

# SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

APRIL 2015

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 4

## 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 —

NO MINI SHOW FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL.

**APRIL 9: AUCTION! AUCTION!  
AUCTION!**

**HOSTS: MIKE AND ROSY G**

**APRIL 25: WATER GARDEN GEMS  
SHOW: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.**



**YEAR  
OF  
THE  
RAM**

## President's Message

By Ryan O

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

In this installment of your President rambling on about bonsai related topics, I would like to ramble on about the attributes to maintaining a successful bonsai club like the *Sacramento Bonsai Society* which is the oldest USA bonsai club since its establishment in 1946 (69 years for the math challenged). **What are some things you need to maintain a club?** Well, you need a source of income – **Check** – we have that through memberships, raffles, donations, auctions, and conventions. All clubs need a topic of interest – **Check** – all of you belong to **SABS** because you have varying degrees of passion for bonsai whether it be a recent spark of interest seeing club demonstrations at various events, a hidden passion for bonsai since seeing them long ago, but family and your career made it a memory and not reality, or a long term passion (*aka obsession*) spanning decades or through over aggressive bidding on Ebay. You are all here to learn, practice, try new techniques, and preserve the ancient art of bonsai.

To make this short and sweat, **the last item, but also the most important**, is all clubs need active members. Without members, **SABS** would not exist; no bonsai would be discussed; no soil/substrate would be spilled, on the floors, for someone to clean; no one to sit in a room without A/C in the middle of summer; no lights would be turned on in our meeting room, **and most importantly**, there would be no sharing of friendships, ideas, and knowledge. Ask yourself, “Self, how many other people would I know, with the same interest in bonsai that I have, if it wasn't for our Club and meetings?” or ask “Self (You are all here to learn, practice, try new techniques, and preserve the ancient art of bonsai? (*again*), what would I do on Thursday evenings if bonsai wasn't around?”

Continued from page one.....

What I am getting at, is, it is a club's members that truly makes a club endure time and prosper. With that, I encourage all members to participate in our events. (*I warned you all in January, I would push for greater participation*). What you put into a club greatly increases the output the club can provide you in terms of education through lecture/demos or through other club member's experiences and knowledge. **Watch out**, I'm going to get sentimental now... I'm hoping that there is no one in our club that feels that their lack of experience or feels their personal collection doesn't measure up to others such that he/she is hindered from participating in discussions or bringing in trees to work on during our workshops or to showcase them in our monthly mini bonsai show. We are all members because we have a passion for bonsai (*hopefully it is not for the free munchies, LOL*) and we want to increase our knowledge. All of us have something to learn no matter our length or quantity of experience. and I hope all are here to help everyone else reach their best in this wonderful hobby.

In other rambles, you will find, at the end of the newsletter, a sheet of tags for you to print out and mark your items for April's auction. If you have any items requiring a reserve, please see me prior to the start of the auction. Let's make this auction another outstanding event for SABS.

RYAN

***Please help with the website. I found out the more times people look for [san-antoniobonsai.org](http://san-antoniobonsai.org) the more it helps Google, Bing, Yahoo, etc. start seeing our website. If each of you could periodically do a search for it that would greatly help.***

## PROGRAM CORNER

David W

[redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com)

This month we are having a **Live Auction**, so bring in your new, gently used, or unwanted items so we can generate some funds for our next convention and awesome upcoming events your Board has in store.

### Fertilizers

By David W

The secret to making your flowering trees, shrubs, annuals, and perennials bloom more –the answer is in the numbers. All fertilizers have analysis numbers on the package. These numbers represent the percentage of each chemical the product contains. For example, 20-20-20 is a typical garden fertilizer that would contain 20% nitrogen, 20% phosphorous, and 20% potassium.

The quick explanation is; nitrogen produces vegetative, or top growth, phosphorous produces flower buds, fruit, and root development, while potassium builds strong healthy plants. Most lawn grasses are vigorous growers and therefore require significantly more nitrogen than the other plants in your yard. A lawn fertilizer has an analysis around 26-3-3, indicating a fertilizer high in nitrogen.

You would not want to use a fertilizer containing such a high percentage of nitrogen on other plants because it would be very easy to burn them. You must also keep in mind that many lawn fertilizers contain broadleaf weed killers. The fertilizer doesn't know the difference, and it will damage or kill ornamental trees and shrubs.

To encourage flower bud production you can apply a fertilizer that contains a small percentage of nitrogen, a higher percentage of phosphorous, and a little potassium. Super Bloom fertilizer 12-55-6 is a good brand because the product is sold as a bloom producer, the manufacturer also adds trace....

## APRIL MONTHLY TIPS

David W

[redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com)

### Fertilizers continued

.....minerals like iron, manganese, and zinc, all good for your plants as well. Remember that fertilizers high in phosphorous will increase flower production. Most garden centers and nurseries carry similar products.

During the summer months the growth rate of most plants (not tropicals) slows down, and when plants are not actively growing, they need very little nitrogen. Although not vigorously putting on new growth, many plants such as Rhododendrons, Azaleas and some natives are quietly working to produce flower buds for next year.

Some chose a liquid fertilizer because liquid fertilizers are absorbed both through the roots and systemically through the foliage, so they work quicker. I used a sprayer that attaches to the end of the garden hose in the past, but it's a little difficult to control the over spray and I find a lot gets wasted. Do not use the same hose end sprayer that you use for lawn fertilizers. There could be residual weed killer still in the sprayer.

ALWAYS Read the application instructions on the container to determine how much fertilizer to apply, and how often.

**Remember when applying fertilizers. "Not enough is always better than too much."**

David W  
San Patricio, Texas  
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CURRENT MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR  
THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY  
\$30 individual \$50 family  
\$25 senior \$40 senior family

I think spring is here, it has been an average but long winter. Everything is starting to wake up and start growing. If you haven't already started semi-tropicals you might want to wait a couple of more weeks. If you do, which you can do now but, you want to protect them from any cold fronts that come rolling in. It's been a longer than normal winter this year and it is safest to wait until ALL the cold fronts come through our area. A safe rule to remember, when root pruning/repotting semi-tropical and South Texas natives, is to wait until the lowest temperature of the night stays above 65 degrees. I and others have had success repotting at earlier dates in the season, when we do we have to give it all the things it needs like the correct high and low temperatures every 24 hours and the correct light and humidity. It's the same way you treat an "indoor bonsai" during the winter....Well on second thought we might as well wait until that "65 degrees" to be safe. I try not to take too many risks. I really don't like to lose a loved tree. We just need to be patient. It's too early in the season to repot your tropicals. Tropicals need to be repotted in mid-summer (Fukien tea, Bahamas Black Olive, Buttonwood, Wrightia and Nea Buxofolia). When repotting, 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 few days can also help brace the tree against the seasonal winds.

It's **NOT** recommended to re-pot any deciduous trees that you need to root prune. When the tree has pushed its buds open that is the sign it is too late, they should be root pruned before this happens. If you must re-pot due to problems with a tree, change the pot or repot it in larger container with fresh soil. DO NOT prune the roots. Deciduous trees have very tender roots during the growing season.

April can be a windy month for us, watch the soils every day so they do not dry out. As the heat increases so will the water needs.

As I briefly mentioned, at last month's meeting "know your species". You should know the information of each and every type of plant you have! What it needs are as far as water, light (full sun exposure, shaded, morning only) placement through-out the seasons, is it tropical, is it deciduous, its max low and high temp it should be exposed to, when to & not to trim, when to repot, can it be defoliated, does it back bud, is the bud near the trunk or at the end of the branch, fertilizing, trimming, clipping, pinching, wiring... getting the picture?? **We can find most of the information we need from our very own published SABS' "Bonsai Tree Care" book**, this little green book has the low down on over 86 species and covers most of our well known species we use here! You can purchase this awesome bonsai book from our club; also, we still have bags of lava rock available for mixing your own special bonsai soil. See Ryan to purchase both.

Pretty much everybody's back yards are starting to grow by now, so do not forget to prune, pinch and also fertilize. When pinching back on most trees (except junipers) you want to pinch back to the second or third node of leaves to reduce leaf size and node length. Elm trees have alternating leaves and should be pinched down to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> leaf so it will grow back in the direction you'd want the branch to grow. Be sure to alternate the direction you pinch on different branches so all the branches don't end up growing into each other. Maples have opposing leaves and should be pinched to the second node. As the two buds emerge, pinch back the one you don't want or is growing in the wrong direction.

The sooner you pinch the young, tender emerging leaves the shorter the nodes will be, I've used tweezers to get the very tiny leaves. I've read that the Japanese also use a magnifying glass along with tweezers to see the emerging leaves.

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 (like Super Bloom). Feed others with 20-20-20 or a good time released fertilizer. Fertilize all others with their appropriate type. You can mix your fertilizers with fungicide when you applying.



## BONSAI OF THE MONTH

One of the many exhibit trees featured at **Jade Gardens** in Wimberley.

A Texas native, *Texas Persimmon* in the beginnings of spring growth. Pat and Chuck Ware tend to the exhibit trees and have a store stocked full of bonsai related items.

## TRANSPLANTING

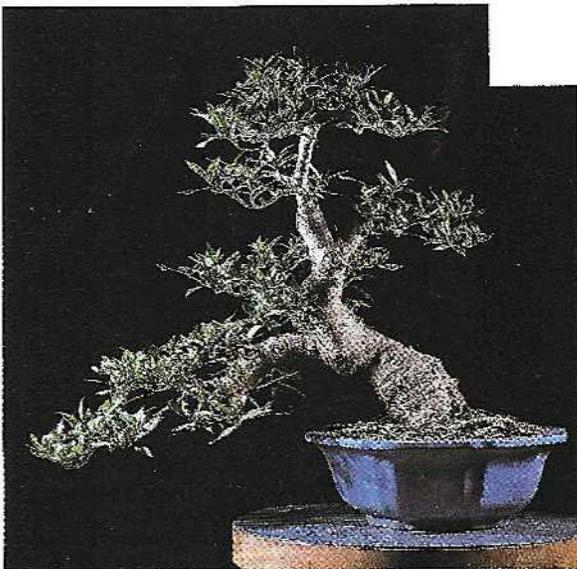
a series developed and presented in *BONSAI TODAY, Issue 17, 1992-1*

Authors:

Ioo Nishikawa, Taisaku Nomotoo, Akira Kansaku, Toshio Onishi, Tokuyi Yoshioka, Eiji Sueda, Hideyi Kanda, Taiyu Ezaka, Hiroshi Takeyama, Noboru Futayama, Saburo Kato, Noboru Kaneko, Sugi Mitsuya, Koji Kubota, Kihachiro Kamiya, Goro Innan, Juyo Ioneia, Mikio Oshima, Tokugiro Ooutani, Sugi Yoshida, Kooji Onishi, Masahiko Kimura, Kioyi Yoshida

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### Stimulating the growth of roots



If, on disentangling the rootball, you find that the tree has roots only on one side, then look for the thickest root.



Sometimes, when you are transplanting a tree and untangling the roots, you may find that it has no roots on one side. What do you do in this case? In the first place you must understand why it has no roots on that side, but does, however, have branches and leaves. The explanation is that another root, which will be very thick and long, is providing that side with water; if you cut it off, you will force the tree to issue roots where you want them. If, in addition to this, you make a few notches and place rooting hormones in them where you want roots to grow the process ought not to be too difficult.

If this does not work, you can always graft roots on or make a below ground layering in order to encourage a new level of roots.

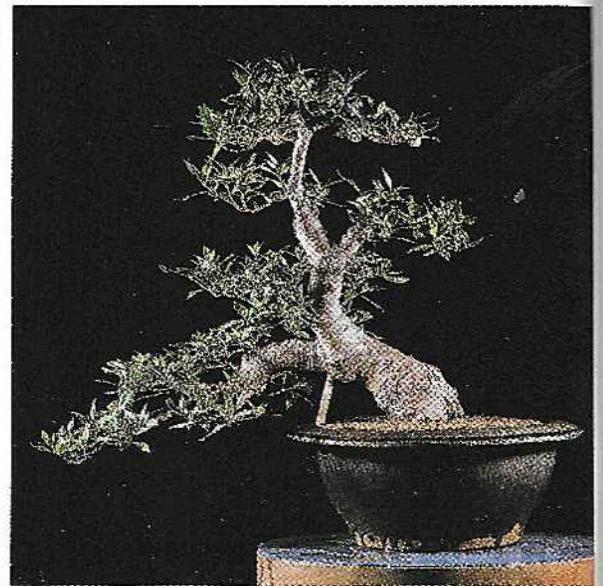
All these cases are detailed in the illustrations of the following pages.



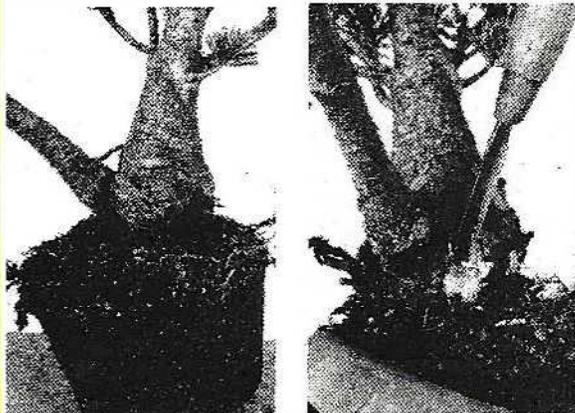
One method for creating roots on one side of the trunk where there were none is the grafting of roots. It consists of an approach graft of several seedlings of the same species as the tree on which you are going to make the graft. Once they have fused, cut off the crown of the seedling, leaving the root.



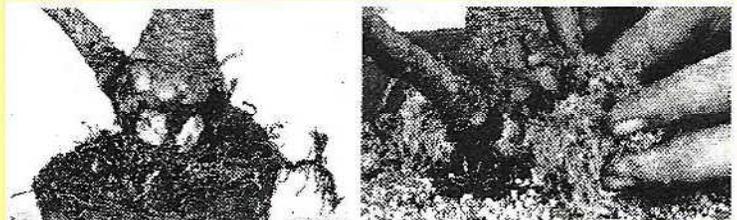
Observe how, in the upper left photograph, there is a strong, thick root; while in the photograph on the right, the other side of the trunk has only a few fine rootlets. Below, two years later, the mass of roots, although it was still unequal, had a much better distribution.



In the upper illustration, the same tree after pruning the roots and transplanting is shown. Generally this one-sided root problem occurs more frequently in the cascade styles where predominance is given to one part of the trunk, the one that supports the cascade.

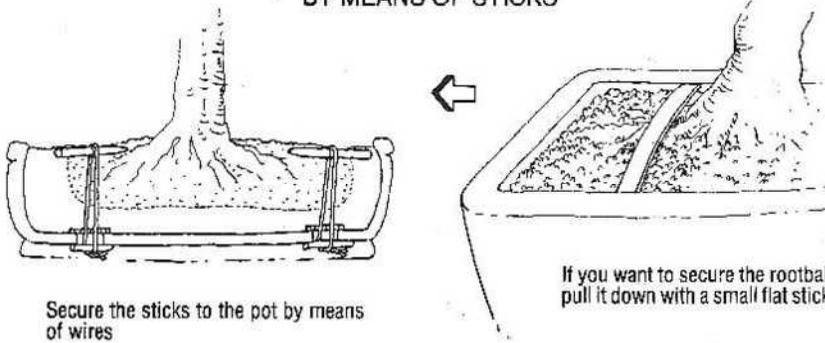


Another method of stimulating the growth of roots is underground layering. To do that either peel off a ring of bark from the trunk below the level of the soil, or simply make some notches or deep cuts in the trunk again below soil level.



# Securing the tree in the pot

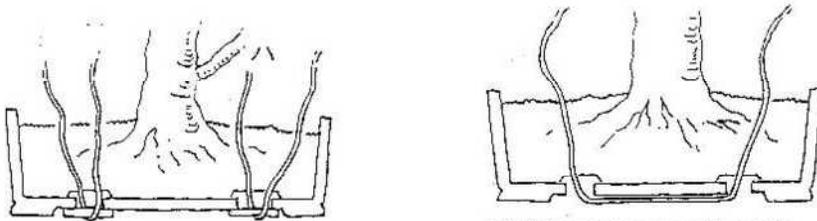
## BY MEANS OF STICKS



Secure the sticks to the pot by means of wires

If you want to secure the rootball, pull it down with a small flat stick.

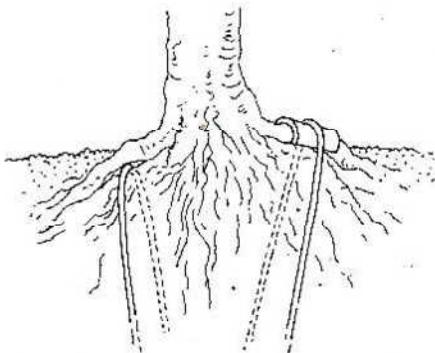
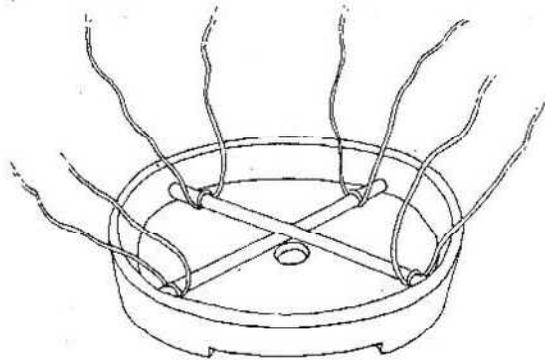
## BY MEANS OF WIRES



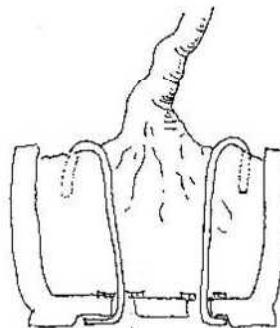
If you use two wires, secure them in the drainage holes with pieces of wood

This is the manner generally used to anchor the rootball in the pot

You can also use a framework of wood or wire in the bottom of the pot to which the wires which secure the rootball are fastened

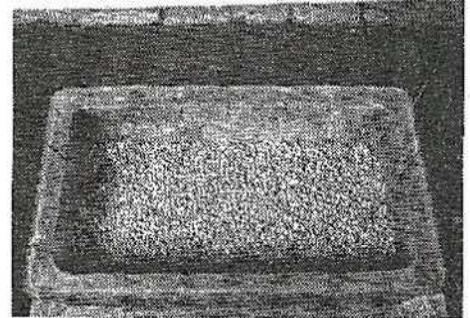


If the wire crosses over a root, protect it with rubber or leather.

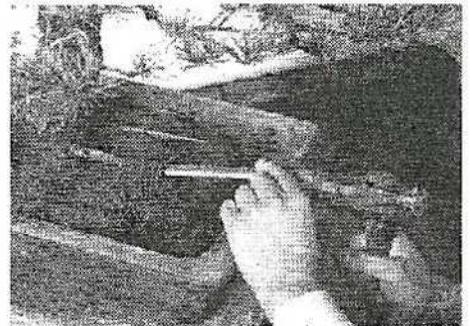


With wire hooks

There is an optional way of securing the tree in the pot as shown in the illustrations below: with the help of pieces of bamboo, passing through the rootball and fitted to the pot.



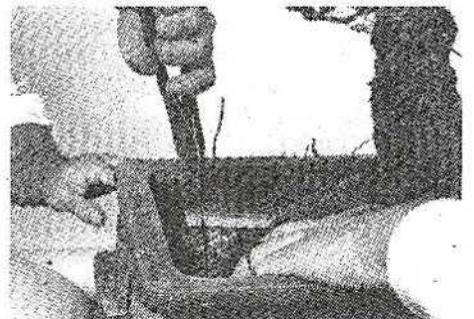
First, prepare the drainage.

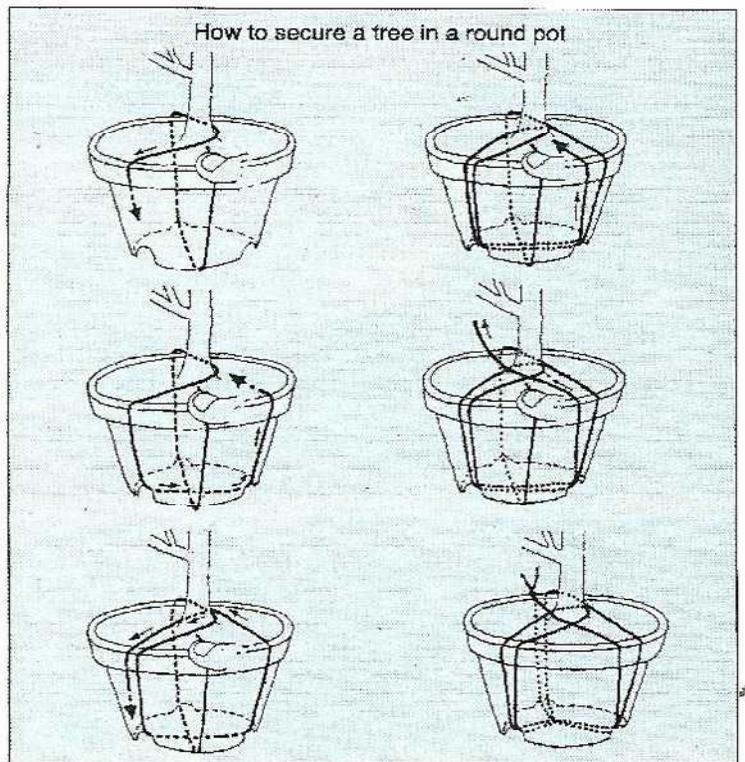
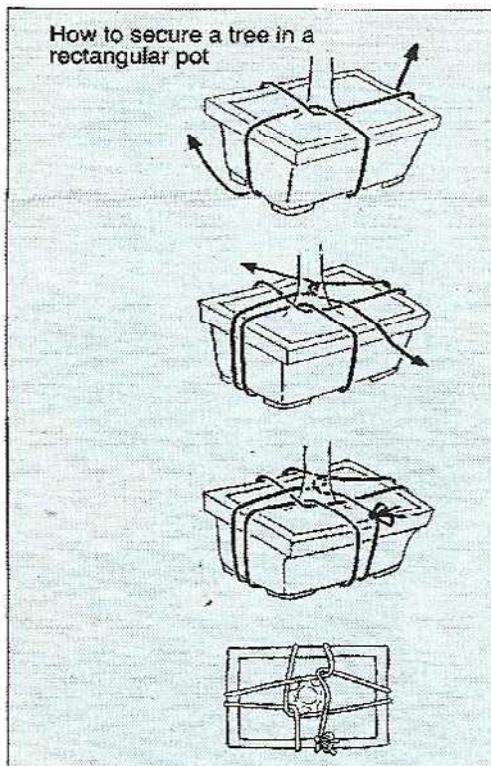


Then, with a hammer, drive the pieces of bamboo into the rootball.



After fitting them to the exact size of the pot, secure them to the drainage holes with wire.





## BONSAI CALENDAR 2015

**APRIL 9:** CLUB AUCTION

**APRIL 25:** *WATER GARDEN GEMS SHOW: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED*

**MAY 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>** Austin Bonsai Society Annual Show

**JUNE 13th** - Club Meeting at Thousand Oaks Rainbow Gardens

**JUNE 27th** - Progressive Bonsai Tour and Food at Paul T O's, Oscar G O's, and Ryan O's.

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NAME OF ITEM \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF DONOR \_\_\_\_\_  
DONOR WANTS COMMISSION: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
WINNING BID PRICE \_\_\_\_\_ WINNING BUYER # \_\_\_\_\_

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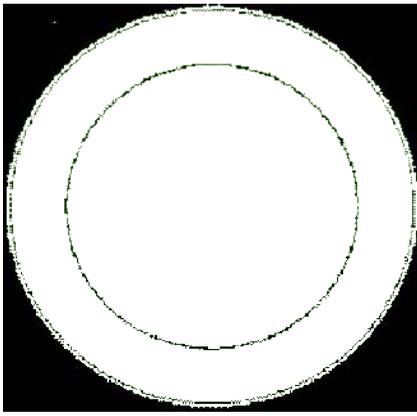
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**COPY AND FILL OUT BEFORE THE CLUB AUCTION**



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.

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## THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.

[sanantoniobonsai.org](http://sanantoniobonsai.org)

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