

## Upcoming Bonsai Events

### November

#### November 8<sup>th</sup>

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

#### November 13<sup>th</sup>

Club Meeting,  
Preparing Trees for  
Winter, Lions Field,  
6:00pm

**November 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**No club meeting  
due to holiday**

**Additional events  
listed on Page 5**

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



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## President's Message by Kevin P., [hattie1@gvtc.com](mailto:hattie1@gvtc.com)

**NEW CLUB MEETING TIMES AT LIONS FIELD  
6:00PM TO 7:45PM**

Happy Fall!

Last month, I listed names of attendees, and I forgot to list Oscar. He was at the convention too. Sorry Oscar.

It seems we are finally done with our 200% summer days and we finally got some rain in our area, I hope you did as well.

With the cooler weather and the recent rains, we get to take a couple of days off from watering.

We have an election coming up at this month's meeting. The nominees to the board are: **Drew, Rob, Gill, and Hattie**. If anyone else would like to sit on the board for the next 2 years, please let me know at the meeting.

The first order of business will be the election of the new board. Immediately following the election, the new and remaining members of the board will retire for a bit to elect the new officers, President, Vice President., Treasurer, and Secretary. Those board members remaining for another year are: Richard, Carl, Cheryl, Penny and myself. We will join the meeting in progress after that.

The board will decide on what will happen throughout the year, so being on the board is very important. If you (the members) want to see something next year, please let us know during the meeting to see if we can add it to our 2026 calendar.

The progressive workshop is continuing to be a crowd pleaser. The majority of those who started in January were present to report their trees. Thank you all for your support. (Who knows, maybe we will do the same thing next year...)

*President's message continued on page 6.*



## Please Welcome our Newest Member(s)

Bryce C.  
Bobby K.

*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.,  
[millermillerlaw@aol.com](mailto:millermillerlaw@aol.com)

Again, I will quote from one of my favorite Bonsai books. Jonas Dupuich in his recent publication (The Essential Bonsai Book) had some great advice for the winter care of Bonsai. He states: "Brief or infrequent freezes during which temperatures drop no lower than 28°F 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 50°F. 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 at around 70°F."

For my bonsai, I bring more cold hardy trees like Chinese Elm, Laurel Oak, and Olive into my garage when temperatures drop below 30°F. For very cold days, I use a garage appropriate small heater to add some additional warmth.

For my tropicals like Ficus and Jade, I place them in a heated greenhouse when temperatures approach 40°F. I set the greenhouse temperature at 65°F. In the greenhouse and garage, I usually water the bonsai about once a week. Check your bonsai to make sure they do not dry out during winter but do not keep them overly moist as root rot is more of a problem in winter. Most importantly, check on the heater too to prevent potential water intrusion, escaping gas from LP tank, or any potential electrical shortages. Good luck with your bonsai. Winter can be tough on bonsai but with care and attention our bonsai will do just great.

### Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup>

Our Club meeting will begin with the election of 2026 officers and move to our evening discussion on Preparing Trees for Winter. Join us for a lively panel discussion where three club members share how they adapt their bonsai routines for the colder months. We'll explore different approaches to caring for tropical and deciduous trees, plus practical tips on watering, fertilizing, and winter setups. Whether you're new to bonsai or a seasoned grower, you'll take away ideas to keep your trees thriving all winter long.

*Vice-President's message continued on page 6.*



# Monthly Food/Bev. Host(s)

November

TBD

December

All Members

## Soil/Book Sale

CLUB SOIL NOW IN STOCK. Free Delivery to Club Meetings in Nov/Dec.

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](mailto:bonsaiode@gmail.com) for details or delivery to meetings



## Photos/Recognitions

LSBF Touring Artist Adam Lavigne Photos



Ryan O. with Mayor Gina Ortiz Jones at JASSA



## A Bonsai Technique in Short – Decorating for Thanksgiving



Find a tree with orange and brown leaves



Place bonsai next to turkey  
(picture depicts wrong tree.  
Use tree from left photo)



Move bonsai closer to said turkey  
(picture depicts wrong tree. Use tree from far left photo)

NO TURKEYS WERE HARMED BY CHATGPT



## Monthly Tips From the late John Miller of the Dallas Bonsai Society

Learn to think in terms related to plant characteristics instead of calendar periods (i.e. use 'when dormant' instead of October, 'candle growth' instead of April, etc). That will enable you to read bonsai articles correctly whether written in Japan, Florida, or wherever. Note that some tree cultivars (like the cork bark black pine) are notably weaker than the standards of the species and require different pruning and care. Generalized articles will not be able to cover many details like this, you must learn the foibles of your particular variety.

All of this means that you should have your winter quarters ready. Select one for deciduous trees that will be out of the sun. Evergreens will need some sun but some protection from the hotter winter days, a bit of a problem. Air circulation is good but too much wind will desiccate them especially during freezing temps. Be sure you can check their individual watering. Clean up all debris.

Winter is also a crucial time in control of many insects. Killing them now means the tree will be able to get started in the spring before they develop sufficient numbers to do much damage. Before putting the trees into winter storage treat them for overwintering insects and eggs. Dormant oil spray is good on trees with no green. A dilute solution of lime sulfur is an old gardener's dormant spray for insect and fungus control. Use it on very cool days and dilute it per directions, probably 1 part lime sulfur to 20 parts water. Be sure to read the label on your bottle in case there are different strengths available. This solution should also be applied to bench tops, posts and the soil surrounding them (if you have gravel instead of grass) to eliminate hiding eggs and spores. If you have a greenhouse treat it also before the weather gets too cold to put your plants outside or move them to one end while you treat the other end.

At this time of the year deciduous plants do not need fertilizer. Evergreens will continue a slow growth and will benefit for a very light fertilizer feeding. Use one with a lower nitrogen (first number) like 8-8-8 and apply at 1/3 the recommended feeding rate.

Most important in winter is to keep the soil moisture at a proper level. This sometimes is hard to do because the trees do not use as much water as when they are growing. However the cold winds will dry out the tops quickly. I believe that most winter damage in Texas is due to lack of water rather than to low temperatures. Mulch helps keep the roots warm and retards evaporation but it makes for difficulty in seeing if the soil is damp enough. Most soils with enough organic material to keep the tree happy in the summer will be too wet if watered daily in the winter and wet cold means root rot. This is another place the akadama in the APL mix will help.

## Bonsai Term(s) of the Month

### Stands

Bonsai stands are small tables used to display bonsai. They're commonly found in exhibits or in formal indoor displays.

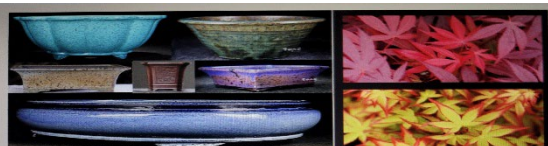
More than anything else, we use stands to raise bonsai above standard table height so they're closer to eye level. Elevating bonsai makes it easier for visitors to appreciate the trees without having to bend over to get a better look.

How to use a stand:

- Bonsai in round pots are on round or square stands
- Bonsai in rectangular or oval-shaped pots are on rectangular stands
- Bunjin/Literati bonsai are on low, flat slabs
- Cascade/semi-cascade bonsai in square or round pots are on tall round or square stands
- Shohin bonsai are in box stands

Getting the right size:

- Generally, a stand is as wide as the width of the branching, unless Bunjin/Literati are generally slightly wider than the pot
- A "heavier" bonsai is placed with a more substantial stand
- A "lighter" bonsai is placed with a less bulky stand



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## Upcoming Bonsai Events

### December

#### December 11<sup>th</sup>

Club Meeting:  
Holiday Party, Lions  
Field, 6:00pm

#### December 20<sup>th</sup>

Bonsai L/D by Ryan  
& Kevin, Rainbow  
Gardens-Thousand  
Oaks, 10:00am

#### December 24<sup>th</sup>

No club meeting  
due to holiday

### 2026 Events

Botanical Gardens  
Exhibit

Jan 31-Feb 1

Collecting  
Opportunities  
TBD in Feb

Asian Festival  
Feb 21-22

Randy Bennett,  
Blad Cypress  
Workshops  
Feb 23

Jennifer Price  
Workshop  
Feb 26

Festival of Flowers  
May 30

## Monthly Tips, (cont.)

**BIG NOTE:** If you have a tree that is weak and unhealthy you should not attempt to style it in any way, just get it happy by adjusting its soil, feeding, and getting rid of any parasites. Styling just adds to its stress and problems.

Repotting of hardy trees can be done anytime the trees are dormant. However, it is safer to do that chore in the spring as the buds are swelling. New roots will start forming immediately upon repotting in order for the tree to absorb enough water. If you do repot in the fall you should protect the new roots from freezing during the winter. Do you need to change the pot? Making notes at this time while getting the trees ready for winter will give you 3-4 months to find the proper pot.

When trees go dormant which indicates a reduced sap flow they may be pruned, that is have major limbs removed. Trimming may also be done while the leaves are off the trees and you can see what you are doing. Evergreen types will probably still be a bit active. Pruning them should be held until a bit later.

By this time any tropicals you have should be under cover. Most do not like the temp below 50°F. All tropicals should be checked and treated for any insect problems since any insects will multiply fast when they get into warmer quarters. Spider mites and scale can be especially damaging if the plant is moved in the house where the humidity is low.

The semi-tropical plants like crape myrtle, pomegranate, and pyracantha need to go dormant to stay healthy over a long time but they cannot take much cold on the roots. The roots will be killed by temps somewhere between 25°F and 30°F. These I set down on the ground and mulch for light freezes and then bring into a protected area for the colder winter. Sometimes I will let them go dormant for a month and then take into the greenhouse to start early and I can enjoy their new foliage in January.

Plan your spring repotting tasks so you will have the necessary pots and other supplies. Take advantage of low prices when nurseries are clearing out space for Xmas tree sales. You can sometimes find some bargains there especially if you remember that a tree with broken/dead tops may make nice bonsai starter material.

The dormant season is also a very good time to study your deciduous bonsai. You can see clearly the structure and where improvements should be made. Remove any wire that is tight or where it has done its work and the branch stays in position. Work can be done more leisurely over the winter. Take care not to damage the small buds.

November is when I consider the start of the fiscal year for two needle pines which include the Japanese black pine, Scots pine, and others. This process is needed to develop the twiginess and to get the needles short and keep them that way. Junipers and most other conifers (not the bald cypress) may be included. However, I question the desirability of keeping them on the benches over winter because of the possibility of the sun heating the roots too much and causing them to break dormancy or get their roots active. That would cause problem if the temp later falls to 10°F.

## President's Message (cont.)

Bonsai 101 is active too. We want to encourage all members that they can join us for questions and concerns at the 101 get togethers. **Remember, no 101 or progressive workshops will be held in November or December!**

Finally, I want to thank the board members who are leaving this year, Ryan, Diane, and Bryan. Your involvement in SABS for the last 2-4 years have made our club the success that it is, I hope we will continue being successful.

The 2025 LSBF/CCBC/SABS convention was a financial success, even though we made \$2,800 profit each for LSBF, CCBC, and SABS, it showed what we could do in a very short time period setting up a convention in under 2 years. (I don't want to do that again!)

Also new times, we will start our meetings at 6pm for the remainder of the foreseeable future. We need to be out of the building at 7:45pm, so no dilly-dallying after the meeting, do it in the parking lot!

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

In November, all Club Members will receive an email from Lone Star Bonsai Federation (LSBF) Delegate Hunter Hilburn ([hunter.hilburn@gmail.com](mailto:hunter.hilburn@gmail.com)) announcing your contact information (name and email only) have been entered into LSBF's distribution list. This list is only be used to distribute LSBF information such as newsletters, convention information, and upcoming important dates. This database is solely run by LSBF directors, thus ensuring complete privacy of information. The LSBF Board has the following "code of ethics" in place: 1) Contact information will be managed and maintained by a member of the LSBF Board of Directors; 2) Contact information will only be used for official LSBF business, marketing, or related club communication; 3) Contact information will not be sold without expressed approval of the LSBF Board approval; and 4) Upon request, contact information will be removed from the list and not used again until permission is given by the person in question. As mentioned in #4, you will have the ability to opt-out of any further emails should you decide.

## Monthly Tips, (cont.)

Below are suggested temperatures vs species to consider.

Hardy below 32°		Hardy to 35°	Needs Protection at 40°	Needs Protection at 50°
Temperatures are based on a short burst of "coldness." This chart does not reflect long-term exposure such as 8hr+ or over multiple days. Do your research to confirm temperatures. Info taken from Bonsai Care Book.				
Ashe Juniper Azalea Boxwood Camellia Camellia Cotoneaster Crabapple Crape Myrtle Cryptomeria Cypress, Bald Cypress, Hinoki Cypress, Pond Elms Fiddlewood	Hornbeams Junipers Maples Oaks Persimmons, Texas Pines Pyracantha Shimpaku Spruce Tamarisk Yaupon Holly Yew Zelkova	Anaqua Apricot English Ivy Ginko Hawthorn Kidneywood Madrone Mustang Grape Pomegranate Privet/Ligustrum Quince Rosemary Willow Wisteria	Bamboo Barbados Cherry Desert Rose Ficus/Figs/Banyan Firethorn Jasmine Lantana Natal Plum Neea Buxifolia Olive Palms Podocarpus Powder Puff Serrisa, Snow Rose SweetGum/Liquidambar Texas Ebony	Bahama Berry Bougainvillea Buttonwood Cherry, Australian Brush Fukien Tea Gardenia Jaboticaba Jasmines Kumquat Lavender Star Logwood/Campeche Plums Porcelain Berry Portulacaria Rain Tree Schefflera Sea Grape





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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

Instagram: @sanantoniobonsai

YouTube: [Click Here!!](#)

**Annual Membership Dues:**

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

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

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

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