



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

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

July 2008

Volume 43

Number 7

What's New!

- With a new editor in town, Ryan O., comes a new format to our newsletter. Feel free to send him any thoughts about the new newsletter. He is only accepting positive thoughts... Just kidding!!! He will accept all forms of positive/negative comments as well as photos and articles at bonsaiode@gmail.com. Please thank Donna D. for her years of dedication to editing and delivering Snips 'N Clips.
- The Board has enacted a new rule regarding the "hosting supplies" (plates, cups, flatware, etc.) in order to mitigate the absence of supplies at a meeting. After each meeting, the next month's host(s)/hostess(es) is/are to take the two containers of hosting supplies with them and bring them back during your hosting month. Should additional supplies be required, the host is to purchase such supplies and turn in a Reimbursement Form and receipts for payment. The Reimbursement Form MUST be signed/approved by any Board Member. Reimbursement Forms can be requested via email/in person from our Treasurer Leydana M. Lack of receipts for various reasons can be accommodated for and does not exclude one from reimbursements. Reimbursement requests must be made within 60 calendar days of original purchase.
- Please welcome new members who joined in and for the 2018 year: **Vicki A., Ella M., Tim M., Henry C., Sherry C., Carol B., Justin A., Wendy B., Diana B., Raymond C., Robert M., Richard M., David N., Tim S., and Nicholas V.**

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, with a full year purchase.

<u>Individual</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Senior (60+) Individual</u>	<u>Senior (60+) Family</u>
\$30	\$50	\$25	\$40

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, at the Lions Field. All members are invited to attend for hands-on assistance by experienced bonsai artists.

JULY'S EVENTS

Lecture/Demo:

July 12th John R.'s Bonsai Tips

Food/Beverage Host(s):

Diana B. & Virgie V.

Mini-show Topic:

Tropicals

Bonsai Study Group:

July 25th

AUGUST'S EVENTS

Lecture/Demo:

August 9th Wiring Techniques by Donna D.

Food/Beverage Host(s):

Steve Byrd

Mini-show Topic:

TBD

Bonsai Study Group:

August 22nd

President's Message

Klaus C.
collklaus@yahoo.com

Ryan O. was appointed to Editor of the San Antonio Bonsai Society newsletter. His skills and expertise makes him a candidate to be counted on. We congratulate you and will support you.

All participants were superb at the two Joe Day Barbados Cherry workshops and again at the Lecture and Demo. Joe Day was an excellent presenter and very well-liked by all. Good ideas were shared concerning the inability to calm the cranky and fire spitting of some. Our raffle tree showed us what patience is all about including the vision we have for trees in bonsai development. Although we all want a tree at the near completion of development, understanding patience and stages is paramount. The tree that Kevin P. brought for show and tell had decades of care and maintenance by member Paul T. to achieve its glorious look today.

Congratulations to Vicki A., who became our newest member and raffle winner.

Cost of all programs like Joe Day and our upcoming traveling artist in September is subsidized by our society raffles, auctions and workshop participants who came out big numbers. Thank you to all who continuous support our society through these programs and events.

Our governance is a board of directors. Starting in July we are searching for candidates to serve for 2019-2020. Most of all, we seek members with an ability to evoke new ideas and get along with our peers. Those who haven't served for previous years are sought, because we support term limits.

You can expect an initial two year term. A potential re-election concludes with a final two year term. Board officers are elected internally prior to the end of the year. Your regular support outside the board of director's activities is equally important and valuable. Your service is important in all that our views and direction of our society is negotiated. Seek out Virgie, Evelyn, and Ester to be nominated, elected, and possibly form part of our governing body.

If you volunteer to provide refreshments you in fact enrich our camaraderie. For certain, this is on a voluntary basis. If asked to provide a snack/meal or refreshments after eating the abundant buffet regularly, but state "I don't do that..." You are a potato head. Please remember, a full "dinner" is not required for hosting duties. At a minimum, a light snack and refreshments are asked for. In addition, you may always team up with another member to help with costs and preparations. Those that supply large buffets are generous in their giving and greatly appreciated and loved by all members and guests. Thank you to all those thus far and those in the future for feeding us.

Program Corner

Nick B.

Nick.browne637@gmail.com

Joe Day was so insightful! Very pleased with both his workshops and talk at the end of the day. He had a lot to share and the experience was highly enjoyable with a very good turnout and participation. Everything Tammy brought, especially the cheesecake, was heavenly!

I am excited to see what happens at the next meeting, John R. is sure to steal the show.

John R.'s July lecture topic is "Bonsai Tips ". He will present tips learned over 20+ years of working with and reading and researching bonsai and attending conventions, lectures, and workshops. For example, his first tip is, NEVER TOUCH OR GRAB THE TRUNK OF A BONSAI. Touching/grabbing the trunk ruins the bark and may set-back bark production for years. Handle large branches and roots when repotting, NOT the trunk. John also plans to give tips on annual repotting suspense dates, directional pruning, watering, sun screening, etc. The demo tree will be available for raffle.

Convention updates!

On June 9th, we held our latest convention meeting at the Drury Inn to revisit the meeting and exhibit spaces and to sample the Drury's breakfast spread. We discussed our proposed budget, goodie bags, our 3 bonsai headliners, possible vendors, and exhibit décor. All committee members walked away with additional tasks to report for our next meeting. The committee appreciated those members that took time out of their schedule to attend the meeting and provide great "out-of-the-box" insight and ideas. Learning "lessons-learned" from other Clubs' shows help us to improve ours. Please continue to support our convention by attending upcoming meeting. Dates to be announced shortly.

Progression of Joe Day's Lecture Tree (*Barbados Cherry*)



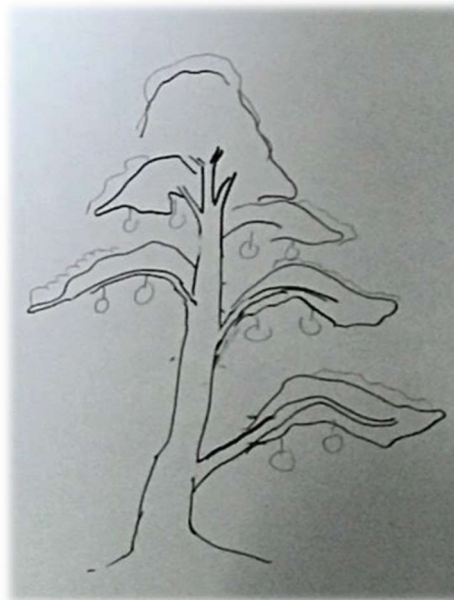
Initial Look of the Tree.



Joe's Design for the Tree.



Adding foliage to the Tree.



Final design with Cherries in
View.



First styling of the tree. May need
lots of fertilizer to equal Joe's
drawing!!!! ↑

Your Comments about Joe Day's Lecture and Workshops!!!

"... Joe Day was informative, educational, and enjoyed by all. The workshops were full. I have not seen workshops that well attended before. Joe began by talking about Bonsai in general; It is an Art, and goes hand in hand with the Plants Horticulture. Here are a few quotes from Joe using his Common Sense Bonsai approach: "You should have trees you love to be around." "Never trim a tree from a distance." "One year is one day in the life of a tree (one growing cycle)." "Turn your trees, buds are formed with sunlight." "Keep the tree in the sun, if the pot gets hot, cool the pot." In the workshops it was all hands-on... The participants planted a Root Over Rock Barbados Cherry or just planted a Barbados Cherry to style. Joe started us out by saying: When you pick a rock look at the flow of the rock to determine how the tree should be set into it. Then choose a tree that fits the flow or rock (some of us were lucky in that our trees just naturally fit well with our rocks). What I found so valuable at this stage was Joe's ability to see so many possibilities for the tree placement. Just tweaking the angle of the plant or rock gave the planting a whole different look. Taking your time to explore all of the possibilities rather than hurriedly rushing through the planning phase. There was enough time in the workshops that Joe was able to work with everyone individually on their planting. From layout design, planting, to the future growth plan. We had new members and members who have been in Bonsai for years, but the presentation and approach to the workshops were informative for everyone." - Sally C.

"My experience with the workshop exceeded expectations! This was my first encounter [with] the club and I was really impressed. I sent a message the same day as the workshop after coming across it online. I received a quick response and was worked into the afternoon session and invited to stay for the club meeting that night. The workshop was very reasonably priced for the materials and instruction received. Being new to Bonsai - I had no tools and no idea the steps to create my own Bonsai. Everyone was so helpful and friendly in taking me step by step thru the process. The hands on experience was great. It was also such a pleasure and honor meeting and working with Joe Day! I loved the workshop and can't wait to learn more. I enjoyed it so much that I joined the club the same night!" - Vicki A.

"I thought the workshop was awesome! I feel like I learned a lot and would definitely go to another workshop... I thought it was great and would love to go to another one!" - Ella M.

"... The hands on workshop was fantastic. The intro and then the specific advice need for each attendee's needs was spot on. I got the advice and guidance I needed to understand what needed to be done to marry the tree with the rock into a very professional result. I have a Barbados Cherry with rock planting that I am very proud of and could not have done without the assistance provided by Joe Day and the preparation provided by our club officials. Thanks, much." - Jim H.

"I enjoyed the entire day with Joe Day. He had so much information and shared in ways that helped me to see his point. I appreciate the fact that his emphasis is on horticulture and maintenance and not just design. I'll attend every workshop he leads." - Steve Y.

"I did learn several tips from Joe Day during his visit, my favorite being how to style a Bald Cypress in the "Flattop" style." - John R.

"Very informative." - Kevin P.



Bonsai Techniques

Courtesy of John Miller
from the Dallas Bonsai Society

It would have been well worth a trip to Austin in May for the 3 person critique of Terry Ward, Mike Hansen, and Chuck Ware. Having three of that quality at the same table and talking about each tree was quite an accomplishment. I would have been fully awake all night.

If you are interested in doing indoor bonsai I would suggest you read Mary Miller's last newsletter. Pay extra attention to the words on Jack Wikle. Also some interesting info on Portulacaria Afra (Dwarf Jade). Bonsai Banter Issue #99 (Bonsai_Banter@bonsaimary.com)

At the Shohin meeting one said they had a severe infestation of thrips. A good site for bug info would be: <https://www.planetnatural.com/pest-problem-solver/houseplant-pests/thrips-control/>

July and August are the two most stressful months for bonsai in our area. Most healthy trees can take the full sun on their foliage. But the high ambient temperatures and the heating effect of the sun on the pots and soil create temperatures on the roots that they are not designed to cope with. Trees with thin leaves like the Japanese maple, Acer Palmatum, that are under-story trees, will probably scorch in full sun. They can also suffer from chemical burn from some fertilizers and insecticides which can be more damaging in the heat.

I cannot give you a precise to-do list since your backyard is different from mine but you should be sure that the sun does not hit the pots **directly**. If you use a cover of any kind be sure that the side of the pot is protected also. A loose weave cover that allows air flow is preferable to solid paper or foil. A solid cover or box over the pot would create an oven type enclosure. There should be room for air flow around the pot. A 30-40% shade cloth over pines, junipers, and elms and maybe 50% over maples would be ideal. And don't forget to provide protection on the west side from that mean afternoon sun.

Check your water practices. Normally I prefer to water heavily in the evening. That gives the plant all night to renew itself without losing most of its water to evaporation. Then in the early morning, they get a quick foliage spray and wetting the surface of the soil which may have dried out overnight. This was what I did while working. Be sure to do the double watering bit - water thoroughly so that the dry soil particles will get moistened and after a few minutes water again so that they will soak up water fully.

Pots left out in the sun can get pot pretty hot. Not only does this dry out the soil very fast but the tree roots cannot live in a hot soil. A temperature I have heard given is 120 degrees that will kill roots on most plants. An article by Dr. Bill Cody suggests that his experiments show that an afternoon watering at 2PM will go a long way to keep the soil temperature in a desirable range while a box close around the pot does little to protect it. Therefore I now try to water at 2pm to cool and refresh the roots and again after sundown to get the night started right.

When the humidity is low I mist my junipers in the evening. I believe the story that in the wild many desert junipers (like Texas Ashe) open their stomata in the cool of the evening absorbing any dew that may occur and close in the heat of the day to conserve moisture. Other species may get their foliage spray in the morning.

Also watch for signs of insect problems. The spider mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, and mealy bugs. Preventative medicine is best, spray on a regular schedule. By the time you see signs, the damage is already done, especially from spider mites. I use the organic foliar feed (1 tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and 5% apple cider vinegar per gallon water) to

control all these. You can use some of the other organic controls or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully. **Do not apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods.** A hose end sprayer does not work very well, its droplets are too large and you have little control over where it goes. Use a pump sprayer with a fine spray and cover both top and bottom of leaves.

The humidity in summer varies quite a bit, but when it sticks around for a few days look for fungal problems to appear, mildew being the most prevalent. Black spot will show up if the foliage stays wet very long. Foliage watering in the morning will usually not be a problem because it dries pretty quickly. Treat with potassium carbonate which you can find at any nursery with a decent organic section. There are several chemical sprays available too.

As a rule we do not feed our trees enough. Since the mix we use has very little nutrient value, we must make up with our fertilizer practice. Water soluble fertilizers will be quickly washed out. The best “rule” I have heard was given by Matt Ouwinga who primarily grows trident maples.

Matt’s rule:

- A. Apply organic fertilizer balls each 6 weeks. Discard old balls.
- B. Apply fish emulsion every 2 weeks.
- C. Apply liquid plant food on alternate weeks.

You can fertilize with most organic type fertilizers without worrying about burning the roots in hot weather. Do not use hi-powered types though, such as bat guano or one made with chicken manure in the heat. If you use chemical types follow the label. If they do not specify any temperature restrictions try using a weaker solution than normal. Without a lot of organic material in your soil you should use a weaker solution but more often to provide a more even feeding.

Many spring flowering plants will be setting buds for next year’s flowers. Azaleas will set theirs toward the end of July. If you prune tips after that you remove the new buds.

Now that night temperatures are staying above 60 degrees you should think about repotting some of the tropicals. Most tropicals do well with an annual repotting. I would emphasize to check the wires on your trees and also see that the drains are not blocked in any way. Especially check them after a rain to be sure that your pots have drained properly. Keep the tropicals trimmed as they will be growing like crazy. However, if you want flowers on those that produce on the end of the twigs, bougainvillea, pomegranate, and crape myrtle, you will have to forgo the bonsai shape to let them flower. These species should be pruned more drastically before the growing season starts so they can still be in a pretty good shape.

Your trees keep growing and need their periodic beauty treatment. Keep the ends trimmed and the stray shoots cut out. It’s not that bad when you can sit in the shade with a big lemonade and really enjoy being with your bonsai. That way you will have your tree ready for the fall show or you will be ready to enjoy it when the change of seasons give it pretty colors.



BONSAI FUNNIES

What we
all
need... a
talking
bonsai!!!



2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- ♦ Vice President: Nick B.
- ♦ Treasurer/Membership: Leydana M.
- ♦ Secretary: Sally C.
- ♦ Raffles: Diane C.
- ♦ Directors at Large: Larry A. and John R.

Technical Support to Board of Directors

- ♦ Webmaster: Ryan O.
- ♦ Editor: Ryan O.
- ♦ 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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