



# SNIPS 'N CLIPS

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

February 2019

Volume 44

Number 02

## What's New!

- **2019 membership dues were due by January 10<sup>th</sup>.** Please pay Leydana R-M. membership fees immediately. Rates are below.
- The newest edition of the **Bonsai Care Booklet** is here. Pick yours up at the next meeting. The new edition is only \$15.
- **February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 2020 Convention Meeting** at 9:30 am at the Lobby of the Drury Plaza Hotel at 823 North Loop 1604 East San Antonio, TX 78232. All SABS members are welcome to attend.
- **February 9<sup>th</sup> – Asian Festival** is held at the Institute of Texan Cultures. The event runs from 10am to 5pm with set-up beginning around 7am. Please email Ryan O. if you would like to help with set-up or during the event and/or to show trees.
- **February 16<sup>th</sup> – Convention Dig Opportunity** – Your convention committee is asking for volunteers to help dig trees to be used as workshop, raffle, and/or demonstration trees during our convention. Please see the note under Convention Updates on page 2 for further information.
- **February 17<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Soil Mixer.** We will have a huge party sifting our club made soil as well as repotting 17 Vitex trees for the convention. Ryan O. is looking for 10-15 volunteers to sift and mix soil (bring shovels and sifters) as well as to repot the Vitex trees. Ryan O.'s address is 25515 Stormy Rock, SATX 78255. The fun begins at 9am rain or shine. We can all chip in for lunch and drinks.
- **February 23<sup>rd</sup> – City of Kerrville Bonsai Lecture/Demo.** Hosted by Ryan O. Assistants greatly appreciated.
- Please welcome the following new members **Millicent A.** and **David M.**

## 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+) Individual</u>	<u>Senior (60+) Family</u>
\$30	\$50	\$25	\$40

All lecture/demonstration meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7pm, 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, 7pm, Lions Field. All members are invited to attend for hands-on assistance by experienced bonsai artists.

## FEBRUARY'S EVENTS

### Lecture/Demo:

February 14<sup>th</sup> – Pot Selection with Klaus C.

### Food/Beverage Host(s):

Sally C. & Steve Y.

### Mini-show Topic:

Special and/or Unique Pot(s)

### Bonsai Study Group:

February 27<sup>th</sup>

## MARCH'S EVENTS

### Lecture/Demo:

March 14<sup>th</sup> – Spring Auction

### Food/Beverage Host(s):

Hattie P. and Kevin P.

### Mini-show Topic:

None

### Bonsai Study Group:

March 27<sup>th</sup>

# President's Message

Klaus C.  
collklaus@yahoo.com

The Board has collaborated and formulated the agenda for 2019.

An emphasis on presenting Bonsai in the most favorable way became an underlying theme.

Using a Bonsai mix that promotes healthy growth and wiring our trees appropriately starts this year. A repotting opportunity was our hands-on exercise. Our pot selection lecture focuses the spotlight on our trees. We will continue our repotting exercise of appropriate trees.

Our March auction is an opportunity to contribute and purchase a multitude of trees, pots and a vast array of great bargains. Set aside your donations now. In April we have a "group styling" of trees in which we all are coerced to participate in. Trees will then be sold via super raffle.

In May we have a guest, Austin Heitzman, who will show us wonderful display stands and learn to understand displaying strategies for our trees. This is followed by Jay N. in June, who will weave in Suiseki into the equation of displaying our Bonsai with viewing stones, as well as repot our tropicals and semitropicals.

In July we are prepared for a Show of our trees. We will display our trees in our meeting space and become aware what talent and progress we have amassed.

August comes with a focus on overall plant care using the table clinic format to cover a multitude of situations.

September brings Andrew Robson LSBF traveling artist.

October winter preparation.... using table clinics to learn strategies to overwinter our trees.

November Auction ..... donations and purchases provide the revenues that our Society uses for all the good we choose to do.

January - John R.'s bonsai mix and potting strategy

February – Klaus C.'s pot selection and potting opportunity

March – Spring Auction

April - Nick B.'s group styling

May - Austin Heitzman's wood stands

June - Jay N.'s Suiseki and tropical re-potting

July - Show our trees exhibit

August - Nick B. and others on overall plant care

September - LSBF artist

October - Winter plant preparation

November – Fall Auction

December - Holiday Party

# Program Corner

Nick B.

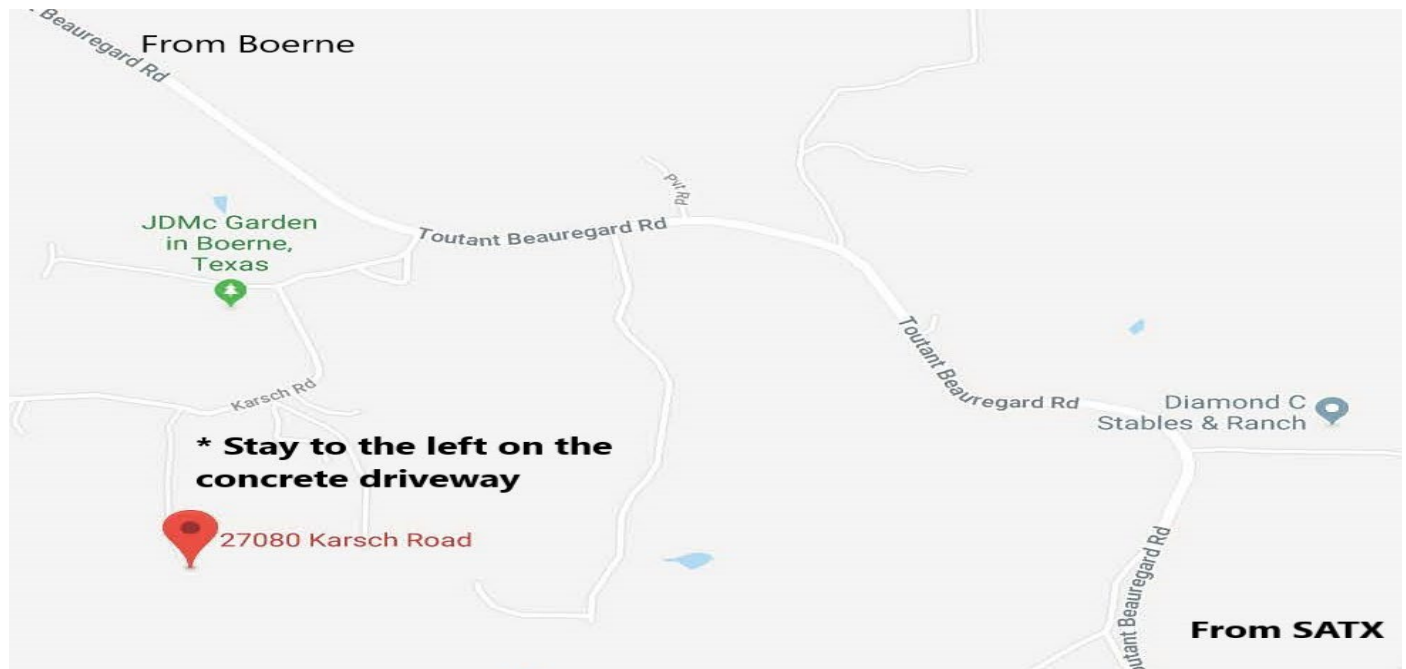
Nick.browne637@gmail.com

Last month's format was so much fun, we will be doing that much more frequently! This month our esteemed president will be lecturing on pot selection, there are many options in the bonsai world and finding the right pot for the right tree can be difficult! We will have pots for sale and raffle if you do not have one for the tree you bring to repot. See you next week!

## Convention updates!

Next Convention meeting will be held on **February 2<sup>nd</sup>**, at 9:30 am at the Lobby of the Drury Plaza Hotel at 823 North Loop 1604 East San Antonio, TX 78232.

Please mark your calendars for **February 16<sup>th</sup>**. The Convention Committee is hosting a convention dig of various trees in Boerne, TX. We are hoping to collect a bunch of trees that we can use for workshop trees and/or raffles. **The fun begins at 9am at 27080 Karsch Road, Boerne, TX 78006.** NOTE: **When entering the driveway, stay to the left and follow the concrete driveway all the way to the back where Ryan O. will be directing you to parking spots.** Remember to bring all tools, gloves, and your personal soil supply for your trees. Ryan O. will have containers for Convention trees, but donations are gladly accepted. SABS will offer the chance to dig trees for yourself if you dig for the convention first. Guidelines and a waiver will be handed out the day of.



On **February 17<sup>th</sup>**, Ryan O. is hosting a soil mixer and Vitex repotting event at his house. We need to mix soil for Club sales as well as for 17 5-gallon convention Vitex trees that need to be root pruned and repotted. Please bring tools and sifters. The fun will be rain or shine.

# You Speak... Editor Prints...

## Funny Laws of Collecting

- 1) If you dig a tree that anyone else has the slightest claim to, it will die. Corollary: If two of you see a tree at the exact same time, forget it, the tree is dead to whoever digs it.
- 2) A perfect bonsai found is never a perfect bonsai in a pot.
- 3) A tree beside the road that is inconspicuous may live if collected, but a tree in a prominent position to be enjoyed by passers-by will always die if collected.
- 4) A tree pulled from the path of a bulldozer, even in midsummer, will live.
- 5) Collected Junipers never die, they just fade away.
- 6) Cedar Elms arising from root sprouts are not worth fooling with.
- 7) There is not a cubic foot of soil in Central Texas without a rock in it.
- 8) All those fine fibrous roots you see in a rootball that you carried for the last mile will turn out to be grass roots when you get home.
- 9) For one reason or another you cannot get permission to dig at any of the best places.
- 10) You got to be Pure in Heart.

- Bennie Badgett, Former member of the Austin Bonsai Society;  
Reposted from Snips 'N Clips February-March 1982

## What's in a Name?

Of the nearly 300 varieties of Japanese maples, most have Japanese names. Since Japanese names for the most part are descriptive, a bit of Japanese language knowledge can take us a long way in knowing what a plant will be like from its name.

Aka	Red	Ito	Thread-like	Shira	Snow
Ao	Green	Kin	Gold	Tana	Layers
Aoba	Green leaves	Maruba	Round leaves	Uchi	Within
Aocha	Yellow-green	Nishiki	Very rough bark	Yama	Mountain
Arka wa	Rough bark	No	Of		
Beni	Red	Sango	Coral		
Gosumi	Mist/haze	Sei	Green		
Goshiki	Multi-colored	Sekka	Dwarf		
Hime	Dwarf/princess	Shidare	Cascading/Willow		

# Bonsai Techniques

Courtesy of John Miller  
from the Dallas Bonsai Society

What happens when you miss a turn in removing wire from your bonsai? You get a large swelling in the branch that destroys the smooth taper you are working for. The only rule for removing wire is to start with the end of the wire and work down the wire completely to the other end, no jumping from wire to wire. To do this you have a choice--you can untwist the wire or you can cut each loop. If you cut it is very easy to miss a loop. The only sure way is to develop a routine. Hold the tip with pliers while you cut the next loop, remove the cut loop, lay it aside keeping your eye on the cut end, hold the new cut tip and repeat. Do not get distracted and do something else. Following a routine keeps you on the one job.

February is the start of the active cycle for bonsai, first the repotting when new growth is first evident, then the refinement process starts as soon as the green comes, all the while tending to the tasks of watering, feeding, and watching for insects.

Spring is a long drawn out affair and each species has its own time table in dealing with it. To be really successful in bonsai, then, you must know what each species you have will need and how it responds to 'YOUR' backyard climate. If you have kept your trees from freezing they will want to start growing much earlier than those kept outside all winter. Typically, in my collection which stays outside, the elms will be first, foliage showing about the end of February or the first of March depending on the winter, along with the earliest maples. Then later in March, the rest of the maples and most of the others. The deciduous oaks will come out around April 1. Out here in the country I am 2 or 3 weeks later than I was in town, 30 miles away. The timetable has to be your own set by watching the trees themselves. All bonsai functions should be done when your tree tells you that the timing is right.

Repotting 'can' be done at any time during the dormancy but new roots are susceptible to freezing so you have to have some place to protect them after repotting. If not repotting this year, you can help weed control by removing the top ¼" of soil and replace it with new soil. The best time to repot the deciduous temperate zone trees is when the buds are just beginning to swell but before green is showing. Generally this will be before the last of the freezing weather. Trees that leaf out early, maples and elms, can withstand a few degrees of frost but if repotted you should protect the newly growing roots. Sometimes this just means setting them on the ground. Some species such as the oaks and willows are naturally programmed to wait much later so that there is very little chance to get nipped.

The newer wisdom on azaleas is that you also repot them at this time. The roots will be reestablished by blooming time. This is much easier on the tree than waiting until after bloom when the temperature will be hot. Before blooming starts you will be removing a lot of excess buds anyway which will reduce the stress on the tree at that time. Remove enough buds to allow the remaining flowers to have room to fully open. This should be done in late February or early March on the early blooming species (Karume) but may go later in March for the Satsuki types.

Refinement is the process that makes a well styled tree look great developing fine ramification and obtaining smaller leaves. Part of the refinement starts as soon as new growth appears. Keep it pinched so you keep the internodes short and develop a compact set of twigs with small leaves on the branches. On alternate leaved species (e.g. elms) pinch when the shoot gets 4 or 5 leaves. Fingernails or shears can be used. If the twig gets too long it will be tough and you have to use shears. On opposite leaved trees (maples) pinch the central shoot as soon as it can be distinguished from the two leaves. To do this really right you need to use tweezers with a

dull point.

Development pruning is difficult for beginners in that to develop thickness you need to let the new branch grow wild which destroys the look of your 'bonsai'. You also will have long internodes which will not produce buds at the right places especially on the opposite leaved species. You need to do refinement pruning the first couple of times to get some short internodes and then let the tips go wild.

Spring flowering plants will have their buds set on last year's growth so pruning them will remove some flowers. Those that bloom later in the year will generally bloom on this year's growth. Pruning them will reduce the amount of flowers. In some cases such as crape myrtle, tip pruning of the branch will result in no flowers at all. In these cases you must decide which is most important, ramification or flowers. A compromise would be to prune the branch shorter than you normally would and then let it bloom on new growth which will be at the proper length, at least for the first flowering of the season.

When the growth starts the tree will need fertilizer. However, use one that has a small amount of nitrogen (the first number). The tree is naturally programmed to grow rapidly at this time so you don't need to encourage it further. Feed lightly to maintain a healthy green foliage. Ideally use an organic fertilizer which provides nutrients more slowly when the weather is cool. Trace minerals should be added to help with both the foliage color and the color of blooms.

If you have not used a horticultural oil, the time is fast running out. The oil would be used to kill scale and overwintering mites and other boogers. When new growth starts oil might damage the tender foliage. When new growth starts, the problems to look for are the above mentioned mites but especially aphids and mealy bugs. These can be controlled as well as giving the plants the required fertilizer by using an organic spray. (1 tablespoon each of liquid kelp, liquid fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar (5%), and molasses in one gallon of water. Or use a commercial mix like Garrett Juice. All these are available in any organic nursery.) If leaf spot, mildew or any other fungal problems appear, use a baking soda (sodium bicarbonate), potassium bicarbonate spray, or a commercial fungicide.

An important job which many neglect saying they are not going to show any trees is to detail their trees. This makes them look their best and that helps give you incentive to follow other good practices. Start by checking the branches. Prune any out of place or too long twigs. Remove any unnecessary wire that is wired on limbs that have set in place. Treat any jin and shari that needs it. Then move down to the pot. Be sure it is clean and all lime deposits are removed. Steel wool works great to clean pots. A coating with a very light wax polish such as leaf shine will make the pot look good and helps keep the mineral deposits from forming. Then check the soil. It should cover the outer roots. The surface of the soil must be clean of any fallen leaves or other debris. Now it looks so good you might as well take it to a show.

### January Bonsai Study Group Photos – By Vicki A.



## BONSAI FUNNIES

**Small  
purchases in  
order here.**



*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.

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