



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

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BONSAI CALENDAR

August

08/11 – No Meeting in lieu of
BBB Party

08/13 – BBB Party, 4pm,
Kevin/Hattie's House

08/24 - Bonsai Workshop,
6:30pm, Lion's Field



President's Message

Jay N. bonsai-jay@satx.rr.com

.Greetings fellow Bonsai enthusiasts,

Welcome to the "Dog Days of Summer." Some trees have gone semi-dormant, junipers, elms, and oaks come to mind. Nothing to do but keep an eye out for bugs and diseases. Keep them watered but not over watered. The tropics in my garden are going gangbusters and need to be trimmed back every week. Watch for the limbs growing so big and fast that the wire on them cuts into the bark. We are getting to the last few weeks for repotting tropics if they are going to recover before our 'winter' sets in.

This time of year, is great for cleaning your pots in anticipation of repotting in the spring. You can also spend time looking at your trees and deciding what size, shape and color of pot it might look its best in. Another good thing to do is (if you mix your own soil) getting your components together and sifting them for size and dust removal.

Remember, just because its hot out, it doesn't mean there are not things to do.

Bonsai-Jay

Vice President/Program Director's Message

Since I am out of pocket on vacation, I am stealing from an older newsletter where David W. discusses things to do in August which also correlates to what Jay mentioned above.

During August, continue repotting our Tropicals and Semi-tropicals like Fukien tea, Bahamas Black Olive, Buttonwood, Jaboticaba, Ficus. When repotting, be sure to wire the tree securely in the pot to give it good stability against the winds.

Dog Days of Summer! They are here again 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 K., 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.

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.

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 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, during 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.

One of the biggest assets you can have in your yard for the nighttime fight against bad bugs is the lowly, homely Toad. It doesn't take much to make a toad happy – places to hide during the day and some moisture for them in the evening. Our toads hide everywhere – literally! In large plant containers, under concrete flats that plants are sitting on, under the edges of the patio, old snake holes, into whatever shady nooks or crannies they can squeeze their squat little bodies into. Providing moisture can be as simple as putting a shallow dish on the ground with water in it. And this is where NOT broadcasting pesticides really comes in – toads “drink” through their skin and because of this, they can also absorb poisons through their skin! Residuals can even be picked up from the evening dew as they go through the yard so try not to broadcast those pesticides. A shallow dish, an old pie pan, small pet water bowl, any of these can be a “pool” for toads. Even a low spot in the garden that will hold water for a couple of hours will make them happy. Place your “pools” near the foundation of your house or where you've noticed toad activity. Toads start to make their appearance around dusk, hopping out from wherever they've hidden during the day. And after a scorching day, the first thing they look for is a drink. Once they've enjoyed their soak in the pool, they are eating machines for the rest of the night, relentlessly searching your garden for insects.

We will not have a meeting on August 11th as we will have a BBB (Beer, BBQ, and BONSAI!) at Kevin and Hattie's residence on August 13th at 4pm. SABS will bring the main course and all attendees are asked to bring an appetizer, side item, and/or dessert. Please email Kevin/Hattie (hattie1@gvtc.com) your type of dish so we don't double up. Also, don't forget to bring your favorite beer to share. Kevin and Hattie's address is 27925 Bonn Mountain, SATX 78260.

David and Trish are hosting the 17th Annual South Texas Bonsai Kai. Here is David and Trish's invite to all...

Please join Trisha & I for the 17th South Texas Bonsai Kai at 10:00am on Saturday, Sept 17th. This year Andy Graham will give a L/D on Schefflera arboricola on a slab. We're donating a pretty big Schefflera for the L/D, which will be raffled off. Along w/ Andy's lecture and the hummingbird migration, we'll also have the BIG Raffle. Please bring an item (\$20 value) for the raffle, either bonsai or gardening related, or anything fun. We will sell tickets at 20 for \$10, once all raffle items are drawn, non-winning tickets are put in one container, then we will draw 3 for the raffle monies – third place 20%, second place 30%, and first place 50% of the cash. Yes, that means you may leave with more money than you spent!

Taking pizza order around 11... We supply waters and coffee, if anyone wants sodas, bring your own, we will have a cooler set up with ice.

Looking forward to seeing y'all! The easiest route from southbound IH37 (google will route you thru Mathis) – turn right at exit #31 (past Mathis). From Calallen take 624, turn right on 666. Please park down by greenhouse / nursery area, take dirt road 20' past driveway and drive to back part of property. For those who have not been here, text (361-688-0109) me your name and I will send directions & address.



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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All correspondence should be addressed to:

San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 6658

San Antonio, Texas, 78209

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SABS is a non-profit 501c (3) organization Newsletter editor: Donna D. two2views@yahoo.com

San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. P.O. Box 6658 San Antonio, Texas, 78209

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: two2views@yahoo.com

Technical Support to Board of Directors Ryan O.

