

Upcoming Bonsai Events

January

Jan. 11th

Club Meeting,
Yamadori
(Collecting) by
Ryan O., 6:30pm

Jan. 13th

BYOT
Workshop/Training
at Café College,
9:00am

Jan. 24th

BYOT
Workshop/Training,
6:00pm

**February's
events are
listed on Page
5**

All above meetings are
held at the Lion's Field
Center 2809 Broadway,
SATX 78209 (unless
otherwise noted)



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President's Message By Conrad Gamboa, cgamboa013@gmail.com

It was only 5 short years ago that my wife, Veronica, and I attended the Institute of Texas Culture Asian Festival and were introduced to the San Antonio Bonsai Society (SABS) through a live demonstration done by none other than our very own Ryan O. It was right then and there that Veronica decided we were going to join, and I knew I would be wrangled in with her. Little did I know that I too would fall in love with the art and one day become president of SABS.

Before I share with you the SABS Board of Director's (BOD) outlook for 2024, let me take a few moments to thank some very important people that helped make 2023 such a tremendous success. First, none of 2023 would have happened without the leadership of our 2023 BOD Officers Kevin P., David W., Jay N., and Vicki A.. All four of these wonderful people have been officers in some capacity over the past 4 years, and their contributions range from making sure we have raffle material every meeting, to being at every 4th Wednesday workshop to offer their mentoring and artistic opinions; from organizing lecture demonstrations to providing lecture demonstrations; from hosting great parties to making sure all our meetings were run smoothly.

Next, it's important that we thank two other people who were not on the BOD's last year, however, without their contributions over the 5 years that I have been a member, SABS would not be what it is today. Those two individuals that deserve our appreciation and thanks are Ryan O. (2024 SABS Treasurer) and Donna D. Not only has Donna been the editor of our SABS Newsletter for the past 15+ years, but she was also gracious enough to make her studio available to SABS on countless occasions when we wanted to host weekend events, such as the Young Cho's Kusamono workshop, David W's Shohin Workshop with Fukien Teas, and many, many more. Thank you, Donna, for all your contributions. Your kindness and generosity played an instrumental role in the success of SABS.

President's Message continued on Page 6.



Please Welcome our Newest Member(s)

Don T.

*Those considering
joining SABS may
attend a free meeting.
Membership forms
available at each
meeting and on
website.*

Congratulate these Members on their Membership Anniversary in 2024

5 years

Conrad, Joe,
Gloria, &
Veronica

10 years

Leydana

15 years

Evelyn, Roberto,
Alberto, & Virgie

20+ years

Jay, Kevin,
Hattie, Donna,
Chuck, Pat,
Alfred, David,
Dawn, Paul, &
Jack



Vice-President's Message

By Gabe Hernandez,
gabriher@gmail.com

Happy New Year fellow bonsai members!

I hope you had a great holiday season and you got all of your trees and tools you requested!

We have a great and exciting program this year, including guest artists, workshops, and a local convention! There will be several chances to learn different techniques of bonsai with lectures/demonstrations/workshops on shohin, kusamono, pot making and carving!

We are getting this year started with our own Ryan O. showing us the tools and techniques used for collecting trees, aka yamadori, or even urbandori. He will also follow up with care, trimming and fertilization.

In February we will have a group repotting class using deciduous trees. Bring your trees (2-3), pot, wire, tools, and materials. Our board members will be there to help and give advice!

We are trying something new this year by having our Bring Your Own Tree (BYOT) every 2nd Saturday of the month at our new location Cafe College! Our experienced members will be ready to help you out with your trees!

We will also be having 3 great opportunities to collect trees in Leaky, Boerne, and Hondo! There will be a \$5 or \$10 charge that will be used to gift the landowners for letting us use their land to collect!

Please sign up here! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AF2CA1FF2-46993296-2024>

A few reminders and new items for 2024

Don't forget to sign up to host snacks and beverages for our main monthly meetings. We would like to have at least 2 members donate for each main meeting. Please get with Joe to find a date that works with you! The club provides plates, plasticware, cups and ice!

Also, we would like 2 members to bring trees to display and talk about them so other members can see the progress you have made! New members are encouraged to participate.

Don't forget to bring items for a raffle during the monthly meetings. We appreciate it as it helps us raise money for future artists and events.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions, ideas or concerns. We want our members to learn and the club to grow. Hope to see you there!

Monthly Food/Bev. Hosts

January

Joe H.

Bruce B.

February

Volunteers are needed. See Joe H.

2024 Soil/Book Sale



Club Soil
\$25/five gal.



APL Soil
\$75/five gal.



Care Book \$30

Email Ryan O. at
bonsaiode@gmail.com for
details



Photos/Recognitions

Here are the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of the 2023 December Holiday Decorating a Bonsai Contest. Great job to all those that participated!!!



1st Place by Vicki A.

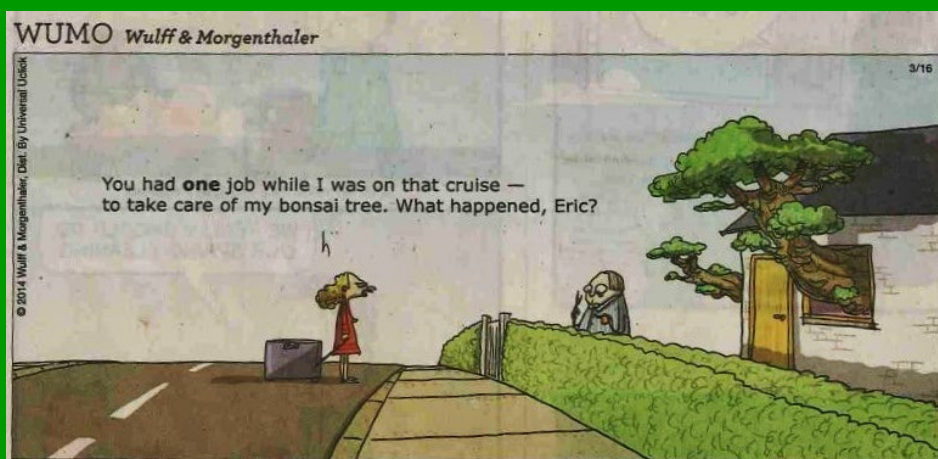


2nd Place by Kevin and Hattie P.



3rd Place by Jay N.

Bonsai Funnies



Monthly Tips

- Exert from Snips 'N Clips, January 1983, Edith's Corner, by Edith Sorge.

"When the leaves have fallen from the deciduous trees, spray the trees with a [horticultural spray or other insecticide] to kill scale and overwintering insects. Don't spray evergreens with any oil-based sprays...

Go collecting! It's fun and rewarding most of the times, but don't dig up the whole countryside and don't expect everything that you dig to live.

Watch for drying winds. Your trees should not get completely dry at this time. Also watch for unusually cold days and nights. If the temperature goes below 20°F, protect your trees by taking them into an unheated garage or room. If you have no good place, place your trees under the benches onto the ground and group them closely together to keep them from freezing [the use of freeze cloths are also helpful]... The warmth of the ground will help to protect the trees if they are placed on [the ground] instead of being left on the benches. Water bonsai thoroughly prior to a hard freeze, then not again until the temperatures are above freezing. Never water frozen bonsai! The cooling caused by evaporation will rob your bonsai of the last heat it has."

Below are additional winterizing bonsai techniques for South Texas. I believe this was originally published by David W. but I am not 100% sure.

1. Look over your bonsai area – clean, remove, and eliminate debris such as leaves, lumber, rocks, etc. Piles of debris can harbor damaging insects, snails, and other unwanted critters.
2. Examine your bonsai, including any container plants (pre-bonsai). It is a very good idea to remove ¼ to ½ inch of soil, from the top, and replace it. This helps eliminate weed seeds and some insect eggs/larva. Be cautious about Buttonwood as they are sensitive to some sprays.
3. The temperature is now lower, and the days are shorter – be cautious about your watering. Less water is needed but do not allow the soil to dry out. The wind is more of a problem and can really dry the soil. Don't assume that since there are no leaves you do not need to watch the moisture levels. Consider a wind break if your space is open.
4. Consider grouping like "needs" trees together. This will help with watering demands and make it easier to check trees.
5. Check the wiring – fall growth can make the branches swell. Remove old wire and go ahead and do new wiring if you wish. Be careful of brittle branches. When



Cultivating Bonsai Since 1976

Nursery Floral Class 2 Lic #0822998

DAVID WHITAKER

Lone Star Bonsai Federation Artist
Lecture-Demos & Workshops

South Texas Bonsai Kai Founder
3rd Saturday of September

San Patricio, Texas
361-688-0109
redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

Bonsai Term(s) of the Month

Botanical Name (BN)

- the Latin name given to each and every plant in the world.

Genus (G)

- a group of plants that belong to the same family of varying species; they share the first part of a plant's Latin name.

Species (S)

- the sub-division of a Genus; the second name in the Latin terminology.

Common Name (CN)

- the name a plant is commonly known by.

Example

BN: *Quercus polymorpha*

G: *Quercus*

S: Oak

CN: Monterrey Oak

Upcoming Bonsai Events

February

Feb. 3rd

Yamadori Dig,
Leaky, TX, 9:00am

Feb. 8th

Club Meeting,
Transplanting and
Repotting, 6:30pm

Feb. 10th

BYOT
Workshop/Training
at Café College,
9:00am

Feb. 10th

BYOT Workshop
with Andrew
Robson, Don's
house, \$150 fee/pp
9:00am

Feb. 17th

Yamadori Dig,
Boerne, TX,
9:00am

Feb. 24th

Yamadori Dig,
Hondo, TX, 9:00am

Feb. 28th

Club BYOT
Workshop/Training,
6:30pm

Monthly Tips, cont.

trees dropped their leaves; it is very good time to look at the design and make corrections.

6. We have trouble growing moss but if you are lucky you may have to remove it if found growing on the trunk. It tends to retain too much moisture and may cause rotting.

Treating Bonsai

1. Taking care of the fall flush of insects is possible with a light horticultural oil. An organic spray can also be used such as Garrett Juice or a home recipe of: 1T liquid kelp, 1T fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and 5% molasses all added to a gallon of water. This is also a light fertilizer and helps with those nutrients especially on evergreens.
2. Stop feeding deciduous trees, fertilizer with a low nitrogen content can be used on all evergreens and conifers. Kelp is an excellent source of the essential minor elements.

Sever Cold (more than 24 hours)

1. Place outside trees on the ground and mulch around them for protection. Small bonsai and small containered trees mean trouble with an extended cold. Place these bonsai in a garage, cold frame, or even a cold/unheated room.
2. The sub-tropicals and tropicals already should be in a heated well-lit greenhouse or room. Take care of these on very cold nights by possible adding a second heater. The light requirements for these plants require 12 to 14 hours of daylight.
3. The home environment can be a very dry atmosphere with our furnaces running. At times, our homes can be dryer than a typical desert. Make sure your trees have moisture trays or are misted regularly.

Other News

- **Dues for 2024 are now due to the Treasurer. Please see Ryan O. prior to March 14th before you lose out on upcoming notices and activities. Membership pricing has stayed the same!!! Individual: \$30, Family: \$50, Senior (65+) Individual: \$25, Senior (65+) Family: \$40**
- On December 10th, Ryan O. attended the Botanical Gardens Volunteer Appreciation Brunch held at the Botanical Gardens. There Andrew Labay, Director of Horticulture, mentioned SABS as a local plant society that has contributed to the success of the Botanical Gardens. Ryan also discussed with Andrew potential dates of two bonsai exhibits – Spring and Fall – with more information coming soon. It was also mentioned that the Botanical Gardens is increasing their number of Texas Native species which can coincide with our display of bonsai trees.
- Rainbow Gardens is pairing with SABS to provide a discount at both nurseries. All active members will receive a discount card offering up to 10% various items at both Rainbow Gardens locations. These cards are good through 12/31/24 and Ryan will begin distributing them in February – following payment of 2024 dues.

President's Message (cont.)

Next, we need to thank Ryan O. From the beginning of my time with SABS, Ryan has been a mentor to anyone who ask it from him, an organizer setting up events at multiple garden centers and at the Botanical Gardens, and consistently has given his time and dedication to the success of SABS. Thank you, Ryan, for everything you did for SABS in 2023 and for the responsibilities you are taking on in 2024.

Lastly, I want to thank all the members that participated in our events in 2023. The list is too long to mention everyone in this opening President's Letter, but just know that SABS cannot be successful without all your contributions and 2023 was very successful. Our mission is to help educate people in this beautiful art that we call Bonsai, and we did just that in 2023. We expanded our membership to the highest it has been over the past 5 years; we introduced the Art of Bonsai to countless people through our exhibits at the Botanical Gardens and our presence in social media (with over 990 members following us on Facebook).

With all that we accomplished in 2023, this year's Board of Directors is setting the goal even higher. We have reserved a classroom at the Café College for the first half of the year on the 2nd Saturday of each month. This will give us the opportunity to continue hosting workshops and lecture demonstrations on the weekends. We are reaching out to Bonsai artist from throughout the United States to schedule them for lecture demonstrations and/or workshops, we are continuously seeking opportunities to spread the Art of Bonsai to people in our community and throughout San Antonio and all of Texas, and we will be hosting our first annual local Bonsai Convention. As I mentioned in previous meetings, we are looking for members who wish to help organize this event through a special sub-committee, so please contact me or any of our board members. Additionally, we will continue to work on increasing our social media presence and expanding our membership through outreach programs. We will also be soliciting sponsorships to help with the cost of bringing in the best talent to our club.

The 2024 year brings us an exciting opportunity to grow, develop, and learn more about all things Bonsai. We are excited to introduce our first Lecture Demonstration of the year, which will be presented by our very own Ryan O. on January 11, 2024, at the Lions Club. We look forward to a fun and exciting year, and we encourage you to take an active part in the success of SABS 2024. Peace, and may all your trees find good health and long-lasting life.

Other News (cont.)

- A few changes are coming to SABS in 2024: 1) To maintain the same membership rates due to increasing prices of our stylish nametags, nametags are now priced separately than the membership. In addition, if you have lost your nametag or need another one, nametags are \$15, 2) We will have a few meetings at the Café College which offers a huge room for meetings on Saturdays. **Café College is located at 131 El Paso Street, SATX 78204.** Be sure to read the newsletter for dates of workshops at this new location. The 2nd Saturday and the 4th Wednesday will both hold BYOT workshops/training. SABS is testing which days fit our members' schedules better.
- Don B. is hosting Andrew Robson (of Rakuyo Bonsai) for a continuing education workshop with various members of the Club. Don is offering a special session with Andrew for any additional Club members that would like to have up to two trees examined by Andrew. This event will be held on February 10th from 9:00am to 5:00pm, at Don's house . Cost is \$150 per person/per day (if a Sunday workshop is opened, based on demand). Fee is payable directly to Andrew via cash, check, or Venmo. A non-hosted group lunch will be ordered, though participants may bring their own lunch/snacks if desired. Registration is at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AF2CA1FF2-47013249-andrew>
- SABS ended the year strong again with a membership count of **100 members**. In addition, our Facebook page ended the year with **994 followers**. **We keep growing because of great members like yourself!!!!!!**



San Antonio
Bonsai Society,
Inc. (SABS)

All correspondence
should be
addressed to:

San Antonio
Bonsai Society,
Inc.

27925 Bonn
Mountain

San Antonio,
Texas, 78260

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.

For additional information please visit SABS at

Website: Sanantoniobonsai.org

Facebook: [@sanantoniobonsai](https://www.facebook.com/sanantoniobonsai)

Instagram: [@sanantoniobonsai](https://www.instagram.com/sanantoniobonsai)

Annual Membership Due:

Individual	\$30
Family	\$50
Senior (65+) Individual:	\$25
Senior (65+) Family:	\$40
Individual Nametag:	\$15

The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. is a member of the Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Inc., Bonsai Clubs International, and the American Bonsai Society.

SABS is a non-profit 501c (3) organization.

Newsletter editor: Ryan O. at bonsaiode@gmail.com

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