



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Cutting Edge Publication by The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

July 2019

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What's New!

- Please help SABS grow on Facebook by posting various bonsai related posts.
- Here is an article and video on Why Bonsai Trees are so Expensive provided by Al P. <https://www.businessinsider.com/bonsai-tree-art-form-japan-china-so-expensive-2019-6>
- **August 3rd – Kerrville Dietert Boxwood Workshop** – Representing SABS, Ryan O is leading a bonsai workshop for bonsai enthusiasts that want to learn the about bonsai and bring home a small bonsai. Volunteers please arrive 30 minutes early to prep the pots, wire, and screening, as well as gather the supplies. Additional volunteers are still greatly appreciated. Email Ryan O. if you can assist.
- Please welcome new members **Joe K., Sherry K., and Morris G.**

All lecture/demonstration meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday, 7pm, at the Lions Field Adult and Senior Center, 2809 Broadway Street, SATX 78209

Our Bonsai Study Group is held every 4th Wednesday, 7pm, Lions Field. All members are invited to attend for hands-on assistance by experienced bonsai artists.

JULY'S EVENTS

Lecture/Demo:

July 11th – Bonsai Show

Food/Beverage Host(s):

Carol B., Donna D., & Chancey B.

Bonsai Study Group:

July 24th

AUGUST'S

EVENTS

Lecture/Demo:

August 8th – Styling Workshop with John R.

Food/Beverage Host(s):

Don B., Bruce B., Brian B. & Wendy B.

Bonsai Study Group:

August 28th

MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership fees for The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. are below and include our monthly newsletter, annual BBQ and bonsai tour, multiple auctions, special trips, and name tag.

| <u>Individual</u> | <u>Family</u> | <u>Senior (60+)</u> | <u>Individual</u> | <u>Senior (60+)</u> | <u>Family</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| \$30 | \$50 | | \$25 | | \$40 |

President's Message

Klaus C.
collklaus@yahoo.com

Enjoy the Bonsai show and good food on July 11th. Show up with your tree 6:00 to 6:30pm

Your invitation to present a Bonsai or two is hereby extended for the enjoyment of all.

The talent is apparent in rich skills of many years and also of emergent talent. Let our tradition of support for one another be the dominant theme. Participation by the great majority is the goal.

Here are a few photos from Jay N's suiseki display.



Convention Updates!

Next Convention meeting will be held July 13th, at 9:30 am at Donna D's art Studio Sculptural Designs Atelier at 927 N. Alamo Street, 78215.

For Convention Committee members, please bring all drawings, plans, ideas, brochures, and achievements since our last meeting. We are getting to a critical point in our convention development planning whereby specifics of each aspect of the convention need to be discussed and voted upon.



Program Corner

Nick B.

Nick.browne637@gmail.com

Hello everyone, just wanted to remind everyone the show is going to be very informal so don't worry if you don't have the tree potted or full display setup. Bring what you have, the experience of showing off a tree is valuable practice for the convention coming up, and seeing what everyone else is up to is always at least a little fun.

You Speak... Editor Prints...

Approaching Stones as Art

As Bonsai, Suiseki, and Saikei have their origins in Ancient Chinese Art, so do painting, flower arranging, and gardening in the Arts and Crafts of Japan.

In his book, *A History of Gardens and Gardening*, Mr. Edward Hyams states that “Garden Art” (including container-grown plants) did not develop, insofar as it developed at all, in isolation in Chinese culture; it was a Chinese landscape painting. Some artists worked with paint on paper, some with ink on silk, and some with rocks, water, and trees on a piece of land. Very often the painter, the poet, and garden designer were the same man, and a remarkably large number of great Chinese landscape painters were equally famous for their gardens.

In Japan, the art forms which began in China were refined as time passed, eventually evolving into a Japanese taste or Style. But never were any of the individual forms used as a break in the tradition as a form of protest or change for its own sake. Thus, all Japanese use of or admiration for stones belongs to an integrated whole. State simply, the same stone or stones which are depicted in fine scroll paintings will be found in today's expressions in Saikei. The artist does not arbitrarily place stones in his creation for the sake of using them, but rather because they represent an integral part of the landscape which he is creating. The trees, grasses, sand, stone, container, and stand are used as a harmonic whole rather than an attempt to accentuate any one element.

Suiseki may depart slightly from the traditional, but it is of no importance to the owner/viewer unless an understanding of the traditions of Suiseki and/or Saikei are first studied with care.

In the traditional arts of Japan, stones are often grouped together to create scenes such as waterfalls or

Approaching Stones as Art (cont.)

streams without actually using water. Great skill is needed to suggest to the viewer that he/she is seeing a waterfall in a dry garden, but through the choice and placement of stones, the skilled mastery of the Japanese gardener is able to impart the tranquility of a sequestered area amid a metropolitan city.

There is a legend in Japan of Hokosai – the master calligrapher, painter, and poet – telling of his skill at origami (paper folding). It is said that he folded a crane so realistically that it took wing and flew from his hand. It is in this spirit that the mastery of the use of stones as an art medium must be begun.

As Americans, we lack the background of the Japanese people in their art forms, and so it is help to us to examine the artistic works that we admire in order to see how and why they exist. In Japan, the use of Chrysanthemums in actuality, in art, and in symbolic representation, is buried in the antiquity of the culture. The love of a Chrysanthemum stone, then world have a deeper meaning to a Japanese artist than to some Westerners who would view an interesting polished stone.

The sole purpose of this article is to serve as a point of reference to works in print, and to art forms from which we may begin our own aesthetic knowledge of stones in the art of Japan.

- Richard Hammond
Snips 'N Clips, February 1983

Bonsai Techniques

Courtesy of John Miller
from the Dallas Bonsai Society

July and August are the two most stressful months for bonsai in our area. Most healthy trees can take the full sun on their foliage. But the high ambient temperatures and the heating effect of the sun on the pots and soil create temperatures on the roots that they are not designed to cope with. Trees with thin leaves like the Japanese maple, *Acer Palmatum*, that are under-story trees, will probably scorch in full sun. They can also suffer from chemical burn from some fertilizers and insecticides which can be more damaging in the heat.

I cannot give you a precise to-do list since your backyard is different from mine but you should be sure that the sun does not hit the pots directly. If you use a cover of any kind be sure that the side of the pot is protected also. A loose weave cover that allows air flow is preferable to solid paper or foil. A solid cover or box over the pot would create an oven type enclosure. There should be room for air flow around the pot. A 30-40% shade cloth over pines, junipers, and elms and maybe 50% over maples would be ideal. And don't forget to provide protection on the west side from that mean afternoon sun.

Check your water practices. Normally I prefer to water heavily in the evening. That gives the plant all night to renew itself without losing most of its water to evaporation. Then in the early morning, they get a quick foliage spray and wetting the surface of the soil which may have dried out overnight. This was what I did while working. Be sure to do the double watering bit -water thoroughly so that the dry soil particles will get moistened and after a few minutes water again so that they will soak up water fully.

Pots out in the sun can get pot pretty hot. Not only does this dry out the soil very fast but the tree roots cannot live in a hot soil. A temperature I have heard given is 120 degrees that will kill roots on most plants. An article by Dr. Bill Cody suggests that his experiments show that an afternoon watering at 2PM will go a long way to keep the soil temperature in a desirable range while a box close around the pot does little to protect it. Therefore I now try to water at 2pm to cool and refresh the roots and again after sundown to get the night started right.

When the humidity is low I mist my junipers in the evening. I believe the story that in the wild many desert junipers (like Texas Ashe) open their stomata in the cool of the evening absorbing any dew that may occur and close in the heat of the day to conserve moisture. Other species may get their foliage spray in the morning.

Also watch for signs of insect problems. The spider mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, and mealy bugs. Preventative medicine is best, spray on a regular schedule. By the time you see signs, the damage is already done, especially from spider mites. I use the organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and 5% apple cider vinegar per gallon water) to control all these. You can use some of the other organic controls or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully. Do not apply oil based chemicals to buttonwoods. A hose end sprayer does not work very well, its droplets are too large and you have little control over where it goes. Use a pump sprayer with a fine spray and cover both top and bottom of leaves.

The humidity in summer varies quite a bit but when it sticks around for a few days look for fungal problems to appear, mildew being the most prevalent. Black spot will show up if the foliage stays wet very long. Foliage watering in the morning will usually not be a problem because it dries pretty quickly. Treat with potassium carbonate which you can find at any nursery with a decent organic section. There are several chemical sprays available too.

As a rule we do not feed our trees enough. Since the mix we use has very little nutrient value, we must make up with our fertilizer practice. Water soluble fertilizers will be quickly washed out. The best “rule” I have heard was given by Matt Ouwinga who primarily grows trident maples.

Matt’s rule:

- A. Apply organic fertilizer balls each 6 weeks. Discard old balls.
- B. Apply fish emulsion every two weeks.
- C. Apply liquid plant food on alternate weeks.

You can fertilize with most organic type fertilizers without worrying about burning the roots in hot weather. Do not use hi-powered types though, such as bat guano or one made with chicken manure in the heat. If you use chemical types follow the label. If they do not specify any temperature restrictions try using a weaker solution than normal. Without a lot of organic material in your soil you should use a weaker solution but more often to provide a more even feeding.

Many spring flowering plants will be setting buds for next year’s flowers. Azaleas will set theirs toward the end of July. If you prune tips after that you remove the new buds.

Now that night temperatures are staying above 60 degrees you should think about repotting some of the tropicals. Most tropicals do well with an annual repotting. I would emphasize to check the wires on your trees and also see that the drains are not blocked in any way.

Especially check them after a rain to be sure that your pots have drained properly. Keep the tropicals trimmed as they will be growing like crazy. However, if you want flowers on those that produce on the end of the twigs, bougainvillea-pomegranate-crape myrtle, you will have to forgo the bonsai shape to let them flower. These species should be pruned more drastically before the growing season starts so they can still be in a pretty good shape.

Your trees will keep growing and need their periodic beauty treatment. Keep the ends trimmed and the stray shoots cut out. It’s not that bad when you can sit in the shade with a big lemonade and really enjoy being with your bonsai. That way you will have your tree ready for the fall show or you will be ready to enjoy it when the change of seasons give it pretty colors.



BONSAI FUNNIES

A bonsai beauty!!!

Images provided by various internet sources.



2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ◆ President: Klaus C.
- ◆ Vice President/Recorder: Nick B.
- ◆ Treasurer/Membership: Leydana R-M.
- ◆ Secretary: Bryan B.
- ◆ Raffles: Diane C.
- ◆ Directors at Large: Larry A., Carol B., Tammy B-R., and Jay N.

Technical Support to Board of Directors

- ◆ Webmaster/Editor/Publicity: Ryan O.



The informal upright style (Moyogi) is considered the most popular shape in all bonsai, especially suited to our Texas 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. This emblem was adopted as the official logo in September 1977.

The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

Snips 'N Clips is published monthly by The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, who maintains membership in the Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Inc., Bonsai Clubs International, and the American Bonsai Society.

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