



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

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

April 2019

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What's New!

- The newest edition of the **Bonsai Care Booklet** is here. Pick yours up at the next meeting. The new edition is only \$15.
- **SABS HAS SOIL.** Those interested in purchasing a 5 gallon bucket of SABS' premier bonsai mix, at the March meeting, can email Ryan O. to reserve a bucket, or two, or three, or five!!!!. \$25/bucket.
- **April 11th to 14th – Bonsai on the Bayou** – A Houston Bonsai Society and American Bonsai Society national convention. For those that are attending, please drive safe and have a great time. Also while you are there research great ideas that may be incorporated into our 2020 bonsai convention!!!
- **April 27th – Rainbow Garden - Thousand Oaks Bonsai Workshop.** SABS is holding two bonsai workshops (10am and 2pm) for customers that want to learn the about bonsai and bring home a small bonsai. Volunteers please arrive 30 minutes early to prep the pots, wire, and screening, as well as gather the supplies. Additional volunteers are still greatly appreciated. Email Ryan O. if you can assist.
- **April 28th – Bending Branch Winery.** Kevin P. and Ryan O. are tentatively schedule to hold a bonsai workshop for wine enthusiasts.
- **May 25th – Rainbow Garden - Bandera Bonsai Workshop.** SABS is holding two bonsai workshops (10am and 2pm) for customers that want to learn the about bonsai and bring home a small bonsai. Volunteers please arrive 30 minutes early to prep the pots, wire, and screening, as well as gather the supplies. Additional volunteers are still greatly appreciated. Email Ryan O. if you can assist.

All lecture/demonstration meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday, 7pm, at the Lions Field Adult and Senior Center, 2809 Broadway Street, SATX 78209

Our Bonsai Study Group is held every 4th Wednesday, 7pm, Lions Field. All members are invited to attend for hands-on assistance by experienced bonsai artists.

APRIL'S EVENTS

Lecture/Demo:

April 11th – Team Styling of Trees w/ Raffle

Food/Beverage Host(s):

Irene V., Louie C., & Leydana R-M.

Mini-show Topic:

Flowering Bonsai

Bonsai Study Group:

April 24th

MAY'S EVENTS

Lecture/Demo:

May 9th – Bonsai Stands by traveling artist Austin Heitzman

Food/Beverage Host(s):

Vicki A., Kyle J., Bryan B., & Wendy B.

Mini-show Topic:

Forests

Bonsai Study Group:

May 22nd

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

We are starting the second Quarter and apparently are following a path of welcomed programs. This month of April focuses on styling trees.

A contingent of our group is heading to Houston for the Houston Convention. Since our April meeting occur at the same time, we will have a nice group here working on their skills. Last I heard, we are auctioning off the trees that are styled. More details to come.

Pinch pots were glazed during our Workshop which occurs on each fourth Wednesday. An equal number or participants were challenged to style a variety of trees. Diane had four trees that were all spruced up. Coco brought a tree on its verge out the door. Ryan found a life line which gave it hope. Tree had little light nor a livable temperature but had an excess of water. Bruce brought a juniper styled and wired by Tyler during his workshop. After looking at it for a spell it yielded to a plan. Chancey also had a nice elm that may receive air layering. All in attendance were happy to be there.

If there is some interest in teaching Bonsai skills at the Rainbow Garden Nursery in April and May, respond to Ryan. Both days are on a Saturday.

In May we have a traveling artist who will focus on display of Bonsai via some beautiful stands and understanding what the goal might be.

In June we have Jay show another display technique using Suiseki.

Convention Updates!

Next Convention meeting will be held May 18th, at 9:00 am at the Lobby of the Drury Plaza Hotel at 823 North Loop 1604 East San Antonio, TX 78232.

The Convention Committee has designed a new convention logo thanks to Donna D.'s artistic ideas and David W.'s graphic artist. We have created unique advertising items for the Houston Convention including small pots with labels, post-it notes, and outstanding looking postcards. We are sure to draw a big crowd with these promotional ideas!!!



Program Corner

Nick B.

Nick.browne637@gmail.com

Please join us for our team styling competition.

You Speak... Editor Prints...

Articles Please

You Speak... Editor Prints... is looking for articles from any members that would like to contribute to the newsletter. Please send your comments, stories, and/or articles to Ryan O. before the end of the month to be included.

Bonsai Techniques

Courtesy of John Miller
from the Dallas Bonsai Society

At a workshop recently I was helping a bit. I found on some trees that had been repotted more than once that some roots from the original 2" starting pot had bent back toward the center and were still there growing strong. That is the reason that on your first repotting, whether from a nursery grown plant or a collected tree, you should remove all the old soil so you can see and correct the rootage. Later on when you have grown the tree large enough you will have a good nebari as a base for your styling.

We have had more rain this year and not as cold as usual. This is favorable for having more problems from the insects and fungal diseases. Aphids especially are showing up. Mildew usually won't be seen until it warms more but with our Texas weather that could be here before this article gets in print. Leaf spot could be a problem.

Fungal diseases can show up with damp weather. Leaf spot can be serious on Catlin and Chinese elms and on hollies. There are organic fungicides available, baking soda is one. Check an organics nursery or publications. A 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide (dilute the standard 3% store bought stuff 2 parts water to each part peroxide) is also recommended but it can injure very new foliage.

A good organic program takes care of both the feeding and the insect problems. The trick is to be sure to thoroughly cover the plant including all the leaf axils. Use a hand or pump up sprayer to get a fine spray to cover all, a hose end sprayer does not cover well enough. This is also true if you want to use commercial chemical sprays.

I recommend the organic mixture of 1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and apple cider vinegar to a gallon of water. I use the mixture both as a foliar feed spray and as a soil drench fertilizer. As a weekly foliar spray, for me anyhow, it keeps aphids, mites, loopers, bagworms and other insects under control. I try to drench twice a month partly because I don't think the plant can absorb all the minor elements it needs thru the foliage. It is a good practice to also use fertilizer cakes on the surface of the soil which feeds a bit every time you water. Commercial water soluble fertilizers wash out with the next watering and result in poorly fed pale bonsai. They are intended for use in soil that retains water for a long period such as commercial house plant mixes.

(A commercial product called Garret Juice which is to be used the same way uses compost tea, dried seaweed, water, molasses and vinegar. As a fertilizer this should act the same but it does not seem to work as good as an insecticide.)

Late March or early April is when I repot things like Dwarf Yaupon Holly and Boxwood. They do well when kept in light shade and out of the wind. Repotting for the hardy bonsai has ended and it's still too early for the tropicals. Depending on temperature some tropicals may be done by the end of April.

If you have early blooming azaleas, you should remove some of the buds. Most azalea have way too many buds to look good when they do not have room to open fully.

So what is left to do? Just trimming, feeding, trimming, check for insects, trimming, shows, trimming. You get the idea. Trimming, that is the pinching, plucking or whatever of new growth, is the process that both develops refinement on your tree but is vital to keep it from growing out of that desired state. This is not pruning which is cutting of branches which should not be done when there is a strong sap flow which starts

when the tree breaks dormancy and continues until after the leaves harden or later.

At the risk of repeating the process too much I repeat it for the beginners. On elms and other trees with leaves appearing alternately down the shoot, do not let more than 5 new leaves appear. Cut back to 2 or 3 leaves, leaving the last leaf on the side that you want the new growth to appear. On maples and others with leaves coming in pairs on opposite sides of the twig if you let them grow you get very long internodes. Cut the center shoot as soon as you can determine it. Tweezers work best for this operation. Since the shoots do not all open at the same time this could be a daily chore for the best results.

Be sure to check your soils each day for proper water content. It is easy to assume that the soil has plenty of water when the days are cool or there has been some rain. A tree with full leaves may shed rain water outside of the pot or a good sun and low humidity after a front will dry the soil. I suggest that you remove some of the moss so that you can see and feel the soil in order to determine how dry it is. (Moss growing on the trunk or roots will also cause the bark to rot.) An automatic watering system will be an aid but you should not rely on it to replace hand watering. Best use might be to use it for a shot of watering in the morning and again at noon, then do hand watering in the evening. Most automatic systems just water a spot or two in the pot. Hand watering covers the entire pot and allows you to adjust the watering for each tree individually and lets you see that the pot is draining properly. A clogged drainage hole can drown some trees in less than a week.

Most trees will do well in the full sun at this time of year. However, if you have had them in partial shade be careful about moving them directly to full sun. They probably should be acclimated gradually. Too much wind will cause the leaves to burn. Some damage may not show up until hot weather.

2019 Texas Master Gardeners Cultivate Display – By Kevin P. and Ryan O.



BONSAI FUNNIES

**This bonsai is
out of this
world. Might be
too much space
around it too!!!**

*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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