



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://bonsai-satx.org>

JANUARY 2014

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 1

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

Bonsai 101 with Richard Hayes, 264-1965. The material is provided and the workshop is for **EVERYONE**, new members receive free material. **A NEW LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE JANUARY MEETING.**

AT EVERY MEETING—Bring in your bonsai for continued support and helpful hints and direction.

NEW...Each month will have a "mini-show" of bonsai that anyone can bring in to talk about

SEEKING HOSTS FOR THE 2014 BONSAI MEETINGS.

JANUARY 9: TOOL SHARPENING with Joey M . 7 pm

HOST: Roberto M

FEBRUARY 1: *Asian Festival at the Institute of Texan Cultures*—sign up sheet at the January meeting.

FEBRUARY 15; Pond Cypress Forest planting, workshop held by David W at Ryan O 's home, also sign up available at the January meeting.

President's Message

By Ryan O

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It's the year of the.... well.... Bonsai, tools, pots, soils, shows, etc. It's the year the club will cover many exciting topics such as creating a forest of pond cypress, working with Texas natives and tropicals, learning tips and tricks, tool sharpening, and of course numerous times to bring in trees from your own collection to work on throughout the year. Based upon club members' feed-back from the November questionnaire, 6 board members took 1.5 hours to discuss, debate, and fight (*I think my black eye will be healed by January's meeting*) to come up with 2014's agenda, along with many other exciting changes that are discussed later in the newsletter.

On **February 1, 2014** is the annual **Asian Festival** at the *Institute of Texan Cultures*. We would like to get a large assortment of trees, displays, and volunteers to help out with this event. It is from 10 am to 5 pm. I will pass around a sign-up sheet requesting volunteers

Also in **February, on 15th**, I am hosting David W and his demonstration of **Pond Cypress Forest Planting** at my house. I will send a sign-up sheet for those that would like to attend. Cost is \$60 per person and includes **5 Pond Cypress trees and lunch**. I will pass out directions to my house to those that are attending. You are required to bring your own pot and soil. I will have **limited soil** on hand for a few participants. We will begin at noon.

The Houston Club is hosting the 2014 **LSBF Texas State Bonsai Convention** on April 10-13th. Once again our club was asked to nominate an individual for the **Emerging Talent Contest** held on Thursday April 10th. The board members have nominated.....?.....Oh, I'm not going to tell you until January's Meeting!!!

PROGRAM CORNER

David W

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Happy New Year!

I want everybody to know that I'm very pleased to accept the VP role for the up and coming New Year 2014. I am really excited with all the upcoming events that our board members have in store for you.

We start with some *new additions* to our club meetings, first thing being hospitality. It will now be up to the host/hostess if they want to bring a full meal or simple desserts, *both options are fine*. Suggested amount is no more than \$30.

Each month will have a "mini-show" of bonsai that anyone can bring in to talk about and maybe show off (you may even be creative and provide a topic like winter silhouette to get people thinking), also bring your trees to go with the *theme of the month* like pines, junipers, tropical and forest to name three of the upcoming lecture/demos this year.

January lecture demonstration will be *Tool Sharpening* conducted by one of our favorite Austin Bonsai members, Joey M *So don't be embarrassed* bring in those beat up tools, (*which you paid a lot of money for..*) I'll finish up with a new monthly review about tips, tricks and techniques. This month will be about collecting trees, and care afterwards (a collected specimen is called a yamadori).

It's always best to find out when is the optimal time to collect plants. Down in South Texas it is usually safe to collect natives from December thru March, providing the specimen has not started sprouting or budding out. In central Texas, San Antonio it is better to wait until after January thru April, just as long as it hasn't already started sprouting or budding out. It's preferable to collect the plant right before it pushes new growth. Some species will sprout/ bud out soon after collecting, I've seen other plants not sprout out until the next growing season.

When you collect, remember that "winter" season is over for that plant and you need to protect it from any non-Spring weather, like frost and /or freezes. Try to keep it over 50 degrees and give it as much direct sun as possible.

After selecting your specimen, prune the tree or shrub back to manageable size. If you have a 10-foot sapling, you're probably safe cutting off seven or eight feet of it. If you have a branchy shrub, cut off any branches that are obviously a problem. Then trim back whatever is needed to make a workable size.

When digging up your new plant try to get as much of the roots as possible, you can downsize the roots later at the next root pruning. Sometimes there are very little roots, remember most plants are very resilient and usually pop roots and foliage back pretty fast. Try to retain as much original soil as possible, unless there is a lot of clay, remove clay and replace it.

To collect, dig beyond the drip-line and work your way into the main root system, digging a trench around the tree until you can get under the main trunk and cut the bigger roots off as you are digging. After removing your tree from the hole, give it plenty of soil by adding potting soil (or I use pine bark mulch with lava and/or expanded shale). Drench it with some *Superthrive* or some kind of root stimulator.

Continued next page

During the next watering try to **stimulate some branch and leaf growth** by using a toothbrush and mild soapy water and brush (clean) the entire trunk and branches with the solution.

Don't try to hurry up the growth by pumping in fertilizer or several doses of root stimulator/*Superthrive*, one dose of root stimulator is enough. Wait until the tree starts popping out growth before starting a fertilizer regimen.

Once the risk of cold weather has past, move your yamadori out into fresh air probably starting out with morning sun for a few weeks, then moving to full sun when the new growth starts growing well.

David, your VP

As the poet said, 'Only God can make a tree' -- probably because it's so hard to figure out how to get the bark on.....Woody Allen



Our newly elected board: from left to right: John R Ryan O , Chris L and David W

Roberto M , Kevin P , missing Oscar G .



2014 LSBF Convention
April 10-13th
Houston, TX

In preparation for our upcoming LSBF 2014 State convention that HBS will be hosting this year, as editor of HBS newsletter, I hope to put everybody in the mood for;

EAST MEETS WEST

Bonsai is certainly an ancient art form whose roots originated in China. It then flourished in Japan but is no longer exclusively an Oriental art form today. Thanks to the large number of Chinese and Japanese Americans living on both coasts of the Pacific Ocean, thousands of Americans (North and South) work on bonsai each day. Thanks to the Internet, bonsai connections have grown around our planet and united all ethnicities as well as languages in our common love for artistic potted trees. Thanks to the Zen Buddhist monks who brought Bonsai to remote lands, nowadays Christian monks can marvel in bonsai in their daily meditation practice.

Our LSBF 2014 chairman, Donald Green, has rounded up three outstanding artists and masters from distant shores to teach us this year. **Arthur Joura** is the curator of the **Bonsai Collection at the North Carolina Arboretum**. This collection is one the must see Bonsai collections, if you have chance to travel to the East Coast.

David DeGroot is the **Weyerhaeuser Company's Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection** curator, near Seattle. HBS members had the good fortune to visit this fabulous collection on the West Coast through the camera lens of our then president Alan Raymond a couple years ago. Even though "A picture is worth a thousand words", his excellent photographs still fail to capture the drama of Alan's experience in seeing those living treasures up close. The Weyerhaeuser Company's **Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection** is definitely another must see for all bonsai lovers.

The third artist **Peter Adams**, one of my most revered teachers, whose column I look forward to reading in *Bonsai Focus*, unexpectedly passed away. Together with a few friends in HBS, we mourn for the loss of this magnificent teacher.

Fortunately for us, another one of my favorites, **Pedro Morales**, the maestro of **Tropical Bonsai School of Puerto Rico**, was able to fill Peter's big shoes. We all will have a blast with this very lively and entertaining yet incredibly superb bonsai professor.

Shawn Nguyen, HBS editor

to be continued.....

**Mark your calendar and start saving those raffle items to give to HBS—there success
Is our success!!!**

Continuing the annual celebration of bonsai in TEXAS

Donna D. editor

Sensei

Dear Sensei,

Is it true that now we are upon the winter season I don't need to do anything for my bonsai?

Yes and No – *ahh...* Don't you just love answers that present more questions?

While it is true we are in the winter season, there still are a few things to do with your bonsai.

- 1) Though they may not be as thirsty as in the summer months, it is especially important that the soil stay moist and the bonsai don't dry out;
- 2) Keep in mind we do have below freezing temperatures and periodic frosts so make sure you cover your trees during the colder nights. It is even helpful to place cold hardy trees on the ground. This prevents cold air circulating around a raised pot causing the roots to freeze; and...
- 3) while we do not do much in terms of maintenance to our bonsai, there are still many other things to accomplish.

For instance: start planning fertilization by buying supplies to last through the growing season; clean your bonsai area and worksite of leaves and trash to prevent future insects and fungus; clean pots to be used this year from dirt and calcium; study up on the characteristics of the trees you have and the styles; compare what is recommended in terms of branching to your trees while they don't have leaves; obtain all components of your "soil" so that come February/March you have enough on hand; start matching up pots with trees that you will transplant; and make a checklist of the trees to be repotted with new soil.

There is "no idle time" when dealing with bonsai according to Marty Mann. – *Various ideas listed above are from "Bonsai Ideas" by Marty Mann, 2005, page 87.*

AHHHH!! The Christmas Party past...
Fun with decorating Bonsai for
Christmas!!

AND—the winner is...it happened
again, a tie that was only broken by a
helpful employee of the Lion Center.

The second tree from the left belongs
to...Paul T the 2013 winner.
Congrats Paul, beautiful style, root over
rock...one of Paul's favorite styles.



Lots of good food and companionship to celebrate the end of a wonderful year in bonsai.
The club should be especially proud of the success of the LSBF convention.

There are some bonsai members not present, we miss you, come back in 2014—there
are some very exciting activities planned along with some very exciting announcements
to be made at this month's meeting.

a hint...something to do with Bonsai 101, and a planned outing, exhibit, not
sure...?

Biggest wish for the new year....a WEBMASTER







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.

<http://bonsai-satx.org>

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