



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

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BONSAI CALENDAR

February

02/03 – Club Meeting, 6:30pm, Lion's Field

02/05 – Raffle Item Collection for Convention, 9:00am Kevin & Hattie's House

02/10 – Club Meeting, 6:30pm, Lion's Field

02/19 – Club Dig in Leaky, TX, 9am

02/23 – Bonsai Workshop, 6:30pm, Lion's Field

02/26 – Convention Meeting for Committee Members, 9:30am – Drury Inn

March

03/10 – Club Meeting, 6:30pm, Lion's Field

03/19 – Convention Preparation Meeting, Location TBD

03/23 – Bonsai Workshop, 6:30pm, Lion's Field



President's Message

Jay N. bonsai-jay@satx.rr.com

Welcome to February!

Hopefully this year's weather will not be as severe as last year. My apology for the sudden cancellation of January's meeting. The health and safety of SABS members will always be first and foremost in all our activities.

This month is jam packed with opportunities for learning and collecting. We have a lecture on trimming deciduous trees and Don B. and I will discuss different soil compositions. A club dig to collect Texas native trees during their winter dormancy is also scheduled.

As Raffle Chairman for this year's LSBF Convention, I am tasked to gather items to have on hand to raffle off during the convention. The Raffles are THE money maker for the club hosting the convention. I am asking all members to look around your benches, greenhouses, garages, and homes for plants, pots, stones, magazines, books, tools, and gardening items, bonsai related or not. Oriental items are a plus. Please bring your donations to any club function and I or a club board member will accept them for storage prior to the convention. I am also available to be scheduled for pickup of items.

I am hoping to see you at the next SABS function.

Bonsai-Jay

Vice President/Program Director's Message

Many thanks to all those that have adjusted their schedules and kept up with our schedule changes and my thousands of emails to attend our events in January and those in February. The SABS Board is constantly working to schedule such bonsai related events while keeping all of you as healthy as we can humanly do so.

We have a special Club Meeting on February 3rd with special guest Andrew Robson working on the large Chinese Elm he started in November. He will continue his lecture on pruning techniques.

Since we canceled our January meeting, we have the expertise of Jay N. and Don B. demonstrating their knowledge on soils including the various components we may use in our soil "recipe", on February 10th. Their lecture includes the pros and cons of substrates and various substrates to use for various growth techniques, species of trees, and due to the age of a tree.

Work on soils will continue to February 12th at our Soil Mixer, at my house (SATX 78255) beginning at 9:00am. WEATHER PERMITTING. Please bring sifters, gloves, large buckets/bins to collect sifted material, empty chlorine or red buckets soil buckets from 2021. We will once again Doordash a luncheon.

Our special purchase of higher quality soil components is due in the first part of February. Look for an announcement soon with quantities and pricing.

The Leaky, TX dig has many spots still open. If you are interested, please see <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AF2CA1FF2-sabs1>. A reminder email will be sent to those that signed up the week of the 14th.

All those with convention raffle and auction items wanting to clean out your garage or storage room can bring all items to Kevin and Hattie's office on February 5th at 9:00am. We will sort, catalog, box, label, and palletize all items to make it easier during the convention. Kevin and Hattie's address is San Antonio, TX 78260.

Don't forget to register for the 2022 Bonsai Convention at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/san-antonio-bonsai-society-and-lone-star-bonsai-federation-27761752397>

Have you been watching our Facebook and Instagram pages? Each Sunday I am issuing a small informative segment on the various trees available for our convention workshop. Please share these with your friends or other garden-ing clubs.

Below is a great article from the late John Miller of the Dallas Bonsai Society. This was originally published in 2019, but still holds true and is great information for all our new members.

JOHN MILLER

February is the start of the active cycle for bonsai, first the repotting when new growth is first evident, then the refine-ment process starts as soon as the green comes, all the while tending to the tasks of watering, feeding, and watching for insects.

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Spring is a long drawn-out affair and each species has its own time table in dealing with it. To be really successful in bonsai, then, you must know what each species you have will need and how it responds to 'YOUR' backyard climate. If you have kept your trees from freezing they will want to start growing much earlier than those kept outside all winter. Typically, in my collection which stays outside, the elms will be first, foliage showing about the end of February or the first of March depending on the winter, along with the earliest maples. Then later in March, the rest of the maples and most of the others. The deciduous oaks will come out around April 1. Out here in the country I am 2 or 3 weeks later than I was in town, 30 miles away. The timetable has to be your own set by watching the trees themselves. All bonsai functions should be done when your tree tells you that the timing is right.

Repotting 'can' be done at any time during the dormancy but new roots are susceptible to freezing so you have to have some place to protect them after repotting. If not repotting this year, you can help weed control by removing the top ¼" of soil and replace it with new soil. The best time to repot the deciduous temperate zone trees is when the buds are just beginning to swell but before green is showing. Generally this will be before the last of the freezing weather. Trees that leaf out early, maples and elms, can withstand a few degrees of frost but if repotted you should protect the newly growing roots. Sometimes this just means setting them on the ground. Some species such as the oaks and willows are naturally programmed to wait much later so that there is very little chance to get nipped.

The newer wisdom on azaleas is that you also repot them at this time. The roots will be re-established by blooming time. This is much easier on the tree than waiting until after bloom when the temperature will be hot. Before blooming starts you will be removing a lot of excess buds anyway which will reduce the stress on the tree at that time. Remove enough buds to allow the remaining flowers to have room to fully open. This should be done in late February or early March on the early blooming species (Karume) but may go later in March for the Satsuki types.

Refinement is the process that makes a well styled tree look great developing fine ramification and obtaining smaller leaves. Part of the refinement starts as soon as new growth appears. Keep it pinched so you keep the internodes short and develop a compact set of twigs with small leaves on the branches. On alternate leaved species (e.g. elms) pinch when the shoot gets 4 or 5 leaves. Fingernails or shears can be used. If the twig gets too long it will be tough and you have to use shears. On opposite leaved trees (maples) pinch the central shoot as soon as it can be distinguished from the two leaves. To do this really right you need to use tweezers with a dull point.

Development pruning is difficult for beginners in that to develop thickness you need to let the new branch grow wild which destroys the look of your 'bonsai'. You also will have long internodes which will not produce buds at the right places especially on the opposite leaved species. You need to do refinement pruning the first couple of times to get some short internodes and then let the tips go wild.

Spring flowering plants will have their buds set on last year's growth so pruning them will remove some flowers. Those that bloom later in the year will generally bloom on this year's growth. Pruning them will reduce the amount of flowers.

In some cases such as crape myrtle, tip pruning of the branch will result in no flowers at all. In these cases you must decide which is most important, ramification or flowers. A compromise would be to prune the branch shorter than you normally would and then let it bloom on new growth which will at the proper length, at least for the first flowering of the season.

When the growth starts the tree will need fertilizer. However, use one that has a small amount of nitrogen (the first number). The tree is naturally programmed to grow rapidly at this time so you don't need to encourage it further. Feed lightly to maintain a healthy green foliage. Ideally use an organic fertilizer which provides nutrients more slowly when the weather is cool. Trace minerals should be added to help with both the foliage color and the color of blooms.

If you have not used a horticultural oil, the time is fast running out. The oil would be used to kill scale and overwintering mites and other boogers. When new growth starts oil might damage the tender foliage. When new growth starts, the problems to look for are the above mentioned mites but especially aphids and mealy bugs. These can be controlled as well as giving the plants the required fertilizer by using an organic spray. (1 tablespoon each of liquid kelp, liquid fish emulsion, apple cider vinegar (5%), and molasses in one gallon of water. Or use a commercial mix like Garrett Juice. All these are available in any organic nursery.) If leaf spot, mildew or any other fungal problems appear, use a baking soda (sodium bicarbonate), potassium bicarbonate spray, or a commercial fungicide.

An important job which many neglect saying they are not going to show any trees is to detail their trees. This makes them look their best and that helps give you incentive to follow other good practices.

Start by checking the branches. Prune any out of place or too long twigs. Remove any unnecessary wire that is wired on limbs that have set in place. Treat any jin and shari that needs it. Then move down to the pot. Be sure it is clean and all lime deposits are removed. Steel wool works great to clean pots. A coating with a very light wax polish such as leaf shine will make the pot look good and helps keep the mineral deposits from forming. Then check the soil. It should cover the outer roots. The surface of the soil must be clean of any fallen leaves or other debris. Now it looks so good you might as well take it to a show.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR
THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY
\$30 individual
\$50 family \$25 senior 60+
\$40 senior family



WELL IT IS THAT TIME
AGAIN!!!

NEXT DIG IS IN LEAKY,
TEXAS,

CHECK THE SCHEDULE OF
EVENTS ON THE FRONT
PAGE.

THE DIG IN BOERNE WAS
JUST PERFECT, WEATHER
AND

BONSAI FRIENDS!!





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

FACEBOOK: @sanantoniobonsai TWITTER: SATXBonsai

INSTAGRAM: @sanantoniobonsai

THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.

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The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. is a member of the **Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Inc.**

Bonsai Clubs International, and the **American Bonsai Society**,

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