



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

OCTOBER 2023

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BONSAI CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2023

Oct. 12th: Club Meeting; Lion's Field, 6:30pm. Joey McCoy presenting on TX Natives

Oct. 25th: Club Workshop; Lion's Field, 6:00pm. Last workshop meeting of 2023

NOVEMBER 2023

Nov. 9th: Club Meeting, Lion's Field, 6:30pm. David W. discusses Bald Cypress trees, design, and displaying

Nov. 22nd: No Club Workshop due to holiday

DECEMBER 2023

Dec. 14th: Club Meeting; Lion's Field, 6:30pm, Holiday Party and Gift Exchange

Dec. 27th: No Club Workshop due to holiday

President's Message

Kevin Preston hattie1@gytc.com

Well, Fall is finally here! Would someone please inform Mother Nature that summer is over????

At this meeting we will be electing a new board to serve for 2024 and 2025. I want to thank all who served and will be sorry to see Vicky and Jay leave, although we have new board members along with new ideas and directions for SABS future!

As most of you are aware, LSBF touring artist, Jim Doyle had to cancel out due to personal reasons...but wait! Austin's own Joey McCoy will be bringing his experience to talk about collecting Texas Natives that we often overlook and converting (forcing) them to become Bonsai. Joey's been advocating these plants and trees for years and now we will be part of the "informed". Thank you Joey for stepping in on such short notice.

We've all been going through these hot days with no rain, but I was looking at an old Presidents message I wrote in October of 2012 and it began with "RAIN FINALLY!" Well it's October again but still dry.

We also need someone to step up and bring some snacks to this meeting. I don't want Joey to think SABS members are so tight that we can't find someone to provide refreshments. Please contact our refreshment chairman, Ryan Odegard or myself if you will be bringing something. Also see page 3 for more information and link to sign up on SignUpGenius.

Joey is a vegetarian so if you bring a meat item, please bring some veggies for him.

Earlier this month, there was a decent showing of SABS members at David Whitakers house in Mathis (Jay, Vicky, Megan, Cheryl and friends, Hattie, myself, and David) We all a great time and fun with the competition, raffle and general good comradery (I looked that one up in the dictionary folks!)

The following weekend we had an exhibit at Rainbow Gardens on Bandera Road. Thank you Ryan, Carl and Hattie. Donna stopped by and kept us company too. We sold some stuff met new people and even signed up two new members.



Program Corner

David Whitaker redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

Program:

Texas Natives as Bonsai. We have some of the Best native trees here in Texas for bonsai. While beautiful imported exotics and tropical species rightfully make up a good part of our Bonsai collection, don't skip out on the amazing native plants which often grow right outside our door. Texas is a big place, but I will break it down into different habitat zones of our best material. Most of the examples are from my personal collection, so first-hand examples will be shown. I hope this presentation brings up some species of trees which may not have been considered, opening the door to a whole range of new potential bonsai and fostering an appreciation of the natural beauty of the state.

Bio:

Joey first saw (and vividly remembers) bonsai as a 3 year old in Hawaii in the 70's on a rooftop garden of a Sushi restaurant, so all species of trees fascinate. He has been with the Austin Bonsai Society for 20 years, but started creating Bonsai in the mid 80's. A love of nature and the natural world mixed up with a passion for art made Bonsai a great fit. He worked as a Jeweler in the family business for 34 years, and as a jeweler, painter, photographer, sculptor or mixed media artist, Bonsai always crept in. He has served most positions on the Austin Bonsai board as well as The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit. As a 9th generation Texan, he has old family ties to the area and cherishes its natural beauty. One passion is collecting trees: specifically digging them from areas which are about to be destroyed, whether it is in the wild or in an urban setting. These rescues help to make Bonsai even more special and rare.



September Monthly Tips

David Whitaker

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 this month is a couple of doses of phosphorus on your Native Persimmons. Give a couple of doses of your go to fertilizer for your tropicals and sub-tropicals, also a few times during the winter at quarter strength. We are not trying to promote growth, just to keep up the nutrients.

“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 20’s – usually placing them on the ground is enough. Also with these hardier species watch for our “Wintertime heat waves” we so often get here, best place these where they only get morning sun. Now tropicals and sub-tropicals won’t tolerate being too cold so fully protect them when the temperatures are going below the 45°F (sub-tropicals) 50° (tropicals) ranges. Does indoor bonsai ring a bell? I try to acclimate my tropicals (& sub) 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 45°F as the lowest temperature for semi (sub)-tropicals and try to keep my tropicals above 50°F, though most true tropicals like to stay above 60°F to 65°F.

Whenever the forecast predicts cold fronts I move them to a protected area (greenhouse or garage) until it passes, then I return them 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 above 45 degrees at all times. This winter plan works 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 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 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 month. 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.

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!?*) A Happy bonsai is a cared for bonsai!

Food/Beverage Hosts for Monthly Meetings

October 12th: 2-3 volunteers are still needed

November 9th: Karin Kohler and 1 additional host needed

December 14th: Holiday Pot Luck—brought by all attendees

To sign up for Hosting, go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AF2CA1FF2-20231>



Photos/Recognition Page



Conrad G., Vernica, T., Jay N., Elenita B. (Don's wife), and Don B. attending the 2023 US National Bonsai Exhibit



Ryan O. was out collecting Boxwoods and Myrtles this summer



Don B's Japanese Boxwood that was displayed at the 2023 US National Bonsai Exhibit



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.

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THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.

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