



# SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

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## BONSAI CALENDAR

### JULY

07/14 – Club Meeting, 6:30pm, Lion’s Field

07/27 – Bonsai Workshop, 6:30pm, Lion’s Field

### August

08/11 – No Meeting in lieu of BBB Party

08/13 – BBB Party, 4pm, Kevin/Hattie’s House

08/24 – Bonsai Workshop, 6:30pm, Lion’s Field



## President’s Message

Jay N. [bonsai-jay@satx.rr.com](mailto:bonsai-jay@satx.rr.com)

As the heat of summer begins to climb upwards, work on our tropical plants should be well on the way. It’s not too late to be repotting your tropical and sub-tropical trees.

De-foliating, branch selection, and wiring are all important considerations during this time of year. Watering at this time of year is very important. You may be tempted to over water your trees, that will lead to root rot and other fungal problems. Yet under-watering will kill your plants just as fast or even quicker.

Speaking of roots, be sure all your trees’ pots are protected from the heat of the sun’s rays. Black plastic nursery pots, mica training pots, and ceramic pots can get hot enough to ‘cook’ your tree’s roots. Find ways to shade your pots with boards, towels, and other items. Most all my trees wear burlap skirts.

Watch for insects. Aphids, caterpillars, grasshoppers, leaf borers, and ants are our enemies. Leaf cutter ants can strip a bonsai tree overnight. Applications of insecticides, miticides and fungicides are crucial.

Last, but certainly not least, fertilize. This is the growing time of year. Your trees will need the nutrients to regrow leaves and new branches as well as prepare for the coming winter.

*Bonsai-Jay*

## Vice President/Program Director's Message

June certainly was busy with 5 meetings/workshops, especially those with Mike Lane. SABS held two workshops with Mike as well as an outstanding lecture/demo (L/D) on various topics including grafting. During his L/D, Mike styled a collected Anaqua that was raffled off and one of our new members, Ricky R., won the tree. See the picture below. A second picture shows how Ricky got it home in his car with the sunroof open. That's the second time, in my history with SABS, I have seen a raffle winner go home with the sunroof open to accommodate the large tree.

To continue with Mike's discussion on grafting for bonsai, grafting is used for a variety of purposes: to add a branch on a specific place to a bonsai, to replace foliage with a more delicate plant-variety, to add roots to enhance the nebari (root flare or surface roots) or to cultivate a new tree combining desired characteristics of both plants. Grafting can be tricky, so start experimenting on inexpensive material to gain experience first. Here is a list of grafting styles:

**Approach Grafting:** Fusing a branch (that is still attached to the donor plant or is a separate potted plant) to a tree. Approach grafting involves attaching a donor plant with the roots still intact to the receiving plant with the goal of changing the foliage type of the tree or adding branches in desired positions. Rather than cutting a shoot from the donor plant and inserting into the receiving plant, approach grafting requires the use of a fully intact donor plant (also called a 'whip') and attaching it (roots still attached) to the receiving plant. If done properly, this technique provides both a higher success rate and faster development time than the previously discussed scion grafting technique. Approach grafting Junipers should be done during the growing season when the growth of both the donor and receiving plants is most vigorous. In this example we will graft new foliage closer to the trunk, to eliminate the tree's leggy appearance. (Bonsaiempire.com)

**Thread Grafting:** Drilling a hole in a trunk or branch and threading a branch of the tree through it. The best time to perform thread grafting on any deciduous or broadleaf evergreen species is when the tree is completely dormant, and the buds have not begun to swell. (Bonsaiempire.com)

**Scion Grafting:** Inserting a separated graft into a trunk or branch. Scion grafting involves removing a small shoot or branch from a donor plant and inserting it into the receiving plant. This technique can be applied to Junipers, Pines and both deciduous and broadleaf evergreen trees - often to add branches or to replace foliage. When done correctly, the grafts scars will be completely invisible over time. When scion grafting, make sure that both the donor plant and the receiving plant are in good health, or as good as possible. Fertilize both plants well during the growing season prior to grafting. Also, keep both the donor and receiving plant under slight cover during the winter months before grafting. The trees should be allowed to go dormant but avoid harsh frosts during that period. (Bonsaiempire.com)

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Additional information can be found on our website under the heading Grafting...

<http://www.sanantoniobonsai.org/resources>

July 14<sup>th</sup>'s meeting includes a L/D from Gilbert Cantu of Little Jade Bonsai, in Corpus Christi. Gilbert has videos on YouTube as well as attended one of David W.'s South Texas Bonsai Kai. Gilbert specializes in little Jades (*Portulacaria afra*) with over 20 years of experience. Below is Gilbert's bio:

*Shortly after getting bit by the bonsai bug, I purchased all types of trees from eBay like junipers, maples and even pines. I had no clue what I was doing but knew I wanted to grow bonsai. I soon joined my local club and accumulated somewhere between 40-50 trees on my small apartment balcony and within a year I killed them all. Except one. That tree was a *Portulacaria afra* (little jade). Around this time, I read an article on Jim Smith and his amazing *Portulacaria afra* bonsai he had been growing since the 60's. I thought ok, if this tree can thrive while my other trees died then this is the perfect tree for me. I want to be just like Jim Smith when I'm an old guy. I will become a little jade bonsai master. So I decided to put all my effort into learning everything I can about *Portulacaria afra* and what made this tree so hearty.*

*That was almost 20 years ago and since then, my collection has grown to over 400 little jades in all stages of training. I still have that first little jade and it is known as "The Godfather" since it's where a large portion of my trees have come from. Today, I continue to grow my collection of trees and sell occasionally to share my bonsai art with people who have the same love for this species as much as I do. I also do lecture/demos on *Portulacaria afra* bonsai. My biggest struggle in learning about *Portulacaria afra* was all the FALSE information I read online. I REALLY love sharing knowledge and helping others start their *Portulacaria afra* bonsai journey. To me, it all comes down to taking care of our planet and if someone can learn to take care of one little tree, then that's a start.*

Following Gilbert's L/D we will raffle the tree he works on.

We will not have a meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup> as we will have a BBB (Beer, BBQ, and BONSAI!) at Kevin and Hattie's residence on August 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. SABS will bring the main course and all attendees are asked to bring an appetizer, side item, and/or dessert. Please email Kevin/Hattie ([hattie1@gvtc.com](mailto:hattie1@gvtc.com)) your type of dish so we don't double up. Also, don't forget to bring your favorite beer to share. Kevin and Hattie's address is , SATX 78260.

***David and Trish are hosting the 17th Annual South Texas Bonsai Kai. Here is David and Trish's invite to all...***

Please join Trisha & I for the 17th South Texas Bonsai Kai at 10:00am on Saturday, Sept 17th. This year Andy Graham will give a L/D on *Schefflera arboricola* on a slab. We're donating a pretty big *Schefflera* for the L/D, which will be raffled off. Along w/ Andy's lecture and the hummingbird migration, we'll also have the BIG Raffle. Please bring an item (\$20 value) for the raffle, either bonsai or gardening related, or anything fun. We will sell tickets at 20 for \$10, once all raffle items are drawn, non-winning tickets are put in one container, then we will draw 3 for the raffle monies – third place 20%, second place 30%, and first place 50% of the cash. Yes, that means you may leave with more money than you spent!

Taking pizza order around 11... We supply waters and coffee, if anyone wants sodas, bring your own, we will have a cooler set up with ice.

Looking forward to seeing y'all! For those who have not been here, see me and I will send directions & address.



And the winner is Ricky!  
Now he is going to learn  
how to take care of an  
Anaquia Bonsai!!

Mike Lane starting work on the  
Anaquia that David W. brought for  
the demonstration.

Thank you David!





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

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**THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.**

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