



# SNIPS 'N CLIPS

November 2019

Volume 44

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

Number 11

## What's New!

- **PLEASE NOTE ALL MEETINGS ARE NOW STARTING AT 6:30PM TO ACCOMMODATE REVISED HOURS OF OPERATION OF THE LION'S FIELD.**
- **November 14<sup>th</sup> – FALL AUCTION AND BOARD MEMBER ELECTION!!!!**
- **November 27<sup>th</sup> – Bonsai Study Group** – Due to the holiday season there will be no Wednesday Night Study Group.
- Please welcome new members **Josh B., John O., and Garrett T.**

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2020 CONVENTION.

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-texas-bonsai-convention-registration-77963704539> and all paper documents can be found at <http://www.sanantoniobonsai.org/2020-bonsai-convention> and <http://www.lonestarbonsai.org/2020-convention/>



All lecture/demonstration meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 6:30pm, 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, 6:30pm, Lions Field. All members are invited to attend for hands-on assistance by experienced bonsai artists.

## NOVEMBER'S EVENTS

### Lecture/Demo:

November 14<sup>th</sup> – Fall Auction

### Food/Beverage Host(s):

Ester R., Diana B., & Roberto M.

### Bonsai Study Group:

**NO MEETING DUE TO HOLIDAY**

## DECEMBER'S EVENTS

### Lecture/Demo:

December 12<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Party and Gift Exchange

### Food/Beverage Host(s):

Pot Luck by All

### Bonsai Study Group:

**NO MEETING DUE TO HOLIDAY**

## 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.

Individual	Family	Senior (60+)	Individual	Senior (60+)	Family
\$30	\$50	\$25		\$40	

# President's Message

Klaus C.  
collklaus@yahoo.com

Please prepare for our Auction and gather your items. Also, our election at the beginning of our evening at 6:30pm sharp.

We come to the end of this year and are thankful. We ruffled some feathers, disagreed some but felt as one when the dust settled. We were strengthened in our determination to be THE part that was needed.

What then are we thankful of? Our newest venture is to become a presence at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. Joe H. inquired why there were no Bonsai displayed. The liaison for our venture, Andrew L. responded and had a meeting with our committee, to make our mark there. New eyes from new members help see a unique opportunity and experienced members are integral in deliberating over a mutually rewarding agreement.

Ryan certainly is extraordinary. Not only did he lead one of the workshops in our five species workshops along with John R. and Jay N., he takes on our newsletter with enthusiasm. His TTSBE treasurer position and our Publicity dude keep him involved more than most. Wait, he lurked around several nurseries and vineyards preaching and demonstrating Bonsai. Our membership growth is due to those outreach efforts. Should we give him one of those Bonsai wooden cereal bowls we present to our traveling artists? A heartfelt thank you from all of our grateful members is worth so much more. When Ryan saw an opportunity to further our Convention awareness, he packed the Saratoga Wagon with trailer and set up a display regarding Bonsai at the Home and Garden Show. The visitors at the Home and Garden Show, had their questions answered and enjoyed the art of Bonsai. Ryan is not alone there. Steve B, Conrad G, Jay N, Hattie and Kevin, Paul and Dawn, and Diane and I, believe in what he is doing. Yes, he shares the directorship for our Convention in May with Kevin. A difficult job yet rewarding. *FROM THE EDITOR..... THANK YOU!!!!*

## Convention updates!

**Next Convention meeting will be held January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 9:30 am at Donna D's Studio Sculptural Designs Atelier at 927 N. Alamo Street, 78215.**

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 point in our convention development planning whereby specifics of each aspect of the of the convention need to be discussed and voted upon.

Those wanting to contribute to our preplanning schedule/calendar, be sure to submit tasks and dates to Ryan O. by December 31 so we can discuss on January.

Registration is now open. See links on page 1.



**KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE BONSAI**

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 17<sup>th</sup> 2020

Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio  
823 North Loop 1604 East  
San Antonio, TX 78232

# Program Corner

Ryan O.

[bonsaiode@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaiode@gmail.com)

Ryan, Kevin, and Hattie assisted with a small group of wine and bonsai lovers for our first Wine and Bonsai Workshop on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Bending Branch Winery, in Comfort, TX. Participants enjoyed the bonsai workshop among the grape vines and scenic views of the winery. The Winery's marketing team heard wonderful feedback from the participants so we look forward to participating in this fun adventure again.



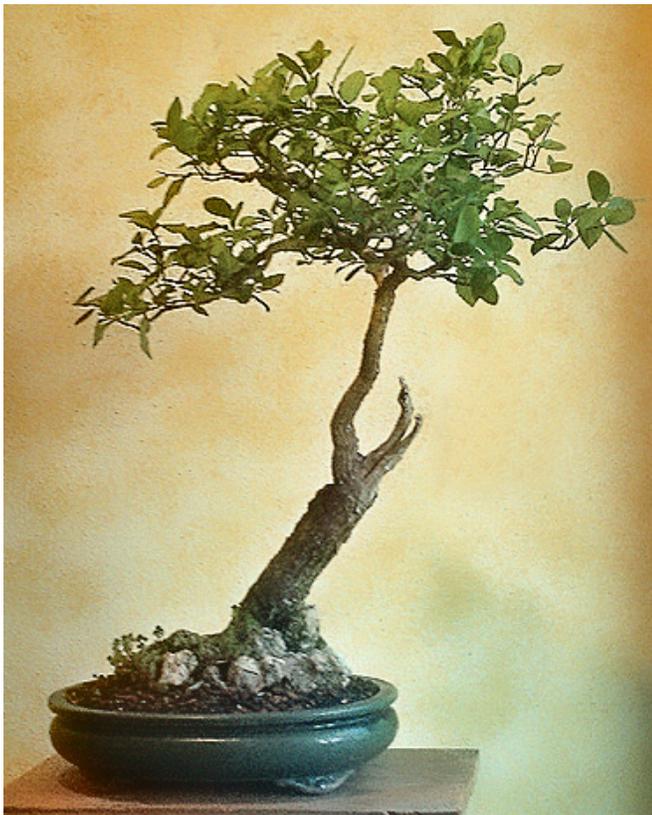
October was another busy month for SABS and exhibitions. Kevin and David W. exhibited trees and promoted the 2020 Convention at the Koi and Fancy Goldfish Exhibit at Water Garden Gems. Ryan, Hattie, Donna, and Don all showcased bonsai at the Art Under The Oaks at The Garden Center. Both events occurred on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Here are photos from the Art Under the Oaks.



# You Speak... Editor Prints...

*Below continues a mini-series by Donna D., our 2020 Convention Curator, which will be included in our newsletters up to our convention. This mini-series prepare your trees for display. Enjoy!!!*

## YOUR BONSAI ON DISPLAY FOR CONVENTION 2020



**Anaqua**

Never think that a bonsai steals from nature and confines it to a pot. The aim of working with a bonsai and a wonderful landscape where there was nothing. Not a sketch on paper or an image on canvas but a beautiful story, your story, a vision unique to you.

We want each member to display a bonsai. The formal exhibit elevates your selection like you will not believe, “is that really my bonsai”. Include your choices of companion plant or figurine and the added scenic element of a scroll or painting or a scene you have chosen to add to the drama of your display.

You’re presenting an imaginary landscape or vista, a quest for beauty an artistic realm that shows how your particular tree grows. Tell a story with your bonsai. The viewer will be engulfed in the tale you have presented; a painting in 3 dimensions.

Now that was a recap of last month’s article. Be your bonsai a deciduous or evergreen, a tropical or cold climate fellow, please prepare and be ready to display your unique bonsai.

All bonsai have a “best” side, a front, a point where they are at their best angle. What makes that particular bonsai on view in its most advantages side?

1. The visible roots, the nebari.
2. The placement of the branches, edaburi
3. The tapering trunk, kokejun

Of course there are more elements to be considered but for now seek out these elements in your bonsai. Continue your work, seeking help from a club member. We have 5 months before convention! See you in the exhibit room!

# Bonsai Techniques

Courtesy of John Miller  
from the Dallas Bonsai Society

When you read guidelines do you read 'can' as 'should'. Most guides I have read use them interchangeably. However in the plant world you should be more careful and see if you can decipher the correct meaning. Many times the meaning depends on the reader's knowledge and abilities. For example, because of a bad commercial soil mix I bare-rooted and repotted trees in July with no loss. However, I knew what they required and was committed to supplying their needs completely until they fully recovered. So when you read guidelines be sure to modify them to suit your trees, your back yard, and especially your capabilities. Try to do tasks on a schedule but don't be a slave to a schedule--move the tasks needed as best for the tree, maybe sooner maybe later.

Articles like this are always just guidelines. Each tree in your backyard is a special case and you should look at it individually each time you water. Be sure it is not getting stressed. Is it really healthy? Any signs of problems-- wilting, color ok, leaves good? Does it need attention immediately? If so place it aside and come back to examine it and take appropriate action.

Learn to think in terms related to plant characteristics instead of calendar periods (i.e. use 'when dormant' instead of October, 'candle growth' instead of April, etc). That will enable you to read bonsai articles correctly whether written in Japan Florida or wherever. Note that some tree cultivars (like the cork bark black pine) are notably weaker than the standards of the species and require different pruning and care.

You should have your winter quarters ready. Select one for deciduous trees that will be out of the sun. Air circulation is good but too much wind will desiccate them especially in freezing temps. Be sure you will be able to check their watering. Clean up all debris.

Most important in winter is to keep the soil moisture at a proper level. This sometimes is hard to do because the trees do not use as much water as when they are growing. However the cold winds will dry out the tops quickly. I believe that most winter damage in Texas is due to lack of water rather than to low temperatures. Mulch helps keep the roots warm and retards evaporation but it makes for difficulty in seeing if the soil is damp enough. Most soils with enough organic material to keep the tree happy in the summer will be too wet if watered daily in the winter and wet cold means root rot.

Before putting the trees into winter storage treat them for over-wintering insects and eggs. Dormant oil spray is good on trees with no green, foliage or buds. A dilute solution of lime sulfur is an old gardeners dormant spray for insect and fungus control. Use it on very cool days and dilute it 1 part lime sulfur to 20 parts water. Be sure to read the label on your bottle in case there are different strengths available. This solution should also be applied to benches tops, posts and the soil surrounding them (if you have gravel instead of grass) to eliminate hiding eggs and spores. If you have a greenhouse treat it also before the weather gets too cold to put your plants outside or move them to one end while you treat the other end.

At this time of the year deciduous plants do not need fertilizer. Evergreens will continue a slow growth and will benefit from a light fertilizer feeding. Use one with a lower nitrogen (first number) like 0-10-10 or 8-8 - 8 at no more than 1/3 the recommended feeding rate.

Watering should be done with care during the cool and/or cold weather. Deciduous trees will use some water to replace what is lost to winds and evaporation. Evergreen trees will need a little more but not as much as in summer. The easiest way is to sort your pots into groups, those that dry quickly, those that are slower to dry,

and those that seem to stay damp. This will let you water faster and yet not over-water the ones staying damp. Make a note to repot the ones staying too damp.

Repotting of hardy trees can be done anytime the trees are dormant. However it is safer to do that chore in the spring as the buds are swelling. New roots will start forming immediately upon repotting in order for the tree to absorb water. If you do repot in the fall you should protect the new roots from freezing during the winter. Do you need to change the pot? Making notes at this time while getting the trees ready for winter will give you 3-4 months to find the proper pot.

When trees go dormant which indicates a reduced sap flow they may be pruned, that is have major limbs removed. Trimming may also be done while the leaves are off the trees and you can see what you are doing. Evergreen types will probably still be active. Pruning them should be held until later. Foliage can be removed when half has turned color to remove some pathogens and to enjoy their winter silhouette.

**BIG NOTE:** If you have a tree that is weak and unhealthy you should not attempt to style it in any way, just get it happy by adjusting its soil, feeding, and getting rid of any parasites. Styling just adds to its stress and problems.

By this time any tropical you have should be under cover. Most do not like the temp below 50 degrees. All tropicals should be checked and treated for any insect problems since any insects will multiply fast when they get into warmer quarters. Spider mites and scale can be especially damaging if the plant is moved in the house where the humidity is low.

The semi-tropical plants like crape myrtle pomegranate, pyracantha, and some south Texas natives need to go dormant to stay healthy over a long time but they cannot take much cold on the roots. They will be killed by temps somewhere between 25 and 30 degrees. These I set down on the ground and mulch for light freezes and then bring into a protected area for the colder winter. Sometimes I will let them go dormant for a month and then take into the greenhouse to start early and I can enjoy their new foliage in January.

## And now for a tad-bit of information...

Here's a truly ingenious hydrogen peroxide hack. A 3% solution (readily available at the grocery or drug store) of Hydrogen Peroxide can be used for any of the following in the garden: pest control treating root rot pre-treating seeds foliar spray to kill fungus infection preventive on damaged trees While it has also been used as a general "fertilizer" either added in during watering or sprayed onto the foliage, hydrogen peroxide is not fertilizer, but it can help boost plant growth. How exactly? Hydrogen peroxide helps encourage healthy root growth because of the extra oxygen molecule. Oxygen can help plant roots absorb nutrients from the soil. Therefore, this extra bit of oxygen better enables the roots to absorb more nutrients, which means faster, healthier, and more vigorous growth. And as a bonus, hydrogen peroxide can help discourage unwanted bacteria/fungi that may be lurking in the garden. To give plants an added boost of oxygen or for pest control using the 3% solution, add 1 teaspoon per cup of water in a spray bottle and mist the plant. This amount is also suitable for pre-treating seeds to control fungal infections. For plants with root rot or fungal infections, use 1 tablespoon per cup of water. The solution can be made up and stored for future use, but be sure to store it in a cool, dark place as exposure to light diminishes the potency. If you want to cover a larger area, it might be more economical to purchase the 35% hydrogen peroxide. Mix one part hydrogen peroxide to ten parts of water. That is one cup per four square feet of garden. Mix the solution in a watering can or into a large sprayer. Water at the base of the plants and avoid wetting the foliage. Be very careful when using this percentage of peroxide. It can bleach and/or burn the skin. Spray the veggie garden after every rainfall or as needed. Not only is this an environmentally friendly alternative to pesticides, but it has the added benefit of being anti-fungal and gives plants a healthy boost of oxygen too. Also, 3% peroxide solutions are commonly available (even at the .99 cent store!) and generally extremely economical.

Read more at Gardening Know How: Garden Uses For Hydrogen Peroxide: Will Hydrogen Peroxide Hurt Plants <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/soil-fertilizers/using-hydrogen-peroxide-in-garden.htm>

## BONSAI FUNNIES

**How many snips  
does it take to  
get to the center  
of this bonsai?...  
1, 2, done**

*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:  
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San Antonio, TX 78209

<p>Item # _____  Description of Item: _____  Type of Plant: _____  Age: _____  Last Repotted: _____  Seller: _____</p>	<p>Item # : _____  Winning Amount: _____ Paddle No. _____  Reserve: Yes: _____ No: _____  Name of Seller: _____  Description of Item: _____</p>
<p>Item # _____  Description of Item: _____  Type of Plant: _____  Age: _____  Last Repotted: _____  Seller: _____</p>	<p>Item # : _____  Winning Amount: _____ Paddle No. _____  Reserve: Yes: _____ No: _____  Name of Seller: _____  Description of Item: _____</p>
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