



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

AUGUST 2015

VOLUME 40 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

RICHARD HAYES BONSAI STUDY GROUP: FOURTH WEDNESDAY, Workshop in Bonsai, everyone is welcome, 7 pm at Lions Field. GREAT TIME FOR MEMBERS TO BRING IN A TREE TO WORK ON —

July 31 – Aug 1 – Bonsai Exhibit at the 2015 CTF National T

August Mini-show – Any variety of Shohin

August Food and Beverage Host – Chris and Donna Luna

August 13th - Club L/D Meeting at the Lion's Field; 7 pm

August 26th – Club Workshop Meeting at the Lion's Field; 7 pm

August 26th – Initial 2018 Bonsai Convention Meeting; 7 pm

Sept 13th – South Texas Bonsai Kai Annual Event

Sept 18th to 20th – Home and Garden Show Exhibit

President's Message

By Ryan O.

bonsaiode@gmail.com

It is time to start planning for SABS' biggest event... **September Home and Garden Show** – Please let me know if you are able to attend the show and/or would like to display a tree or two. Displaying a tree is not held to those that have fine quality of trees. **ALL** SABS' members are welcomed/encouraged to show a bonsai at any state of development. It is good to show visitors a visual transition a tree takes to turn into a bonsai. We generally have 15 trees on display so I will collect owners' names and species to be displayed, in August. In addition, Kevin and I are presenting on two days so be sure to join and heckle us!!

It is time to start planning for the **2018 Bonsai Convention** hosted by SABS. It takes nearly two years of planning to pull off great a convention. SABS Board Members are looking for volunteers and ideas for our convention including topics of discussion, event location, guest speakers, theme, etc. For those that would like to be on the 2018 Bonsai Convention Board and any others that would like to solicit input into the convention are asked to join the initial **meeting held on August 26th** in conjunction with the Club Workshop. All SABS members are welcome to participate in this meeting.

SABS is showcasing bonsai at this year's **Chin Mu Kwan Taekwon-Do Federation (CTF) National Testing** for Taekwon-Do. The show is on July 31st to August 1st at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel (110 Lexington Ave. SATX).

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Set-up for the exhibit is on Friday at 9 am and take-down is Sunday at 12 pm. This is a stand-alone exhibit so we do not need volunteers during the event, though David and Trisha will be present at all times. David is looking for volunteers for set-up and take-down. David is also looking for additional trees to show from any member. Contact David if you can help.

David's annual **South Texas Bonsai Kai** event held at his house in Mathis, TX is scheduled for Sunday September 13th from 11 am to 5 pm. Similar to last year's event, there will be a demonstration, items for raffle and a huge BBQ lunch. More information and a sign-up sheet to come closer to the date. Mark your calendars now!!!

Ryan O.
President

PROGRAM CORNER **David W.**

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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 tree. 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!

Last month's program with our touring artist Owen Reich was a great success with good workshops and an awesome lecture-demo. Owen was very informative (I learned a couple of new tips too!) and a lot of fun. Congratulations to Marty for winning the raffle of the L/D Jaboticaba!

AUGUST MONTHLY TIPS

David W.

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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 mid-day 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.

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, 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. If something does get an insect problem that’s getting out of hand, spot treat that tree with the appropriate pesticide.

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.

Providing moisture can be as simple as putting a shallow dish on the ground with

water. 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.

Happy Bonsai-ing!



Congratulations to Marty for winning the raffle of the L/D Jaboticaba!

**DETAILED
INFORMATION COMING
SHORTLY ON THE
KATHY SHANER
SEMINAR—
WATCH FOR IT IN YOUR MAIL
BOX**

2015 Kathy Shaner Seminar
October 16th – 18th
Buda, TX

- * Seminar *
- * Home-cooked Dinner *
- * Bring-your-own-tree Workshop *

Registration available in July. To be notified when registration is open, email ckmurphy2000@gmail.com.



**ONE OF THE BONSAI THAT HAS BEEN DONATED to THE TEXAS STATE BONSAI
EXHIBIT BY DONALD GREEN'S FAMILY
A VERY LARGE NERIFOLIA, NARROW LEAF FICUS
THANK YOU DIANE
PRUNE ON DONALD, I WILL MISS YOU**



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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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The *San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.* is a member of the *Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Inc.*
Bonsai Clubs International, and the *American Bonsai Society*,
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