



Snips 'N Clips October 2017

Bonsai Calendar

- **October Mini-Show** – Show quality trees for Jonas Dupuich to discuss
- **October Food Host:** Oscar G. and Bruce B.
- **October 8th** – Japan American Society and Bonsai Exhibit, Mays Family Museum; 11am
- **October 12th** – Workshop with Jonas Dupuich; 1:30pm, San Antonio, TX 78215
- **October 13th – 15th** – Alamo Orchid Society and Bonsai Exhibit, The San Antonio Garden Center
- **October 14th** - No Bonsai Workshop due to bonsai exhibit
- **October 21st – Backyard BBQ and Bonsai Tour**
- **October 22nd** - Bonsai Exhibit/Lecture, The Garden Center; 10am
- **October 25th** – Bonsai Workshop, Lions Field; 7pm
- **October 27th – 29th** – Water Garden Gems' Koi Show and Bonsai Exhibit

President's Message

By Ryan O.

Bonsaiode@gmail.com

With our newsletter editor out on an artistic assignment, this month's newsletter is brought to you by David and I.

October has geared up to be a very busy month. Every weekend has an exhibit and/or lecture scheduled. We are honored to have LSBF Traveling Artist Jonas Dupuich visiting our Club, as well. Below is a breakdown of our events and David explains Jonas' visit:

Japan Festival

October 8th; 11am – 5pm

Set-up begins at 8am

Mays Family Museum (next to the Witte Museum 3801 Broadway St, San Antonio, TX 78209)

Alamo Orchid Society Show and Sale

October 13th – 15th

Friday: noon to 4pm

Saturday: 10am to 5pm

Sunday: 10am to 4pm

The San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 North New Braunfels Ave (west end of the Botanical Garden parking lot.)

The Garden Center Nursery

October 22nd; 10am to 4pm

Set-up begins at 9am

10682 Bandera Rd, San Antonio, TX 78250

Water Garden Gems Koi Show

October 28th- 29th

Set-up on Friday at noon

Saturday: 9am – 4pm

Sunday: 10am – 4pm

3230 Bolton Rd Marion Texas, 78124

Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering for any of the above events.

It's election time here at SABS. Prior to Jonas' lecture, we will have a small election to elect to nominated members for the 2018 Board. Ballots will be distributed as our meeting begins. We have seven nominees for five open positions. We will announce the new Board members prior to the end of the meeting. Our nominations include (in alphabetical order):

- Larry A.
- Tammy B.
- Nick B.
- Steve B.
- Diane C.
- Sally C.



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▪ Donna D.

Thank you to all those that volunteered to be nominated for the Board. It has been a while since we have had so many members volunteer to be on the Board. Thank you to all of you.

The Board is asking for various members to bring in show quality trees to assist Jonas to present Formal "Points Judging" lecture.

Don't forget to like and follow us on Facebook and Twitter!!!!

And with this newsletter, I bid farewell to my time as President of SABS. I have had a wonderful three years leading the Club into new areas, creating an enjoyable and educational culture, meeting new people, and promoting SABS through various exhibits and demonstrations across San Antonio. I thank you all for your support, ideas, and laughter during this time.

- Ryan O., President

Vice President's Message

By David W.

Redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

Program Corner

Oct 2017 is Touring Artist month. This month we have the pleasure of having Jonas Dupuich from Northern California and is a student of Boon Manakitivipart. **Jonas will conduct a workshop at 1:30 Thursday Oct 12th at Donna's studio;** if you sign up for the workshop, you may bring up to 3 trees. Email Ryan if you are interested in attending the workshop. Later that same night we will a Lecture on formal "point based Bonsai Judging" during our normal monthly meeting time at Lion's Club on Broadway. Ryan will

have printouts and we will all try our hands at judging.

Jonas Dupuich began studying bonsai over 20 years ago when he met Boon Manakitivipart. Jonas had the great fortune to study extensively with Boon and learn from his senpai Akio Kondo and Daisaku Nomoto.

In 2011, he spent two months studying with Junichiro Tanaka at Aichi-en in Nagoya, Japan. During this time, Jonas worked on trees from Tanaka's collection and participated in exhibits including Gomangoku, Meifu-ten, Taikan-ten and Sakufu-ten.

In 2009, Jonas started the Bonsai Tonight blog - an online collection of how-to articles and reports from bonsai events around the world. What started as a hobby has since grown into a profession working on and writing about small trees. Learn more about Jonas at bonsaitonight.com

Monthly Tips and Winter Care

Buzzing all around

Hummer on the cypress branch

She guards the bonsai.

This will be the last monthly/seasonal care of the year.

No repotting until late winter/early spring unless in an emergency, but only in the same size or larger pot using fresh soil. *Absolutely no root pruning!* However, strangely enough, winter is a good time to collect specimens in the wild.

This is the time plants are slowing down for winter. We want to start slowing down the growth of our bonsai so that they are prepared for winter. The only "fertilizing" you will be doing after this month (and also a couple times during the winter) will be ¼ strength or "very light" on tropicals and



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semi-tropicals. We are not trying to promote growth, just to keep up the nutrients.

Now to “winterizing” your bonsai... We're fortunate to be blessed with relatively mild winters with most of our cold snaps lasting hours or a couple of days at best. Our hardier specimens such as conifers, deciduous and others similar will benefit from the cold but be sure to keep the pots from hard freezes not going below the upper 20ies – usually placing them on the ground is enough. Also with these hardier species watch for our “Winter-time heat waves” we so often get here, best place these where they only get morning sun. Now tropicals and semi-tropicals won't tolerate being too cold so fully protect them when the temperatures are going below the 38°F to 40°F (semi-tropicals) 45° (tropicals) ranges. I try to acclimate my tropicals (&semi) to my area they seem to tolerate our winters better. Here is how I winterize. I start by bring them out in full sun (if not already) or as much as I can give them. They stay in their place until the overnight temperatures falls below their lowest temperatures. I use 38°F as the lowest temperature for semi (sub)-tropicals and try to keep my tropicals above 45°F, though most true tropicals like to stay above 55°F to 60°F. Whenever the forecast predicts cold fronts I move them to a protected area (greenhouse or garage) until it passes, then they return back to their sunny place. My larger trees that are difficult to move stay in the greenhouse and the smaller trees go in and out as cold fronts pass & the weather warms back up. While in the greenhouse, I keep the lows as close to 50 and above 45 at all times. This winter plan works for best me, I have less leaf drop as I'm not moving them indoors in the central heating. With Indoor Bonsai we have to provide the correct light, humidity and correct day/night temperatures and these are all difficult to provide adequately.

Now is a good time to start getting those areas ready that you'll use for when the bonsai need to come in– clear the area around your sunny windows or rearrange the garage to take advantage of the light. Perhaps even put up frame work to drape with plastic sheets, creating a

greenhouse type area to shelter the trees. Remember do not let the plastic touch any part of the plants during a cold spell, frost (or freezing temps) on plastic will wilt and can kill any part of the plant touching the inside. If you are covering just overnight, protect like you would protect yourself. I would rather cover up with a blanket, than a plastic sheet. If it's going to be a freezing rain then put a plastic sheet over the blanket. Remembering to uncover when temps rise or they will bake inside the tent.

Watch the soils every day so they do not dry out.

With the cooler winter weather you probably won't have to water as often but remember those dry windy cold fronts can suck the moisture out of the soil very quickly. Inspect your bonsai daily, from top to bottom, also inspect the drain holes. Inspect for ANY and all insects and treat accordingly. Also try to spray with insecticide and apply fungicide at least once every 4 weeks. If you discover an infestation, treat according to the label of the pesticide. Watch for Red spider mites, especially for your “indoor Bonsai”. When treating (always treat outside) spray the leaves (top and bottom) and thoroughly drench the soil, making sure the solution drains out the drain holes. When searching for pesticides, which is changing almost yearly if not more often, look for an insecticide that is safe for Roses and/or veggie gardens and is labeled to kill spider mites. If they kill mites it'll probably will kill usually anything that you will see and be ok on our trees. It's a good idea to treat your trees for root/leaf fungus on a regular basis, monthly is usually sufficient. Treat with Maneb, Benomyl, or other copper-based spray.

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. Use caution when wiring during the winter as the branches will be more rigid and brittle without the sap flowing and can break very easily. (*Honey, where's the superglue!?*)



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Attached to the newsletter is an article written by Mike and Candy Hanson of MBP Bonsai on Japanese Black Pine Care. Mike and Candy have graciously given us permission to reprint this article.

- David W., Vice President



MBP Bonsai Studio

601 Kay Lane
Pflugerville, TX 78660, USA
ph: 512-244-3240 fax: 512-989-5831
e-mail: mbpbonsai@direcway.com

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Japanese Black Pine

GROOMING

The Japanese black pine, *Pinus thunbergii*, is among the most beloved plants for bonsai. It is tolerant to a wide variety of environments from subarctic to sub-tropical. It responds favorably to pruning and its versatility for use as bonsai is unparalleled. The Japanese often refer to the Japanese black pine as the king of bonsai and to the somewhat less tolerant Japanese five needle pine, *Pinus parviflora*, as the queen of bonsai.

Japanese black pine will tolerate a fairly wide range of soil conditions, however, it will only thrive and the grooming techniques described here will only work well if it is planted in very well drained soil with a soil pH of 5.0 to 6.5.

It is naturally a vigorous grower and it requires much more fertilization than most published information on pine bonsai would have you believe. Pine trees respond best to daily doses of low yield fertilizer and this is why solid organic fertilizers produce the best results. If fertilized with most chemical fertilizers suitable for other bonsai, the tree will not respond with vigorous growth that is required to produce back budding. Back budding is essential for continuation of your bonsai design, size and shape. The combination of a very porous soil mixture and natural organic fertilizer administered in the varying amounts throughout the year will keep the tree healthy and still allow you to control unwanted rapid growth.

Japanese black pine like bright sun. Regardless of what you read in books and magazines, in Texas this means full sun Fall, Winter and Spring with partial shade, shade cloth or afternoon shade from mid May through September. Shade in the spring and fall is likely to produce very long needles next year.

The tree likes slightly dry growing conditions all year long. It would probably appreciate an extra watering of the needles on hot summer evenings but it will not respond favorably if the roots are kept wet by two waterings per day. Pines will reward you with good health in dry weather if you mist the leaves late in the afternoon and again in the morning.

It will be hard to give this tree too much cold temperature during Texas winters but it is a tree you can literally love to death. Keep the tree on top of the bench all year and only set it on the ground for a little added protection if a freeze is forecast. Only consider bringing the tree into the garage or other protected area if the temperature is forecasted to go below 20° F. for several hours.

Regardless of what you read elsewhere, only repot the Japanese black pine in the winter and early spring (until the

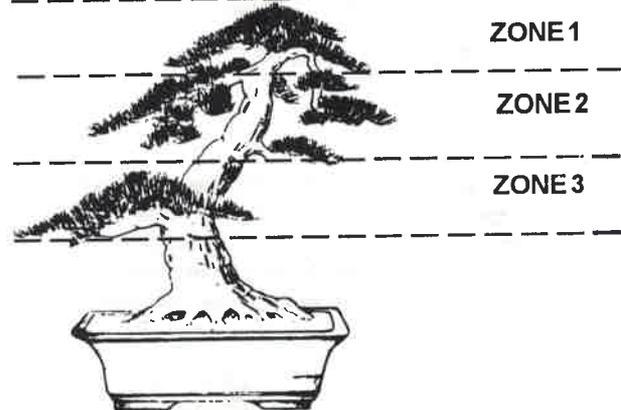
candles begin to lengthen). To produce world class pine bonsai, repotting is necessary every year

There has been an abundance of confusing and conflicting information about the Japanese black pine published over the past several years. The following grooming information only applies to Japanese Black Pine trees that have been styled in the intended basic shape, that are growing in a porous soil mixture with a pH of 5.0 to 6.5 and that are healthy, have good color and have been growing vigorously. If your tree does not meet all of these criteria, correct the deficiency before attempting to groom the tree.

Step 1.

Grooming begins in the late Fall and Winter. Visually divide the tree into three equal horizontal zones stacked on top of the other.

Beginning at the top of the tree, remove by pulling either by hand or with a sturdy tweezers all but 4 to 6 pairs of needles from each branch and twig on the top 1/3 of the tree. Leave 4 pairs of needles on the larger or stronger branches and 6 pairs on the smaller

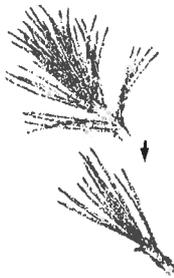


or weaker twigs. Leave all of the needles on very small or very weak twigs.

Repeat the process on the middle 1/3 of the tree only this time leave 6 to 8 pairs of needles on each twig and branch. Again leave 8 needle pairs on the smaller or weaker twigs and 6 needle pairs on the stronger branches. As on the top 1/3 of the tree, leave all of the needles on very small or weak branches.

Repeat the process again on the lower 1/3 of the tree leaving 8 to 10 needle pairs on each branch and twig. Again, do not remove any needles from very small or weak branches.

Japanese Black Pine GROOMING



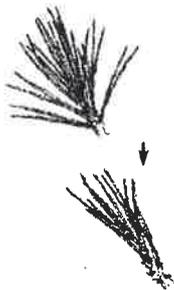
LEAVE
4 TO 6 Pairs of
NEEDLES

Wire branches and twigs that require shaping and wait for spring.

Step 2.

After the candles begin to grow in the spring to the point where the sheath covering the candle breaks open and the individual needles can be seen, holding the base of each candle with one hand, carefully remove 1/2 to 2/3 of each candle with the other hand. Try to break each candle with a twisting motion. Do the whole tree at one time.

Step 3.



LEAVE
6 TO 8 Pairs of
NEEDLES

When the new candles have matured to the point that the new needles are open, divide the tree into the same 3 horizontal zones that we used in step one. This time, beginning with the lower 1/3 of the tree, cut off all the new growth leaving about a 1/16" stub at the base of each new candle. Be careful not to remove the remaining old needles. Leave the new candles on

LEAVE
8 TO 10 Pairs of
NEEDLES



any small or very weak branches that have short or weak new growth.

Wait 10 days!

Now remove the new candles on the middle 1/3 of the tree leaving any very weak or short candles whole.

Wait 10 more days!

Complete this step by removing the new candles from the top 1/3 of the tree.



If the tree is healthy and vigorous, it will produce a second set of buds which will open by summer. Often many new buds will form and

open on each branch. When this happens, prune away all but the two smallest candles on each branch and twig. The length of the new needles will be about 1/2 to 2/3 as long as the original needles and the growth will be very compact.



Step 4.

By midsummer, the second budding will have hardened off and the tree will set new buds at the tips of the new growth for next spring. Using a tweezers, carefully remove all but the smallest two buds on each branch and twig.

Step 5.

Repeat steps 1 through 4 next year. Repeating this process will produce a very finely ramified Japanese Black Pine bonsai with short dense dark green foliage. The key to success is watching the tree to know when to perform each step and not watching the calendar. If you have several Japanese Black Pine trees you will notice that not all of the trees are ready for each step at the same time.