



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

MARCH 2023

VOLUME 48 NUMBER 3

BONSAI CALENDAR

MARCH:

MARCH 4th: Club members going down to Redhawk Bonsai Nursery (David Whitaker's house)

MARCH 9 Lions Field. Club meeting, 6:30-8:30

MARCH 22nd, Lions Field Bonsai Workshop. 6-8:30

APRIL:

APRIL 14: Club meeting, 6:30pm Lions Field.

APRIL 26: Fourth Wednesday, workshop, Lions Field, 6:30pm.



President's Message

Kevin Preston hattie1@gvtc.com

Howdy Everyone! It's Rodeo time and I hope everyone interested in that type of event got a chance to go. Hattie and I spent several days at the stock show watching our twin grandsons exhibit their cattle. Enjoyed seeing them but it's nice becoming empty nesters again!

At this month's meeting we will be holding an Auction and sellers can keep up to 80% if they so choose. Please take notice of the do's and don'ts to follow later in the newsletter. Bring your cash, checkbook, credit card and get ready to have some fun!

Is it spring already? All our trees are VERY confused! Please be careful as there will most certainly, probably, possibly, maybe be several days of freezing weather to come before Easter. PROTECT THEM TREES!!!!!!

As I mentioned at last month's meeting we will be holding a convention in 2027 with Corpus Christi.

We will need volunteers to help with registration, raffles, vendors, food, exhibit and the list goes on...

One way to start helping now is to start collecting items that you want to donate to the raffle, yes I know it's 4 years from now, but you, we need to start.

A big THANK YOU to Ryan Odegaard for finding 3 really cool areas to collect trees (rocks and cactus) last month. Dozens of people attended and had a great time.

By the time this goes out, David Whitaker will have hosted his re-potting session down in Mathis, Texas. I didn't sign up in time, but better luck next year.

Finally Happy St. Patrick's day, wear something green and don't get pinched!

Vice President/Program Director's Message

March 09 is this month's meeting and we will be having our spring club auction, this is one of our major fundraisers! So bring your bonsai or pre-bonsai, extra plants; garden or bonsai related items (tools, books, pots etc); or whatever you think someone else will want to (buy) bid on. Oh, and definitely be ready to bid on items that you'll want! Get your bid paddle and sign in as soon you arrive. Early arrival is advised as we want to get busy and down to business ASAP. We love donations for our auction and also we permit commissioned auction split of 80% / 20% with \$100 minimum per item.

Ryan, thank you very much for heading the yamadori collecting season this year, you know this year was a record setting year for digs and y'all are going to have at least 3 dates this year, lots of fun on those digs. Again thank you!

A report from our very own yamadori scout.

February 25th SABS completed the 2023 Yamadori Collecting Season. Across three separate locations (Leaky, Boerne, and Hondo; TX) we collectively amassed a huge amount of new bonsai for our collections. We had over 25 members join the fun of collecting trees, rocks, and accent plants. This included new members to SABS as well as members that had never collected trees before. We had so much fun, we all learned new techniques and species of Texas trees, and met a few new friends along the way. Our group is looking forward for the 2024 Yamadori Collecting Season to begin in January.

Below are a few of the hundreds of photos we took along our yamadori journey.

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/592927857940381/members>

March Monthly Tips

David Whitaker

Winter has pretty much passed for us and some of my deciduous have started to bud so fast that I've missed their window of opportunity to root prune. And speaking of budding.... have you repotted your bald cypress, elms, and other deciduous trees? It's been pretty warm and 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 swell or start to 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 any with 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 to have the trees survive the shock of root pruning.

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Junipers can be repotted any time during March through May. 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. We should wait until the lowest temperature of the day/night stays above 65-70 degrees for repotting South Texas natives and semi (sub) tropicals (Ficus, Barbados and Surinam cherry, Texas ebony and other natives). Tropicals should be repotted in midsummer (Bahama berry, Bahama Black Olive, Buttonwood, Campeche, Fukien tea, Jaboticaba, Neea Buxifolia, raintree and Wrightia Religiosa, to name a few).

March and April can be windy months, so 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 give it good stability against the winds. Putting rocks on top of the soil for a while can also help brace the tree. With spring here, 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 will not cut into the branches.

Look up your species in the Green Book to see the care.

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



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

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Cultivating Bonsai Since 1976

Fertilizers

By David Whitaker

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The secret to making your flowering bonsai trees, shrubs, annuals, and perennials bloom more – the answer is in the numbers. All fertilizers have analysis numbers on the package. These numbers represent the percentage of each chemical the product contains. For example, 20-20-20 is a typical garden fertilizer that would contain 20% nitrogen, 20% phosphorous, and 20% potassium.

The quick explanation is; nitrogen produces vegetative, or top growth, phosphorous produces flower buds, fruit, and root development, while potassium builds strong healthy plants. Most lawn grasses are vigorous growers and therefore require significantly more nitrogen than the other plants in your yard. A lawn fertilizer has an analysis around 26-3-3, indicating a fertilizer high in nitrogen.

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You would not want to use a fertilizer containing such a high percentage of nitrogen on other plants because it would be very easy to burn them. You must also keep in mind that many lawn fertilizers contain broadleaf weed killers. The fertilizer doesn't know the difference, and it will damage or kill ornamental trees and shrubs.

To encourage flower bud production you can apply a fertilizer that contains a small percentage of nitrogen, a higher percentage of phosphorous, and a little potassium. Super Bloom fertilizer 12-55-6 is a good brand because the product is sold as a bloom producer, the manufacturer also adds trace minerals like iron, manganese, and zinc, all good for your plants as well. Remember that fertilizers high in phosphorous will increase flower production. Most garden centers and nurseries carry similar products.

During the summer months the growth rate of most plants (not tropicals) slows down, and when plants are not actively growing, they need very little nitrogen. Although not vigorously putting on new growth, many plants such as Rhododendrons, Azaleas and some natives are quietly working to produce flower buds for next year.

Some chose a liquid fertilizer because liquid fertilizers are absorbed both through the roots and systemically through the foliage, so they work quicker. I use a sprayer that attaches to the end of the garden hose, but it's a little difficult to control the over spray. Do not use the same hose end sprayer that you use for lawn fertilizers. There could be residual weed killer still in the sprayer.

ALWAYS Read the application instructions on the container to determine how much fertilizer to apply, and how often. **Remember when applying fertilizers. "Not enough is always better than too much."**



Well a few trees collected from the most recent dig, Way to go you all!!





OK, WHERE DO WE GO
NEXT?

OH WELL, THE SEASON HAS
WARMED UP SO BETTER
WAIT UNTIL NEXT SEASON.





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

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