



# SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

JANUARY 2017

VOLUME 42 NUMBER 1

## 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

**BONSAI 101:**—HELD EVERY 4TH WEDNESDAY, 7 PM, LIONS FIELD. New members receive a tree to work on. All members are invited—bring in trees to work on, experienced members are there to help.

**BONSAI WORKSHOP:** —HELD THE SATURDAY AFTER THE THURSDAY NIGHT CLUB MEETING. LOCATIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED. Topic of discussion will be a follow-up to the Thursday night presentation. See website for locations. <http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

**JANUARY Mini-show - Winter Silhouette**  
(any deciduous tree)

**Food and Beverage Host – Kevin and Hattie P.**

**JANUARY 12<sup>th</sup> - Club Meeting, 7 pm**

**JANUARY 14<sup>th</sup> – No Workshop this week-end**

**FEBRUARY 4<sup>th</sup> - Asian Festival**

**FEBRUARY 11<sup>th</sup> – Repotting workshop at Ryan's house.**

**FEBRUARY 24 – 26<sup>th</sup> - Spring Home and Garden Show.**

## President's Message

By Ryan O.

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

Welcome to Bonsai 2017!

What a year 2016 was. Lots of events happened in and outside of bonsai. Good thing with 2017 that everything starts over with a fresh perspective, RIGHT?

To kick start 2017 into a great year, **SABS** board members have come up with a fun and exciting program for 2017. This year's events include lectures on proper display techniques, fertilizer, root-over-rock, tree refinement, and pot making. In addition we have two auctions, backyard tour, two great guest artists, Asian Festival and Home and Garden Shows, and many Saturday workshops.

When finalizing the Saturday workshops, we rescheduled January's into February so there is no January workshop. Use this time though to begin preparing your tools and pots. Clean and sharpen your tools and clean and choose which pots for which tree for repotting in February/March.

On Saturday **February 4** is the annual **Asian Festival** at the Institute of Texan Cultures. We would like to get a large assortment of trees, displays, and volunteers to help out with this event. The event is from 10 am to 5 pm. I will pass around a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Set up begins at 8 am.

Also in **February, beginning on the 24**, we are exhibiting at the **Spring Home and Garden Show**. I will be presenting the art of bonsai on Saturday and Sunday.

February quickly booked up with events, so our soil mixer is happening in March. The Board is taken lessons learned from last year's mixer to provide a better soil mixture for this year. We are still in need of monthly host volunteers for June, July, and September. A full meal is not needed, but small nibbles to feed the group is required. Remember you could always share a month with another member to help with costs/cooking and set-up.

Remember, the Club has a huge assortment of bonsai related resources in our library set-up at Donna's studio and viewable during normal business hours.

Lastly, please pay Leydana your membership dues. All due must be paid for by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

## January 2017 Program Corner

David W

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

This January 2017 monthly meeting, we have the pleasure of presenting one our very own members, Donna D. Artist, Bonsai artist, Brick Carver, Metal Worker Extraordinaire, and Sculptor, she will be demonstrating the correct placement and setup of a standard Bonsai **Tokoname Display**. She'll also demonstrate different ways to display Bonsai from formal to more contemporary designs that are being seen in many of the current exhibits around the US.

Donna has been a professional sculptor since 1974. She has completed over 50 public art commissions throughout the United States. The most prominent being the completion of the **National POW Memorial dedicated in 1996..** There are a dozen works installed in San Antonio with the latest 2 just completed in 2016.

Her interest in Bonsai began before 1980 but she did not take it seriously until 1990 later she joined the San Antonio Bonsai Society in '99. Bonsai has become a tool for peaceful moments spent outside of the sculpture studio.

### January Monthly Tips David W.

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

Even though we had some early freezes during late fall, December stayed pretty mild with only a few cold nights. This kind of "Nice for us in South Texas" weather can be dangerous because it'll make us anxious to be clipping, wiring or repotting something, anything. The plants know when it is time to grow not only by the warmth, but also when the days start growing longer – just the opposite is what causes them to start into dormancy. Hey, maybe this would be a good time to screen some soil, clean and sharpen your tools, prep your pots, just to do something.

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By now all trees should be sleeping and dormant, they *should* be dormant for the rest of winter and around our place that could be a month or just a few more weeks.

Dormancy is very important and gives the plant a rest period. With the bouts of mild weather we've had, some trees could start showing signs of breaking dormancy – watch out for these trees when we have those cold snaps, they'll be more vulnerable to cold damage. We really don't want to try to stimulate growth (fertilize) until they shows some sign of new growth in the new spring season. It's a good idea to give Semi- & tropicals quarter strength to make them happy. Most won't show any signs of growth until the temperatures get warmer and stays warmer.

All species have different temperature requirements and growth patterns. **Be familiar with your plant needs** - not only their seasonal care but also their nutritional needs and the best times for trimming, pinching, repotting, or root pruning. Temperate zones are how the USDA defines it. The Hill country to the Coastal Bend area has zones anywhere from zone 8A to 9B, with 9B being near the bays, Gulf of Mexico and in the Rio Grande Valley. There can be anywhere from 5 to 20 degrees temperature differences in these areas throughout the year.

USDA, East Texas Zone guide - <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>

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Another quirk of our winter weather is we tend to have long stretches of cloudiness with little or no rain. Watering this time of year can be challenging, the overcast days can lull you into thinking all is well but the winds can quickly pick up and start drying out the soils and leaves. Be careful not to over water though (watering too frequently), rot can quickly set in with the cooler temperatures and lack of drying sunlight. Check the soils before watering, some plants may need a good soaking, others just a light splash, especially those that are dormant at this time. Use that number one method of checking the soil, "the index finger". It will help you to know your bonsai.

It's a good idea to treat your trees for fungus on a regular basis, monthly is usually sufficient. Treat with Maneb, Benomyl or a copper-based fungicide. Spray the leaves and thoroughly drench the soil, making sure the solution drains out the drain holes.

Check your training wires so they aren't cutting into the branches. If they are, remove them. **PLEASE NOTE** that when removing wires (or re-wiring), be very careful - trees can be quite brittle during winter dormancy.

DAVID



HOW WOULD YOU DISPLAY THIS BONSAI?



THERE S SOMETHING NOT QUITE RIGHT WITH THIS BONSAI. OF COURSE IT NEEDS ADDITIONAL POINTS OF INTEREST.

BUT SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE CHANGED FIRST. LETS EXPLORE SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS AT THIS NEXT CLUB MEETING.

THESE TWO BONSAI HAVE SOME POSSIBLE ISSUES. AND THERE MIGHT BE SOME EASY ANSWERS, THINK ABOUT IT.

LETS FIND OUT WHAT CAN BE CHANGED AND HOW MANY DIFFERENT OPTIONS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR THESE BONSAI.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BRING IN A BONSAI AND FIND OUT SOME POSSIBLE WAYS THAT IT COULD BE DISPLAYED.

IT IS UNBELIEVABLE HOW BEAUTIFUL YOUR BONSAI LOOKS WHEN DISPLAYED.





THIS BONSAI COULD BE CONSIDERED A CONTEMPORARY DISPLAY.

BUT MORE IS NEEDED TO COMPLETE IT.

WHAT KIND OF ACCENT, AND A SCROLL OR AN IMAGE DISPLAY ?

BELOW: IS A DISPLAY THAT IS A CONTEMPORARY PRESENTATION. WHAT STORY IS BEING TOLD HERE ?









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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