



# SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

MARCH 2015

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 3

## BONSAI CALENDAR

All meetings are held on the second Thursday, 7 pm, at Lions Field Adult Community Center, Broadway at Mulberry St., SA, TX. 78209

**RICHARD HAYES BONSAI STUDY GROUP:** FOURTH WEDNESDAY, Workshop in Bonsai, everyone is welcome, 7 pm at Lions Field. GREAT TIME FOR MEMBERS TO BRING IN A TREE TO WORK ON —

**MARCH 8:** Grapevine dig in Victoria, check with Ryan for more information.

**MARCH 12:** Bring Your Own Texas Native or other species and experienced members will assist throughout the evening.

**HOSTS:** Kevin & Hattie P

**MARCH 14 & 15:** Fanick's Nursery is featuring the makers of **HAPPY FROG fertilizer**. Visit and get a 10% discount with your membership badge. **See website for more details.**

**APRIL 25: WATER GARDEN GEMS SHOW: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.**

Y E A R  
O F  
T H E  
R A M



## President's Message

By Ryan O

[bonsaiode@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaiode@gmail.com)

February went out with a flurry of activity. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, **SABS** showcased outstanding bonsai specimens and suiseki to a huge crowd and on beautiful day, at the *Asian Festival*. The single day event was packed with a large number of compliments on our trees, great questions by viewers, a ton of photographs taken (I even photobombed a few!!!), and many groups watching small demonstrations of us working on trees.

I am excited to see our membership increase from this event. A huge thanks to the following members who contributed to the success that day: Kevin, Hattie, Paul, Marty, Oscar, Donna, and Leydana. In addition, **SABS** will attempt to work with this year's *Ikebana Society* to present a cohesive/interactive showcase of trees and flowers during the *2017 Asian Festival*. We hope to mix together our arts rather than have two separate displays.

During the last weekend of February, **SABS** shifted gears and presented at the Spring Home and Garden (H&G) Show. Despite the cold and rainy (or rather thanks to the cold and rain) attendance was great all three days. Once again, it was a huge success with more in-depth questions, more enthusiasm towards the art, and a wealth of knowledge shared with the many visitors to our booth.

For this H&G Show we added to new and exciting elements; first, we began accepting credit card sales which increased our sales volume by over \$185. This is a huge accomplishment as the club was able to sell higher priced trees and bonsai related items. This increase in sales was contributed by only two members selling items.

continued page two

## PROGRAM CORNER

David W

[redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com)

Secondly, Kevin and I presented a 1-hour lecture/demonstration on "The Art of Bonsai" to a group of visitors on Saturday and Sunday. Kevin and I each worked on a tree while describing the origins of bonsai and many of the techniques used to create bonsai. After our presentation, we each raffled off our trees to two luck winners. Following each presentation, we received accolades presentation format and lively interaction among Kevin and I and the audience. I suspect, this show alone, will increase **SABS** membership by six.

One really neat thing to see, was that a few people came to our booth again after visiting us at the *Asian Festival*. This really says something when visitors approach us to say "we're back" (if you say it in a deep Arnold Schwarzenegger voice it sounds better!!!). Another huge thanks to Kevin, Hattie, Oscar, and Leydana for volunteering their time, for the second weekend in a row.

Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> is Daylight Savings Time. Be sure to change your clocks Saturday night. I don't want to hear about anyone being late to water their trees Sunday morning. As always, keep an eye on the weather. Warmth one day and freezing the next plays havoc on newly formed buds. Protect your tree by covering them to eliminate bud damage due to frost.

Remember to bring in trees for March's workshop. I want to see a room full of members working on trees.

*Please help with the website. I found out the more times people look for [san-antoniobonsai.org](http://san-antoniobonsai.org) the more it helps Google, Bing, Yahoo, etc. start seeing our website. If each of you could periodically do a search for it that would greatly help.*

**RYAN**

This month is BYOT, we are doing a "Bring Your Own Tree" to repot with the help of our more seasoned and experienced club members. Remember to bring trees, pots, tools, soil, wire and anything else that you might need to repot your bonsai. See Ryan for lava rock to mix with your soils and also to purchase a green SABS' very own "Bonsai Tree Care" book, this little book is a South Texas Bonsai Bible, it has the low down on most of our well know species.

## ART INSPIRED BY BONSAI



CURRENT MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR  
THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY

\$30 individual \$50 family  
\$25 senior \$40 senior family

## \* MARCH MONTHLY TIPS

David W

[redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com)

Winter has come late again and hasn't let go, we've had some pretty cold weather for February. Regardless of the frigid temps, some of my deciduous have started to bud. And speaking of budding.... have you started repotting your bald cypress, elms, and other deciduous trees? It may be getting too late if there are signs of new growth. The best time to root prune/repot deciduous trees is right before the buds open, you have to watch them closely and you can see them open within a couple weeks, some can open in just a few days. Repotting and root pruning can be done for these, just remember to protect them from any excessively cold weather we may still get. It's not recommended to root prune any deciduous trees that the buds have already leafed out. If you must repot due to problems with a tree that has leafed out, put it in a larger pot with fresh soil, do not prune the roots. These types of trees have very tender roots at this time of year. Yes, I've heard that people have root pruned deciduous trees (doing a leaf defoliation also) during the growing season... and it is possible to do so and have the tree live, but it's risky. We want the best chance for the trees to survive the shock of root pruning.

**Junipers** can be repotted any time during March through June. You can start repotting your broad leaf evergreens (**holly, boxwood** etc). Its too early in the season to root prune/repot your **South Texas natives**, tropicals and semi (sub) tropicals

Wait until the lowest temperature of the day/night stays above 65-70 degrees for repotting South Texas natives and semi (sub) tropicals (**Ficus, figs, Barbados and Surinam cherry Texas ebony** and other natives) .semi (sub) tropicals.

Tropicals should be repotted in midsummer (**Neea buxifolia, Fukien tea, Bahama Black Olive, Buttonwood and Wrightia Religiosa**, to name a few).

March and April are usually the windiest months of the year. Watch the soils every day so they don't dry out. When you repot, be sure to wire the tree securely in the pot to keep it stabile against the winds. Putting rocks on top of the soil for a while can also help brace the tree. With spring (hopefully!) right around the corner, the bugs will be coming out in droves soon. Inspect the bonsai from top to bottom, also inspect the drain holes. Inspect for ANY and all insects and treat accordingly. I try to spray with insecticide and apply fungicide at least once every 4 weeks (**these can sometimes be mixed with liquid fertilizers**). If you discover an infestation treat according to the label of the pesticide. Watch your training wires, so they don't cut into the branches.

Flowering trees are either setting buds or are already starting to bloom. Feed them regularly with a good blooming fertilizer, one that has a high phosphorus number. Feed others with a Peter's 20-20-20. The rule in fertilizing is, if its growing then you can fertilize. And there's always the need for more soil, all soils must be free draining, remember to screen your **dry** soil before using.

It's time to replace all the soil that you used while repotting, so start mixing and screening your favorite soil recipe, The club still has bags of Lava Rock available for your soil mixes, see Ryan to buy yours now!

**\*Please note that this information is a suggested safe guideline for San Antonio and the South Texas area.**

**DAVID**

'A busy month for the club: Guy Guidry, guest artist conducted a workshop at *Sculptural Designs* with several participants, Oscar G. is learning from the best.

That evening Guy conducted a lecture/demo, he is using the torch to create an aged jin.

Al Pina was the lucky winner of the demonstration tree.

Then the club participated in the **Asian Festival** at *Institute of Texan Cultures* for the day, a very large crowd attended the festivities.

Finally, (without pictures) the club attended the Home & Garden Show at the Alamo Dome at the end of the month.



# TRANSPLANTING

a series developed and presented in *BONSAI TODAY*, Issue 17, 1992-1

Authors:

Ioo Nishikawa, Taisaku Nomotoo, Akira Kansaku, Toshio Onishi, Tokuyi Yoshioka, Eiji Sueda, Hideyi Kanda, Taiyu Ezaka, Hiroshi Takeyama, Noboru Futayama, Saburo Kato, Noboru Kaneko, Sugi Mitsuya, Koji Kubota, Kihachiro Kamiya, Goro Innan, Juyo Ioneia, Mikio Oshima, Tokugiro Ocutani, Sugi Yoshida, Kooji Onishi, Masahiko Kimura, Kioyi Yoshida

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## Pruning to shape the nebari

After cleaning off the original soil, the next step in the preparation of a collected or field-grown tree is the pruning and arrangement of the surface roots.

A good *nebari* consists of thick roots growing radially from all sides of the trunk, emerging at the same level and entering the soil gradually and smoothly.

It is not necessary (in fact, it is very rare) for the *nebari* to be fully shaped in the first pruning. But it is certain that with pruning off the un-

necessary roots, the rest will thicken and grow more rapidly. Pruning of the roots that are growing strongly downward has the same effect: by eliminating them, the growth of the surface roots is enhanced, however weak they may be.

Unnecessary roots are: those that plunge abruptly into the soil, those that emerge curled up or on top of other roots, those that grow out from the trunk at odd angles, those that cross over each other and those that are excessively thick in

comparison with the rest. Another problem that ought to be corrected is an excessive number of surface roots. In this case keep the thickest and the best situated, cutting off the fine and weak ones.

After cutting off a thick root with a root pruner reduce the wound with a chisel and apply sealing paste. It is very important to protect any wound at the base of the trunk with paste as this is the area that is most sensitive to stagnant water and, therefore, to rotting.



1. After cleaning away the soil, the pruning of the surface roots begins.



2. The basic tools are pruning cutters or root pruners.



3. Prune off all the strong roots that are growing downward.



4. Those that plunge abruptly into the soil can be raised with the help of a wooden stick.

5. Reduce all the cuts with a chisel or gouge and, if they are above the level of the soil, cover them with sealing paste.



6. Now it is already possible to observe the root structure. Its depth ensures that a sufficiently shallow pot can be used in the future.

7. Detail of the rootball after pruning.



# Arrangement of roots without pruning

In some cases correcting the growth of a root does not require pruning. Moreover, changing the direction of growth is always preferable to pruning. For that reason tending to the surface roots when the tree is young and its roots are thin and flexible is always recom-

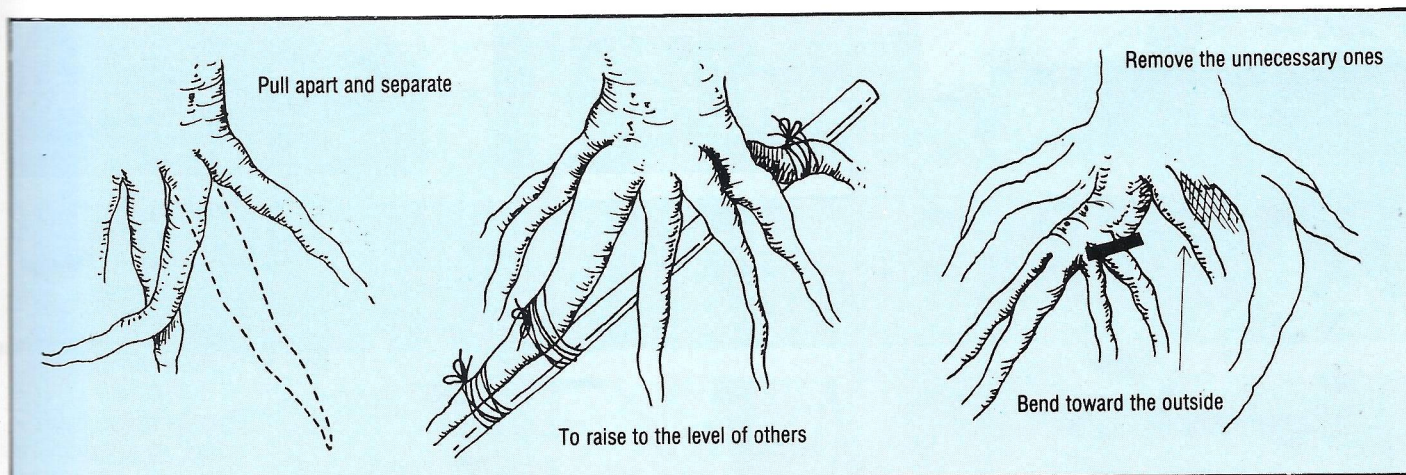
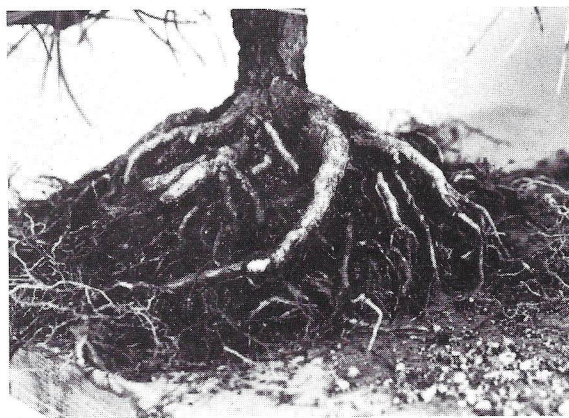
mended.

On this page a 10 year old black pine grown from seed is shown, an example in which crossed, curved and curled up roots spoil the beauty of the tree.

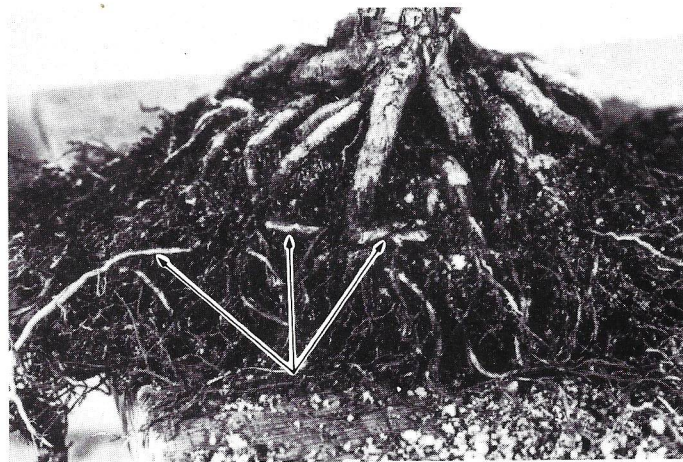
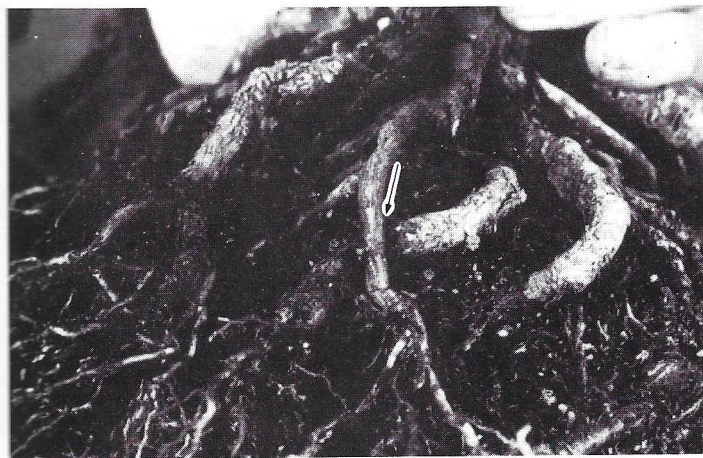
The various operations for the correction of roots without pruning

include separating them by means of a stone, shaping them with the aid of a prop and separating those that have grown together with a razor blade. The best time for all these operations in the very early spring, from February to the beginning of March, before the tree buds.

If the roots are still sufficiently flexible, it is possible to rearrange them without pruning minimizing the stress on the tree



The root marked with an arrow must be separated from the one below. The arrows indicate a single root crossing through the soil.



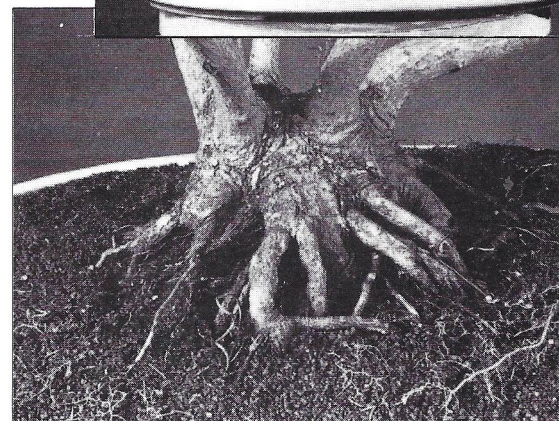
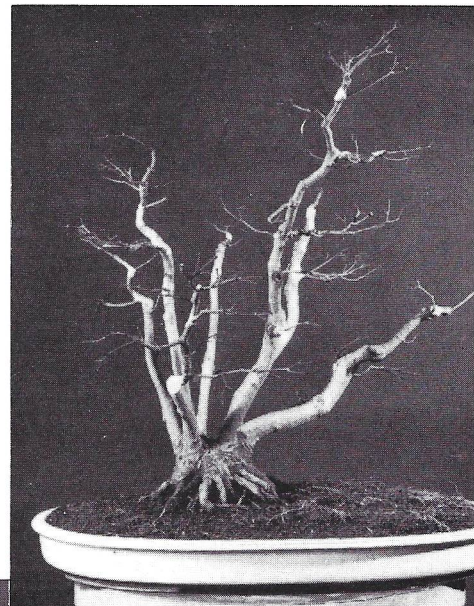
For a good *nebari* it is essential to work on the roots little by little over the lifetime of the tree.

In this case, the illustrations are of a Japanese maple, *Acer palmatum*, with seven trunks, obtained by air layering. Since the tree was a purchased tree, the new owner had no idea what condition the roots were in.

Although perhaps it might not need transplanting, it was necessary to check the condition of the roots in order to know exactly what their cultivation needs were and to correct any possible defect in the root system or drainage of the pot.

Before the tree would bud in the spring, he cleaned the rootball of earth with the help of a jet of water. After untangling the roots he found that many of them were growing in disarray and at an angle rather than directly outwards toward the edge of the pot; this indicated that the previous owner never gave much thought to ordering their growth.

Since they were young, the most of them could be bent toward the right directions. Once the work on the surface roots was completed, he proceeded to the pruning of the fine roots in the rootball as you can see in the illustrations below and on the next page. The total volume of pruned roots must not be more than half of the existing ones; otherwise some of the branches might die.

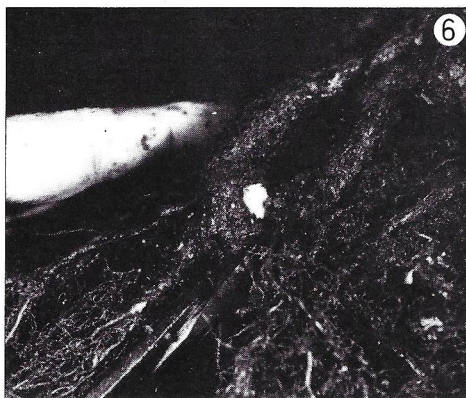
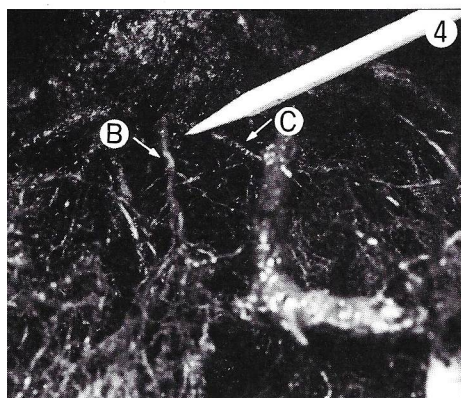
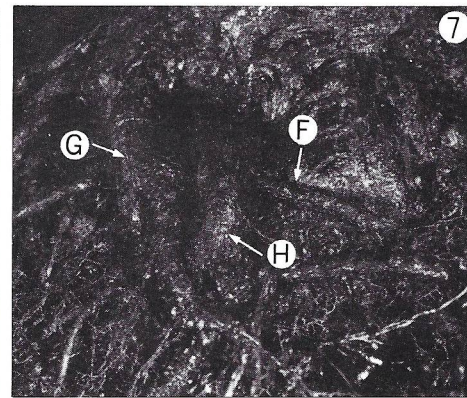
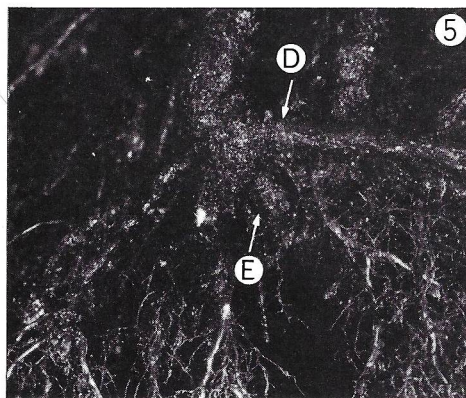
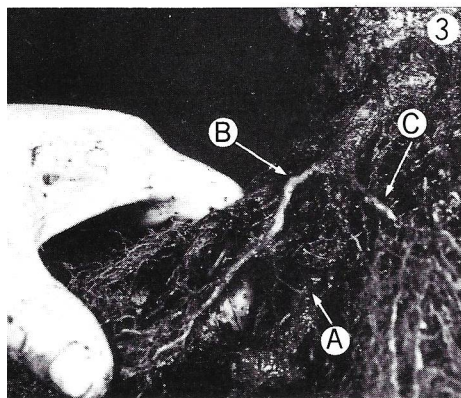


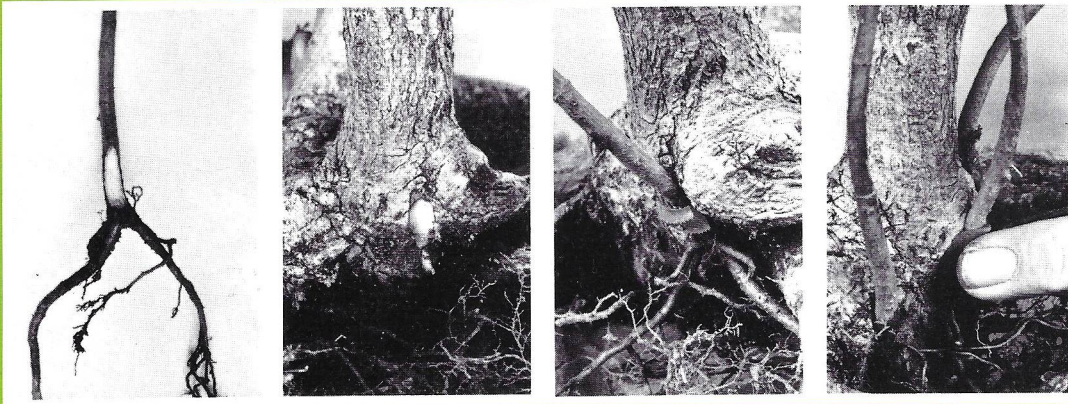
Detail showing the appearance of the surface roots before arranging and transplanting.

## PRUNING OF THE UPPER PART

## ARRANGEMENT OF THICK ROOTS

## SELECTION OF SURFACE ROOTS



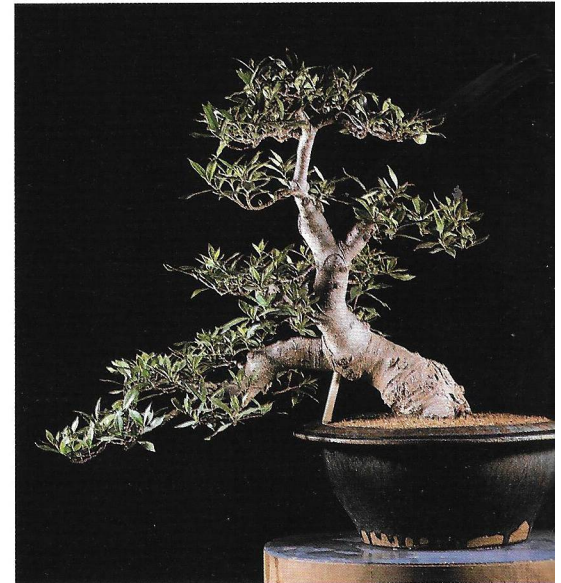


One method for creating roots on one side of the trunk where there were none is the grafting of roots. It consists of an approach graft of several seedlings of the same species as the tree on which you are going to make the graft. Once they have fused, cut off the crown of the seedling, leaving the root.



Observe how, in the upper left photograph, there is a strong, thick root; while in the photograph on the right, the other side of the trunk has only a few fine rootlets.

Below, two years later, the mass of roots, although it was still unequal, had a much better distribution.

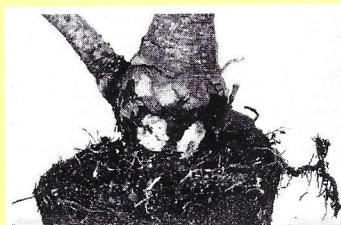


In the upper illustration, the same tree after pruning the roots and transplanting is shown. Generally this one-sided root problem occurs more frequently in the cascade styles where predominance is given to one part of the trunk, the one that supports the cascade.

If the information for the next section is needed now, contact the editor.  
[two2views@yahoo.com](mailto:two2views@yahoo.com)



Another method of stimulating the growth of roots is underground layering. To do that either peel off a ring of bark from the trunk below the level of the soil, or simply make some notches or deep cuts in the trunk again below soil level.



## INTERNATIONAL BONSAI CALENDAR 2015

**6-7 March 2015: Spring Symposium '15: Hinoki Cypress & More** hosted by the Central Virginia Bonsai Society at the Community Room of the Lynchburg Public Library. Featuring Bill Valavanis on Bonsai Display & Aesthetics and Hinoki Cypress Bonsai. Registration is \$20 + workshop fees. Details from Julian Adams at 434-384-7951 or CVBS, 1721 Langhorne Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503.

**MARCH 8:** San Antonio Bonsai Club **Grapevine dig** in Victoria, TX check with Ryan for more information, [bonsaiode@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaiode@gmail.com)

**6-8 March 2015: 3rd National Bonsai Exhibition** at Ruben Zayas Montanez in Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico. Details at [peybonsai@aol.com](mailto:peybonsai@aol.com).

**MARCH 12:** San Antonio Bonsai Society, 7 pm, Lions Field Community Center, Broadway and Mulberry: Bring Your Own Texas Native or other species and experienced members will assist throughout the evening.

**MARCH 14 & 15:** Fanick's Nursery, 1025 Holmgreen Rd, SA, TX, 78220 is featuring the makers of **HAPPY FROG fertilizer**. Visit and get a 10% discount with your membership badge. See website for more details: [www.sanantoniobonsai.org](http://www.sanantoniobonsai.org)

**Friday & Saturday, 27-28 March 2015 from 9-5: LCBS Annual Exhibit** will be held in conjunction with the SWLA Garden Conference & Expo at Burton Coliseum. Setup will be on Thursday, 26 March from 9-5:30 with a preview party that evening. Details and updates are available at <http://www.gardenfest.com>

**PARTS OF THE BONSAI CALENDAR COURTESY OF ALAN WALKER, LCBS**

### FANICK'S GARDEN CENTER

With knowledgeable staff to assist you

Email ; fanicks@aol.com  
Website: fanicksnursery.com

1025 holmgreen rd  
San antonio, tx 78220  
210-648-1303

Fanicks Garden Center has been in business for 75 years. Family owned they give members of garden clubs a 10% discount on purchases. This year on March 14-15 the makers of "HAPPY FROG" fertilizer will be holding a event at the nursery. Be sure and bring along your name tag to assure your 10% discount.



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.

[sanantoniobonsai.org](http://sanantoniobonsai.org)

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Ryan O  
Kevin P  
Chris L

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Snips 'N Clips is published monthly by The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.  
Subscription and membership is \$30.00 per year.

Advertising for Snips 'N Clips is based on the minimum size of 3 1/2" by 2 1/2" for \$45 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](mailto: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**

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Newsletter editor: Donna L. D

[two2views@yahoo.com](mailto:two2views@yahoo.com)