



# SNIPS 'N CLIPS

December 2019

Volume 44

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

Number 12

## What's New!

- PLEASE NOTE ALL MEETINGS ARE NOW STARTING AT 6:30PM TO ACCOMMODATE REVISED HOURS OF OPERATION OF THE LION'S FIELD.
- **December 7<sup>th</sup> – Art on Broadway** – SABS will have a booth at the Lion Field's Art on Broadway Showcase. We will be promoting the convention and selling trees as holiday gifts. Show is from 10am to 4pm with set-up beginning at 8am. Volunteers are welcome to attend.
- **December 12<sup>th</sup> – Larry's Trees** – Tammy B-R. will be bringing a few of Larry's tropical bonsai trees that will be for sale. 100% of proceeds from the sale of Larry's trees are directly donated to SABS so please bring your wallet and purchase a tree of Larry's to continue his bonsai legacy.
- **December 25<sup>th</sup> – Bonsai Study Group** – Due to the holiday season there will be no Wednesday Night Study Group.
- REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2020 CONVENTION.

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-texas-bonsai-convention-registration-77963704539> and all paper documents can be found at <http://www.sanantoniobonsai.org/2020-bonsai-convention> and <http://www.lonestarbonsai.org/2020-convention/>

All lecture/demonstration meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 6:30pm, 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, 6:30pm, Lions Field. All members are invited to attend for hands-on assistance by experienced bonsai artists.

## DECEMBER'S EVENTS

### Lecture/Demo:

December 12<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Party and Gift Exchange

### Food/Beverage Host(s):

Pot Luck by All

### Bonsai Study Group:

**NO MEETING DUE TO HOLIDAY**

## JANUARY'S EVENTS

### Lecture/Demo:

TBD

### Food/Beverage Host(s):

TBD

### Bonsai Study Group:

January 22<sup>nd</sup>

## 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.

Individual	Family	Senior (60+)	Individual	Senior (60+)	Family
\$30	\$50	\$25			\$40

# President's Message

Klaus C.  
collklaus@yahoo.com

We don't just style Bonsai... we socialize and enjoy good food.

Remember to decorate a Bonsai in the holiday theme and enter for big prizes again this year...show your imagination

We will have a gift exchange. Purchase a \$20 or so gift so you can enter that switch and bait gift exchange. Plenty of fun. Don't forget to be creative with your gift ideas!!!!

Schmooze with your fellow Bonsai friends and dine on delicious vittles.

Bring the sides, please let me know what is smuggled in ... and give me a count of those that will be there. Bring various beverages. About 30 guests

For our holiday party Dec 12th

The real reason for this note is to convince your participation in our festive meal. Our group funds will purchase the holiday brisket and you bring the really tasty dishes. A variety of beverages as well.

Here are a few suggestions on items to bring: dips, queso, salsa, guacamole, chips, party breads, crackers with charcuterie (cold cuts), macaroni, potato salad, vegetable tray, meat tray, green beans, quinoa with mushrooms, rolls, casseroles, cinnamon rolls, pies, etc.

Here is what we know is coming thus far:

- Meat balls - Tammy
- Fresh salads - Jim
- Guatemala salad - Leydana
- Pasta salad - Evelyn
- Cherry cobbler - Tammy
- Fruit Ambrosia - Diane
- Baklava - Ester

You tell me you are coming and what is coming with you. Like most events 30 or so will be there.

Klaus



# Program Corner

Ryan O.

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

Thank you for enjoying the newsletter for the past 1.5 years as I was editor. I enjoyed writing the newsletters and hearing your feedback. I was happy to incorporate a few older articles from the vault of Buddy Hensley and others.

The time has come to re-energize the newsletter again with the return of former editor Donna D. Beginning with January's newsletter, she will bring a new look and new articles.

Welcome back Donna!!!!

Please welcome the 2020 Board Members:

- President – Jay N.
- Vice President - David R.
- Treasurer – Kevin P.
- Secretary – Bryan B.
- Members at Large: Jim H., Vicki A., Carol B., Tammy B-R., and Klaus C.
- Newsletter: Donna D.

A huge thank you to Diane C., Leydana R-M., Klaus C. (as President), Nick B, and Larry A. for your dedication, commitment, and work ethic for always striving to improve SABS and securing its place for many years to come. The next time you see them, please thank them for their service.

## Convention updates!

**Next Convention meeting will be held January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 9:30 am at Donna D's Studio Sculptural Designs Atelier at 927 N. Alamo Street, 78215.**

For Convention Committee members, please bring all drawings, plans, ideas, brochures, and achievements since our last meeting. We are getting to a critical point in point in our convention development planning whereby specifics of each aspect of the of the convention need to be discussed and voted upon.

Those wanting to contribute to our preplanning schedule/calendar, be sure to submit tasks and dates to Ryan O. by December 31 so we can discuss on January.

Registration is now open. See links on page 1.



KEEP YOUR  
EYES ON THE  
BONSAI

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 17<sup>th</sup> 2020

Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio  
823 North Loop 1604 East  
San Antonio, TX 78232

# You Speak... Editor Prints...

*Below continues a mini-series by Donna D., our 2020 Convention Curator, which will be included in our newsletters up to our convention. This mini-series prepare your trees for display. Enjoy!!!*

## YOUR BONSAI ON DISPLAY FOR CONVENTION 2020

You are all working on your bonsai for the exhibit next May! The winter months force things to slow down when it comes to the different species. The tropicals are in a protected area and should be left alone; just keep an eye out for pests! The deciduous can be “inspected” for design enhancements; this is when you can really see the structure more clearly with leaves gone. Of course in our neck of the woods the leaves don’t necessary drop. Check your “Tree Care” book to see if you should defoliate or even better find a member versed in that species.

We are going to have a wonderful display area; handsomely laid out to celebrate every bonsai that will be on display.

Be looking at your stand choices. If you are new at this maybe a member can help you select the right stand. I will have a few stands available to borrow. There are other members who will do the same.



The Japanese name for “stands” is Shoku. There are all types of stands and are broadly divided between tall and horizontal types. The Cascading style of course would use a tall stand, traditionally made and there are the most unique ones that have been carved from a massive piece of wood or root base. The horizontal type stands are used in the other styles such as formal and informal. These stands can be very nice furniture like pieces or a large slab of wood.

So keep up the preparations for your bonsai, remember you are an artist, beginner or not. The exhibit will give you that opportunity to find your way! Our goal is to make this the most outstanding display yet for Texas Bonsai.

# Bonsai Techniques

Courtesy of John Miller  
from the Dallas Bonsai Society

The big thing this month is to protect the roots from freezing and to make sure the bonsai do not dry out. Do not leave them on their benches. Know which species can be left outdoors. They may be set on the ground. Add a dense mulch to the pot rim and then add a looser mulch on top.

Evergreen types especially and deciduous to a lesser extent should not have the root ball subjected to alternate freezing and thawing. That process tends to damage the roots. Placing the trees on the ground and using mulch will minimize this problem.

Deciduous trees should not be placed where they receive winter sun. After a period of dormancy, the heating of the trees could possibly cause them to break dormancy prematurely. If that happens, you will need to keep it above freezing the rest of the winter. After they go dormant, they have no need for any sunshine.

While they are dormant, examine the twigs, branches, and trunks carefully for scale insects. Scales are sucking insects that usually cover themselves with a hard impervious shell that is very resistant to insecticides. Some are pretty small and look like specks. You might want to search online for something like 'scale insect bonsai' and get some pictures. Horticultural oils (available at garden stores) work well by filling their pores and smothering them. Oils can be applied now and you get a more thorough coverage while the trees are dormant. The only other way is to use a systemic insecticide (make sure it is labeled for scale) during the growing season.

Since the trees are not using as much water during dormancy, it is easy to overlook checking on them. The low humidity usually found during winter helps dry the soil. Winter sun can be pretty hot and if it shines directly on the pot, it will hasten the drying process. It is usually windier in winter, so check your bonsai for dryness often. The same trees that needed more water last summer will also need to be checked more often during the winter. I think that more trees are lost during the winter to having the soil dry out than from the actual cold.

Especially watch the plants that will need repotting next spring. Pots full of circling roots do not have much soil to hold water but those that had a lot of organic matter in the soil mix may be soggy. Organic matter that has composted during the summer will be very fine textured and hold on to the water a long time and may also interfere with drainage.

Plants have different degrees of hardiness for their top growth and their roots. The reason is that the ground acts as a large reservoir of heat and here in Texas seldom freezes more than an inch or two down. Therefore, plants like the pomegranate and crêpe myrtle which are at the northern extent of their range outside will only be hardy to 32 degrees in pots.

Any plant that you are unsure of should be protected from freezing. This can be a problem because if they are not kept cool after they go dormant they will break dormancy and start to grow too soon. Growing without sufficient light causes long spindly growth which you cannot control. My best solution for this when I lived in town was to have a long platform with two wheels that I pulled into the garage on nights where freezing was forecast and kept outside at all other times.

The cold weather will keep any insect problems under control outside. You should use a dormant oil spray to kill over-wintering insects and eggs. A spray of diluted lime-sulfur can be used on deciduous trees if they have

no green at all which will also control fungal spores but be sure to follow label directions carefully. You should watch for damage from rodent types, such as rabbits, squirrels, and rats. They will seriously prune branches and strip bark in short order.

A caution on lime sulfur - the same stuff we use on jin and shari. The liquid lime sulfur is pretty caustic so should be used with caution. If used as a dormant spray, application should only be made to fully dormant plants or deciduous trees with tight winter buds. Use on very warm days, and only when diluted as directed on the bottle.

Bonsai in greenhouses or indoor bonsai need to be watched for the normal indoor problems. Low humidity, spider mites and scale are the biggest problems here. Trying to keep the humidity up by placing your trees on a humidity tray can possibly result some soil problems, root rot or some other fungal diseases. I basically use the same controls in the greenhouse or outside all year.

You can take advantage of the winter slowdown by getting pots ready for spring, clean and sharpen your tools, study what changes you would like to make on your trees and so forth. Making notes about what needs to be done on an individual tree is great but if you are like me, the notes and trees are usually a long way apart.

If you place a colored stake or ribbon on the tree you will see instantly which one needs what done. For example, I am using red for needs repotting, purple-needs a new pot, yellow-serious pruning, orange-should be restyled, etc. These can be put on during the year if you make that kind of decision as you are doing general routine work.



Decorated bonsai pictures from various internet sites.

## BONSAI FUNNIES

### The relaxing world of Bonsai

Images provided by various internet sources.



## 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ◆ President: Klaus C.
- ◆ Vice President/Recorder: Nick B.
- ◆ Treasurer/Membership: Leydana R-M.
- ◆ Secretary: Bryan B.
- ◆ Raffles: Diane C.
- ◆ Directors at Large: Larry A., Carol B., Tammy B-R., and Jay N.

### 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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