



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

SEPTEMBER 2015

VOLUME 40 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

RICHARD HAYES BONSAI STUDY GROUP: FOURTH WEDNESDAY, **Sept. 23rd & Oct. 28th.** Workshop in Bonsai, everyone is welcome, 7 pm at Lions Field. GREAT TIME FOR MEMBERS TO BRING IN A TREE TO WORK ON —

Sept 10th – Club L/D Meeting at the Lion's Field; 7 pm.

Sept Mini-show – Seiki/Landscapes.

Sept Food and Beverage Host – **Oscar Gonzales.**

Sept 13th – South Texas Bonsai Kai Annual Event.

Sept 18th to 20th – Home and Garden Show Exhibit.

Oct 6th – National Night Out at Lion's Field.

Oct 8th - Club L/D Meeting at the Lion's Field; 7 pm.

Oct 9th-10th – Houston Seminar, Kingwood, TX. Presented by our very own **LSBF board.**

Oct 17th – SABS Presentation at The Garden Center.

Oct 24th – SABS Presentation at Rainbow Gardens – Bandera.

President's Message

By Ryan O.

bonsaiode@gmail.com

Lately, I have been watching a lot of **You-Tube** videos on Bonsai and it got me thinking about how I go through the process of determining what branch stays, where to place wire, and how to place a wired branch. Obviously, these videographers must verbally discuss their knowledge and techniques for us viewers to understand... you know since **Apple** hasn't started selling the ESP Headband!!!! It occurred to me that when we do our own bonsai, most people do typically talk to themselves either verbally or within their head. I'm going out on a "limb" and assume many of us discuss our thought processes within our head. **Here is the challenge for this month**, try talking to yourself verbally. Actually have a true discussion between your left and right brains. Go ahead... actually have an argument over a certain cut or a branch placement. See if you approach what you want to accomplish differently than simple deciding in your head.

I will admit, I tried it. What it did for me was cause me to ask questions of what I was doing and caused me to second guess myself. In this case, I found that second guessing myself actually made me look at all the options I had and when I finally did what I decided to do, I was happier with it. Now, if you do try it, make sure you tell your spouses, friends, and/or neighbors what you are doing so they don't look at you funny!!! LoL

September Home and Garden Show, 18th—20th – I'm still looking for volunteers to assist SABS at this fall's Home and Garden Show. Please let me know if you are able to attend the show and/or would like to display a tree or two.

Continued next page

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Displaying a tree is not held to those that have fine quality of trees. **ALL SABS'** members are welcomed/encouraged to show a bonsai at any state of development. It is good to show visitors a visual transition a tree takes to turn into a bonsai. We generally have 15 trees on display so I will collect owners' names and species to be displayed, in August. In addition, Kevin and I are presenting on two days so be sure to join and heckle us!!

David's annual **South Texas Bonsai Kai** event held at his house in Mathis, TX is scheduled for Sunday September 13th from 11 am to 5 pm. Similar to last year's event, there will be a demonstration, items for raffle and a huge BBQ lunch. More information and a sign-up sheet to come closer to the date. Mark your calendars now!!!

Lastly, thank you too all members that attended the September Bonsai Workshop and 2018 Convention Planning meeting. We covered a lot of topics and had a great discussion/debate.

Ryan O.
President

PROGRAM CORNER **David W.**

redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

This month we have the very distinct pleasure of having our very own (Austin & LSBF) member Chuck Ware giving us a Lecture /Demonstration on Saikei (pronounced Si-kay) and will be using **Texas Ebony** as the main plant. Saikei is a tray landscape and can be very small to HUGE, it can be a mountain scene to coastal and everything in between. Chuck has several in his collection and viewing them you can see the detail and time spent preparing, designing and maintaining them. Every Saikei Chuck has created is distinctly different than the next and each is very picturesque. I've known Chuck (& Pat) for decades, I'm proud to call them friends. Chuck is an awesome teacher/educator! Chuck 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 schoolteacher, in Wimberley, for 25 years. The old-time schoolteacher 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 the Austin and San Antonio clubs, is a Master Gardener, and has given lectures and demonstrations to gardening and bonsai clubs all over the state of Texas. He is the past president of the **Lone Star Bonsai Federation**. 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 Texans to the world of bonsai.

AUGUST MONTHLY TIPS

David W.

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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.

Tropicals and semi-tropical can be safely be repotted with still having close to 2 months of warm weather we can still repot them. We want at least 4 to 6 weeks of good GROWTH (roots, leaves and branches) after potting before the cooler weather starts rolling down 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 change can happen.

Deciduous plants - crape myrtles, bald cypress, maples and elms 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.

W a t e r i n g c h a l l e n g e .

Watch the soils every day so they do not dry out. With the intense dog days heat now, some trees have gone into their summer dormancy (mainly deciduous trees) 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 loopers 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. 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.

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, as not to 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 its probably ok to trim, but keep in mind depending on the species, you could be trimming off next years blooms and fruit.

2015 Kathy Shaner Seminar
October 16th - 18th

Buda, TX

* Seminar *

* Home-cooked Dinner *

* Bring-your-own-tree Workshop *

Registration available in July. To be notified when registration is open, email ckmurphy2000@gmail.com.

KATHY SHANER SEMINAR
IS

NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION
KATHY IS AN INTERNATIONAL STAR IN
BONSAI CIRCLES.
CAN'T GO TO HOUSTON THEN ATTEND
THIS EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY IN
BONSAI EDUCATION.



BONSAI OF THE MONTH; circa 1860



THIS IS A GREAT EXAMPLE ON WHY ONE SHOULD TAKE A BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTO. This is Marty K's Black Pine and when Owen Reich was visiting he worked on the tree at her home for the day. WOW!

PHOTOS ARE ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR TREES. THE PICTURES CAN REALLY TEACH YOU YOUR CRAFT. YOU WILL SURPRISE YOURSELF AND SEE THAT YOU ARE REALLY PROGRESSING. SO EVERYTIME YOU WORK ON A TREE, TAKE A PHOTO, PUT THEM TOGETHER IN AN ALBUM OR KEEP THAT FILE UPDATED ON YOUR COMPUTER. IT IS SUCH A SHOCK WHEN YOU LOOK BACK AT THAT EARLY PICTURES AND SEE THE DIFFERENCE!



The August meeting was well attended, everyone working on their own trees, The mini-show was about Shohin and it seems that many of the members have that size tree. How many know there is a Shohin club that meets quarterly in Austin? Members are from all around the state.



BEGINNING ON PAGE SIX IS THE CONTINUATION OF ISSUE 17, "BONSAI TODAY" WITH ADVICE ON POT SELECTION, SPECIES PREFERENCE BONSAI POTS AND DECISION MAKING ON THE SELECTION OR NOT A NEW SELECTION FOR AN ESTABLISHED BONSAI.

AREYOU PREPARING A TREE FROM THE LSBF SEMINAR? ————➡

From what has been explained, it might appear that, when you want to hold back the growth of a tree, simply not utilizing a larger pot is enough, but that may not be sufficient.

On this page is shown a black pine that had gone five years without being transplanted. Many might think it is a finished bonsai, for the branches are dense and the shoots and leaves very small, but it is quite far from being so.

You should bear in mind that a tree will continue increasing in volume if not in height. It will serve no purpose to prune the roots and to place it in a smaller pot; you would only succeed in weakening the shoots more. The correct procedure consists in balancing the volume of crown with the capability of the rootball to supply the tree with water.

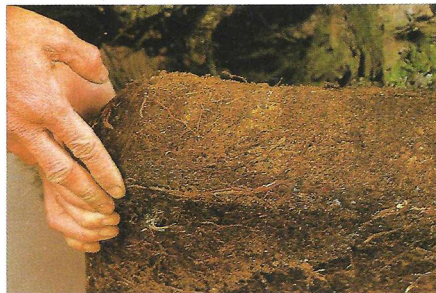
To explain it another way, if the rootball remaining after it is reduced to fit a smaller size pot is too small in comparison with the volume of foliage, it is likely you will ruin the tree - that many shoots will wither because the roots are not able to supply them with enough water. So what is the solution? There are two separate methods, depending on whether you want to keep the present silhouette or not.

If you use a pot more shallow than the previous one and thin the branches, reducing density, you can maintain the present design.

If you utilize a pot of equal depth, but slightly smaller, you can let the tree grow a little in height, so that the appearance of it will be similar although it will not be quite the same. In this case, it is not necessary to thin out the shoots as much.



This black pine of 18 inches (45 cm) in height is almost finished. Now the choice between a larger or smaller pot must be made.



Obviously, it was time to transplant this tree.



Begin by cleaning up the roots on the lower part of the rootball.

Next clean up and disentangle the outer part.



The last operation consists of pruning and shortening the lateral roots.



The illustration below shows the amount removed from the rootball.



Detail of the new pot. Note that the surface roots enter the soil better.



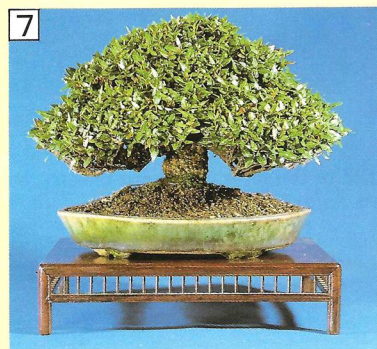


The transplanting of a mature bonsai is much easier than that of a young one. But you must always be careful not to disturb the balance, won with such difficulty, that you have created during all the previous transplantings and prunings.

Special attention is not required because the tree may slowly weaken with the years, but is needed because you do not want to lose the silhouette and the ramification. In case of doubt, the standard to follow is to leave one third more volume of roots than of crown.

It doesn't matter if that one third more is arranged in depth or in length of pot. For that reason, in the text two alternatives are offered which achieve different, but similar, results.

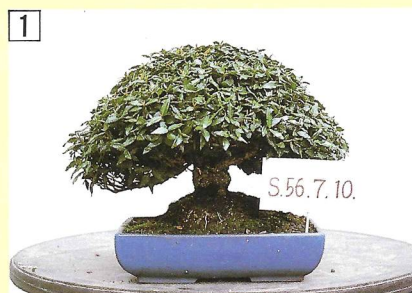
After transplanting and a light thinning of shoots, the tree is now ready for training as a mature bonsai during which time it will no longer be permitted to grow very much.



In this example the way in which balance between branches and roots was achieved is more evident: the pruning of the crown was clearly very strong.

In broad-leaved perennial species, even though the transplanting is done at the proper time, it must always be accompanied by a strong reduction of the volume of foliage.

In the deciduous species, there are fewer risks in transplanting a mature bonsai than with a conifer, but the basic standard of leaving one third more volume of roots than of foliage is still a valid one to follow.



All through the process of shaping and training a bonsai, the final goal is the achievement of a perfect balance between the roots and the crown.

In the same way that the repeated pruning and pinching back of the branches continues to make them more compact (and healthy, too), so does the pruning of roots with each transplanting continue to produce a compact rootball with young, fine roots.

As the tree ages, it will grow less and will continue to be strong and

healthy; that is exactly the time when the crown and roots are in perfect balance.

The roots it possesses are sufficient to supply nutrients and water to the crown, but little more.

If you look at the illustrations below which show the relationship between the volume of the crown and the size of the pot, you will see that the volume of soil is slightly less than the mass of foliage.

Therefore, the conclusions that may be easily drawn from what has been said are:

- If you want the tree to grow, use a pot with greater capacity than the volume of the crown.

- If you want to control the growth, use a pot slightly larger than the volume of the crown.

- If you want to reduce growth to the minimum, the ideal pot will be slightly smaller than the volume of the crown.

It is also logical to conclude that watering becomes, then, a very important factor in the maintenance of the tree's health and that it must be done correctly.

Relationship between pot and crown



The bunjin style is usually planted in small pots.



The right pot for this finished bonsai.



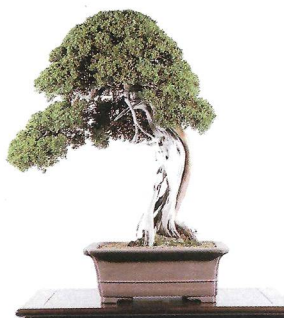
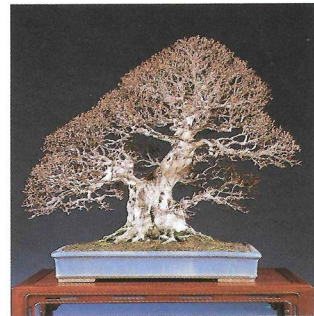
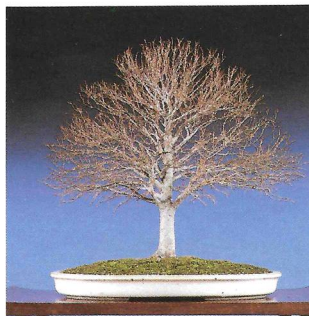
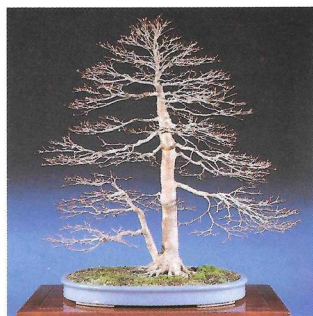
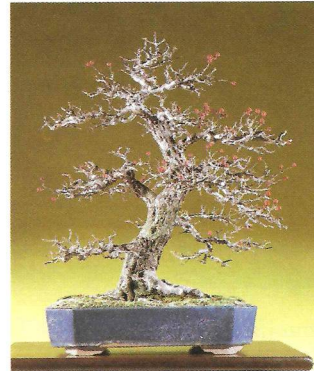
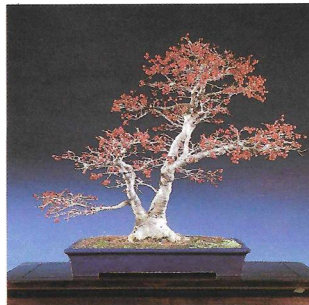
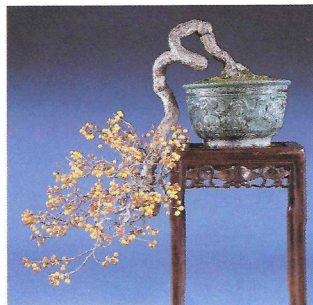
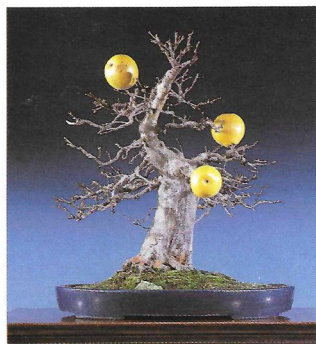
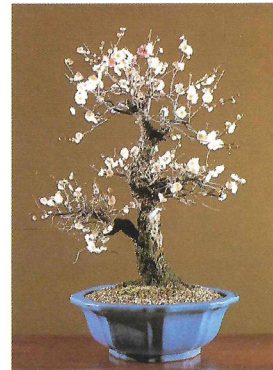
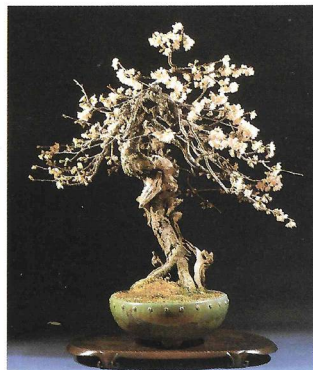
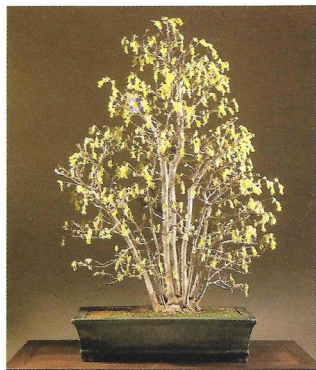
The pot is large: the tree should grow more.

To slow down growth.

This tree ought to still grow a little more.

The right pot to slow down the growth.



**Evergreen Bonsai****Deciduous Bonsai****Fruit-bearing Bonsai****Flowering Bonsai**



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.

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