

Upcoming Bonsai Events

September

September 11th

Club Auction, Lions
Field, 6:30pm

September 13th

Austin Bonsai
Society Auction,
13974 FM 2769,
Leander, TX, 10am-
1pm

September 16th

Loading of
Convention Truck,
Kevin/Hattie's
House, 10:30am-
1pm

**September 18th –
21st**

CCBC/SABS/LSBF
Bonsai Convention,
Holiday Inn Corpus
Christi Downtown
Marina

**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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT. PLEASE READ

The Lions Field has addressed the Board on two issues that continue: 1) Our failure to vacate the facility promptly at 8:30pm so they can set up for the next day, and 2) The set-up/moving/take-down of the tables. PLEASE note, **NO ONE** is supposed to set-up or take-down the tables, but Lions Field staff. While the Board appreciates our members assistance, these are the rules of the Lions Field. Chairs are okay to set up and move around. The Board kindly asks for your assistance with these two Lions Field concerns.

Hello again Bonsai Family,

It's finally here!!!! No, not cooler weather, but - Our club auction, and the convention. I will be bringing some registration forms for those of you who have decided to come to the convention. You can attend all or some of the days, take a day trip and sign up for just one day and take some workshops (or observe a workshop) then head home without paying for a hotel room.

I want to extend a big **thank you** to Paul T. for donating several bonsai books to the club. The members attending were given free raffle tickets for the drawing for his books. The lucky winners are now able to start their personal bonsai library, Thanks Paul!

I want to talk about our exhibit last month. There was confusion at the beginning on whether it was a formal exhibit or a BYOT show and tell.

We changed it at the last minute to do both, and I want to apologize for the confusion.

The exhibit/show and tell was a tremendous success. I really liked the members standing around in small groups discussing their bonsai. It was probably the best attended meeting in years! Maybe we do two of them next year, please tell me at the auction what you think.

President's message continued on page 6.



Please Welcome our Newest Member(s)

*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

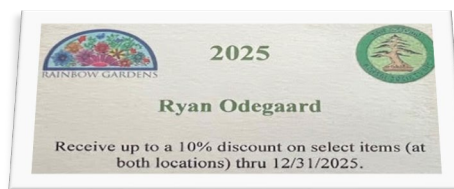
Bonsai clubs periodically bring in bonsai professionals to impart their wisdom and teach members how to improve their bonsai skills. I find that learning from multiple bonsai artists is one of the best benefits of belonging to the San Antonio Bonsai Society.

In September, the bonsai clubs of San Antonio and Corpus Christi will be hosting a major Bonsai convention in Corpus Christi. The key benefit of this convention is that club members will be able to learn from three amazing bonsai artists all in one location. This is truly an amazing experience and when you leave the convention you will understand the art of bonsai much better and your technical skills, such as wiring, will see improvement. If you can't attend the entire convention you could learn from two bonsai artists by simply attending one day and going to one morning seminar and one afternoon seminar. Think about attending - you will not regret it.

Thursday September 11th

This month is our annual fall auction. Feel free to bring in bonsai, Chinese, Japanese, or gardening items such as pots, soil, wire, plant material, styled bonsai, tools, gloves, stands, rocks, accent plants, scrolls, etc. to sell. Seller may choose to donate their items in full, choose the 80/20 split (80-Seller/20-SABS) or any other greater split than 20% to SABS. Lion's Field doors open at 6:00pm and the auction will promptly start at 6:30pm. Please use the attached auction tags for each item. No additional tags are provided at the event.

Ryan O. has many Rainbow Garden Nursery discount cards printed for active SABS members that we have not seen in a while. Stop back in and attend a meeting to pick up your card before our discounted promotion ends.



Ryan also has name tags for those that ordered them.



Monthly Food/Bev. Host(s)

September

Irene V. & Louie C.

October

TBD

Soil/Book Sale

CLUB SOIL NOW IN STOCK

Club Soil
\$25/five gal.

APL Soil
\$75/five gal.

SOLD OUT
MORE COMING SOON

Care Book \$30

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



Photos/Recognitions



Here are a few trees displayed and discussed at August's Exhibit.

A Bonsai Technique in Short – Making Big Cuts in Stages



Decide large branch to remove
& sketch out a part to be cut.



Remove only a section of the
branch with a small saw.



Clean up cut & create smooth
edges. Apply sealant. In 1-
year; complete cut.

Pictures from [Bonsai Tonight](https://bonsaitonight.com/2011/08/02/big-cut-crape-myrtle/), by Jonas Dupuich at <https://bonsaitonight.com/2011/08/02/big-cut-crape-myrtle/>

Monthly Tips from Ryan O.

History of Bonsai

While thinking of this month's topic to research and discuss, I had a wealth of ideas race through my crazy mind in hopes of finding a unique topic to discuss. I pondered topics such as specific species, style, or technique; tools; and the difference between Bunjin and Literati (basically no difference) and then it hit me. We throw the word Bonsai around like it's something we all know too much about. Heck, the Club even through the word "Bonsai" in our name!! But what is bonsai beyond the meaning of the word "Tree in Pot" or its many various of? So, let's step back in time and discuss the history of bonsai. In this two part series from Bonsai Empire (<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/origin/bonsai-history>) I will discuss the history of bonsai related to the Chinese and Japanese.

Per Bonsai Empire, *"to understand what Bonsai is, we need to learn more about its meaning and history. Although the word 'Bon-sai' is Japanese, the art it describes originated in the Chinese empire. By the year 700 AD the Chinese had started the art of 'pun-sai' using special techniques to grow dwarf trees in containers."*

History of Bonsai in China

Shallow basins or flattened bowls – "pen" or "pan" or "pun" – had been made out of earthenware in what we now call China since about 5,000 years ago. A thousand years later during the Chinese Bronze Age, these were among the chosen shapes to be recreated in bronze for religious and political ceremonial purposes. About 2,300 years ago, the Chinese Five Agents Theory (water, fire, wood, metal, and earth) spun off the idea of the potency of replicas in miniature. By recreating a mountain, for example, on a reduced scale, a student could focus on its magical properties and gain access to them. The further the reproduction was in size from the original, the more magically potent it was likely to be. Two hundred years later, importations of new aromatics and incenses took place under the Han Emperor because of newly opened trading with its neighbors. A new type of vessel was created, incense burners in the form of the mountain peaks which rose above the waves and symbolized the abodes of the Immortals, the then-popular idea of the mythic Islands of the Blessed. Primarily crafted out of bronze, ceramic or gilded bronze, some of these burners rested on small pen dishes to either catch hot embers or to hold a miniature symbolic ocean. The removable lids to these burners often were covered in stylized portrayals of legendary figures climbing the sides of forested hills. From the perforations in the lids the incense smoke arose out of the cave openings like the mystic vapors in the full-size

Bonsai Term(s) of the Month

Wabi-sabi

Wabi = subdued,
austere beauty & SABI
= rustic patina

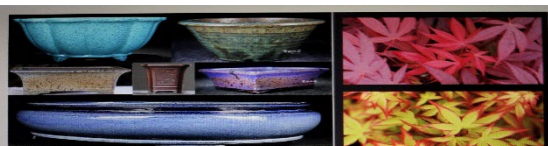
**"the beauty of
imperfection"**

In traditional Japanese aesthetics, wabi-sabi centers on the acceptance of transience & imperfection. Often described as the appreciation of beauty that is "imperfect, impermanent, & incomplete". It is prevalent in many forms of Japanese art.

Characteristics of wabi-sabi aesthetics & principles include asymmetry, roughness, simplicity, economy, austerity, modesty, intimacy, & the appreciation of natural objects & the forces of nature.

Wabi-sabi Example:

Kintsugi –
Characterized as the art of repairing broken pottery by mending the cracks with lacquer mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. Instead of hiding the damage, the repair is highlighted, making the object more beautiful for having been broken.



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Upcoming Bonsai Events

September 24th

4th Wednesday

BYOT Workshop &
Progressive Bonsai
Study, Lions Field,
6:30pm

October

October 6th

BYOT with Adam
Lavigne, \$50,
Ryan's House, 6pm

October 7th

Private session
available with Adam
Lavigne, \$60/hr.
8:30am-11:30am

October 7th

BYOT with Adam
Lavigne, \$50, Lions
Field, 1pm-4pm

October 7th

Club Meeting w/
Adam Lavigne,
Lions Field, 6:30pm

October 9th

No Club Meeting

October 22nd

4th Wednesday

BYOT Workshop &
Progressive Bonsai
Study, Lions Field,
6:30pm

Monthly Tips, cont.

mountains. It is thought that some later lids made out of stone may have been found with lichens or moss already attached – natural miniature landscapes.

From about the year 706 AD comes the tomb paintings for Crown Prince Zhang Huai which included depictions of two ladies-in-waiting offering miniature rockery landscapes with small plants in shallow dishes. By this time there were the earliest written descriptions of these pun wan – tray playthings. As the creation and care of these was somewhat already advanced, the maturation of the art had taken place (but its documentation has not yet been discovered by us).

The earliest collected and then containerized trees are believed to have been peculiarly shaped and twisted specimens from the wilds. These were “sacred” as opposed to “profane” because the trees could not be used for any practical, ordinary purposes such as lumber. Their grotesque forms were reminiscent of yoga-type postures which repeatedly bent-back on themselves, re-circulating vital fluids and said to be the cause of long-life.

Over the centuries, different regional styles would be developed throughout the large country with its many varied landscapes; earthenware and ceramic containers would replace the porcelain ones displayed on wooden stands; and attempts would be made to shape the trees with bamboo frameworks or brass wire or lead strips. Many poets and writers each made at least one description of tree and/or mountainous miniature landscapes, and many painters included a dwarfed potted tree as a symbol of a cultivated man's lifestyle. After the 16th century these were called pun tsai or “tray planting.” The term pun Ching (“tray landscape,” now called Penjing) didn't actually come into usage until the 17th century.



Miniature landscape from Gothaer Penjing
Album, Canton, c.1800, for export to
Europe

President's Message (cont.)

Our progressive workshop and bonsai 101 continue to be popular (by the way, we talk about everyone else in the club while we hold these events! Please show up for one and we'll stop gossiping about you.

Our September meeting will be our annual fall auction, bring anything you want to get rid of and make some money in the process. We will need an auctioneer (Ryan???) some runners, and 2 people at the treasures table to keep count of the winning bids (Ryan again???)

Editor's note: The Editor appreciates Kevin thinking "outside the realm of Reality (I mean box)" in thinking I can do both jobs simultaneously. Challenge accepted!

We will be able to start bringing in items to sell at 6:00pm but have to be cleared out no later than 8:30pm.

Convention Update: Hattie and I will be loading up a box trailer Tuesday, September 16th beginning around 10:30 am for the drive to Corpus the next day. We could certainly use some help. House address is [REDACTED].

The convention will also need your help for a while, not all day, just help set up raffles, sell raffle tickets or help out at the registration desk.

There will be a lot of raffle items, not just bonsai related, a fishing trip value \$650, hunting trip valued at \$3,200, two metal detectors (for the beach bums) valued at \$600 - \$1,000 each (maybe we will send one to the auction).

We will be charging \$10.00 for non-registered guests to eat Thursday night (Vendor Night). Friday dinner and Saturday dinner will cost \$40.00 per person (non-registered guests only). If you've registered for the convention, your food for those dates is a part of your registration package. Please let me know who or how many will be taking part so I can inform the hotel. They lock in the meal minimum 14 days before the convention. I can add a few 5-7 at the convention, but it would be better to let me know before-hand. Also, I need to know about any food concerns, Vegetarian, etc. for those additional meals.

Use the following link to register:

[REGISTER HERE](#)



A CORPUS CHRISTI & SAN ANTONIO BONSAI EVENT

LSBF 2025
BONSAI
on the BAY
FROM THE RIVER WALK TO THE BEACH

SAVE the DATE

September 18th–21st, 2025
Holiday Inn Corpus Christi Downtown Marina
707 N. Shoreline Blvd
Corpus Christi, TX 78401



2025 BONSAI CONVENTION FEATURED ARTISTS

Jennifer Price Mike Lane Jonas Dupuich

LSBF 2025
BONSAI on the BAY
FROM THE RIVER WALK TO THE BEACH



San Antonio
Bonsai Society,
Inc. (SABS)

All correspondence
should be
addressed to:

San Antonio
Bonsai Society,
Inc.

27925 Bonn
Mountain

San Antonio,
Texas, 78260

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

Instagram: @sanantoniobonsai

YouTube: [Click Here!!](#)

Annual Membership Due:

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

Advertising for SA Bonsai News is based on the minimum size of 3" by 2" for \$35 per year. Single ads of the above size can be run for \$5. Ads must be camera ready. The Editor must receive changes in existing ads by the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication. Send ads and payment to San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc., Attn: Advertising, 27925 Bonn Mountain, San Antonio, Texas, 78260. For situations other than the above, please contact the Editor, bonsaiode@gmail.com. Original articles from SA Bonsai News may be reprinted only in their entirety. Full credit must be given the author and to SA Bonsai News.

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	Full Donation to SABS? Yes: _____ No: _____	
	Seller Commission: Yes: _____ No: _____	
	Commission Split: 80/20 (owner/SABS)	
	Full Name of Seller: _____	

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	Seller Commission: Yes: _____ No: _____	
	Commission Split: 80/20 (owner/SABS)	
	Full Name of Seller: _____	