

## Upcoming Bonsai Events

### February

**Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>**Yamadori Dig,  
Leaky, TX, 9:00am**Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>**Club Meeting,  
BYOT  
Transplanting and  
Repotting, 6:30pm**Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>**BYOT  
Workshop/Training  
at Café College,  
9:00am**Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>**BYOT Workshop  
with Andrew  
Robson, Don's  
house, \$150 fee/pp  
9:00am**Additional  
February &  
March events  
listed on Page  
5**All above meetings are  
held at the Lion's Field  
Center 2809 Broadway,  
SATX 78209 (unless  
otherwise noted)

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## President's Message By Conrad Gamboa, [cgamboa013@gmail.com](mailto:cgamboa013@gmail.com)

Hello fellow SABS and Bonsai enthusiasts. I don't know about you, but I can't believe it's already February 2024! I hope all of your trees and materials survived the Artic Blast we experienced this month. I know it was challenging, but at least we didn't have to deal with 6" of snow (yet-knock on wood).

Your SABS Board of Directors have been hard at work, and that work has paid off in dividends. Enclosed you will find a schedule of events for the entire 2024 Calendar year. There are still a few events we are working on, and we will add them to the schedule as they become finalized, but please take a look and update your calendars accordingly.

January brought us our first panel lecture of the year on How to prepare for a Yamadori dig/collection, and it was very well received. We are blessed to have many knowledgeable artists willing to share their vast knowledge and experience with everyone. If you weren't at the meeting, we have attached a link to this newsletter so that you (our SABS members) can watch it on your free time.

Speaking of being a SABS member, if you haven't already paid your dues for the 2024 year, please get with Ryan O. and pay them as soon as possible. You can find a list of the fee schedule below and in the January 2024 newsletter. Here is a list of just a few of the benefits your dues entitle you to: the ability to participate in the scheduled lecture/demonstrations free of charge, multiple raffles, 2 club auctions, the ability to sign up and pay for workshops, the ability to vote for our SABS Board of Directors, access to the learning videos taken by SABS, not to mention this wonderful monthly newsletter. As an added benefit, if you didn't receive last year's 50th year anniversary apron, please let one of our BOD officers know and we will get you one, free of charge.

With January 2024 behind us, let's look ahead to the February 2024 events scheduled (a full listing of events and specifics can be found within this newsletter). We have 3 Yamadori digs

*President's Message continued on Page 6.*



## Please Welcome our Newest Member(s)

Jim M.

*Those considering joining SABS may attend a free meeting. Membership forms available at each meeting and on website.*

## Congratulate these Members on their Membership Anniversary in 2024

5 years

Conrad, Joe,  
Gloria, &  
Veronica

10 years

Leydana

15 years

Evelyn, Roberto,  
Alberto, & Virgie

20+ years

Jay, Kevin,  
Hattie, Donna,  
Chuck, Pat,  
Alfred, David,  
Dawn, Paul, &  
Jack



## Vice-President's Message

By Gabe Hernandez,  
[gabriher@gmail.com](mailto:gabriher@gmail.com)

Hey everyone!

I want to give a big THANK YOU to Ricky R., Irvin R., Kevin P., Don B., and Jack R. for sharing their knowledge on how they collect trees and their after care. Don't forget to sign up to go collecting in Leaky, Boerne or Hondo. There still is room to sign up. These are great opportunities to collect older and unique material. Don't forget to go through the check list sent by Ryan O., so you don't forget any equipment you will need.

Our Feb. 8th meeting consists of getting ourselves ready for repotting season. We will be talking about the importance of soil, root pruning, wiring your tree to your pot and the after care. Please bring a tree (deciduous or conifers) to repot along with your materials that you will need. Our board and other members will be around to help if you have any questions. Ryan O. will be selling bonsai soil if you need any.

Our Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a lecture on cleaning, sharpening and maintain your tools with special guest Joey McCoy from the Austin Bonsai Society. Cleaning tools is an important task to keep your trees healthy and your tools lasting longer. Joey will stay after to help answer any questions members might have. We will also be having a BYOT (Bring Your Own Trees) class. Feel free to bring trees to repot and work on.

### Reminders:

Don't forget to sign up to host snacks and beverages for our main monthly meetings. We would like to have two members donate. Please get with Joe H. to find a date that works with you! The club provides plates, plasticware, cups and ice!

We would like two members to bring trees to display and talk about them so other members can see the progress you have made! New members are encouraged to participate.

Feel free to bring old pots, books or young trees you would like to donate for our raffles during the monthly meetings. We appreciate the help as it helps us raise money for future artists and events.

### On Deck:

Our March meeting will be moved to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> at Café College. We will be having a Lecture/Demo with guest artist Evan Pardue of Underhill Bonsai located in Folsom, LA! He also founded the Little Things for Bonsai People podcast. Evan will work on a Cork Bark Elm that will be raffled off after the demo. After the L/D we will have a workshop limited to 10 people to bring two trees and work with Evan.

*Vice-President's Message continued on Page 6*

# Monthly Food/Bev. Hosts

**February**

Ester R., Evelyn K. & Mary Ann H.

**March**

Kevin P., Hattie P., & Vicki A.

## 2024 Soil/Book Sale



**Club Soil**  
\$25/five gal.



**APL Soil**  
\$75/five gal.



**Care Book \$30**

Email Ryan O. at [bonsaiode@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaiode@gmail.com) for details



## Photos/Recognitions

Photos from January's meeting.



## Bonsai Funnies



Cartoon will appear in the December issue of the New Yorker. <http://www.newyorker.com/cartoons/issue-cartoons/cartoons>  
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## Monthly Tips By David Whitaker, redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

Keep alert to the weather reports and don't be fooled thinking that winter is over, when we get more warmer weather before spring actually starts, your plants know when its spring by the lengthen of daylight the angle of the sun. The average last frost in south Texas happens anywhere from mid-March in SA and mid to late February in the Coastal Bend. We've had freezes in late March, let's not forget the 2021 St. Valentine's Icey vortex.

It is not healthy for your trees to get hit with a frost after they have just pushed out fresh tender growth, it'll kill the new growth and delay new growth or could kill the plant all together. To help your trees stay dormant take them out of any sun and place them on the north side of the house. Next time you have ice chest put the left over ice in the pot and let it melt into the pot. I remember putting a Japanese red maple forest in a garage fridge (during the warmer days) every winter, opening daily to give it fresh air and checking the water.

Are you prepared for the new growing season, do you have your soils and pots ready? It can come without notice, especially with continued days on end of very unseasonal weather, like we've had this winter so far (previous few days excluded). Keep your eyes on your deciduous trees, you want to root prune/repot them before the buds start swelling, if they already have budded out it is too late, the opportunity can come and go real fast for us. If you are forced to repot due to our unseasonable weather, do so but protect it because its winter is over.

If you have several to do, then you can do like I do and try to start repotting them in earlier and protect them from temperatures that get below 50. As the weeks of spring progresses usually, the deciduous trees are repotted 1st, then broad leave, then non sub-tropical natives, by May we repot sub-tropicals natives, followed by tropicals, and it all depends on the weather and how "out of season" things get.

When root pruning, remove 1/3 to 1/2 of the roots and leave the fine hair roots. If the branches need wiring or pruning, do it before you repot, because it is easier to shape them with minimal leaves (remember to check the wire throughout the growing season as they will "cut in" as the tree swells with new growth). Make sure you tightly wire your repotted trees into their pot. We want to protect our newly potted tree from the seasonal high winds. Along with wiring the bonsai into the pot, I add the support of rocks around the base of the tree, being careful not to harm the roots. The first few weeks after repotting are a crucial time for the new roots; you must anchor the tree to the pot securely! The newly growing roots are delicate, so do NOT fertilize for several

Redhawk  
BONSAI



Cultivating Bonsai Since 1976

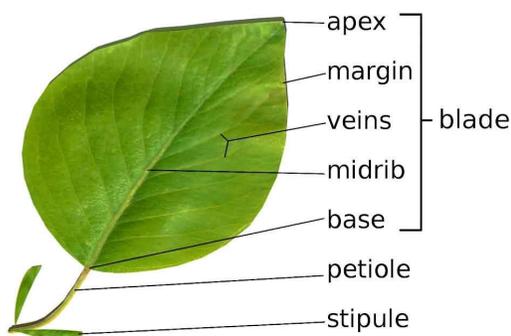
Nursery Floral Class 2 Lic #0822998

**DAVID WHITAKER**

Lone Star Bonsai Federation Artist  
Lecture-Demos & Workshops

South Texas Bonsai Kai Founder  
3rd Saturday of September

San Patricio, Texas  
361-688-0109  
redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com



## Bonsai Term(s) of the Month

### Axil

- the positions along shoots where leaves develop.

### Stipule

- a small paired usually leaflike outgrowth occurring at the base of a leaf or its stalk.

### Petiole

- the stalk of a leaf that attaches to the stem.

### Base

- the slightly expanded area where the leaf attaches to the stem.

### Midrib

- the central vein or ridge of a leaf or a leaflike part.

### Veins

- small channels or capillaries that transport water and minerals to and from the leaf of a plant.

### Margin

- the outer edge of a leaf.

### Apex

- the tip or protruding part of the leaf.

## Upcoming Bonsai Events

### February

Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>

Yamadori Dig,  
Boerne, TX,  
9:00am

Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>

Yamadori Dig,  
Hondo, TX, 9:00am

### March

March 14<sup>th</sup>

**NO CLUB  
MEETING  
TONIGHT. SEE  
MARCH 16TH**

March 16<sup>th</sup>

Club Meeting, L/D  
with Evan Pardue,  
9:30-11:30am

March 16<sup>th</sup>

Evan Pardue  
Workshop at Café  
College, 1:15-  
3:30pm

## Monthly Tips, cont.

weeks, the new soil will have plenty of nutrients.

After you repot and soak the new soil in a good rooting hormone or Mycorrhizal fungi, bring it out to get some deserved sun and place it accordingly to the needs of the species. Watch out for cold weather that might come screaming in during the end of winter, be prepared to shelter those trees if needed and keep the newly repotted tree above 50 degrees.

Wait for a few weeks or so before you start trimming and pinching the new growth, you want it growing really well and know it healthy before you start ramification again. Trimming branches increases branching and lets the light in so your plant will stay healthy. The more you trim and pinch, the better the ramification gets. Trim the new branch down to 2 or 3 leaves; continue this throughout the growing season. When trimming remember the basics, remove crossing, spokes, and the up & down branches. Before trimming, check a species reference guide to see when it should be trimmed, we don't want to cut off any branches too soon that might be flowering &/or fruiting.

Watch the soils every day so they do not dry out. All soils must be free draining. It is best to screen all your soils to promote good drainage, air flow and to get rid of the "fines" or dust. A good mix should be around 50% organic mulch such as pine bark, fir bark or other hardwood mulch, and/or Akadama, some good potting soil, and 50% inorganic such as, granite, lava, expanded shale, or coarse blasting sand. Adjust your formula accordingly to suit each species and keep in mind of your water pH and quality. Experiment with your own combinations and see what works best for your trees.

Inspect the bonsai from top to bottom. With the warmer weather we have during "winter" we should inspect for ANY and all insects and treat accordingly. I try to apply the practice of "an ounce of prevention", I treat with insecticide and apply fungicide at least once every 4 weeks. If you discover an infestation, treat according to the label of the pesticide.

## Other News

- **Dues for 2024 are now due to the Treasurer. Please see Ryan O. prior to March 14<sup>th</sup> before you lose out on upcoming notices and activities. Membership pricing has stayed the same!!! Individual: \$30, Family: \$50, Senior (65+) Individual: \$25, Senior (65+) Family: \$40**
- **SABS has discontinued the Bonsai Workshops on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month in lieu of workshops on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, at Café College**
- Here are the links for various upcoming events:
  - **Yamadori (Collecting) –**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AF2CA1FF2-46993296-2024>
  - **Andrew Robson Workshop –**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AF2CA1FF2-47013249-andrew>

## President's Message (cont.)

scheduled, our second panel lecture on transplanting and repotting deciduous trees, a Saturday lecture on general care and how to sharpen you bonsai tools (bring some spare change as we will be selling items to help you sharpen your tools as well as hold a few raffles), and a workshop held by Andrew Robson hosted by Don B. (details within this newsletter). Please note that there is no BYOT Workshop on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

Next, we are still looking for volunteers to help with our first annual local Bonsai Convention. If you are interested in chairing one of the positions or just willing to help, please let Gabriel H., Ryan O., or me know. We will be finalizing the officers of the Convention Committee on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Speaking of Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> were you aware that the 2024 Chinese New Year starts February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This year marks the Year of the Wood Dragon. During the Year of the Dragon, the colors Green, Gold, and Yellow are all considered to be lucky. The South China Morning Post noted, "These colors relate to the elements of wood and earth, which complement the Wood Dragon year of 2024." So make sure to add some gold or yellow flowering trees to your collection this year and wear those colors as often as you can for good luck. For Bonsai enthusiast, I can't think of a better reason to add more trees to the collection.

There is a lot for SABS members to look forward to, but the only way to ensure that SABS is successful is by contributing/participating as often as you can. Remember, the grass is not greener on the other side, it's greener where YOU water it! Peace, and may all of your trees find good health and long-lasting life.

## Vice-President's Message (cont.)

Pricing for Evan's workshop is: \$55 (includes workshop fee and purchase of Elm (brought by Evan) or \$35 (includes workshop fee – participant to bring up to 2 trees of their own). Evan will have a limited number of Elms (not sure of the Genus) available to purchase for \$35 (workshop not included). Fee collected at time of event. Great opportunity for you to buy more material to work with. Social time starts at 9am and the presentation from 9:30-11:30am. We will have a break for lunch or working on trees from 11:30am-1:15pm and then for those that signed up for Evan's workshop the workshop begins at 1:15pm and goes to 3:30pm. The link to sign up for this workshop is: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AF2CA1FF2-47639843-ewan>

Please reach out to the board if you have any questions, ideas or concerns. We want our members to learn and the club to grow. Hope to see you there!

## Other News (cont.)

- Evan Pardue Workshop – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AF2CA1FF2-47639843-ewan>
- **2025 Bonsai Convention** - LSBF (Lone Star Bonsai Federation) has approved the collaboration of SABS and CCBS (Corpus Christi Bonsai Society) to join forces and host the 2025 Bonsai Convention, following the retraction of Dallas' original request for 2025. David W. and I have provided preliminary ideas to LSBF including a Fall 2025 convention in Corpus, convention/hotel location, and a few workshop categories. We will be putting together a joint convention committee, from both Clubs, soon. Please let me, Ryan O., know if you are interested in joining this committee. We will need volunteers for Secretary, Registration, Exhibit Chairperson, Treasurer, Raffles Chairperson, Workshop Chairperson, Vendors Chairperson, Food/Beverage Chairperson, and Advertising Chairperson. David W. and I are both Co-Convention Chairmen.
- Our Facebook page has over **1,000 followers!!!!**



San Antonio  
Bonsai Society,  
Inc. (SABS)

All correspondence  
should be  
addressed to:

San Antonio  
Bonsai Society,  
Inc.

27925 Bonn  
Mountain

San Antonio,  
Texas, 78260

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.

For additional information please visit SABS at

**Website: [Sanantoniobonsai.org](http://Sanantoniobonsai.org)**

**Facebook: [@sanantoniobonsai](https://www.facebook.com/sanantoniobonsai)**

**Instagram: [@sanantoniobonsai](https://www.instagram.com/sanantoniobonsai)**

**Annual Membership Due:**

Individual	\$30
Family	\$50
Senior (65+) Individual:	\$25
Senior (65+) Family:	\$40
Individual Nametag:	\$15

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

**SABS is a non-profit 501c (3) organization.**

**Newsletter editor: Ryan O. at [bonsaiode@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaiode@gmail.com)**

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