



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

JANUARY 2021

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 01

BONSAI CALENDAR

THE MEETING THIS MONTH WILL BE A ZOOM MEETING. JANUARY 14TH, 7pm.

AN EMAIL HAS BEEN SENT OUT ON THE DETAILS TO ATTEND THE MEETING. IT WILL BE GREAT. SEE YOU ALL THEN!

January 7th – January Board Meeting

January 14th – Online Club Meeting, 7pm

January 16th – Soil dig in Boerne (all spots filled)

January 23rd – Soil dig near Kevin/Hattie (all spots filled)

January 30th – Soil dig near Kevin/Hattie (spots remaining)

February 6th – Annual Soil Mixer (all spots filled)

May 1st/2nd – Bonsai Exhibit at the SA Botanical Gardens

THE OX IS GOING TO MAKE THIS A GREAT YEAR



President's Message

Welcome to Bonsai 2021!

I would like to thank the 2020 Board for leading us through last year and juggling our safety/health vs bonsai events. Please thank Jay, Bryan, Carol, Klaus, and Tammy for their dedication to SABS.

The 2021 Board has had extensive discussions regarding the dues for 2021. We discussed the limited number of activities we held last year, lack of use of the Lion's Field, potential financial hardship members may have endured, and what lies ahead for 2021. With that said, the Board has come up with the following directives:

SABS will not collect dues from existing members as long as we are not able to use the Lion's Field. Should the Lion's Field allow our large group to resume meetings and they charge for such meetings, SABS fees will be collected on a prorated amount. Those that wish to donate their due to SABS is greatly appreciated.

No dues will be collected from new members, but registration is required to be on our email distribution. Those that want to pay the normal fee will receive a name tag and a Green Book. New members that postpone their membership dues will receive a name tag on their next full payment of dues. As noted above, when the Lion's Field allows meetings, new member membership fees will be prorated.

For those that have not heard, the Austin Bonsai Society has canceled their convention for this spring. That mean's in 2022 we are on schedule to host a long-awaited Texas-wide bonsai convention. Be thinking about any materials that can be collected for the convention... Is your church, community center, neighbor, etc., thinking about removing small trees or bushes that we can dig up? Please let the Board know and we can assemble a team to remove them.

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I have not heard back from my contact for the Asian Festival and they have not scheduled any pre-festival meetings so we shall assume the festival is on hiatus this year.

Lastly, we encourage all members to share ideas with the Board on any suggestions, improvements, and/or concerns you may have as it is our goal to ensure our members are happy with the Club's direction and to ensure the legacy of SABS continues.

Ryan O. President



Holiday Bonsai Decorating Contest Winners:



1st Place – David W. 2nd Place – Vicki A 3rd Place – Sally C



CONGRADULATIONS!!!

**We are looking at the greatest
New Year!!**

BONSAI FOREVER

**KEEP ON CLIPPING, POTTING
AND STYLING!!**

MESSAGE FROM DAVID R., VP.

Hello everyone,

The topic for the January meeting for the San Antonio Bonsai Society will be focused on the design goals of bonsai: *"What are we trying to accomplish?"*. As much I hate to reference (read: "shamelessly steal") professional bonsai artist Ryan Neil's key catchphrase when doing pretty much any bonsai activity, the reality is that there really isn't any other elegant way to put it. Many of us dive right into our bonsai journey, surround ourselves with trees and begin growing and chopping without a firm grasp on the aesthetic goals of bonsai and what it is that we're trying to achieve. It is indeed true that we are creating small trees, *but a small potted tree without the fundamentals of bonsai design is nothing more than a potted plant.* Bonsai elevates above container gardening due to the stylistic choices being made on every detail of the construction.

We will discuss the goal of the bonsai composition, investigate the three main sections of a bonsai (nebari, trunk line and foliar placement), and characterize how those sections interact to create a high quality and consistent presentation. Finally, we'll have a little fun and investigate how these elements were done well (and perhaps not so well!) on some bonsai presented at some of the highest levels of international exhibition. At the end of the discussion, I will also provide some information on how to locate high quality bonsai for referencing in our future work.

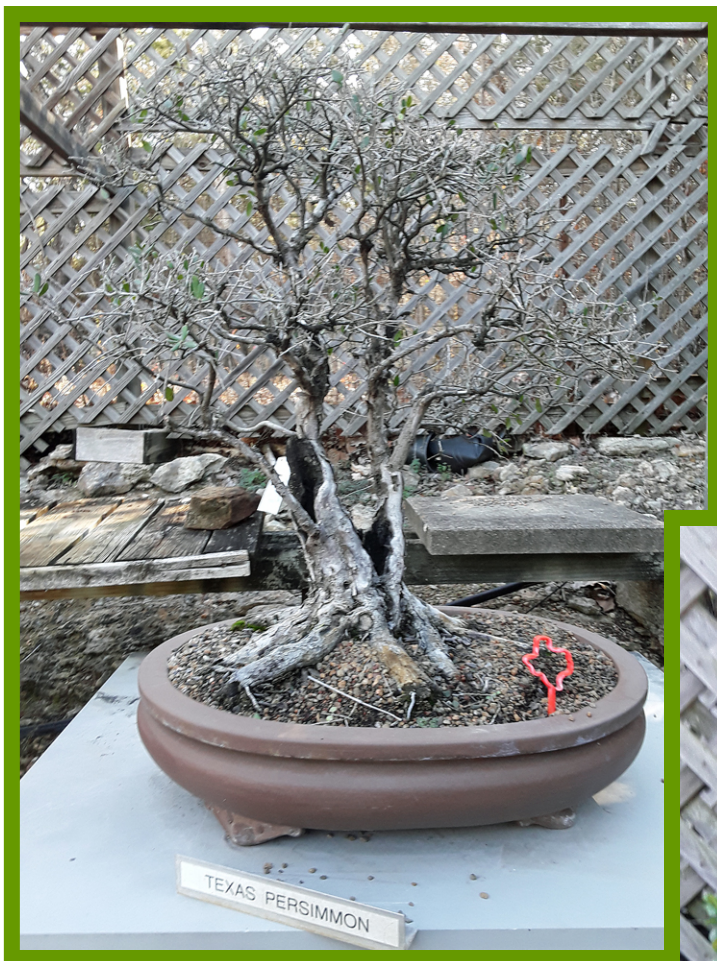
SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC. One of my goals for 2021 as Vice President of SABS is to help us to practice the skill of critiquing bonsai as an art form. Not only is critiquing a great way to gather feedback from others, but a critique is the very first step of working on any tree that hits our bonsai work area. Taking into account the shortcomings and inconsistencies of our trees allows us to intentionally direct the activity in a way that carries the tree closer to its design intent. Since I heard such great feedback on the previous video that I shared, I'll include a link to a wonderful critique that the Bonsai Society of Portland pulled together where 4 professional bonsai artists critique the same trees and provide very different perspectives. <https://youtu.be/nqbvfQIZhUU>

Introductory Elements of Bonsai Design : Construction of Quality

- The goal of quality bonsai design
- Deep dive into aesthetic goals of 3 key portions of bonsai design :
 - Nebari (buttress), trunk line, foliar mass placement.
- Investigate interaction of these elements in bonsai composition:
How do these elements combine in a meaningful way?
- Touch on stylistic exceptions - where lower "quality" or violations of "the rules" are utilized and accepted.
- Collaborate in a real-time photo critique of world class bonsai from some of the most prestigious international exhibitions.
- Provide a list of quality sources to reference when studying bonsai design.



A
WALK
IN
THE
WOODS



Well for the members that are not aware of a bonsai nursery, Here are two examples of bonsai available for sale at **"JADE GARDENS"** . Located in Wimberley, Tx. The Nursery is owned by Chuck and Pat Ware, members of SABS bonsai club.

Chuck is offering several of his longtime exhibit trees for sale.

Just to visit the Nursery and find that special tree is a treat. They have all their inventory of supplies, Pots and trees at a discount.



Check out their offerings for the collection is selling well.

I bought a pre-bonsai and a pot that was really unique.

Thanks Pat and Chuck for all of your years of service to the bonsai community!



Bonsai Nurseryman
South Texas Bonsai Kai
Lecture/Demo & Workshops

David Whitaker
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**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR
THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY**

\$30 individual

\$50 family

\$25 senior 60+

\$40 senior family



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

FACEBOOK: @sanantoniobonsai TWITTER: SATXBonsai

INSTAGRAM: @sanantoniobonsai

THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.

sanantoniobonsai.org

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