



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Cutting Edge Publication by The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

August 2019

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Number 08

What's New!

- Please help SABS grow on Facebook and Instagram by posting various bonsai related posts.
- **September 21st – The Garden Center** – Representing SABS, Ryan O is leading a bonsai lecture/demo for bonsai enthusiasts that want to learn the about bonsai and bring home a small bonsai. 10am-Noon.
- **September 21st – South Texas Bonsai Kai** – David. W's annual bonsai event will include a lesson on a particular technique, prepping our Anaquas and shohin trees, and a raffle. Mark your calendars for this event.
- **October 18-20th – TTSBE's Kathy Shaner Seminar** – TTSBE is hosting Kathy Shaner in a 3-day workshop/seminar near Austin. Mark your calendars with these dates!!! More information to follow soon.
- Please welcome new members **Joe H., Mikayla H., and Phillip H.**



MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership fees for The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. are below and include our monthly newsletter, annual BBQ and bonsai tour, multiple auctions, special trips, and name tag.

<u>Individual</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Senior (60+)</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Senior (60+)</u>	<u>Family</u>
\$30	\$50		\$25		\$40

All lecture/demonstration meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday, 7pm, at the Lions Field Adult and Senior Center, 2809 Broadway Street, SATX 78209

Our Bonsai Study Group is held every 4th Wednesday, 7pm, Lions Field. All members are invited to attend for hands-on assistance by experienced bonsai artists.

AUGUST'S EVENTS

Lecture/Demo:

August 8th – Styling Workshop with John R.

Food/Beverage Host(s):

Don B., Jim H., Brian B. & Wendy B.

Bonsai Study Group:

August 28th

SEPTEMBER'S EVENTS

Lecture/Demo:

September 12th – Traveling Artist Andrew Robson

Food/Beverage Host(s):

Bruce B., Kamala P. & Oscar G.

Bonsai Study Group:

September 25th

President's Message

Klaus C.
collklaus@yahoo.com

How our members interact.

Whether we participated in the two repottings or a styling exercises, we realized that we are a cohesive group. The group cares about the success of all. The exhibition showed all of our nice Bonsai. We were proud of each other's accomplishments.

In August, starts a developmental facet of our growth. John will lead a workshop with Serissa during our meeting. All are invited to take part at some level. Some will listen to the informative lecture. Some will observe the demonstration. Some will participate in the workshop. All has value and should play its role. It sets the stage for additional work starting in September. Bring your own material, tools and bonsai mix or buy a pot plus a pre bonsai Serissa, ...imported from Deep Forest, outside of Dallas. \$40, for limited supply. Your check confirms the limited supply purchase.

In September Andrew R. will lead a workshop early afternoon, then a Lecture and demo at the meeting. Really nice Cedar Elms are great candidates. Certainly we all recognize that we continue on this journey of growth. Is this effort helpful for the upcoming Convention? Sure it is, and more. Take pride in your skills and refine them even more. Someone always wants to observe and ask questions. What a compliment when you care enough to share those skills as well as learn yourself.

Convention Updates!

Next Convention meeting will be held August 17th, at 9:30 am at Donna D's Studio Sculptural Designs Atelier at 927 N. Alamo Street, 78215.

For Convention Committee members, please bring all drawings, plans, ideas, brochures, and achievements since our last meeting. We are getting to a critical point in our convention development planning whereby specifics of each aspect of the convention need to be discussed and voted upon.



Program Corner

Nick B.

Nick.browne637@gmail.com

Bonsai show last month was a phenomenal turnout. Every tree had something interesting about it. Good to see such high participation and morale. The convention is right around the corner and I believe we are ready to show our stuff.

You Speak... Editor Prints...

The Texas Oaks

Oaks are among the favorite trees of almost everyone and Texas is most fortunate in having 43 distinct species and two varieties. Oaks come in all shapes and sizes, and are relatively fast growing, adapt well to lawns and landscapes and in most cases are premier shade trees. These trees are long lived and give off an aura of a sturdiness. Oaks can be “evergreen” or “live” while some give good fall color.

The 45 Texas representatives of *Quercus* represent approximately 9% of all the oaks in the world. Closer to home, statistically Texas has 18% of the North American oaks and 70% of all the United States oaks. No other state can even approach the sheer numbers of different oaks that are native to Texas.

Thirty four of our oaks are white, while 15 are black or red. Black oaks occur only in the new world and are some of the most colorful and outstanding species.

The Texan oaks range in size, in their native environment, from 3 feet to well over 100 feet. Consequently, we have an oak suited from the smallest home lawn to the largest park acreage. In this day of postage-stamp lawns tree size is of prime concern. Large oaks simply overwhelm our small city lots. There are 9 dwarf oaks and 12 small oaks that should be widely used in home landscapes. Size, however, is somewhat a mystery as most of these oaks are little known or planted so their growth rate of estimate heights in cultivation are not fully documented.

Texas has 20 “Live Oaks” species. In Texas, when we speak of the Live Oak we generally mean a specific tree—*Quercus virginiana*. Perhaps a better name would be that used by old timers in the nursery trade. They call it the Coast Live Oak. This tree comes into Texas from the east and is found mostly along the coast. It doesn’t get much further north than Crockett in the east and San Antonio in the west.

Most people when they say “live Oak” are talking about the West Texas Live Oak, which in numbers and area covered far exceeds Live Oak. The problem is further compounded when one realizes that Texas has 20

The Texas Oaks (cont.)

Live Oaks, most of which are of western origin.

In the final analysis, all trees are LIVE unless they are dead and no tree is truly evergreen for even pines, spruce, and firs shed their old needles even though it is a gradual process over years.

Fall color over much of Texas comes from our oaks, more specifically from the Chisos, Shumard and Texas Red Oaks. White, in good years, can turn shades of burgundy and deep red. The Mexican Blue Oak's leaves can turn a deep mauve. Southern Red Oak, Gambel Oak, and Black Jack Oak, along with the Nuttall Oak also display hues of red. The Blue Hack Oak and Lacey Oak will have golden rims around their leaves, retaining the blue-green of the inner leaf, while the Willow Oak is almost always a golden yellow color.

Availability of these oaks in nurseries is limited. If you collect, in the wild, know its size and growth habitat.

Oaks are easily started from acorns, which are best gathered from the tree of your choice in the fall.

If you choose to collect or transplant an oak from the wild it should be done with caution. Insure the horticultural "ZONE" for elevation and temperature is identical to your local zone for tree survival. The best collecting size is 1 to 2 feet in height but 3 feet is acceptable. The tree should be dug carefully with a ball of dirt intact around the roots. Careful watering and staking should be practiced for the first three years after collection.

I collected a lovely oak specimen in Brackettville about ten years ago. It was growing near a rock and was easy to remove. The tree was about 30" tall with a trunk diameter of about 5". I built a wooden container for the tree and carefully tended it for four years. I finally located a container to do it justice and was ready for the spring so I could transplant it. Low and behold we had snow and freezing for five days here in San Antonio and the tree didn't survive. It was, as I said, in a large wooden container in about 12" of soil for four years, but hadn't stabilized as much as I thought. Needless to say I was crushed and lament for that tree till this day. The moral of the story is be very careful in collecting and caring for oaks.

Black and White Oaks

White Oak acorns are annual with the inside of the cup smooth. The bark is white to gray, soft and scaly but sometimes it is black, hard and furrowed as in the Live Oak. The leaves are more or less rounded with sharp pointed teeth, but not bristle tipped.

The White Oaks in Texas are:

Quercus alab (White Oak), *Q. Arizona* (Arizona White Oak), *Q. Boyntonii* (Boynton Post Oak), *Q. depressipes* (Mexican Dwarf Oak), *Q. Drummondii* (Drummond Post Oak), *Q. fusiformis* (West Texas Live Oak), *Q. Gambelii* (Gambel Oak), *Q. glaucoides* (Lacey Oak), *Q. grisea* (Gray Oak), *Q. Havardii* (Havard Shin Oak), *Q. Hinckleyi* (Hinckley Oak), *Q. intricate* (Coahuila Scrub Oak), *Q. lyrata* (Overcup Oak), *Q. macrocarpia* (Bur Oak), *Q. Margaretta* (Sand Post Oak), *Q. minima* (Dwarf Live Oak), *Q. Mohriana* (Mohr Oak), *Q. Muehlenbergii* (Chinkapin Oak), *Q. oblongifolia* (Mexican Blue Oak), *Q. Prinus* (Chestnut Oak), *Q. pungens* (Sandpaper Oak), *Q. rugose* (Netleaf Oak), *Q. similis* (Bottomland Post Oak), *Q. Durand* White Oak), *Q. steliata* (Post Oak), *Q. Tourmeyii* (Tourney Oak), *Q. turbinella* (Shrub Live Oak), *Q. virginiana* (Live Oak)

The Black Oaks have acorns biennially or every two years except for the Silver Leaf and Emroy Oaks which produce annual acorns. The acorn cups are fuzzy on the inside. The bark is black, hard and furrowed.

The Texas Oaks (cont.)

Leaves usually are toothed and have bristle tips.

The Black Oaks in Texas are:

Quercus Emoryi (Emory Oak), Q. falcate (Southern Red Oak), Q. graciliformis (Graceful Oak), Q. Gravesii (Chisos Red Oak), Q. hemisphaerica (Coast Laurel Oak), Q. hypoleucoides (Silver Leaf Oak), Q. incana (Blue Jack Oak), Q. laurifolia (Laurel Oak), Q. marilandica (Black Jack Oak), Q. nigra (Water Oak), Q. Nuttalli (Nuttall Oak), Q. Phellos (Willow Oak), Q. Shumardii (Shumard Red Oak), Q. Texana (Texas Red Oak), Q. Velutina (Black Oak).

Texas oaks come in all sizes as mentioned previously:

Dwarf Oak

Species under 10 feet tall include Boynton Post Oak, Dwarf Live Oak, Coahuila Scrub Oak, Havard Shin Oak, Hinckley Oak, Mexican Blue Oak, Netleaf Oak, Sand Post Oak, and Silver Leaf Oak.

Small Oaks

Species under 20 feet include Arizona White Oak, Bigelow Oak, Black Jack Oak, Blue Jack Oak, Coast Laurel Oak, Drummond Post Oak, Gray Oak, Graceful Oak, Mexican Blue Oak, Netleaf Oak, Sand Post Oak, and Silver Leaf Oak.

Medium Oaks

Species under 40 feet include Black Oak, Chisos Oak, Emory Oak, Gambel Oak, Lacey Oak, Live Oak, Sandpaper Oak, Texas Red Oak, Vasey Oak, and West Texas Live Oak.

Large (Giant) Oaks

Species growing over 50 feet or more are Bottomland Post Oak, Cur Oak, Chestnut Oak, Chinkapin Oak, Durand White Oak, Laurel Oak, Nuttall Oak, Overcup Oak, Post Oak, Shumard Red Oak, Southern Red Oak, Water Oak, White Oak, and Willow Oak.

In collecting oaks, be aware that state is divided into east and west. Eastern Texas is designated as the area east of IH-35 from the Red River via Dallas to San Antonio to Corpus Christi, not including the Blackland Prairies. Western Texas is the rest of the state including the Blackland Prairies east of IH-35. If you can locate the dig site on the map and can determine if you are east or west then the oak species that are indigenous to that area, size wise, can help you in deciding whether or not to put forth the effort in digging it.

The choice for the best of Texas exceptionally good dwarf oaks are Coahuila Scrub Oak, Hinckley Oak, Shrub Live Oak.

- Martha Klajnowski
2001
(Used with permission)

Bonsai Techniques

Courtesy of John Miller
from the Dallas Bonsai Society

Now during August, the temperature will make your present job harder. The prime effort is keeping the roots cooler and prevent them from drying out. The main culprit is the late afternoon sun. It sneaks in at the hottest part of the day when there is no humidity in the air to buffer some of the heat. At a low angle, it is sneaky enough to get under any foliage or awning.

Normally you will need to watch for changing water needs. Porous soil dries faster than the ones that are dense with high organic content. Wind dries the bonsai out, by taking moisture directly from both the soil and the foliage. Heat from the high temps or from the sun heats the pots and evaporates the water.

Shade should be provided for many bonsai. Trident maples, most elms, oaks, junipers and pines do well with 30% to 40% shade cloth. Thin-leaf trees that are understory species like Japanese maples and azaleas can use 50% cloth. 60% shade screens and higher can block the extreme heat of late afternoon sun from the western exposure. Local sources like Home Depot, Lowe's sell shade screen with percentage too high for plant protection. I order my shade cloth from the Internet, cheaper that way too.

Chopped long fiber sphagnum moss can be used on the soil to help retain moisture. New Zealand moss is the highest quality, South American is almost as good, but North American kind usually is poor quality with lots of debris and breaks down fast. Again, order from the Internet. My Lowes had Miracle-Gro brand which is Chilean and also Mosser-Lee American from Wisconsin. Old cloth, shop towels, or such may be substituted or used to hold the moss if you live in a windy location.

Fertilizer should be used sparingly during August. Organic fertilizer cakes are the safest to use, however they should not have any 'hot' ingredient like rabbit or chicken droppings. After Labor Day, switch to a winterizing type of fertilizer that is high in the third number - potassium. For tropicals, however, keep your regular schedule going. Just make sure the soil is cool enough so that the chemicals do not burn the roots.

This is a good time to remember to water twice. Dry soil particles, especially clay and organic particles tend to resist absorbing water. This is due to the surface tension of the water. Wait a few minutes after the first watering for the dry soil particles to absorb some of the water on their surface. Then the second watering gets the whole particle wet. During this period, consider foliage spraying. The humidity is usually very low in the afternoon and many junipers close the stoma during the day and open at night to absorb the dew. The foliage spray cools the plant and the environment so it can recover a bit overnight. Deciduous bonsai may be pruned, wired, or styled during this period. Any trees wired in the spring (or earlier) should be carefully checked. If the wire is snug, it should be removed and the tree rewired.

Tropicals are in their glory as long as you keep their roots reasonably cool. Defoliate, wire, and prune to your hearts content. Repotting should have been done earlier.

Summer flowering plants should be fertilized carefully so as to not burn the roots. Remove any seed or fruit that may form, they rob the plant of needed energy. Crepe myrtles need to be deadheaded. Cut them back so the new shoots that form will not be too long. New growth will bear flowers each time. If you prune back the american wisteria (*wisteria frutescens*), it too would re-bloom each time.

Do not prune azaleas any more this year, if you want flowers next spring. Buds have been set by now. If you are still developing your azalea, go ahead and prune. Some varieties will set a few buds anyway. In general,

when pruning, look for the cluster of twigs at the site of last spring's bloom. Cut out all but two twigs, usually the ones growing horizontally. Be sure to reduce strong growing shoots down to a couple of leaves.

The combination of heat and dry conditions are optimum for the growth of the spider mites. Scale will be extremely dangerous sucking the sap from the plant. Cedar elm is subject to a very small white scale that is hard to see. Controls for these will generally take care of any other insects. Be sure you read and follow the manufacturer's directions for any control you use.

Organic controls have no residual action and need to be used on a regular basis. If used regularly, the spray would get scale when it is in the reproductive stage outside of the shell. The only way to get scale under the shell is with a systemic poison. For example, Bayer systemic granules are applied to the surface of the soil, watered in, absorbed by the roots and transported by the sap throughout the plant. The bug gets it when he sucks the sap or eats the leaf.

My organic control is one tablespoon of each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses, in one gallon of water. Spray with fine mist sprayer covering top and bottom surface of leaves and into crevices in the bark.

Extreme dry conditions will keep fungal problems in check but watch out if we happen to get a few days of rain. Warm and wet mean an eruption of leaf spot and mildew. Control them with the 1% hydrogen peroxide spray. I like that because it does not leave a white residue like the baking soda or potassium peroxide. There are several chemical sprays available too.

Early Start to Bonsai

In July, Ryan O., Klaus C., Diane C., Conrad G., Veronica T., and Tim S. spent a few hours working with 4-10 year olds on the art of bonsai and then creating a bonsai themselves. Each kid created a bonsai using *Portulacaria afra* (Dwarf Jade). The kids had a blast and were told to keep their trees alive for 1,000 years like they have in Japan. Each kid happily took on the challenge!!!!



BONSAI FUNNIES

Faux Bonsai

For those without the green thumb,
Ryan O. recently found Living
Spaces furniture store selling various
styles of faux bonsai.

*Images provided by various internet
sources.*



2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ◆ President: Klaus C.
- ◆ Vice President/Recorder: Nick B.
- ◆ Treasurer/Membership: Leydana R-M.
- ◆ Secretary: Bryan B.
- ◆ Raffles: Diane C.
- ◆ Directors at Large: Larry A., Carol B., Tammy B-R., and Jay N.

Technical Support to Board of Directors

- ◆ Webmaster/Editor/Publicity: Ryan O.



The informal upright style (Moyogi) is considered the most popular shape in all bonsai, especially suited to our Texas 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. This emblem was adopted as the official logo in September 1977.

The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

Snips 'N Clips is published monthly by The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, who maintains membership in the Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Inc., Bonsai Clubs International, and the American Bonsai Society.

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