



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

AUGUST 2021

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 08

BONSAI CALENDAR

THE MEETING THIS MONTH BE AT
KEVIN AND HATTIE'S HOME

Updates to "Bonsai Calendar"

August 12th – In-person Club
Meeting on Curating and Bon-
sai Management, Donna's
Studio, 6:30pm

August 14th – 2022 Convention
Meeting, location TBD,
9:30am

September – Bonsai Auction

THE OX IS MAKING THIS A GREAT
YEAR!

WE WILL SOON BE BACK TOGETHER,
PRUNE ON! PRUNE ON!



President's Message

By

RYAN O.

Our Pot Sale... for bonsai... was a huge success when we combined it with an all day workshop and a BBQ luncheon... well.... maybe the trading of beers helped too!!!

We had well over 30 members participate including new members to the Club, a few we haven't seen in a while, and a few from Austin/Wimberley. In fact, the attendance was so great, Kevin had to run out for additional food while I managed the grill. It truly was great to see everyone and be able to socialize safely. I believe everyone had a great time despite the scorching hot weather and the sun beating down on us. Kevin and Hattie sold over 100 pots, tools, and stands and are donating the remaining inventory to SABS.

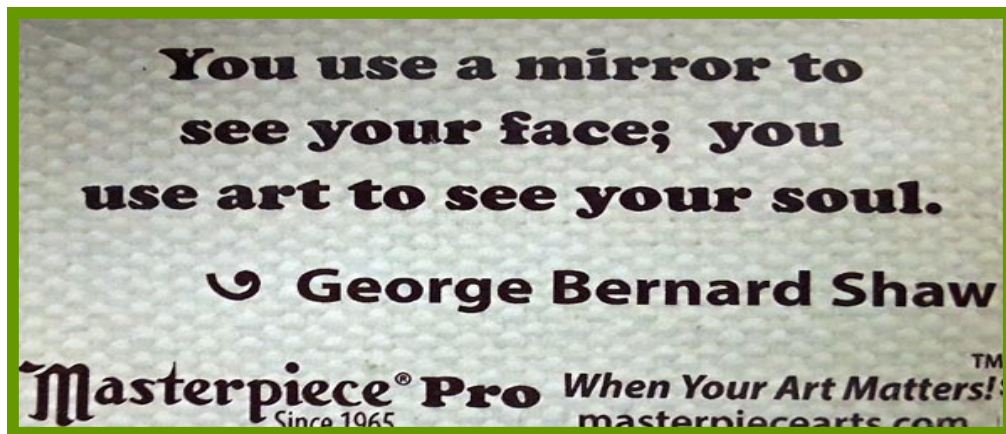
Thank you to all that participated and to Kevin and Hattie opening their house to us.

For August's meeting, Jim Hinkle will present on Collection Management at Donna's studio. The address is 927 N. Alamo Street, SATX 78215. **Masks are required by all attendees. Please bring your own beverages and snacks.** Also, in memory of Buttonwood Master Marry Madison, bring your Buttonwood bonsai for display.

2022 Convention Update: Our next meeting will be at 9:30am on Saturday August 14th. We will announce shortly if the meeting is at Donna's studio or the Drury Plaza as well as provide an agenda

Do you all think it is about time SABS holds an auction???? The Board does too! I am working on scheduling a Club sponsored auction for September. Before I schedule the event, I want to review a few meeting locations to ensure we can safely meet and conduct an auction. Auction tags are provided to get your thinking cap on as to what you want to include in the auction. Our typical 80/20 (seller/SABS) split will be enacted.

NOW
WHAT DO
I DO?



CURRENT MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR
THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY

\$30 individual

\$50 family

\$25 senior 60+

\$40 senior family

“How do I get better at bonsai?” is a very common question that comes up in bonsai practitioner’s life right around the time that they learn bonsai success is driven more heavily by the craftsmanship of the artist rather than the natural growth of the tree itself. In fact, this was the final question that I asked every potential teacher while seeking out someone to study under.

Most answers were somewhat expected and not very enlightening: “Learn how to water your trees”. “Learn when to fertilize”. “Learn what tool does what”. But the answer that I found to be the most impactful is likely the simplest of them all: **“Do bonsai. Every. Single. Day.”** That person was managing the National Bonsai Museum collection, and it’s pretty easy to get your practice in when maintaining over 400 trees of pretty much every imaginable species at a ready-for-exhibition level.

Practice

It’s sort of obvious, but the secret to bonsai success is really to practice, and then to practice more. If you want to be seriously good at bonsai, then you have to take bonsai seriously. Seek out low quality, low cost material that serves no other purpose than to practice your techniques. For example, your first tree you ever wire will be terrible and will not come out anything like you would expect. I killed the first tree I ever wired by snapping the trunk right off at the soil line, so hopefully your first attempt will turn out better than mine did. To practice, wire up 25 or so baby trees and see what works and what doesn’t, and adjust your technique as you progress. Then, give those trees to your friends so you can free up bench space to get more trees to practice on.

Observe

Like many forms of art, bonsai is largely subjective, but bonsai is somewhat unique in that there is general agreement on what is and is not “good bonsai”. Make deliberate attempts to see good bonsai wherever possible. The internet has tons of content from public exhibitions from all around the world, and there is almost always either an exhibition that is wrapping up or kicking off at a given time. There are also many great exhibition books showing curated photos of high quality trees in exhibition. So much of bonsai is transitioning trees from lower quality to a higher quality configuration and that is greatly aided by having a library (either mental or literary) of good bonsai to reference in the work.

Study

The last area I’ll mention is to study with those who are more knowledgeable in bonsai. The techniques in bonsai may seem simple when viewed in a book, but there is a lot of subtlety in the execution that does not translate well in photos or even in video. A great example is the hand placement in wiring – the location and positioning to support a branch when applying wire cleanly and accurately is nothing short of a case-by-case puzzle that is only solved with experience, either your own or temporarily borrowed. To find a bonsai teacher of appropriate skill, ask around! Bonsai clubs and communities are tight-knit and a great teacher is usually not too far away.

By David R.

Seasonal Tips

David W.

redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

Dog Days of summer! They're back and as I like to say **"When it's hot, protect the pot!"** Bonsai pots are small and often dark colors, with the relentless South Texas sun they can overheat quickly. Cooking your roots is never a good thing, if you've got some trees that are not looking very happy right now, that could be the problem. One solution is to elevate the pots from what they are sitting on to promote better airflow under the pot, you can use some cut pieces of lumber, one-by-ones or two-by-twos, to raise the pot up. Using cut boards, such as old fence boards, to cover the edges of the pot to keep some of the sunlight off. Also, consider relocating trees to a shadier spot for the height of summer, some relief from the midday sun can help. Our own sensei, Marty, had a very cool device that allows her to bring up a "curtain" to shade just the pots and the shelves they are sitting on without shading the trees. Paul T suggested to me a few years back to wait until 9 or 10am to water, as he said the pot and soil aren't too hot to shock roots (NEVER put cold water on hot roots), that's what time I water nowadays. I never had the opportunity to do this, as watering was done by the time I usually left for work by 7ish.

With the Dog Days, also comes summer dormancy. To some trees, extreme heat is just as taxing as extreme cold, they will "shut down", so to speak. They won't be putting out any fresh growth and will quite likely, despite the heat, will take up less water. Be very careful not to overwater these trees that are showing signs of summer dormancy and do not fertilize right now. Elms are one of the trees I have that go summer dormant, sometimes even native species will go dormant due to confined roots and space.

High humidity is usually a problem in summer too, even when temperatures are hitting triple-digits. Notice no one ever says "but it's a dry heat" around here?! The heavy humidity can cause fungus or root rot trouble. Using a fungicide; such as Maneb, Benomyl or any systemic fungicide; on a monthly basis is a good preventive maintenance during the summer. When spraying trees with chems, treat leaves top & underside and spray till it runs out the bottom of the pot. Always check labels on chems as they change ingredients constantly, some fungies say no more than 3x a season. Ware your PPE

Unfortunately, insects *don't* slow down during the Dog Days, frequently take a real close look at your trees. Pests can move in overnight! Not only look for the actual pests but also look for signs of activity from unseen pests – such as half-gone leaves, webbing, frass, fused together or curled up leaves. Don't confuse spider webs with spider mite webbing. Daily vigorous spraying of the foliage when you water the plants prone to spider mites (junipers, cedars, and similar species) can greatly deter spider mites from moving in. Numerous summer insects are nocturnal, doing their damage in the darkness of night and most excellent at hiding during the day. Let me jump up on that beneficial soapbox again – encourage your beneficial predators!! Ladybugs and lacewings, along with their larvae, are voracious predators of scale and aphids. Spiders are great, while praying mantis are ruthless hunters. If something does get an insect problem that's getting out of hand, spot treat that tree with the appropriate pesticide

You can repot tropicals right now but be sure to give them some shelter from the hot sun and wind for at least a couple of days.

Stay hydrated and cool this time of year, Happy Bonsai-ing! See you at the 16th STBK 09-25-21
David Whitaker, San Patricio 361.688.0109



Hanging out enjoying the work on trees and buying a few bonsai pots for future use.



Item # _____ Description of Item: _____ Type of Plant: _____ Age: _____ Last Reported: _____ Seller: _____	Item # : _____ Winning Amount: _____ Paddle No. _____ Seller Commission: Yes: _____ No: _____ Reserve: Yes: _____ No: _____ Commission Value: _____ 50/50 _____ Name of Seller: _____ Description of Item: _____
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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

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THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.

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