



# SNIPS 'N CLIPS

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

November 2018

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## What's New!

- Sorry Members, no Wednesday workshops in November and December due to the holidays.
- The **Japan America Society of San Antonio (JASSA)** has extended an invitation for SABS to show trees at this year's 2018 Akimatsuri event held on November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Remember to begin designing our **Convention Logo/Pin**. Submissions are due **December 12<sup>th</sup>** if you email it to Ryan O. or the **December 13<sup>th</sup>** at the start of our Holiday Party. More information in the Convention Updates!
- The San Antonio River Authority is hosting a **free tree adoption** event on **November 10<sup>th</sup>** from 9am to 12pm (or while supplies last). They have 250 native specimens in 1 gallon pots. The event is at the Confluence Park, Resendez Pavilion 310 W. Mitchell, San Antonio, TX 78204.
- Congratulation to our new **2019 Board of Directors** Larry A., Nick B., Diane C., Klaus C., Leydana R-M., Jay N., Tammy B-R., Carol B., and Bryan B.
- Next **Board Meeting is November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm** before the Club Meeting at the Lion's Field.
- **2019 membership dues are due by January 1<sup>st</sup>**. Please begin to pay Leydana R-M. Membership rates are below.
- Please welcome new members **Debra H., Gloria N., and Kitty M.**

## 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.

<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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7pm, at the Lions Field Adult and Senior Center, 2809 Broadway Street, SATX 78209

Our Bonsai Study Group is held every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 7pm, Lions Field. All members are invited to attend for hands-on assistance by experienced bonsai artists.

## NOVEMBER'S EVENTS

### Lecture/Demo:

November 8<sup>th</sup> Pinch Pots with Donna D.

### Food/Beverage Host(s):

Larry A., Tammy B-R., & Kamala P.

### Mini-show Topic:

Fall Representation

### Bonsai Study Group:

No meeting due to holiday

## DECEMBER'S EVENTS

### Lecture/Demo:

December 13<sup>th</sup> Holiday Party

### Food/Beverage Host(s):

All Members

### Mini-show Topic:

Decorated Bonsai

### Bonsai Study Group:

No meeting due to holiday

# President's Message

Klaus C.  
collklaus@yahoo.com

All the rain, shows us the cycle of weather has occurred before and will occur again. Just like our dues which are prepaid before Jan 1 2019 and can be mailed or easily paid at our November or December meeting.

This is also your opportunity to chime in on whether "hands-on" for the various activities became a reality and should continue to be the focus. I also have some suggestions for traveling artists and am happy to consider more.

Please start with evaluations of 2018. The new board can focus on what the evaluation reveals. You have seen our attempt at more hands-on experiences.

Thank you for trusting the 2018 Board with the business of SABS. The key question is, what do we want to focus on next year. Maybe the same focus, but tweaked. Give the new board some guidance so they follow what we all want.

All comments are valid. Please Respond and return now or at our meeting

- The one issue I want our group to emphasize is...
- The one thing we need less of is...
- What traveling artist should we pursue?
- Would you participate in workshops?
- Do you favor (yamadori) material collection trips?
- Can you assist with the many 2020 Convention tasks?

## Convention Updates!

The Convention Committee is soliciting all members to design our Logo/Pin for the 2020 Convention.

The Committee needs time for the logo/pin to be submitted and approved by the LSBF Board before we can begin advertising. With that said here are a few parameters all must follow:

- 1) The Logo will become the Pin as well. Ensure your design is not too elaborate that it becomes too hard to view when resized as a pin. This means the design should be easily read when resized to a 1 inch diameter/square or a 1 inch by 1.5 inch long rectangular pin.
- 2) Your submission shall be no larger than 3 inches in diameter or square OR be a 3 inch by 2 inch rectangle (Vertical and horizontal rectangles are ok).
- 3) "Vision 2020" must be used
- 4) "LSBF" (Lone Star Bonsai Federation) must be used
- 5) "SABS" or "San Antonio" must be used
- 6) Submissions may be in pencil or ink and may be in black or white or color
- 7) One submission per person or per team

All submissions will be voted on during our December Holiday meeting (12/13/18). Submissions are due at the beginning of the meeting or via email to me prior to Wednesday December 12th so I can print them before the meeting.

The winner will receive.... are you ready for this???? **UNLIMITED AMOUNT OF BRAGGING RIGHTS FOR 521 DAYS.**

# Program Corner

Nick B.

Nick.browne637@gmail.com

Here is our last hands-on activity for 2018. Donna will be teaching us all about making pinch pots. Be sure to exercise your hands and fingers so they are nice and strong for pinching.

## Pinch Pots in November

In 1974 was the year of launching my professional career as an artist. High fire ceramics was my choice to offer to the public through art shows and my studio. Gradually it morphed into original framed relief sculpture using the clay from my pottery business.

I offered my clay work to the public for about 15 years, selling work all over the US. Eventually the clay work evolved into the business of commissions completing large scale brick carvings and monumental bronze sculpture of which there are some 18 works located right here in River City.

The program I'm presenting to you this month is taking me back to my roots. It is going to be a lot of fun for everyone! The title "Pinch Pots" doesn't begin to describe what we will be creating. I will have an array of examples to inspire your creative juices. Each member will be able to create 2 projects during the evening.

I will bring examples of designs, and supplies of clay, oxides, brushes, molds, cutting boards, rollers, stamps and the tools needed to help you design that unique bonsai pot. When they are ready they will be fired right on the premises at Lions Field. I ask one small favor, that you contribute \$5 to offset the costs for the evening.

Are you ready? Donna L. Dobberfuhr, MFA, ICAA

Here are a few examples of my clay and brick works.





# You Speak... Editor Prints...

## Visiting Angels

Chris Luna

Sometime last spring, three visiting angels came to visit me and helped move and repot trees. Due to their generosity, I will always be grateful. If this were not enough two of the three visiting angels returned in the late summer and repotted my tropicals. To say this act of kindness is unusual is saying something for their act of kindness is indeed unusual. As most of you know, I have advanced Parkinson's Disease and cannot lift or move the trees anymore. So once again my hats off to the three angels that came by and gave me a hand with a hobby I immensely enjoy. The visiting angels were John R., Sally C., and Leydana R-M. Next time you see any of them you might join me in thanking them.

## Pictures from Koi and Fancy Goldfish Event



# Bonsai Techniques

Courtesy of John Miller  
from the Dallas Bonsai Society

Learn to think in terms related to plant characteristics instead of calendar periods (i.e. use 'when dormant' instead of October, 'candle growth' instead of April, etc). That will enable you to read bonsai articles correctly whether written in Japan, Florida, or wherever. Note that some tree cultivars (like the cork bark black pine) are notably weaker than the standards of the species and require different pruning and care. Generalized articles will not be able to cover many details like this, you must learn the foibles of your particular variety.

All of this means that you should have your winter quarters ready. Select one for deciduous trees that will be out of the sun. Evergreens will need some sun but some protection from the hotter winter days, a bit of a problem. Air circulation is good but too much wind will desiccate them especially during freezing temps. Be sure you can check their individual watering. Clean up all debris.

Winter is also a crucial time in control of many insects. Killing them now means the tree will be able to get started in the spring before they develop sufficient numbers to do much damage. Before putting the trees into winter storage treat them for over-wintering insects and eggs. Dormant oil spray is good on trees with no green. A dilute solution of lime sulfur is an old gardener's dormant spray for insect and fungus control. Use it on very cool days and dilute it per directions, probably 1 part lime sulfur to 20 parts water. Be sure to read the label on your bottle in case there are different strengths available. This solution should also be applied to bench tops, posts and the soil surrounding them (if you have gravel instead of grass) to eliminate hiding eggs and spores. If you have a greenhouse treat it also before the weather gets too cold to put your plants outside or move them to one end while you treat the other end.

At this time of the year deciduous plants do not need fertilizer. Evergreens will continue a slow growth and will benefit for a very light fertilizer feeding. Use one with a lower nitrogen (first number) like 8-8-8 and apply at 1/3 the recommended feeding rate.

Most important in winter is to keep the soil moisture at a proper level. This sometimes is hard to do because the trees do not use as much water as when they are growing. However the cold winds will dry out the tops quickly. I believe that most winter damage in Texas is due to lack of water rather than to low temperatures. Mulch helps keep the roots warm and retards evaporation but it makes for difficulty in seeing if the soil is damp enough. Most soils with enough organic material to keep the tree happy in the summer will be too wet if watered daily in the winter and wet cold means root rot. This is another place the akadama in the APL mix will help.

**BIG NOTE:** If you have a tree that is weak and unhealthy you should not attempt to style it in any way, just get it happy by adjusting its soil, feeding, and getting rid of any parasites. Styling just adds to its stress and problems.

Repotting of hardy trees can be done anytime the trees are dormant. However, it is safer to do that chore in the spring as the buds are swelling. New roots will start forming immediately upon repotting in order for the tree to absorb enough water. If you do repot in the fall you should protect the new roots from freezing during the winter. Do you need to change the pot? Making notes at this time while getting the trees ready for winter will give you 3-4 months to find the proper pot.

When trees go dormant which indicates a reduced sap flow they may be pruned, that is have major limbs removed. Trimming may also be done while the leaves are off the trees and you can see what you are doing. Evergreen types will probably still be a bit active. Pruning them should be held until a bit later.

By this time any tropicals you have should be under cover. Most do not like the temp below 50 degrees. All tropicals should be checked and treated for any insect problems since any insects will multiply fast when they get into warmer quarters. Spider mites and scale can be especially damaging if the plant is moved in the house where the humidity is low.

The semi-tropical plants like crape myrtle, pomegranate, and pyracantha need to go dormant to stay healthy over a long time but they cannot take much cold on the roots. The roots will be killed by temps somewhere between 25 and 30 degrees. These I set down on the ground and mulch for light freezes and then bring into a protected area for the colder winter. Sometimes I will let them go dormant for a month and then take into the greenhouse to start early and I can enjoy their new foliage in January.

Plan your spring repotting tasks so you will have the necessary pots and other supplies. Take advantage of low prices when nurseries are clearing out space for Xmas tree sales. You can sometimes find some bargains there especially if you remember that a tree with broken/dead tops may make nice bonsai starter material.

The dormant season is also a very good time to study your deciduous bonsai. You can see clearly the structure and where improvements should be made. Remove any wire that is tight or where it has done its work and the branch stays in position. Work can be done more leisurely over the winter. Take care not to damage the small buds.

November is when I consider the start of the fiscal year for two needle pines which include the Japanese black pine, Scots pine, and others. This process is needed to develop the twiginess and to get the needles short and keep them that way. Junipers and most other conifers (not the bald cypress) may be included. However, I question the desirability of keeping them on the benches over winter because of the possibility of the sun heating the roots too much and causing them to break dormancy or get their roots active. That would cause problem if the temp later falls to 10 degrees.





## BONSAI FUNNIES

**Where did  
he get the  
mini leaf  
bags?**



## 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

### Technical Support to Board of Directors

- ♦ Webmaster/Editor/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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