heating them up. Our summer sun shining on dark pots can make the soil temperature soar and kill the roots. Try putting your hand on the pot. Roots are living organisms and cannot take high temperatures any more than you can. Heating also dries out the soil making you water more often. Any number of ways of keeping the pots cool will work, the requirement being to prevent the sun from getting to them. An inch or more of air space around the pot is desirable. I do not care for the aluminum foil methods because I don't care to have the light reflected into my eyes. A simple cloth with a slit to go around the trunk works fine, but weigh it down with a rock.

Remember all the work that you did in the spring? Keep the new growth trimmed so that you haven't wasted your time. While trimming or watering check the wiring periodically and remove it before it damages the branch. If the branch springs back some rewire it.

If you are not on a regular organic foliar/drench feed schedule be sure to use fertilizer cakes with supplemental feeding with a good liquid fertilizer, one that includes the minor elements. Most bonsai I see are malnourished. The liquid water soluble fertilizer gets washed out with the next watering and the tree starves until the next infrequent feeding. There are a number of fertilizers in pellet or cake form on the market or you can make your own.

At a convention I once watched two good artists working on black pine, one had the student cut all needles to 1/4 inch. The other had them pluck all old needles and left the 1 year needles full length. Both techniques will work if followed by the correct care for that technique. For this reason I don't say much on conifers in this column. Whichever way you do it you should learn the complete method of your instructor and not mix them. Don't change methods unless you have a very good reason. Then it may take a full year to get everything on track.

Rainbow Gardens - Thousand Oaks Bonsai Workshop – By Vicki A.



**There is a
hidden message
in this forest!**

*Images provided by various internet
sources.*

BONSAI FUNNIES



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.

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