



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

OCTOBER 2015

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 10

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

RICHARD HAYES BONSAI STUDY GROUP: FOURTH WEDNESDAY, **Oct. 28th.** Workshop in Bonsai, everyone is welcome, 7 pm at Lions Field. **GREAT TIME FOR MEMBERS TO BRING IN A TREE TO WORK ON —**

Oct 6th – National Night Out at Lion's Field, 6:30 pm.

Oct 8th - Club L/D Meeting at the Lion's Field; 7 pm.

Oct 8– Food host: Ester Rongero.

Oct 9th-10th – Houston Seminar, Kingwood, TX. Presented by our very own **LSBF board.**

Oct 17th – **SABS** Presentation at *The Garden Center*, 10 am.

Oct 24th – **SABS** Presentation at *Rainbow Gardens* – Bandera Highway, 10 am.

Oct 28—Fourth Wednesday, guests and members workshop, bring any tree to work on and to get advice/ help.



President's Message

By Ryan O.

bonsaiode@gmail.com

The Fall Home and Garden Show was a huge success this year. The Club sold nearly \$550 worth of trees, pots, Club books, raffle tickets, and new registrations. In fact, we had 5 new members sign up at the show and additional 5 potential members take our membership application. In regards to the sales, this spring the club started accepting credit cards for payment which accounted for \$400 in sales during this show. That's \$400 we were missing on sales in previous years. Kevin and I had a great time presenting to new faces and answering questions. I believe we all had a blast discussing our trees and techniques to the thousands of guests that attended the show. David drew a huge crowd on Saturday when he brought us a large Ficus and walked the show floor yelling "Watch Out; large Ficus coming through!!" A special thank you goes out to this year's volunteers: David, Donna, Ester, Kevin and Hattie, Leydana, Oscar, Paul, Roberto, Steve, and Tom and Nancy.

For those of you new to bonsai, talk with Ester, Leydana, and Steve on the amount of bonsai knowledge they absorbed during the show. They will probably tell you they were overloaded with bonsai knowledge.

On October 6th, Kevin and I are showcasing bonsai at the **Lion's Field's National Night Out** presentation. Feel free to join Kevin and me.

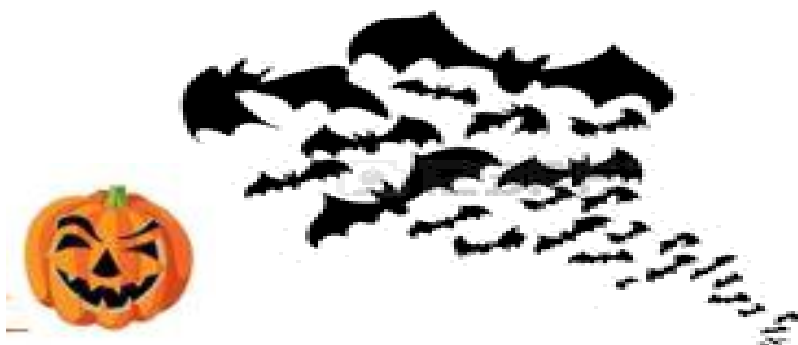
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Be sure to support Kevin and I when presenting at **The Garden Center** and **Rainbow Gardens-Bandera** in October. **The Garden Center** is also hosting a **Blood Donation Drive** on the 17th. Please come and donate blood!!!!

Remember, I switched October's and November's meeting agendas. I am presenting a Raft in October and our Auction is moved to November. November's newsletter will have auction tags. Get your items ready to sell.

Lastly, to those going to the Houston Convention, please drive safely.

Ryan O.
President



PROGRAM CORNER

David W.

redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

This month our distinguish President, Ryan O. will show us how to style a raft tree. A Raft style is a plant that simulates a tree that has fallen on its side and the branches that are left on the top of the trunk will naturally grow to make a forest. The bottom of the trunk that's on the ground will eventually grow roots so the whole Raft will have a shared root system.

AUGUST MONTHLY TIPS

David W.

redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

This will be the last monthly/seasonal care of the year.....!

No repotting until late winter/early spring unless in an emergency, but only in the same size or larger pot using fresh soil. **Absolutely no root pruning!** However, strangely enough, winter is a good time to collect specimens in the wild.

This is the time plants are slowing down for winter. We want to start slowing down the growth of our bonsai so that they are prepared for winter. The only "fertilizing" you will be doing this month is a couple of doses of phosphorus on your Native Persimmons. Give a couple of doses of your go to fertilizer for your tropicals and sub-tropicals, also a few times during the winter at quarter strength. We are not trying to promote growth, just to keep up the nutrients.

"Winterizing" your bonsai... We're fortunate to be blessed with relatively mild winters with most of our cold snaps lasting hours or a couple of days at best. Our hardier specimens such as conifers, deciduous and others similar will benefit from the cold but be sure to keep the pots from hard freezes not going below the upper 20's – usually placing them on the ground is enough. Also with these hardier species watch for our "Winter-time heat waves" we so often get here, best place these where they only get morning sun. Now tropicals and sub-tropicals won't tolerate being too cold so fully protect them when the temperatures are going below the 45°F (sub-tropicals) 50° (tropicals) ranges. Does indoor bonsai ring a bell? I try to acclimate my tropicals (& sub) to my area they seem to tolerate our winters better.

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Here is how I winterize. I start by bringing them out in full sun (if not already) or as much as I can give them. They stay in their place until the overnight temperatures fall below their lowest temperatures. I use 45°F as the lowest temperature for semi (sub)-tropicals and try to keep my tropicals above 50°F, though most true tropicals like to stay above 60°F to 65°F.

Whenever the forecast predicts cold fronts I move them to a protected area (greenhouse or garage) until it passes, then I return them back to their sunny place. My larger trees that are difficult to move stay in the greenhouse and the smaller trees go in and out as cold fronts pass & the weather warms back up. While in the greenhouse, I keep the lows above 45 degrees at all times. This winter plan works best for me, I have less leaf drop as I'm not moving them indoors in the central heating. With Indoor Bonsai we have to provide the correct light, humidity and correct day/night temperatures and these are all difficult to provide adequately.

Now is a good time to start getting those areas ready when the bonsai need to come in—clear the area around your sunny windows or rearrange the garage to take advantage of the light. Perhaps even put up frame work to drape with plastic sheets, creating a greenhouse type area to shelter the trees. Remember do not let the plastic touch any part of the plants during a cold spell, frost (or freezing temps) on plastic will wilt and can kill any part of the plant touching the inside. If you are covering just overnight, protect like you would protect yourself. I would rather cover up with a blanket, than a plastic sheet. If it's going to be a freezing rain then put a plastic sheet over the blanket. Remembering to uncover when temps rise or they will bake inside the tent.

Watch the soils every day so they do not dry out. With the cooler winter weather you probably won't have to water as often but remember those dry windy cold fronts can suck the moisture out of the soil very quickly. Inspect your bonsai from top to bottom, also inspect the drain holes.

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Inspect for ANY and all insects and treat accordingly. Also try to spray with insecticide and apply fungicide at least once every month. If you discover an infestation, treat according to the label of the pesticide. Watch for Red spider mites, especially for your "indoor Bonsai". When treating (always treat outside) spray the leaves (top and bottom) 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 cutting in, remove them. If the branch did not hold, re-wire in a different locale, as not to put the wire in the same place. Use caution when wiring during the winter as the branches will be more rigid and brittle without the sap flowing and can break very easily. (*Honey, where's the superglue!?*) A Happy bonsai is a cared for bonsai!

DAVID

2015 Kathy Shaner Seminar
October 16th – 18th

Buda, TX

* Seminar *

* Home-cooked Dinner *

* Bring-your-own-tree Workshop *

Registration available in July. To be notified when registration is open, email ckmurphy2000@gmail.com.

KATHY SHANER SEMINAR
IS

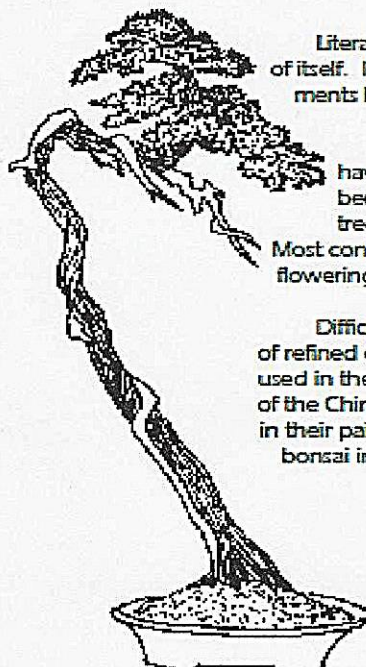
NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION
KATHY IS AN INTERNATIONAL STAR IN
BONSAI CIRCLES.
CAN'T GO TO HOUSTON THEN ATTEND
THIS EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY IN
BONSAI EDUCATION, just up the road
in Buda.

THIS YEAR THE LONE STAR BONSAI FEDERATION IS FEATURING A SINGULAR DESIGN APPROACH USED IN BONSAI. THE SEMINAR IS BEING HELD IN HOUSTON, OCTOBER 9 & 10. PLEASE FIND THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION HELPFUL IN DE-CODING THIS UNIQUE APPROACH.

Bonsai: Data & Protocols

Topic:

Literati or Bunjin Bonsai



Literati bonsai is an "approach" or "interpretation" within bonsai and not a specific style in and of itself. It is somewhat difficult to describe. However, we shall try. Consider the following comments by bonsai artist Harry Tomlinson:

Also called bunjin, this style of tree is often seen at the seashore or in areas where trees have grown up reaching for the light in competition with other trees that have since died or been felled. Characteristically, the trunk line flows or twists through several curves. Some trees grow this way with old age - the Scots pine naturally assumes this style in maturity. Most conifers can be recommended for growing as literati, and rugged deciduous trees such as flowering apricot and hawthorn.

Difficult to define precisely, this style breaks many rules but nevertheless the trees have an air of refined elegance. Curiously, the name literati (Latin, meaning "educated" or "literate people") is used in the absence of an English equivalent for the Japanese bunjin, which in turn is a translation of the Chinese word wenjin, the name for Chinese scholars practiced in the arts. The slender trees in their paintings had an abstract, calligraphic quality that was the inspiration behind cultivating bonsai in this style.

Now consider the comments of American bonsai master, John Y. Naka:

The bunjin style of bonsai is so free that it seems to violate all the principles of bonsai form. The indefinite style has no specific form and is difficult to describe, however, its confirmation is simple, yet very expressive. No doubt its most obvious characteristic are those shapes formed by old age and extreme weather conditions.

Trees pictured (in old master sumi paintings) with crossed trunks and branches would be messy and confusing in any other bonsai style, but is acceptable in a bunjin style. On a formal upright style, a branch that returns back to the trunk and crosses it would be unacceptable, and such a violating arrangement would grate against the senses. However, on a bunjin style such a reversal can give an exciting dramatical tension and a freedom to the tree.

Literati Style & Approach

If one were to characterize the literati approach to bonsai design one might use words such as: elegant, simplistic, clean, tall, slender or flowing.

In most cases all would be acceptable. A general bonsai canon states that there is "symmetry in asymmetry" and "balance in unbalance." If we accept this concept the literati approach to bonsai design becomes easier to understand.

A literati may assume the style of a cascade, semi-cascade, formal upright, informal upright or indeed any of the five basic styles. Its approach can likewise be expanded to include variations on the basic styles such as twin trunk, forest planting, multiple trunk, etc.

The very essence of good literati necessitates a departure or modification (if not a total break) with the traditional bonsai values regarding line, balance and form. It then becomes necessary for the student to have a clear understanding of these concepts and how they work through all bonsai styles in order to find, identify and exaggerate the elements in their material which will best lend themselves to the literati approach.

In a word... If it feel good... do it! But, be prepared to defend your choices on solid bonsai artistic grounds. Although bunjin sometimes reflects the bizarre and unusual, tying your tree in a knot is insufficient grounds for dubbing it a literati.

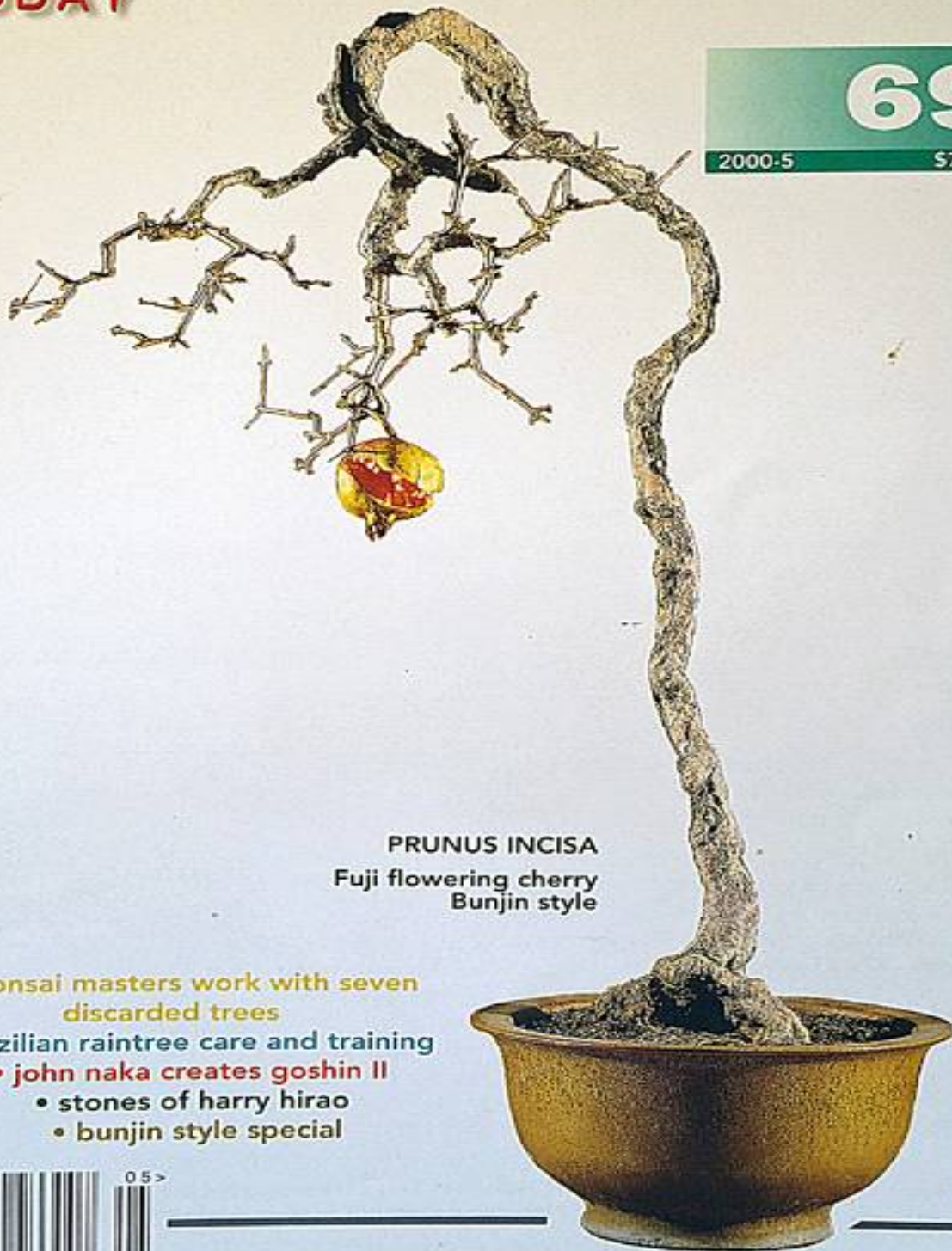
Bonsai

TODAY

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2000-5

\$7.95



PRUNUS INCISA
Fuji flowering cherry
Bunjin style

- bonsai masters work with seven discarded trees
- brazilian raintree care and training
- john naka creates goshin II
- stones of harry hirao
- bunjin style special



www.stonelantern.com

EXCELLENT REFERENCE FOR BUNJIN

This magazine is produced by *Stone Lantern* and can be ordered from them.



THESE TREES ARE MESQUITE.
THEY CAN BE FOUND ALONG I-
35 AT EXIT MARKER 195, ON
THE WEST SIDE.

I HAVE ADMIRERD THEM FOR
ABOUT 10 YEARS, MY SECRET
THOUGHTS, BUY THE LAND
AND TAKE CARE OF THESE
MARVELOUS LITERATI.

THE LESSON: LOOK TO
NATURE FOR YOUR
INSPIRATION. SHE WILL
NEVER STEER YOU WRONG

Just a little virtual pruning.
DD





The program in September was conducted by Chuck Ware. Chuck and Pat Ware own *Jade Gardens in Wimberley, TX*. They have a large selection of Bonsai, Bonsai Exhibit and a shop with all the supplies needed for the art of Bonsai.

Chuck took us through the designing of a Saikei, a group planting of trees with stones. The tree of choice were a group of TEXAS EBONY he had prepared in early July.

What I learned.....that you don't have venerable, aged bonsai, then look to the groups of trees you have been growing, Elms, Texas Persimmon, and many others and consider a planting with some interesting stones that tell a story. A mighty fine landscape can be designed and you are off to having a special art piece. DD



LITTLE TREES
PREPARED IN
JULY.
INTERESTING
STONES FOUND.
A SHALLOW
CONTAINER
PREPARED,
GOOD BONSAI
SOIL.
AND WHAT YOU HAVE
IS A BEAUTIFUL
PLANTING.
AND
IT IS
CALLED A

SAIKEI







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.

THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.

sanantoniobonsai.org

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**The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. is a member of the Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Inc.
Bonsai Clubs International, and the American Bonsai Society,
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