



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

MARCH 2016

VOLUME 41 NUMBER 3

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 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 PRESENTATIONS. SEE WEBSITE FOR LOCATIONS.

MARCH 10TH: SABS CLUB MEETING, 7 PM,

HOSTS: KEVIN & HATTIE

MARCH MINI-BONSAI SHOW: ANY TREE DEMONSTRATING THE INFORMAL UPRIGHT STYLE.



INFORMAL UPRIGHT

President's Message

By Ryan O.

bonsaiode@gmail.com

Please pay Leydana your 2016 SABS dues. The last day to pay your dues in March 10th. Those that have not paid will not receive April's newsletter.

Wow!!!! February was a busy month. **SABS** started the month off with a great showing of 20+ trees at the annual Asian Festival. Among the brilliant trees on display, Steve, Oscar, and I performed demonstrations on creating bonsai from typical nursery stock. At times, we each had 20+ visitors listening to our demonstration. The great part is that we passed out applications for membership so we hope to see those newcomers soon. A special thanks to those that participated: Donna, Leydana, Oscar, Pamela, Paul, Steve, and Tom.

The following Saturday (2/20) SABS held a soil mixer at Kevin and Hattie's house that was attended by many and was a lot of fun. Everyone in attendance pitched in to help stir up a simple recipe of bonsai soil. Afterwards Kevin and Hattie provided lunch and then a few went digging for trees. Through the sale of our mixture and a few bags of lava, SABS earned \$350 – great profit as I donated all the decomposed granite and compost for the event. In addition, SABS has created 64 gallons of additional soil to sell. As soon as Kevin acquires additional buckets from his employer we will begin selling to club members.

February went out with a bang as SABS closed the month with the Spring Home and Garden Show. All of us in attendance shared stories and answered thousands of questions from visitors to our booth. SABS also sold nearly \$350 worth of trees and pots as well as handed out additional applications. A few trees went to younger kids in hopes of passing on the love of bonsai to the next generation. We had one lucky winner of a styled bonsai and a free year's membership so we hope to see that lucky winner soon.

continued next page

Thanks to all that participated and assisted with set-up/take-down: Hattie, Kevin, Leydana, Nancy, Oscar, Paul, Steve, and Tom. A special thanks to Leydana for preparing and bringing lunches as well as Ned for opening the studio late Sunday night to unload the Club's materials.

MARCH BONSAI WORKSHOP

This month's Saturday Bonsai Workshop is held at John R.'s house from 9am to 1pm. John's address is

Remember to bring any tools, soil, wire, and your own munchies and drinks.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT !!!!!

During March's meeting (3/10) we are having a special sale of bonsai related items. Long-time member Gary has liquidated his bonsai materials due to health reasons and has asked Kevin, Hattie, and myself to assist him in selling his items. We will have nearly 80 pots, 30 bonsai and yard plants, stands, soil sifters, and soils all for sale throughout the meeting. Gary has graciously announced that he is splitting the profits 50/50 with the Club. Thank you Gary for this great opportunity!!! SABS accepts cash, check, and credit cards.

RYAN

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY

\$30 individual
\$50 family
\$25 senior
\$40 senior family

PROGRAM CORNER

David W.

redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

March's monthly meeting is BYOT, we are doing a "Bring Your Own Tree" to repot with the help of our ON more seasoned and experienced club members. Remember to bring trees, pots, tools, soil, wire and anything else that you might need to repot your bonsai. See Ryan for your newly mixed club soil and also to purchase a SABS' very own "Bonsai Tree Care" book, this little green book is a South Texas Bonsai Bible, it has the lowdown on most of our well known species.

MARCH Monthly Tips

David W

redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

March Monthly tips: Winter has come late again and hadn't wanted to let go, we've had some pretty cold weather for February. Regardless of the frigid temps, some of our deciduous have started to bud. And speaking of budding.... have you started repotted your bald cypress, elms, and other deciduous trees? It may be getting too late if there are signs of new growth.

The best time to root prune/repot deciduous trees is right before the buds open, you have to watch them closely and you can see them open within a couple weeks, some can open in just a few days. Repotting and root pruning can be done for these, just remember to protect them from any excessively cold weather we may still get. It's not recommended to root prune any deciduous trees that the buds have already leafed out. If you must repot any with due to problems with a tree that has leafed out, put it in a larger pot with fresh soil, do not prune the roots. These types of trees have very tender roots at this time of year. Yes, I've heard that people have root pruned deciduous trees (doing a leaf defoliation also) during the growing season... and it is possible to do so and have the tree live, but it's risky. We want the best chance to have the trees survive the shock of root pruning.



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ON THE HUNT FOR INSECTS

Junipers can be repotted any time during March through June. You can start repotting your broad leaf evergreens (holly, boxwood etc). Its too early in the season to root prune/repot your South Texas natives, tropicals and semi (sub) tropicals. We should wait until the lowest temperature of the day/night stays above 65-70 degrees for repotting South Texas natives and semi (sub) tropicals (Ficus, figs, Barbados and Surinam cherry Texas ebony and other natives). Tropicals should be repotted in midsummer (Neea buxifolia, Fukien tea, Bahama Black Olive, Buttonwood and Wrightia Religiosa, to name a few).

March and April are usually windy so, watch the soils every day so they don't dry out. When you repot, be sure to wire the tree securely in the pot to give it good stability against the winds. Putting rocks on top of the soil for a while can also help brace the tree. With spring (hopefully!) right around the corner, the bugs will be coming out in droves soon. Inspect the bonsai from top to bottom, also inspect the drain holes. Inspect for ANY and all insects and treat accordingly. I try to spray with insecticide and apply fungicide at least once every 4 weeks (these can sometimes be mixed with liquid fertilizers). If you discover an infestation treat according to the label of the pesticide. Watch your training wires, so they will not cut into the branches

Flowering trees are either setting buds or are already starting to bloom. Feed them regularly with a good blooming fertilizer, one that has a high phosphorus number. Feed others with a Peter's 20-20-20. The rule in fertilizing is, if its growing then you can fertilize.

DAVID

Spider mites are very tiny bugs (about this size > . <) and will kill your trees before you know that they are there! I've always use a **preventive insecticide and fungicide treatment every 4 to 6 weeks during the growing season**. With indoor growing, insect inspection and **prevention** is ongoing year around.

When inspecting for insects on trees, check all around the foliage or leaves. The best way to find the smallest of the attacking insects (Spider mites) is put you tree over a piece of white paper and tap on all the branches, this will knock off some of the little critters onto the paper, if you can mash/smear (ugh) the specks with your finger, then they need to be eradicated. If you see the webs, it might be too late. Spider mites are quite fond of plants with dense foliage such as junipers and cedars. Regular spraying of the foliage when you water, especially on junipers, can help prevent the little critters from taking up residence on your trees. The spider mites in particular don't care for damp environments and the spray will help knock some bugs off.

Having several species **I try to treat on a preventive method** and use an insecticide, mite-icide and fungicide (*all in one and can be mixed with fertilizer too*) at least every 4 to 6 weeks during the growing season. If an infestation is found, treat accordingly. I use a couple of brands of systemic organophosphates insecticides. My go to's are.... Ferti-lome "Triple action is a good 3 in 1", Martin's "Cyonara" (recommended by Guy Guidry), another is Spectracide's "Immunox Plus", for instant KILL use any brand of Pyrethrin and for bougainvilleas Bayer Advance "Rose & Flower Care". Look for an insecticide/fungicide that is labeled for Roses and will kill spider mites, it usually is OK for most bonsai.

Always wear protective gear (PPE) when using them! Always read and follow the labels!

Continued page 4

For example, coming from a long time user with these chemicals I have experienced...

1) Do not use Neem oil on any type of elms, it will defoliate them and can kill them.

2) Do not use Kelthane on any type of elms, it will defoliate them and can kill them.

3) Do not use Malathion or Diazinon on Buttonwoods it can kill them.

4) Do not use Neem oil on Boxwoods it can kill them.

5) Do not use Disyston on Fukien Tea it can kill them.

"Ya gotta keep your guard up". When you have a large variety of tree species with an even bigger variety of insects to attack them, Just to name a few problems with bonsai down here in South Texas:

* Spider mites can attack very fast and this happens all growing season. Has anybody lost a juniper or snow rose from spider mites? Most likely you have if you've been growing bonsai a while. Red spider mites will kill them almost before you can notice they are there. "If you see the signs (webs) it's probably too late".

* Use Disyston on Cuban Laurel Thrips can and will attack several different types of Ficus during the growing season;

* Use Disyston on "The Bougie" little green looper worms that ONLY attack bougainvilleas during the summer.

* White flies, aphids, scale, grubs and snails (not insects, but still a pest) come and go during our growing season.

DAVID

**BONSAI OF THE MONTH,
INFORMAL UPRIGHT, ROOT OVER
ROCK**

TRANSPLANTING

a series developed and presented
in *BONSAI TODAY*, Issue 17, 1992-1

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**WHAT FOLLOWS IS THE LAST OF THE
SERIES PRESENTED IN THIS NEWS-
LETTER FROM BONSAI TODAY.
THERE ARE FOUR MORE PAGES
THAT WILL BE IN A SEPARATE
DOCUMENT THAT WILL BE ATTACHED
WITH THE CURRENT NEWSLETTER.**



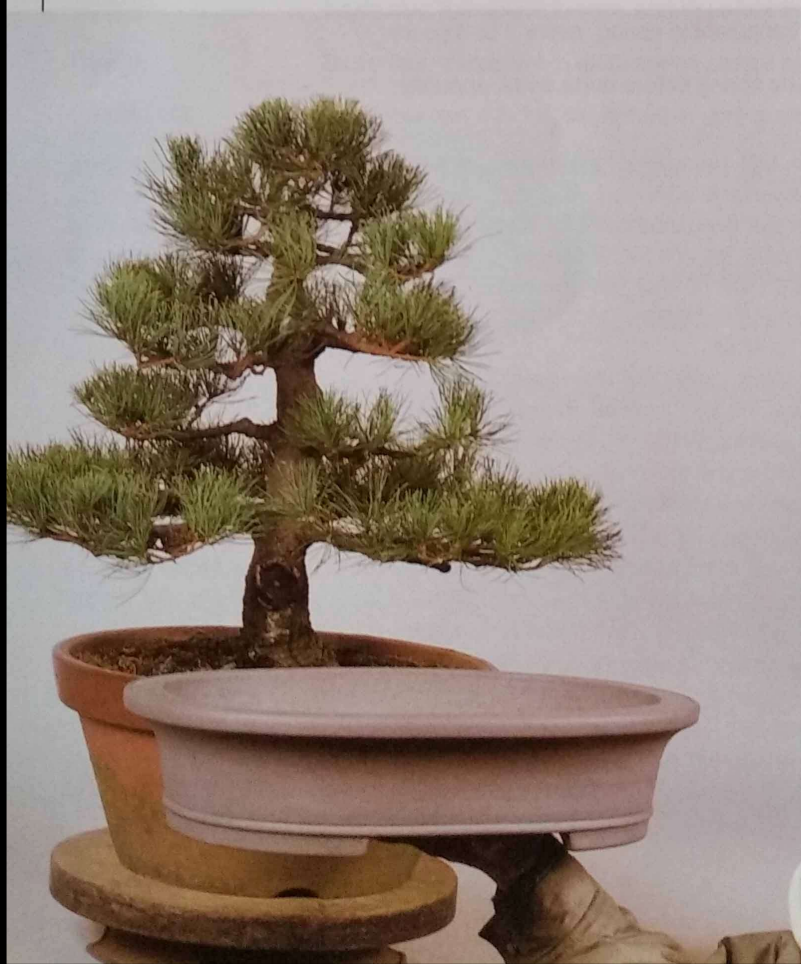


Pinus parviflora. Japanese white pine. Age: 35 years from seed. Height: 24 in.



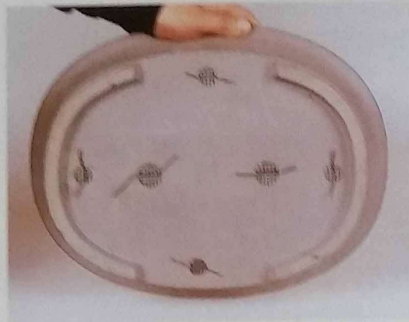
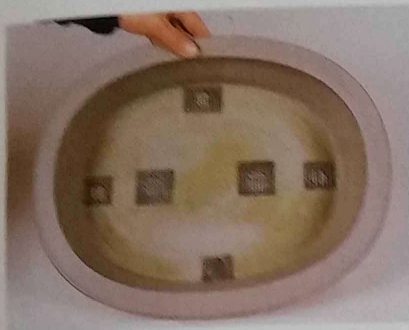
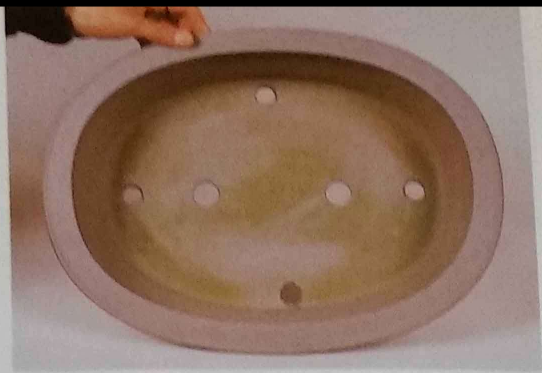
Selecting the front and the pot

The first step prior to transplanting the tree is the selection of the bonsai pot in which it will be finally planted. Either the tree has just been pruned, wired and shaped, or else it was in its final phase of completion. In any case, now is the time to decide what pot is the right one for its species, style and shape. But you must keep in mind that other factors have an influence at the time of pot selection, such as: the age of the tree, the quantity of roots that can be pruned for the greater safety of the tree and the final planted position.





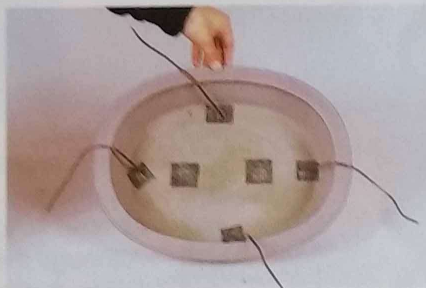
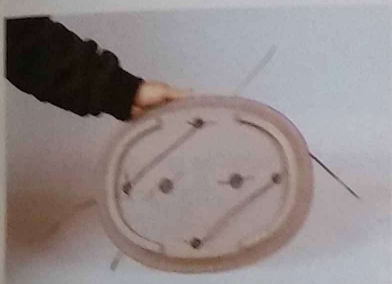
The pot selected for this pine. The material is a grey stoneware. Length: 22 in.



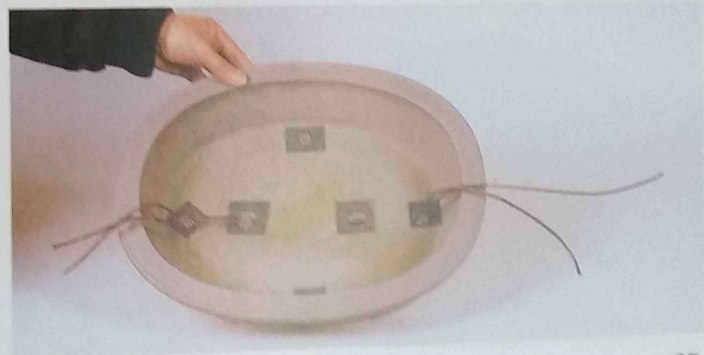
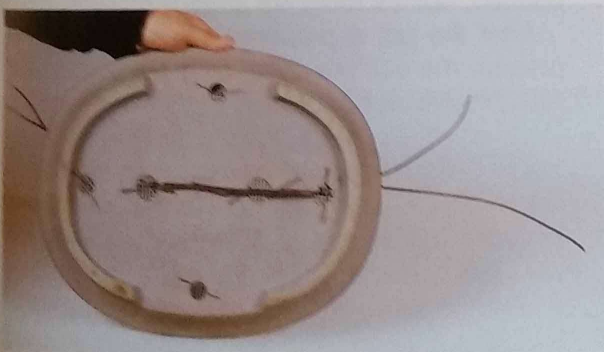
In order to secure the tree correctly to the pot, after placing the screens a number of wires (the number depending on how abrupt the change in planted position is going to be) are inserted in the drainage holes.

Preparing the pot

The preparation of the pot is as important as the transplanting itself. The first thing to do is, using water, conscientiously clean off all the soil from previous plantings that remains on the rootball. Before placing the drainage layer in the pot, test the drainage holes by pouring in a small amount of water to determine whether the drainage holes effectively allow all the water to run out. If there are any rough edge on the holes, file them down. This latter advice is very important; putting in a drainage layer will do us no good if the holes do not fulfill their function.



These illustrations show the process of placing the screens and securing them with wire as well as the insertion of the wires which will be used to secure the tree. Note the number of drainage holes this pot has.



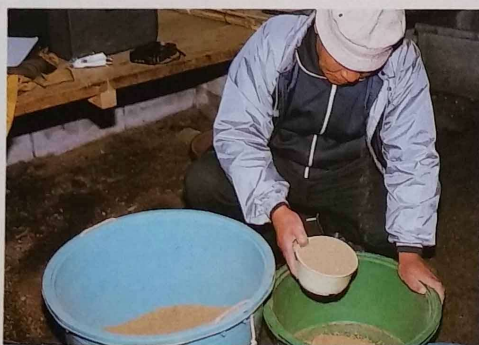
Preparing the tree



The best time is when the root tips are white and the buds swelling.



The soil mix is best prepared at the time it is going to be used.



Preparing the soil

Before preparing the tree for transplanting it is important to know whether the time you have chosen to carry it out is the right one or not. Although there are tables showing transplanting times, the tree itself will give you the best indication: as a general rule when the buds begin to open out in spring. Gently remove the tree from the pot, trying not to disturb the rootball. If the tips of the roots that are visible are white in color, that is the best time to transplant. The tree has not yet budded, but the roots are already growing.

After the pot is prepared, the next step is to prepare the soil mix that you are going to use, with the mix depending on the species and the stage of development, factors that have already been covered in previous sections. In this particular case, this was a soil mix often used for pines in Japan consisting of 50% coarse *akadama*, 25% river sand and 25% leaf mold. This mixture is sufficiently porous for pines and permeable enough for the roots to grow easily.



Removing the top layer

Removing the top layer of soil serves to prepare for the next step in transplanting: the arrangement of the *nebari*.

It must always be done with a little wooden stick, never metal, (a chopstick works well). Working from the inside toward the outside, follow the direction of the roots and try not to do any damage. Once the surface roots are exposed, prune, bend into position and modify the *nebari* until the appearance suits you.



One root is very thick.



Remove more soil here.



Curled up roots.



Crossed roots.

Arranging the nebari



Pruned and shortened.



Corrected.



Pruned and lowered.



Both have been cut off.

To prune the fine roots you can use a branch cutter.



For the thick ones, a root cutter is better.

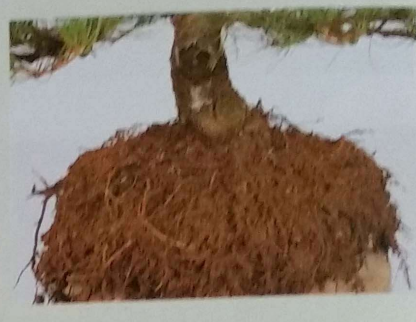
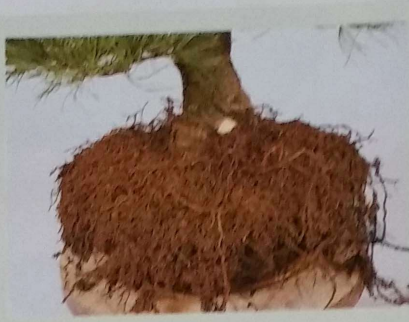
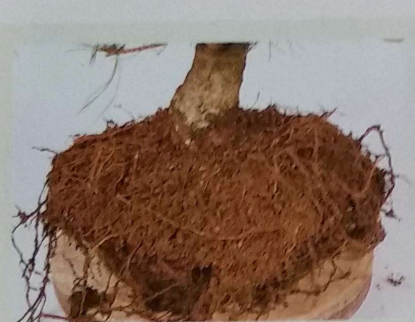
The cut faces down.



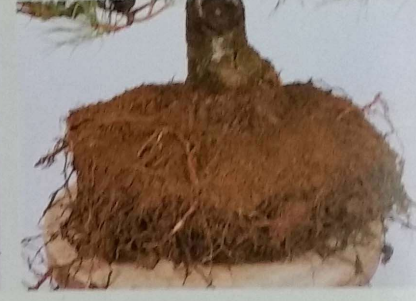
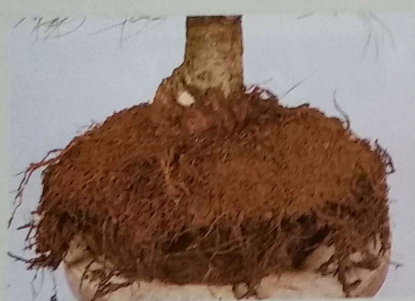
Untangling the roots, unraveling them and combing them out is essential. It must be done at each transplant because if the roots grow entangled the branches will also.

To do it, comb out the rootball from inside toward the outside with a small wooden stick, at the same time removing the soil that was between the roots.

Untangling the roots

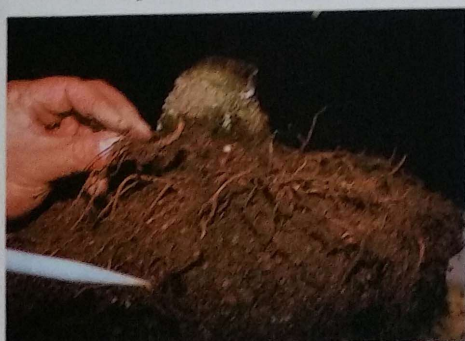


Start with the outer part of the rootball. Proceed to untangle little by little from the top, exposing about 1/3 of the previous rootball. Then continue on to the lower part of the rootball.



The next step is to prune all the roots that hang out, or that extend beyond the basic circle of roots that is planned for the rootball.

In case there is an interesting surface root that is not as thick as the others, do not prune it so that it will develop more quickly.



Pruning the roots

The final step after pruning the roots is to clean the *nebari* thoroughly exposing it to the air, so that it will acquire the same texture as the trunk.





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.

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Bonsai Clubs International, and the American Bonsai Society,
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