

ISSUE

10

OCTOBER
2025

A Publication
of The San
Antonio
Bonsai

SA Bonsai News

Upcoming Bonsai Events

October

October 4th

Bonsai Exhibit with
JASSA, Japanese
Fall Festival, 5738
Castroville Rd SATX
78219, 11am-5pm

October 6th

BYOT with Adam
Lavigne, \$50/pp,
Ryan's House,
6:30pm

October 7th

Private session
available with Adam
Lavigne, \$60/hr.
8:30am-11:30am

October 7th

BYOT with Adam
Lavigne, \$50/pp,
Lions Field, 1pm-
4pm

October 7th

Club Meeting w/
Adam Lavigne,
Lions Field, 6:30pm

Meetings held at the
Lions Field Center 2809
Broadway, SATX 78209



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President's Message by Kevin P., hattie1@gvtc.com



SEE CALENDAR OF EVENTS TO THE LEFT AND
PAGE 5 FOR DIFFERING OCTOBER MEETING DATES

Howdy Bonsai Family!

THE CONVENTION IS OVER!!!!!!

I picked up the truck (26' Penske box truck) Tuesday morning at 8am and picked up the first load of trees from Don Barker's house, drove to my house where Hattie, Evelyn, Carl, and Bruce helped load up boxes, backdrops, risers, crates of tablecloths, tables, rice paper screens, and then finally all the rest of the workshop trees. We had less than 12" of space left at the back of the truck before we watered the trees and closed the door for the night. I left the house at 9 am Wednesday morning and arrived at the hotel a little after 12pm. We waited for Hattie to arrive before we started unloading (after all we all know she's the boss and is very good at giving the right guidance).

David and several Corpus members were there to start with the unloading and putting everything into the proper rooms. Rented tables arrived around 2pm and we placed the tables in the correct rooms. We had the Exhibit, Vendor, Workshop, and Raffle rooms set up by 5pm.

That evening we started going over the raffle items to see what the heck were in all those boxes. Corpus and SABS worked together getting everything ready for Thursday night (Vendor Night) and started accepting trees for the Exhibit.

Vendor Night and Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings were filled with workshops, raffles, vendors, exhibitors, lecture/demos and a really funny auction.

We all had a great, but exhausting weekend.

Sunday, we started breaking everything down and loaded up into a much smaller truck for our return to San Antonio. By 1:30pm, we

President's message continued on page 6.



Please Welcome our Newest Member(s)

Donna G.

*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 2025

5 years

Debbie & Dan

10 years

Steve B., Jim, &
Ester

20+ years

Jay (24), Kevin
(25), Hattie (25),
Donna (26), Chuck
(29), Pat (29),
Alfred (34), David
(43), Paul (44),
Dawn (44), & Jack
(45)



Vice-President's Message

by Richard M.,
millermlaw@aol.com

I am writing this article on the first day of fall. The temperature was in the 90's today. Don't let this fool you. It can get quite chilly toward the end of October. I have described a book by Jonas Dupuich titled "The Essential Bonsai Book" as one of my favorite go to resources. The following excerpt from that book rings true for many bonsai. "If winters are mild where you live, you can likely keep your bonsai outdoors year-round. Brief or infrequent freezes during which temperatures drop no lower than 28F degrees for a few hours are fine for most non-tropical species including deciduous trees such as maple, beech, and elm, as well as conifers such as pine, spruce, and juniper. Many broadleaf evergreens such as oak, olive, or azalea may be able to handle brief freezes, but protecting these species from freezing temperatures can preserve the color of the foliage and prevent branch dieback.

Most tropical species that grow outside will need protection when temperatures drop below 50F degrees. If you have a small number of tropical bonsai such as Ficus or Jade growing outdoors, the easiest solution may be to bring them indoors during the winter months. Place these trees in a bright, warm spot. Continue to water when the soil begins to dry out and rotate trees regularly to make the most of the available sun exposure. If you don't have space inside, consider placing tropical bonsai in a heated patio, sunroom, or greenhouse kept around 70F degrees."

I bring cold hearty trees into my garage when temperatures drop below 28F degrees. I keep my tropicals in a greenhouse set at 65F degrees and they do just fine. Good luck and have fun working on your bonsai.

Monday October 6th

SABS is hosting the first Bring Your Own Tree (BYOT) Workshop with LSBF Guest Artist Adam Lavigne at Ryan's house beginning at 6:30pm. Ryan's address is mentioned in the sign-up link. Ten spots are available with Club members bringing up to 2 trees each. Fee is \$50/pp. The event will be held in Ryan's garage so bring warm clothes or bug spray, if needed. Use the following link to sign up for this BYOT workshop. [Adam Lavigne BYOT Workshop](#)

Tuesday October 7th

Multiple Events are happening this day

1. Adam is available Tuesday morning for a private workshop/lesson from 8:30am-11:30am. \$60/hr. Please email Ryan if you are interested.

Vice-President's message continued on page 6.

Monthly Food/Bev. Host(s)

September

Lydia W. & Drew G.

October

Blanca M. & TBD

Soil/Book Sale

CLUB SOIL NOW IN STOCK

Club Soil
\$25/five gal.

APL Soil
\$75/five gal.

BONSAI TREE CARE BOOKS NOW IN STOCK

Care Book \$30

Email Ryan O. at bonsaiode@gmail.com for details or delivery to meetings

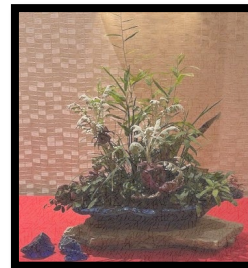


Photos/Recognitions

Please congratulate the following SABS members on their awards and/or honorable mentions from the convention!!!



Best Cascade by Jay N.



Best Kusamono by Vicki A.



Honorable Mention of Green Island Shohin by Jay N.



Honorable Mention of The Lizard Suiseki by Hattie P.



Honorable Mention of Semi-Cascade by Vicki A.

A Bonsai Technique in Short – Fall Maintenance



Begin using a low nitrogen (N)/high phosphorus (P) fertilizer. Exp is 0-10-10



Move trees to sunnier spots if left in the shade over summer



Clean up the greenhouse, the garage, or your winter dormancy locations.

Monthly Tips from Ryan O.

History of Bonsai

Part 2 from Bonsai Empire (<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/origin/bonsai-history>) discusses the history of bonsai related to the Japanese and the West.

History of Bonsai in Japan

It is believed that the first tray landscapes were brought from China to Japan at least twelve hundred years ago (as religious souvenirs). A thousand years ago, the first lengthy work of fiction in Japanese included this passage: "A [full-size] tree that is left growing in its natural state is a crude thing. It is only when it is kept close to human beings who fashion it with loving care that its shape and style acquire the ability to move one". Read the article about Bonsai tree meaning for more information.

The first graphic portrayals of these in Japan were not made until about eight hundred years ago. All things Chinese fascinated the Japanese, and at some point the Chinese Chan Buddhism (Indian meditative Dhyana Buddhism crossed with native Chinese Daoism) also was imported and became Zen Buddhism in Japan. Finding beauty in severe austerity, Zen monks – with less land forms as a model -- developed their tray landscapes along certain lines so that a single tree in a pot could represent the universe. The Japanese pots were generally deeper than those from the mainland, and the resulting gardening form was called hachi-no-ki, literally, the bowl's tree. A folktale from the late 1300s, about an impoverished samurai who sacrificed his last three dwarf potted trees to provide warmth for a traveling monk on a cold winter night, became a popular Noh theatre play, and images from the story would be depicted in a number of media forms, including woodblock prints, through the centuries.

Everyone from the military leader shoguns to ordinary peasant people grew some form of tree or azalea in a pot or abalone shell. By the late eighteenth century a show for traditional pine dwarf potted trees was begun to be held annually in the capital city of Kyoto. Connoisseurs from five provinces and the neighboring areas would bring one or two plants each to the show in order to submit them to the visitors for ranking or judging. The town of Takamatsu (home of Kinashi Bonsai village) was already growing fields of partly-shaped dwarf pines for a major source of income.

Around the year 1800, a group of scholars of the Chinese arts gathered near the city of Osaka to discuss recent styles in miniature trees. Their dwarf trees were renamed as "Bonsai" (the Japanese pronunciation of the Chinese term pun-tsai) in order to differentiate them from the ordinary hachi-no-ki which many persons cared for. The

Bonsai Term(s) of the Month

Chinese Mudmen

Mudmen figurines dates back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD), a period of immense cultural & artistic. During this era, miniature landscapes (Penjing) gained popularity... & displays... included small figures to enhance the visual narrative & provide a sense of scale.

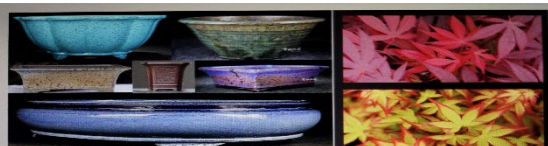
Mudmen figurines were often used to depict scenes from everyday life, adding a touch of realism & human connection to these miniature worlds.

They can be used to represent various themes or narratives, such as:

- **Harmony with nature:** A fisherman figurine placed near a water feature or a wise old man meditating beneath a tree.
- **Rural life:** A farmer tending his crops or a woodcutter chopping wood.
- **Sense of Scale:** The presence of human or animal figures helps to emphasize the scale of the bonsai tree, highlighting its miniature grandeur.

Source:

[https://thevietpotter.com/blogs/mudmen-figurines-mudmen-figurines-history?srsltid=AfmBOoo8KQx31je8Ot9OCdQdSScfGxbyM9bdvx7JQqTqE5CuJ-tLPxC](https://thevietpotter.com/blogs/mudmen-figurines/mudmen-figurines-history?srsltid=AfmBOoo8KQx31je8Ot9OCdQdSScfGxbyM9bdvx7JQqTqE5CuJ-tLPxC)



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Upcoming Bonsai Events

October

October 9th
No club meeting

October 22nd
4th Wednesday
BYOT Workshop &
Progressive Bonsai
Study, Lions Field,
6:30pm

November

November 8th
Barker Bonsai Bash,
Barker's House,
11am – 4pm
[Sign-up Here](#)

November 13th
Club Meeting,
Preparing Trees for
Winter, Lions Field,
6:30pm

November 26th
**No club meeting
due to holiday**

December

December 11th
Club Meeting:
Holiday Party, Lions
Field, 6:30pm

December 24th
**No club meeting
due to holiday**

Monthly Tips, (cont.)

had better success with the horticultural needs of dwarf potted trees in smaller containers. Bonsai was now seen as a matter of design, the craft approach replacing the religious/mythical approach of tradition.

Different sizes and styles were developed over the next century; catalogs and books about the trees, tools, and pots were published; some early formal shows were held. Copper and iron wire replaced hemp fibers for shaping the trees. Containers mass-produced in China were made to Japanese specifications and the number of hobbyists grew.

Following the Great Kanto Earthquake which devastated the Tokyo area in 1923, a group of thirty families of professional growers resettled twenty miles away in Omiya and set up what would become the center of Japanese Bonsai culture; Omiya Bonsai village. In the 1930s as formal displays of Bonsai became recognized, an official annual show was allowed at Tokyo's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The long recovery from the Pacific War saw Bonsai become mature and cultivated as an important native art. Apprenticeship programs, greater numbers of shows, books and magazines, and classes for foreigners spread the word. The use of custom power tools matched with an intricate knowledge of plant physiology allowed a few masters to move from the craft approach to a truly artistic-designing phase of the art.

Recently, Bonsai – seen too often as just a tired pastime for the elderly – now even has a version becoming popular among the younger generation with easy-to-care-for mini-trees and landscapes, unwired and wilder-looking, using native plants.

History of Bonsai in the West

In 1604, there was a description in Spanish of how Chinese immigrants in the tropical islands of the Philippines were growing small ficus trees onto hand-sized pieces of coral. The earliest-known English observation of dwarf potted trees (root-over-rock in a pan) in China/Macau was recorded in 1637. Subsequent reports during the next century also from Japan were root-over-rock specimens. Dozens of travelers included some mention of dwarf trees in their accounts from Japan or China. Many of these were repeated in book reviews and excerpted articles in widely distributed magazines. Japanese dwarf trees were in the Philadelphia Exposition in 1876, the Paris Expositions of 1878 and 1889, the Chicago Expo of 1893, the St. Louis World's Fair of 1904, the 1910 Japan-Britain Exhibition, and at the 1915 San Francisco Exposition.

The first European language book (French) entirely about Japanese dwarf trees was published in 1902, and the first in English in 1940. Yoshimura and Halford's *Miniature Trees and Landscapes* was published in 1957. It would become known as "Bible of Bonsai in the West," with Yuji Yoshimura being the direct link between Japanese classical Bonsai art and progressive Western approach which resulted in elegant, refined adaptation for the modern world. John Naka from California extended this sharing by teaching in person and in print first in America, and then around the world further emphasizing the use of native material.

It was by this time that the West was being introduced to landscapes from Japan known as saikei and a resurgence from China as Penjing. Compositions with more than a single type of tree became accepted and recognized as legitimate creations.

Monthly Tips continued on page 6.



President's Message (cont.)

were on the road.

Monday morning Nuncio, Penny, Hattie, and Richard helped with the unloading at 9:30am. I returned the truck and went back to work. (Working was a lot easier than the convention!)

Thanks to SABS members: Irene, Luis, Linsey (Juan), Ryan, Jay, David, Vicky, Diane, Klaus, Richard, John, Don, Conrad, Veronica, Bruce, Carl, Marguerite, Hattie, Nuncio, Penny, Gabe, and Irvin for attending and helping out! (I even think I spotted Ricky). If I've missed anybody, I apologize and let me know. Thank you to all those that came down to the convention, supported our efforts, and supported the vendors.

We will be in the black (profit) thanks to the raffles and auction. The convention treasurer will be reconciling all expenditures as well as income to see how we did, more to follow...

Back to SABS, our Auction went quite well. We were kicked out of our room, went out to the courtyard to continue the auction, got kicked out of there, and resumed and finished our auction in the parking lot. I want to thank all of you for helping out, and for making our auction a success. The profits will help offset the cost of the visiting artist in October. We sold over \$3,400 worth of bonsai materials.

Our progressive workshop is limping along, and we will start repotting later this month. Several of you expressed an interest in keeping the trees they've become attached to. I've seen the progress, and you've all added to the value of your trees, so expect to pay more than 50 cents for them! Rob started repotting, and we put some of the trees into a shallower container without cutting any roots.

Don't forget about our early meeting this month with Adam!!!!

Vice-President's Message (cont.)

2. 2nd BYOT Workshop with Adam Lavigne. From 1pm to 4pm at the Lion's Field. Ten spots are available with Club members bringing up to 2 trees each. Fee is \$50/pp. Use the following link to sign up for this BYOT workshop. [Adam Lavigne BYOT Workshop](#)
3. Lecture/Demonstration with Adam at the Lion's Field from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Adam will discuss his vast knowledge of bonsai while working on a huge Texas Ebony which will be raffled off to one lucky winner.

Monthly Tips, (cont.)

Over the years, slight innovations and improvements have been developed, primarily in the revered old Bonsai nurseries in Japan, and these have been brought over bit-by-bit to our countries by visiting teachers or returning traveler enthusiasts. Upon their return Japan, teachers would immediately try out a new technique or two in front of students at previously scheduled workshops. The new Japanese techniques could then be disseminated further and this living art form continued to be developed.

Most of the earlier books in European languages, for the most part, leaned more towards basic horticultural knowledge and techniques for keeping the trees alive. Western science has been increasing our awareness of the needs and processes of the living trees and other plants in our compositions. At the same time, published material has shifted towards explaining the aesthetics involved in styling and shaping. Large permanent collections began to be increasingly set up around the world, including Scotland, Hungary, Australia, and Korea, and numerous shows, exhibitions and conventions became annual events for enthusiasts and the general public.

The Karate Kid movies were released. In their own way they spurred many young people to investigate our art/hobby. Read more about Bonsai in the Karate Kid movie.

"Mica pots" originated by this time out of Korea and independent potters were trying their hands at making ceramic pots, including non-standard designs. In 1992 the first Internet Bonsai website was started with the alt.Bonsai newsgroup and the next year saw rec.arts.Bonsai, the forerunner of the Internet Bonsai Club. The first Bonsai club website came about less than three years later.



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

Facebook: @sanantoniobonsai

Instagram: @sanantoniobonsai

YouTube: [Click Here!!](#)

Annual Membership Dues:

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

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