



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

SEPTEMBER 2016

VOLUME 41 NUMBER 9

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 101:—HELD EVERY 4TH WEDNESDAY, 7 PM, LIONS FIELD. New members receive a tree to work on. All members are invited—bring in trees to work on, experienced members are there to help.

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 presentation. See website for locations. <http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

Mini-Show – SHOHIN

September 8th - Meeting at the Lion's Field; 7 pm.

September 10th – No Bonsai Workshop, INSTEAD-- Progressive Bonsai Tour 10 am – 4 pm.

September 17th—Shohin Meeting, Persimmon Hill, Austin, 10 am.

10-11 September : 5th US National Bonsai Exhibition at Rochester, NY. For additional information and to submit photos for entry contact: Wm. N. Valavanis, wvn@internationalbonsai.com, '585-334-2595.

September 30th to October 2nd – Fall Home and Garden Show. **BONSAI EXHIBIT!!**

13-16 October : LSBF 2016 Convention—Bonsai: Living Art hosted by the **Corpus Christi Bonsai Society** at the Emerald Beach Hotel, 1102 S. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, TX. 78401

President's Message

By Ryan O.

bonsaiode@gmail.com

This summer's **Progressive Bonsai Tour** is on September 10th and hosted by John R. and Kevin and Hattie P. John, Kevin, and Hattie are graciously opening their houses (and backyards) for all of us to view their bonsai. This is a great opportunity for members, especially newer members, to see how others display and care for their trees. Remember to notice these members benches, greenhouses, and watering systems; locations relative to open spaces or under large trees; locations relative to Northern, Eastern, Southern, and Western exposures; plantings of surrounding areas in relation to their bonsai display; artwork, waterfalls, statues; and sitting areas that enhance your experience.

Our tour agenda includes:

10 am to Noon – John R's house at

**** John has a very long, narrow, and steep driveway. All those requiring disability access are allowed to park on the driveway. ALL OTHERS must park along the road. I, Ryan O, will provide "chauffeured" shuttle service from the road to John's house for those that do not want to walk down the driveway.**

12:30 to 4 pm – Kevin and Hattie's house at

A lunch is provided for all attendees including sodas and waters. Side dishes and desserts are kindly requested, but not required.

WATCH YOUR EMAILS THE MORNING OF FOR CANCELLATION NOTICE SHOULD IT RAIN. Otherwise no email message and the party is a go!!!!

Now Hiring, 2 Board Member Positions

For 2017, SABS will have two open board positions ready to be filled by any member of **SABS**. The current Board is looking for two additional people to bring new and fresh ideas and/or insight to keep improving our club. If you are interested in joining the board, please email me or talk to me at any meeting. The current Board will vote in our new members prior to our next board meeting on November 5th so the new members can join and help plan for 2017.continued

We are also looking for someone to run/maintain the monthly raffle.

Fall Home and Garden Show:

At the end of September is the Fall Home and Garden Show at the Alamodome. All members are free to showcase a tree of their choosing during this 3 day event. We also need plenty of volunteers to assist with the maintenance of the booth, selling of raffle tickets, and discussing bonsai techniques and **SABS** to the thousands of visitors.

While all members are welcome, I encourage all newer members to join us within the booth. Assisting in the booth doesn't require a wealth of knowledge about bonsai. It is very beneficial for newer members to join us and listen to experienced members tell visitors about bonsai. In addition to display trees, **sale/donated items are highly encouraged as well.** Pots, soil, tools, and of course pre and finished trees all sell. Email, call, or tell me in person if you are available. Sign-up sheets will be distributed during our meeting and tour. Advance notice of your attendance allows the Board to get you up-close parking passes at face-value.

Ryan O., President

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Program Corner

David W.

redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

This month we have the very distinct pleasure of having our very own member Chuck Ware giving us a L/D on **Shohin** (pronounced show-hen). **Shohin** is a small style bonsai (8 inches and under). **Shohin** can be a formal or informal upright, forest, windswept, bunjin, or cascade as long as they follow the size requirements. It's a given that you must use a tree with very small leaves or foliage. Sometimes with root restriction, some types of species' leaves will even reduce even smaller as they grow in a restricted pot.

I've known Chuck (& Pat) for decades, I'm proud to call them friends. Chuck is an awesome teacher/educator! He learned early in life that when you have a passion for something it's very easy to teach others and they will want to learn also from your passion! Chuck has that ability to see what he wants before even starting. So, sit back and watch a master at work.

Here is his bio -

Chuck Ware is a teacher. He came to Texas as a flight navigation instructor at the **Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi** during the 60's. After leaving the Navy, he was an elementary school teacher, in **Wimberley**, for 25 years. The old-time school teacher had to have a knowledge of, and sensitivity for, all subject areas and this diversity is what challenges Chuck. His love of the sciences, and the arts, led him naturally to bonsai. But before you can teach bonsai, you must first understand it; and this requires lots of experimenting and enthusiasm, which Chuck does with a natural ability.

Jade Gardens, was opened as a result of experimentation and challenges as to how to grow new things in Texas. Chuck doesn't have a specialty tree but has the traditional material, including some 90 maple trees, three greenhouses of tropicals and an abundance of native Texas trees.

Although retired from public education, Chuck is still a teacher and his enthusiasm is infectious to all who learn from him. He is active in both San Antonio and the Austin clubs, is a **Master Gardener**, and has given lectures and demonstrations to gardening and bonsai clubs all over the state of Texas. He is a past president of the **Lone Star Bonsai Federation, (LSBF)**. In 1995, he and his wife, Pat, opened **The Central Texas Bonsai Exhibit** as part of the nursery. This exhibit is an assortment of a great variety of trees, different styles, and some trees designed by major artists. The exhibit is open to the public in an effort to better educate everyone to the world of bonsai.

DAVID

September Monthly Tips
David W.
redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

Late September is supposed to be the first of fall, but in our area it's just like summer, we can get the hottest and wettest weather this time of the year. We have a couple of tropical depressions in the Gulf as I'm writing this article. We need the rain they generate here throughout South Texas but, let's hope they stay calm and not turn into anything other than depressions. Houston and Louisiana has gotten way more than their share of precipitation, it can drift south now please. When your trees get excess watering during extended rain periods, the water can sit in the bottom of the pot for a long time and start to cause rotting problems. Put a small board (1x2) under one side to tip the pot on an angle to help drain out the excess water.

Sub/ Semi-tropical can be *safely* repotted because we still have close to 2 months of warm weather. We want at least 4 to 6 weeks of good warm weather GROWTH (roots, leaves and branches) after potting before the cooler weather starts rolling in from the north. We have a long growing season around here that can last till around Thanksgiving or even longer. Remember to protect your tropicals from any cooler weather that we might get, it's **El Nino** time and any extreme weather changes can happen and do in South Texas

cont'd next column

Deciduous plants - Crape myrtles, Bald Cypress, Maples and Ems etc - this is the time they start storing nutrients for winter. Light fertilizing, but do not overfeed with nitrogen. Remember if it's growing its ok to lightly fertilize. We want to start slowing down the growth of our bonsai so that they are prepared for winter, so these will be the last feedings of the season.

Water challenge

Watch the soils every day so they do not dry out. With the intense summer we've had, some trees might be in their summer dormancy and may not be taking up as much water as you would expect. Be careful not to over water these. Check the soil on these plants before watering; instead of daily watering they may only need it every day and a half or two days. On the other hand, some are still taking as much water as you'll give them and more. If you're having problems with the pots overheating in our brutal summer sunlight, try covering the pot edges with some small boards or draping a cloth around the pot to create shade. Also try putting blocks under the pots to lift them off the hot stands and it'll allow some air to blow underneath. Small dark glazed pots are especially susceptible to overheating as they quickly soak up the heat from the sun.

Inspect your bonsai from top to bottom, also inspect the drain holes. Inspect for ANY insects/ pest and treat accordingly. If you discover an infestation, treat according to the label of the pesticide. Scale and aphids seem to be the biggest nuisance right now. And of course, nothing slows down the **bougainvillea looper worms** from their annual march through our yards; I've been treating with the Bayer product "2in1 Systemic Rose & Flower Care" and keeping them under control. Another note when using a water soluble insecticides make sure you spray the plant thoroughly and drench the soil well until you see it coming out the drain holes.

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It's a good idea to treat your trees for fungus (root rot) on a regular basis, monthly is usually sufficient. Treat with Maneb, Benomyl or other copper-based spray. Spray the leaves and thoroughly drench the soil, making sure the solution drains out the drain holes.

Check your training wires so they aren't cutting into the branches. If they are cutting in, remove them. If the branch did not hold, re-wire in a different locale, don't put the wire in the same place.

Be careful when trimming; hold back if the tree is not showing any signs of growth. If the tree is growing it's probably ok to trim, but keep in mind depending on the species, you could be trimming off next year's blooms and fruit.

DAVID



DWARF PODOCARPUS, A TREE FROM THE DONALD GREEN ESTATE.



OWEN REICH WORKING ON AN MOST INTERESTING CEDAR ELM



ONE OF MANY JUNIPERS THAT OWEN DISCUSSED



A FEW NOTES FROM OWENS'S LECTURE

Advocates the primary use of organic fertilizers. Boxwoods just love cotton seed meal, can find at feed stores, grind it up and mix with other organics can put in a pouch (tea bag) and place on the soil. Use on many other species also.

Junipers just love *Ironite*, 5-6 times a year. A fertilizer that you can get almost anywhere. Greens them up!

Generally most species are re-potted in the spring, consult the club's "Tree Care" book for specifics for our area. Tropicals, of course are repotted in the summer. Re-potting can be done in the fall, but again, consult references, and experienced members on specific species.

**General info: Remove leaves that stick up, or stick down, "No butts to the audience"
That means: no trunk bump-outs toward the front.**

Notes: The Krause's



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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**The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. is a member of the Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Inc.
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