



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

DECEMBER 2020

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 12

BONSAI CALENDAR

**NO OFFICIAL MEETING THIS MONTH.
INSTEAD A BONSAI WORKSHOP TO
HELD ALL DAY SATURDAY, DEC. 5
STARTING AT 9 AM. AT DON B'S**

1924 N. Main Ave.

San Antonio, TX 78212

Time: 9 AM

**KEEP THE FAITH WE WILL BE TOGETHER
AGAIN AND SABS BONSAI WILL LIVE ON.**

**THE BOARD MEMBERS ARE LOOKING AT
ALTERNATIVE WAYS WE CAN SOCIALIZE
AND CONTINUE LEARNING ABOUT
BONSAI.**

**THE BOTANICAL GARDENS WELCOMED
US WITH OPEN ARMS AND ALL HAD A
GREAT TIME.**



President's Message

Jay N. [bonsai-jay @satx.rr.com](mailto:bonsai-jay@satx.rr.com)

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to Everyone. The cooling temperatures have been very nice in my garden and I have enjoyed the last few weeks immensely. I hope you have too.

The next San Antonio Bonsai Society is a workshop to be held December 5 starting at 9am on the outdoor patio at Don's office located at 1924 N. Main St., S.A., TX 78212. Meeting starts at 6:30. Remember to bring your masks!

This is another bring your own tree meeting where members will help you in decisions for the health and design/styling of your tree. Please see detailed information in David R.'s article on page 2.

The club is going to have a "Virtual" Bonsai Christmas decorating contest. Ryan will set up the details of pictures of your Christmas bonsai the contest. bonsaiode@gmail.com

It was with outstanding results that our show at the Botanical Gardens went well and the staff was very helpful and assisted with the set-up.

Thanks to everyone who brought bonsai and stayed the course for the whole weekend.

We will be have shows in the future at the Gardens and it will be even more fun as the staff becomes more acquainted with the art of Bonsai.

See you soon!

Be safe, stay healthy!! Jay

MESSAGE FROM DAVID R.

I'd like to announce a **December 5 workshop** event where we will be doing appropriate work for the December season. Each year is a little different, and it seems that cold weather has been slow to approach. However, winter is a good time for slight adjustments to our trees, and the leaf drop on deciduous broadleaf provides an excellent opportunity to investigate branch structure, internode length, and apply proper pruning and refinement techniques to set up our trees to utilize the energy most appropriately as the trees exit dormancy. It's also a perfectly fine time to do some secondary wiring to accentuate beautiful branch movement with good technique. This work is all critical, as the entire growing season is building up energy and vascular tissue mass for us to make these design moves at this time of year. This is our payoff.

The workshop is pretty straightforward - we will break into pairs or small groups and cover appropriate scopes of work:

- Pruning on deciduous trees post leaf drop (Elm, Maple, etc)
- Minor secondary/tertiary wiring on almost any tree (tropicals/deciduous)
- Shoot selection for movement and internode length on most trees (with some exceptions). Keep in mind the trees are building cold hardiness, so species that maintain strength in their foliage at this time of year are best left with that strength to ensure healthy winter transition.
- Large cuts on tropicals were best made a few weeks ago, but structural, secondary and tertiary wiring are largely fine.

Even experienced people are needed to facilitate and mentor less experienced individuals.

Please also bring any winterization questions.

Keep in mind that some cold temperatures are coming by early next week. Tropicals will need to be protected.

Workshop will be held outdoors at Don B's business. He has a wonderful space. Thank you for offering the use of your area, Don!

Details for Workshop:

Date: December 5, 2020
Start Time: 9 am
1924 N. Main Ave.
San Antonio, TX 78212

A CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST
EVERYONE LOOK AT YOUR BONSAI AND CONSIDER WHICH ONE
WOULD BE A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR SOME
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS!!

DECORATE YOUR TREE, TAKE AT LEAST 2 IMAGES TO BE SUBMITTED
TO RYAN O.

RYAN WILL SET UP A VIRTUAL CONTEST FOR THE TREES.
EACH MEMBER GETS TO VOTE FOR THEIR FAVORITE.

THE CONTEST WILL OPEN 12/16
VOTING WILL END 12/31

THE WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEWSLETTER IN
JANUARY.

THERE WILL BE 3 PRIZES:

1ST, 2ND AND 3RD.

GOOD LUCK

AND

START WORKING ON YOUR JEWEL OF A
CHRISTMAS BONSAI !!

- Ryan O.
- bonsaiode@gmail.com



By Alan Walker

Although your bonsai require very little attention this time of the year, don't neglect them in the rush of December. Root rot can become a big problem, if you haven't modified your watering procedure from the summer. Make sure that you water only when your bonsai's soil has gotten on the dry side. Your deciduous trees are not transpiring when their leaves have fallen, and the cool temperatures do not promote much evaporation, so your trees are not using much water. If you've been collecting and had to prune your newly collected material, be sure to seal all the cuts. They won't really start to heal until dormancy ends and by the exposure to winter winds will draw moisture from the wounds faster than the traumatized root system can replenish it. Coat all the cut areas with Calsmate or some other sealant to give that new addition a chance to survive.

December is a good time to rewire, since the branches won't begin to swell with growth again until dormancy ends. Be careful with your deciduous material, though. Even though they are denuded and easier to wire, there is less sap in the branches now, making them more brittle. Your pines, junipers, and most other evergreens are still fairly pliable. As always, remember to use wire that is harder to bend than the branch it is to train. That way you won't need to put your branches at risk from over bending in order to get the correct angle to stay. Also, the heavier wire will be less likely to scar the branch, if you don't notice the branch thickening in time. Prepare soil now for the potting season. There are so many things to do in the early spring, that any early preparation done now will be appreciated then. Tag any trees which will need repotting. Now is the time to order pots, so they'll be there when you need them. The slow winter season is a good time to photograph your bonsai.

Your deciduous material is fully exposed, and there's nothing like a black and white photograph of a tree to reveal flaws in the branch arrangement. This can be your blueprint for pruning in the spring. Your photo graphs may also reveal a better front or potting angle. Keep these photographs with your record book.

It can be quite rewarding to look over your bonsai records and note how your trees have progressed over the years. Bring your records to one of our general workshops or the meeting to get suggestions from other members for shaping and design. If you're afraid of being pressured into cutting more than you want, just having photos or sketches can save you from regrets and still allow you to get the input from others.

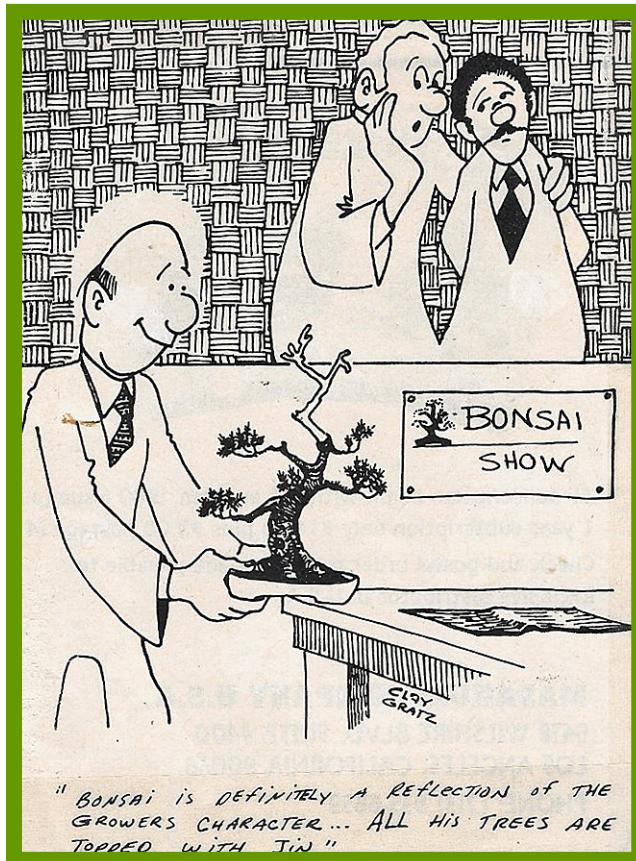
This article reprinted from the Lake Charles Bonsai Society
Newsletter.

•

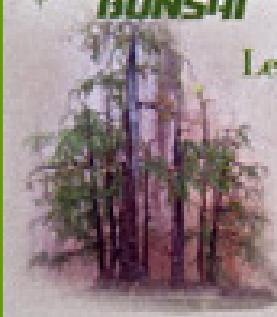
The cultivation of dwarf potted trees is documented in China as early as the Tsin Dynasty (265-420 A. D.) In the late 13th Century, the art spread to Japan where the design of such trees was refined to represent natural tree forms. The Japanese translation of "Bonsai" and the Chinese translation of "Penjing" or "Pensai" are "tree in pot".

The goal of Bonsai cultivation is to capture, in miniature, the beauty and essence of a large, mature tree in its natural setting.

The creation of Bonsai requires much care and patience. Characteristics such as a stout trunk, strong roots, and good branching suggest a tree's maturity.



REDHAWK BONSAI



Bonsai Nurseryman
South Texas Bonsai Kai
Lecture/Demo & Workshops

David Whitaker
361.688.0109
redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR
THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY

\$30 individual

\$50 family

\$25 senior 60+

\$40 senior family



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.

sanantoniobonsai.org

Advertising for Snips 'N Clips is based on the minimum size of 3 1/2" by 2 1/2" for \$35 per year. Single ads of the above size can be run for \$5. Ads must be camera ready. The Editor must receive changes in existing ads by the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication. Send ads and payment to San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc., Attn: Advertising, P.O. Box 6658, San Antonio, Texas, 78209. For situations other than the above, please contact the Editor, two2views@yahoo.com. Original articles from Snips 'N Clips may be reprinted only in their entirety. Full credit must be given the author and to Snips 'N Clips.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 6658

San Antonio, Texas, 78209



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: Donna D. two2views@yahoo.com

San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. P.O. Box 6658 San Antonio, Texas, 78209

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: two2views@yahoo.com

Technical Support to Board of Directors Ryan O.