

Upcoming Bonsai Events

February

February 7th
Club Dig in Leaky,
TX
[SIGN UP HERE](#)

February 12th
Club Meeting w/
Zach Adamz, Lions
Field, 5:30pm

February 14th
Club Dig in Boerne,
TX
[SIGN UP HERE](#)

February 21st-22nd
Asian Festival

February 23rd
Randy Bennett,
Bald Cypress Group
Workshop, Ryan's
House, 6pm

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

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



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President's Message

by Richard M., millermillerlaw@aol.com

**NEW CLUB MEETING TIMES AT LIONS FIELD
5:30 PM TO 7:45 PM**

2026 Membership Dues are payable to Drew G. before March 01, 2026

Individual: \$30

Family: \$50

Senior (65+) Individual: \$25

Senior (65+) Family: \$40

As I write this letter, the San Antonio Botanical Garden event has not yet taken place. I look forward to meeting professional bonsai artist, Matt Turner, who is in charge of the magnificent bonsai collection at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. I would like to thank our Vice President, Carl Dixon, for running the February 12th meeting while I am in Japan. Zack Adams, a bonsai artist, will present a demonstration at the meeting and will have pots, stands, and bonsai for sale. February promises to be a very exciting time for our club. Randy Bennett from Louisiana will be conducting a workshop on Feb 24th, for the Club.

Note that Randy recently published a book on various Cypress varieties including Bald Cypress. That book is now available on Amazon.

Jennifer Price is also a very well-known bonsai artist and will be conducting a workshop on Feb 26th. I would like to thank all the bonsai professionals for including San Antonio in their schedules. I would, also, like to thank Don B., Ryan O., and Gabe H. for their respective efforts in coordinating the visits of such wonderful bonsai artists to our city. We also want to thank John T. for his wonderful efforts in working with the San Antonio Botanical Garden and Matt Turner. The Botanical Garden event should be an exciting experience.



Please Welcome our Newest Member(s)

Richard K.,
Benjamin F., Yadira S., Elva R., Laurie S., Sam S., Clark T., Frank W., & Mike Z.

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 2026

5 years

Gabe, Karin, Richard, Kurt, & Janet

10 years

Diane & Steve

20-30 years

Louie (20), Nancy (20), Tom (20), Irene (20), Jay (25), Kevin (26), Hattie (26), Donna (27), Chuck (30), & Pat (30)

31+ years

Alfred (35), David (44), Paul (45), Dawn (45), & Jack (46)



Vice-President's Message

by Carl D. Richard M.,
mcdixon117@gmail.com

Old Man Winter finally arrived with a vengeance. Hope everyone's staying warm and all the trees made it thru this cold snap. Lots of bonsai opportunities again this month!

Saturday February 7th

There are several other great bonsai opportunities this month. Ryan O. has, again this year, organized two yamadori collection digs. On February 7th, there will be a dig in Leaky, TX from 9am to 2pm. Sign-up link is in the side bar on page 1.

Thursday February 12th

On February 12th, Zach Adamz from Oxford, MS will be our guest for a lecture/demonstration. Zach is the full-time owner/operator of Komorebi Bonsai for the past 5 years. He has been practicing bonsai for 15 years including an apprenticeship at the Korea Bonsai Museum in Seoul. Over the past years, Zach has studied under some of the most respected bonsai artists in the world including American masters Ryan Neil and Bjorn Bjorholm and international figures Raffa Tores and Mauro Stremberger. He has hundreds of trees in his nursery. If you are looking for a new tree or need pots, tools, stands, etc. you can preorder them and he will bring them to our meeting. You can see his offerings on his website: kobo-bonsai.com or contact him by phone: [REDACTED]. He has been very forthcoming and congenial in agreeing to this visit. He will bring a large Cedar Elm he plans to style at the meeting which will be raffled to a lucky winner. He will also have trees, pots and stands for sale. This will be a rewarding experience.

Saturday February 14th

On February 14th, another dig in Bourne, TX from 9am to 1pm. It looks like there will be very good participation, but more spots are available. Should be fun! Sign-up link is in the side bar on page 1.

Saturday/Sunday February 21st/22nd

On February 21st and 22nd (12pm to 5pm), the club will be participating in the Annual Asian New Year Festival (The Year of the Horse) at Rolling Oaks Mall. The Club will exhibit some of our best trees and we are allowed to sell bonsai related items. If you have trees, pots, etc you want to sell, this would be a good opportunity to get them in front of the public as there is a lot of pedestrian traffic. The club will take a 70%/30% (seller/SABS) split of the sale price. Table set up will occur on Friday night and resume at 9am on Saturday. Exhibitors are Ryan, Kevin, Hattie, Carl, and Gabe.

Vice-President's message continued on page 6.

**Monthly
Food/Bev.
Host(s)**

February

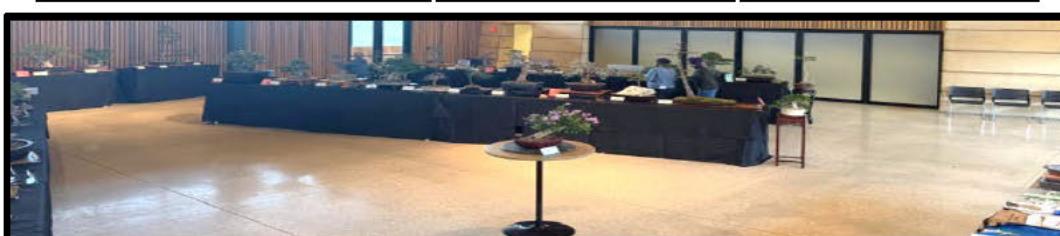
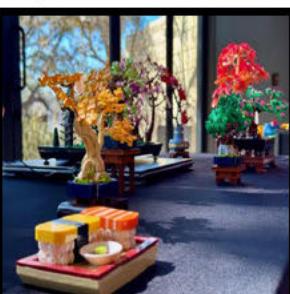
Cheryl B. & Penny B.

March

Hattie P. & Kevin P.

Photos/Recognitions

Photos from the Botanical Gardens Bonsai Exhibit



Soil/Book Sale



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



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



Care Book \$30

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

Monthly Tips

by Ryan O.

Yamadori

Yamadori is a Japanese term meaning "mountain-collected," referring to the practice of sourcing trees or plants directly from the wild - such as mountains, forests, or rocky areas to be trained as bonsai. These trees, having survived harsh, natural conditions, possess unique, mature features like twisted trunks and scarred bark, making them highly prized for their inherent age and character.

Yamadori Bonsai trees are priceless treasures. When collecting them, we must not take any risks. Our technique and our moral approach must be faultless. For the most demanding specimens, four or five years of on-site preparation may be necessary.

Choosing a yamadori and then adapting it into a Bonsai means humbly putting ourselves at the service of the tree and magnifying nature's creativity. We can never own a yamadori; it is they that own us. There are yamadori that are impossible to collect. There is no way around this. They are too large to make into Bonsai. We would be signing a death warrant for them if we were to cut off the over-long branches and the thick feeder roots. These fantastical trees are beautiful where they are. They are where they belong. So, from time to time, when passing nearby, we might make a detour to say a quick hello and lay a hand on their trunk. And just admire them.

Gradually, as the years go by, they become faithful companions. And we wish we could have them classified as part of the world heritage of humanity, on the same level as famous monuments.

<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/blog/yamadori-bonsai>

I have created a checklist for collecting trees. Please see the checklist on the following page.



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Species Highlight

Texas Persimmon

The Texas Persimmon (*Diospyros texana*) is a semi-evergreen shrub or small tree growing as much as 15' in height. It is found in dry, rocky areas of central, west, & south Texas. The persimmon's most distinctive trait is the very smooth, gray bark of its trunk & branches that often grow in varying directions and twists.

Persimmons are dioecious, having male & female reproductive organs on separate plants. The small, cream-colored, bell-shaped flowers occur in the spring, & although they are not considered showy, they are sweetly aromatic. The female tree produces a round, 1" fruit that starts out green but ripens to black by late July to September. To the human taste, the skin is bitter & should be removed before use. This tasty fruit is used to make puddings, jellies, & even wine. Some cook it with breads & muffins.

As a bonsai, Texas Persimmon makes an excellent, hardy bonsai, prized for its slow growth, rough, exfoliating bark, & small leaves that reduce well. It is suitable for USDA zones 7-9, prefers full sun, & requires well-draining soil with regular watering. It can be styled into various forms, including Bunjin (literati).

<https://txmn.org/alamo/area-resources/natural-areas-and-linear->

February

February 24th

Randy Bennett,
BYOT Workshop,
Lions Field, 5:45pm

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

February 25th

NO 4th Wednesday
BYOT Workshop

February 26th

Jennifer Price BYOT
Workshop, Lions
Field, 5:45pm

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Monthly Tips cont.

Yamadori Checklist		
Pre-Collecting	Collecting Tools	Post-collecting
<p>Preparing for Collecting by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Google site for unique areas & plot on a printed map ▪ Confirm organizer has not sent out any email/text announcements ▪ Pre-drill holes in "pot" for drainage/securing tree ▪ Measure height of car/truck to determine the largest tree to collect ▪ Sharpen tools ▪ Spray paint tools ▪ Visualize what you will be doing while collecting to help pack tools ▪ Gas up vehicle the night before ▪ Pack all tools the night before ▪ Charge tool batteries <p>Prepare Yourself for Collecting by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pack winter jacket, hat, & gloves, if cold ▪ Pack windbreaker &/or raincoat ▪ Pack waters/sodas/energy drinks/snacks ▪ Eat a hearty breakfast ▪ Pack good hiking boots or shoes (no sandals) ▪ Knee Pads ▪ Rubber Mat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cart/wagon/backpack ▪ Gardening gloves (preferable waterproof) ▪ Shovel(s) (long/short handle spade, foldable spade, root slayer spade, narrow spade) ▪ Small garden shovel ▪ Large/small pry-bar ▪ Large/small rake ▪ Root rake ▪ Weed puller ▪ Clippers/secateurs ▪ Tree saw ▪ Branch cutters ▪ Paper towels ▪ Large plastic bags (heavy duty, i.e. 3 MIL) ▪ Plastic wrap ▪ Bonsai wire ▪ Ratchet strap ▪ Battery operated/gas chainsaw ▪ Battery operated reciprocating saw ▪ Marking tape w/ Sharpie ▪ Back brace ▪ Protective eyeglasses ▪ Large/small pickax ▪ First Aid kit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Soil (bonsai/garden /collected) ▪ Nursery pots (of all sizes) (bring more than you anticipate using) ▪ Pond Containers ▪ Livestock feed buckets ▪ Bottom/top of water/food drums ▪ Pot screens ▪ Twine ▪ All other bonsai tools as backup ▪ Gather rocks to help stabilize trees on way home, if potted onsite) ▪ Spray bottle (or larger) filled with water ▪ Cut paste or similar

Vice-President's Message (cont.)

Monday February 23rd

Randy Bennet will be here on February 23rd to continue his Bald Cypress workshops. Monday evenings workshop will include both groups of original workshop attendees and any additional people. The workshop is held at Ryan's house at [REDACTED] from 6pm to 8pm. Sign-up link is in the side bar on page 1.

Tuesday February 24th

Randy's will hold a Bring Your Own Tree (BYOT) workshop at the Lions Field from 5:45pm to 7:45pm. Attendees may bring up to two trees for Randy to review. Up to 10 participants. \$50 per person. Sign-up link is in the side bar on page 5.

Wednesday February 25th

NO PROGRESSIVE BONSAI WORKSHOP OR BYOT WORKSHOP. There will not be Progressive Bonsai and BYOT workshops this month due to conflicts with the other activities. The BYOT workshop is designed for people who would like advice and help with trees already in their collection. Experienced club members are always on hand to provide help. Some members just bring trees to work on and enjoy the company of fellow bonsai enthusiasts. These workshops will resume on March 25th at the Lyons Field. Be sure to bring trees, tools, etc. to the first 2026 workshops.

Thursday February 26th

On February 26th, Jennifer Price will conduct a BYOT workshop. She is a much sought after, nationally known, educational and entertaining artist. Attendees may bring up to two trees for Jennifer to review. Up to 10 participants. \$50 per person. Sign-up link is in the side bar on page 5.

Both of these artists are very skilled and well worth our time and capital commitment. We are dependent on them for aiding our growth and knowledge and they are dependent on us for financial support.

In Other News...

We had a great turnout for the Progressive Workshop Tree Selection Party on January 17th. If you missed the selection party, it is not too late to participate, but you will have to select and purchase a pre-bonsai tree on your own.

Congratulations to Jack R. on winning the Matt Turner demo tree – a collected Winged Cedar Elm.



John T. describing his collected Texas Native bonsai to Guest Speaker and Artist Matt Turner.





San Antonio
Bonsai Society,
Inc. (SABS)

All correspondence
should be
addressed to:

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**27925 Bonn
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San Antonio,
Texas, 78260**

**info@sanantoniob
onsai.org**

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Richard M.

Vice President:
Carl D.

Treasurer:
Drew G.

Secretary:
Rob M.

**Board of Directors at
Large:**

Cheryl B., Penny B.,
Kevin P., Hattie P., &
Gill P.

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](https://www.facebook.com/sanantoniobonsai)

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

YouTube: [Click Here!!](https://www.youtube.com/c/SanAntonioBonsai)

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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