



# SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://bonsai-satx.org>

FEBRUARY 2015

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 2

## 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

*Each month the club features a "mini-show" of bonsai that anyone can bring in to talk about, **this month**: Any bonsai reminding you of Richard Hayes.*

**DUES FOR THE YEAR ARE DUE THIS MONTH—PLEASE PAY TREASURER OSCAR GONZALES. SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS.**

**THURSDAY AFTERNOON THE 12TH: WORKSHOP WITH MR. GUIDRY, LOCATION: 927 N. ALAMO, 1 PM.**

**THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting, 7 PM: Lecture/Demonstration by Guy Guidry:** Guy is presenting his knowledge and experience with bonsai while working on a demo tree to be raffled at the end of his presentation. Our meeting will be held at the Lion's field as normal.

**HOSTS: Leydana M & Donna D**

**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 —

**FEBRUARY 21st: Asian Festival**  
**FEBRUARY 27—March 1st: Spring Home and Garden Show.**

## President's Message

By Ryan O

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

Can't get enough bonsai in during the weekend and at night, try podcasts during your travels to and from the office or the grocery store. A podcast (for those that don't know, like me about two months ago) is a digital medium that consists of an episodic series of audio and digital radio files subscribed to and downloaded through web syndication or streamed online to a computer (thanks Siri). Upon downloading the app and searching for "bonsai" there are currently two main podcasts and they are: The Bonsai Cast and The Bonsai Garden Podcast. I recommend The Bonsai Cast to beginners as the host discusses soil, taper, and the beginnings of creating bonsai. The Bonsai Garden Podcast has 30+ episodes by various artists including Cheryl Manning (our 2014 LSBF Touring Artist) and Owen Reich (2015 LSBF Touring Artist).

In continuation with bonsai and technology, if you use **LinkedIn**, you can subscribe to the Bonsai Group where Adam Lambert (VP of the Central Florida Bonsai Club) has weekly posts about various topics and species. Adam is quite the character with his writing style. He always has me laughing at something. He also blogs at [www.adamaskwhy.wordpress.com](http://www.adamaskwhy.wordpress.com).

If anyone else has other technological bonsai mediums, send me an email and I'll compile a list to send to the group.

**Please pay Oscar G your 2015 SABS dues. Your membership fee is due to Oscar by February 13<sup>th</sup>.** Those that have not paid will lose out on the newsletter distribution.

continued page two

## PROGRAM CORNER

David W

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

This month we have the distinct pleasure to have the World Renowned Bonsai Master Guy Guidry heading up a workshop at Donna's studio in the afternoon of Thursday February 12th, 2015 and lecture Demo at the Lyons club that night!

Bonsai Master and Louisiana native, Guy Guidry has been practicing the art of Bonsai for over 30 years. Guidry has earned national and international acclaim with his thought-provoking and controversial techniques and bonsai creations. Best known for his work with bald cypress, Guidry has pushed the boundaries of classical bonsai with his massive and visually powerful designs. In 1986, Guy became the youngest artist to display bonsai in the permanent collection of the **National Arboretum** in Washington, DC. He also has his bonsai trees on display in some of the most prominent Bonsai collections in the country and around the world, including the **Weyerhaeuser Collection** in Washington State.

Guy has traveled extensively throughout his career to give lectures and demonstrations all throughout the US and abroad including Great Britain, British Columbia, South and Central America, Africa and India. Currently, Guy is the owner and operator of two local businesses: **Bonsai Northshore**, in Covington which houses his nursery, and **Nola Bonsai**, a bonsai retail store in New Orleans.

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

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> - Guy Guidry Workshop:** A workshop is scheduled for **Thursday afternoon from 1 pm to 4 pm** at Donna's studio. Registered members may bring 2 to 3 trees for Guy to critique and assist with your trees' development. Fee is \$25.

On **Saturday February 21, 2015** is the annual **Asian Festival** at the **Institute of Texan Cultures** from 10 am to 5 pm. Set-up is from 7 am to 9 am and take-down is from 5 pm to 8 pm. We currently have 15 trees among 5 members and would like 5 more trees/displays. Kevin and I picked up parking and un/loading passes and wristbands. I will provide such passes/wristbands at the February meeting. The parking passes are good for parking in the **UTSA** area only and you will be bussed to the front doors. This will take about 20 minutes to get back to the Festival.

Also in **February, beginning on the 27 (thru March 1)**, we are exhibiting at the **Spring Home and Garden Show**. This will be an exciting event as this year, Kevin and I will be presenting the art of bonsai on Saturday and Sunday. Trees and volunteers are still needed and greatly appreciated.

I need your help with the website. I found out the more times people look for [sanantoniobonsai.org](http://sanantoniobonsai.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.

Lastly, please take a moment to stop and remember **Richard Hayes**. His passing was only one short year ago, but his legacy still lives on. As I mentioned, last February, "Prune on Richard..."

**RYAN**

## JANUARY MONTHLY TIPS

David W

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

It's been a very mild winter for us here, if you could call it that. I think our trees were telling us they wanted winter to be over fast and spring to start.

Anyway, are you prepared for the new growing season? It is closer than you think! Keep your eyes on your deciduous trees, you want to root prune/repot them before the buds start swelling. It's risky if you do root pruning after the buds have opened and there is new growth of leaves. The window of opportunity can come and go real fast for us. If you have several to do, then you can do like I do and start repotting them in early February and protect them from temperatures that get below 45.

When root pruning, remove 1/3 to 1/2 of the roots and leave the fine hair roots. If the branches need wiring or pruning, do it before you repot, because it is easier to shape them without leaves.

Make sure you tightly wire your repotted trees into their new home. We want to protect our newly potted tree from the seasonal high winds. Along with wiring the bonsai into the pot, I add the support of rocks around the base of the tree, be careful not to harm the roots. The first few weeks after repotting are a crucial time for the new roots; you must anchor the tree to the pot securely! The newly growing roots are delicate, so do NOT fertilize for a few weeks, the new soil will have plenty of nutrients.

After you repot, bring it out to get some well deserved filtered or shaded sun for few days, and then place it accordingly to the needs of the species. Watch out for cold weather that might come screaming in during the end of winter, be prepared to shelter those trees if needed.

Wait for a few weeks or so before you start trimming and pinching the new growth.

Trimming branches increases branching and lets the light in so your plant will stay healthy. The more you trim and pinch, the better the ramification gets. Trim the new branch down to 2 or 3 leaves; continue this throughout the growing season. When trimming remember the basics, remove crossing, spokes, and the up & down branches. **Before trimming, check a species reference guide to see *when* it should be trimmed, we don't want to cut off any branches too soon that might be flowering &/or fruiting.**

Watch the soils every day so they do not dry out. All soils must be free draining. It is best to screen all your soils to promote good drainage, air flow and to get rid of the "fines" or dust. A good mix should be around 50% organic such as pine bark or fir bark and some good potting soil, and 50% inorganic such as Akadama, granite, Haydite, Kanuma, expanded shale, or coarse sand. Adjust your formula accordingly to suit each species. Experiment with your own combinations and see what works best for your trees.

Inspect the bonsai from top to bottom. With the *warmer* weather we have during "winter" we should inspect for ANY and all insects and treat accordingly. I try to apply the practice of "an ounce of prevention", I treat with insecticide and apply fungicide at least once every 4 weeks. If you discover an infestation, treat according to the label of the pesticide.

Being careful with the newer pesticides on the market, they can kill or damage some of the more sensitive plants, if unsure ask for help from another member. I'm starting to see a lot of the old reliable pesticides are getting harder to find, or off the market and some of the new products are unreliable or can be detrimental, we might need to have workshop on stopping and preventing all pest problems.

**DAVID**

# TRANSPLANTING

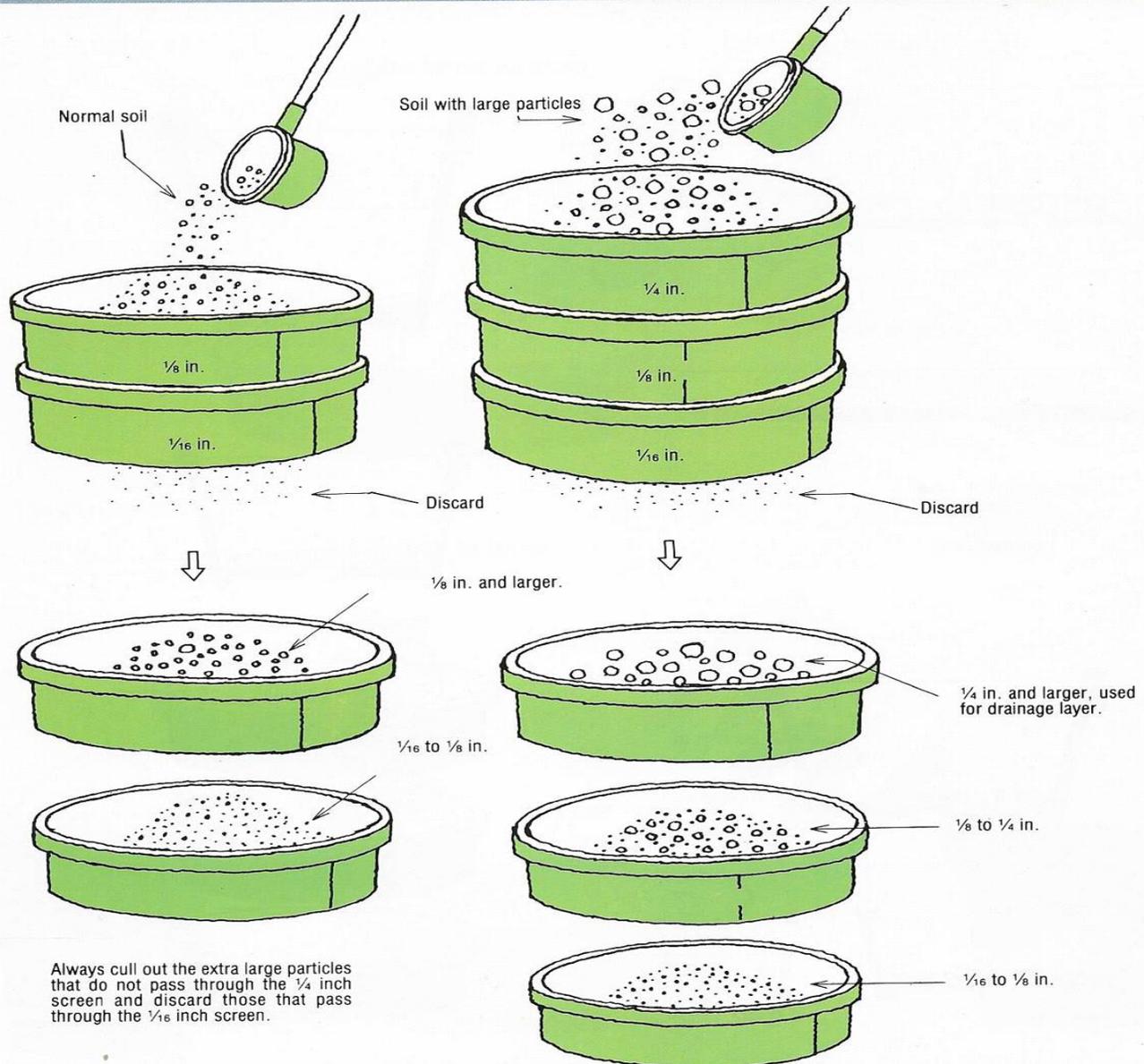
a series developed and presented in *BONSAI TODAY*, Issue 17, 1992-1

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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## Why the soil is sifted



The health of the tree depends on the roots and the health of the roots depends on the soil. In the limited volume that a pot provides, this relationship is particularly important and so it is essential to use the proper soil mix.

But why do we sift the soil separating the particles into distinct size ranges?

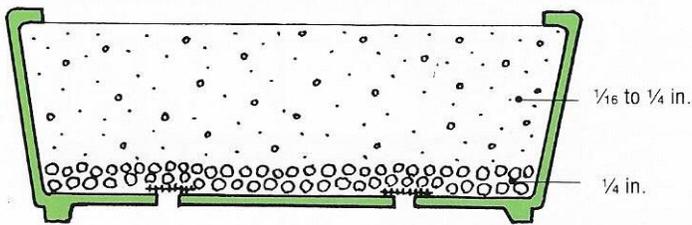
Suppose only the dust that had passed through the finest screen were used as the soil mix. When the plant is thoroughly watered, the soil would become quickly saturated. Because the pot is relatively shallow, the gravitational forces which normally would hasten the drainage process will become less significant. Capillary forces will dominate

and water would surround the roots for lengthy periods, a condition soon leading to root suffocation.

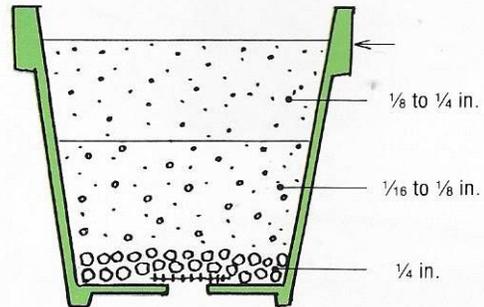
The health of the plant depends not only on the availability of water at the roots, but also the availability of air and in particular oxygen which is absorbed through the roots. It is this alternating availability of air and water that good drainage provides

## Which particle size to use

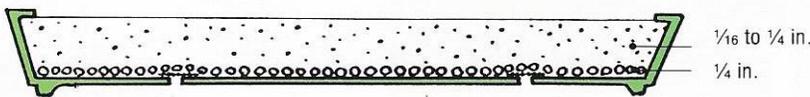
Typical bonsai pot



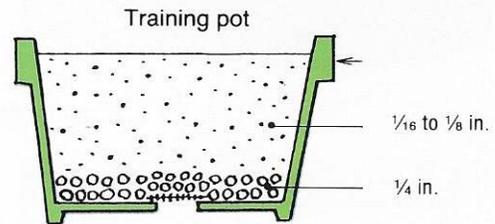
Cascade pot



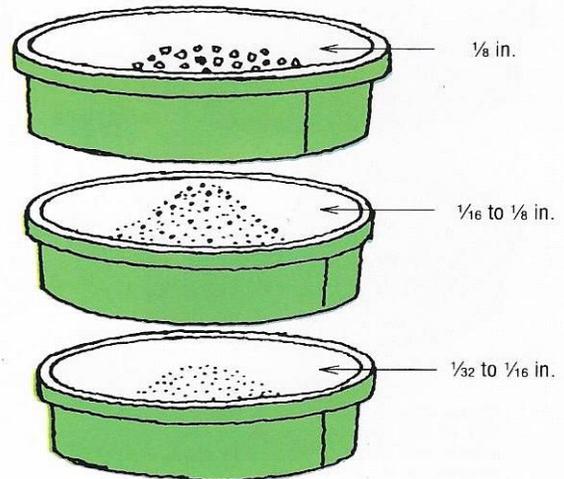
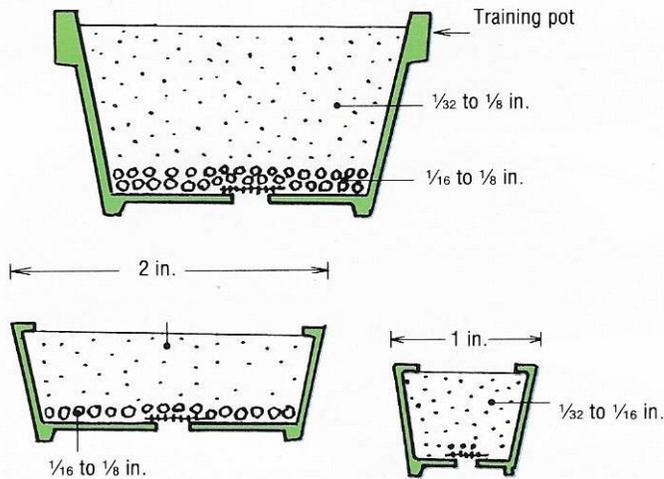
Shallow tray



Shohin pots



Screens for shohin



that leads to a healthy plant.

Now suppose the opposite condition: assume that only the particles that remained on the largest screen were used. Certainly the danger of flooding the roots for extended periods is eliminated, but will there be enough water available to the roots to sustain the plant? Very frequent and very careful attention to watering would be necessary.

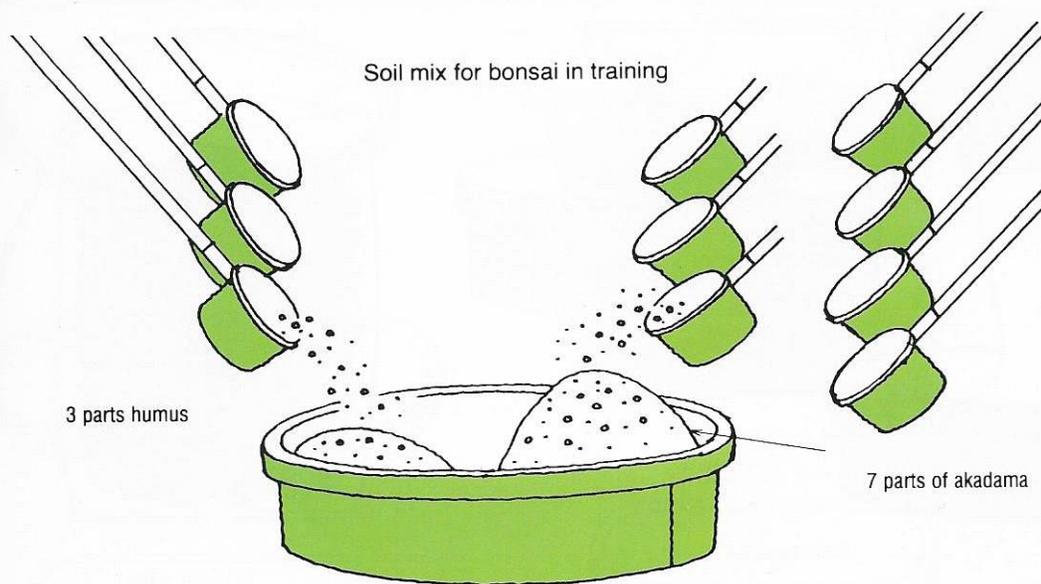
But there is an additional problem: in order to make certain essential elements available to the plant, there must be microscopic areas that remain wet for extended periods of time.

So soil must be screened and particles that remain on each screen layered in the pot as shown in the drawings.

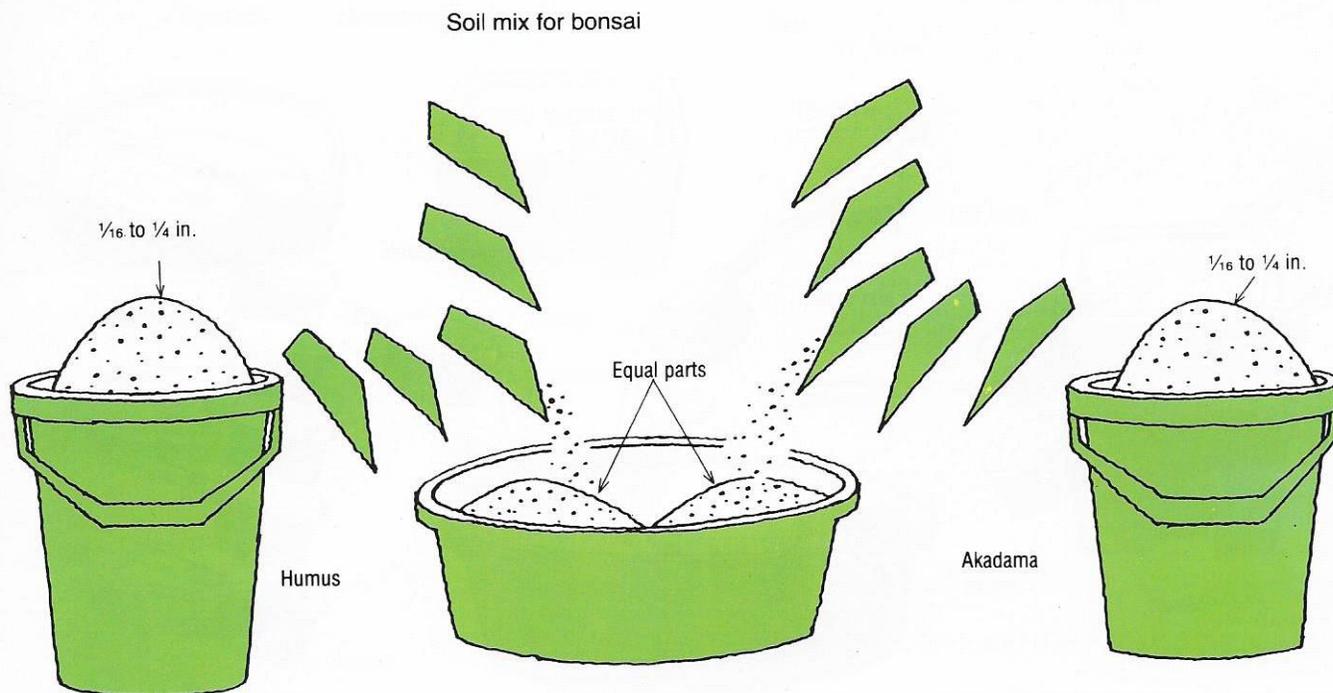
The greater the availability of air,

the more rapidly roots will grow. This implies, therefore, that if the tree is young and you want it to grow, use larger particles and, on the other hand, if you only want to maintain the tree, use finer grains.

Of course, soil dust is never used. Since, with daily watering, soil particles disintegrate little by little, old soil is always replaced with new soil when transplanting.



SOIL MIXES USED  
IN JAPAN



The important characteristics of a good soil mix are drainage (aeration), the retention of water and the provision of nutrients.

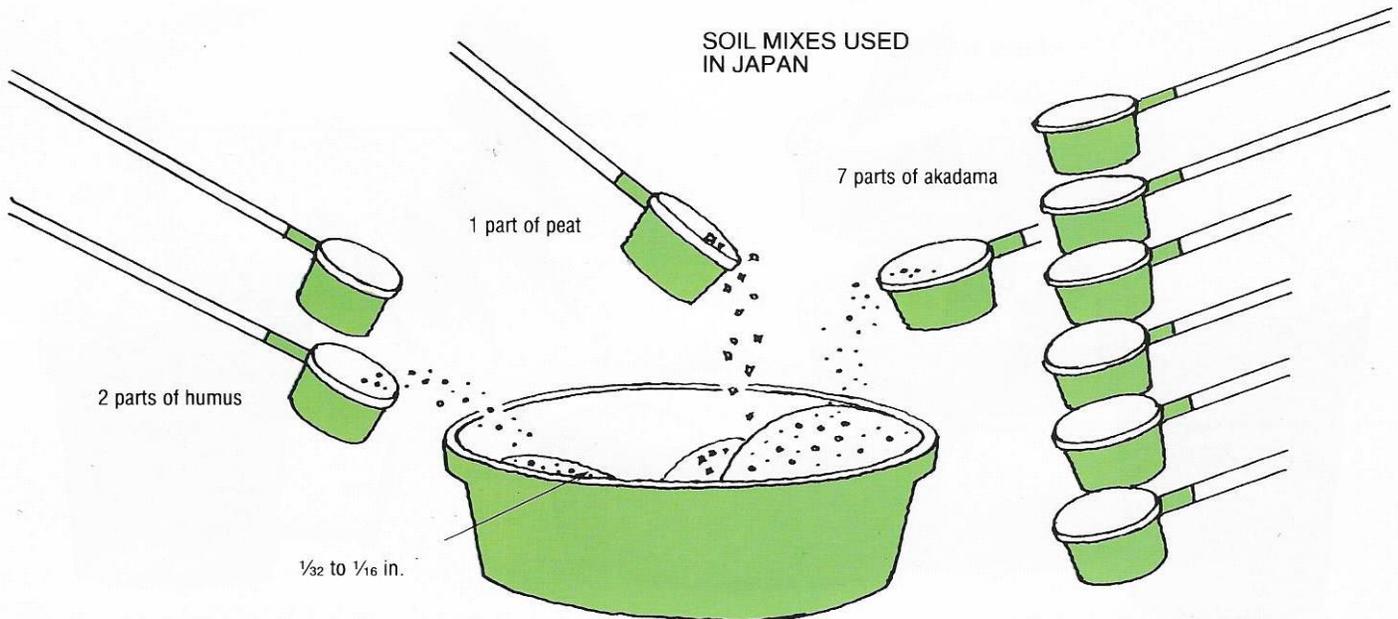
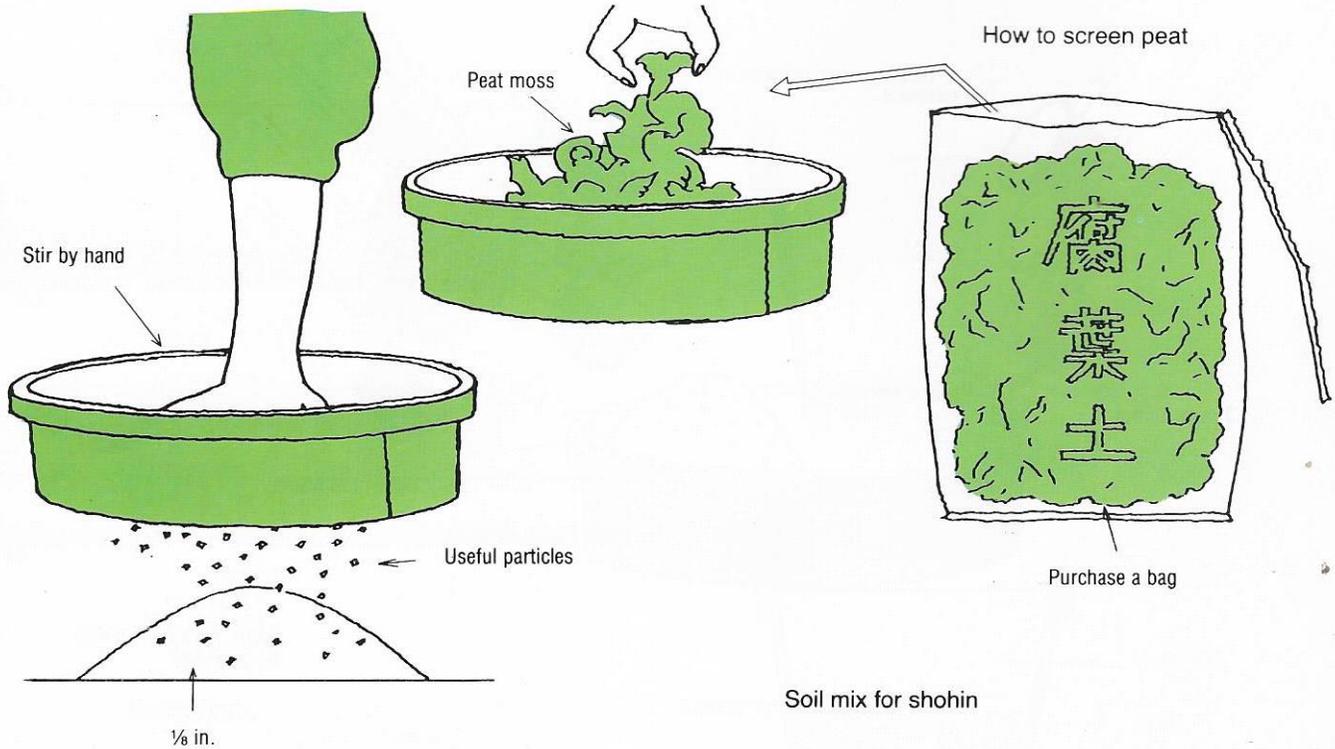
Even when, in an outdoor environment, the majority of soils fulfill these conditions, the same thing does not hold true when the root system is confined to a small container. For that reason the prac-

tice of using the same soil that a tree had when growing in the field or in the mountains does not work.

There are many considerations in selecting specific soils to use as part of the mix. Each one may in itself have certain advantages, but there may be disadvantages. This is best explained by considering some of the basic soils individually.

Suppose you use only natural clay. Even though screened, the remaining granules would quickly disintegrate with each watering and it would soon be evident that the soil was not absorbing water properly. *Akadama* or baked clay resists such breakdown.

Let us suppose that you use only sharp sand. After sifting, drainage



would be fine and would not deteriorate as sand particles do not break down easily. The addition of some finer particles ( $\frac{1}{32}$  in or 1 mm), would improve water retention, but in a short time, the tree would fade away simply because sand does not possess nutrients.

Now let us imagine that you are using only an organic material like

peat moss. Even if screened, initially it would take a long time to get the soil thoroughly wet and then much longer than normal to dry out. If it ever dried out it would be very difficult to wet the whole rootball again. The tree would likely wind up with roots rotted from excess water or dead of thirst.

What is the solution? A mixture of

these three basic component soils is the answer: the sand will provide adequate aeration and drainage; the peat moss, the retention of water and nutrients and, lastly, the baked clay (or *akadama* in Japan) will retain water and also serve to balance the effects the pH of the water, fertilizers and peat moss have on the proper growth of the tree.

## INTERNATIONAL BONSAI CALENDAR 2015

**5-13 February 2015, 09:30-17:30:** 89th Kokofu Bonsai Exhibition at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum.

**9-13 February 2015:** Japanese Suiseki Exhibition at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum.

**FEBRUARY 12th — Guy Guidry workshop, 1 pm**

**FEBRUARY 12th — Guy Guidry lecture/demonstration, 7 pm** Lions Field Community Center, Broadway & Mulberry, San Antonio, TX

**14-15 February 2015:** Noelanders Trophy XVI hosted by Bonsai Association Belgium at Limburghal, Genk, Belgium and featuring Ryan Neil, Salvatore Liporace, and Seok Ju Kim. Details at <http://www.limburghal.be> (venue) and <http://www.bonsaiassociation.be/en/trophy.php>.

**FEBRUARY 21st – Asian Festival, Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio, TX**

**FEBRUARY 27 – March 1st – Spring Home and Garden Show, Alamo Dome, San Antonio, TX**

**Saturday, 28 February 2015 at 10 am:** Bonsai-A-Thon at the Huntington Gardens-San Marino, CA. Includes exhibits, demonstrations, prize drawings, a “bonsai bazaar,” and a live auction at 3 p.m. each day. Bonsai workshops for adults and children with advanced registration. Proceeds from the event support the GSBF Bonsai Collection housed in the Japanese Garden at The Huntington. Admission is \$20. Details at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/events/639808406128712/?fref=ts>.

**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.

**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).

**Sunday, 15 March 2015:** Shohin UK II—2015 at Failand Village Hall, Ox House Lane, Failand, UK. Details at [https://www.facebook.com/events/1461821587418172/?ref\\_newsfeed\\_story\\_type=regular&source=1](https://www.facebook.com/events/1461821587418172/?ref_newsfeed_story_type=regular&source=1) or [shohin.uk@btinternet.com](mailto:shohin.uk@btinternet.com).

**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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