

ISSUE

09

September
2026

A Publication
of The San
Antonio
Bonsai

SA BONSAI NEWS

Upcoming Bonsai Events

September

September 10th
Club Auction,
Lions Field, 5:30pm

September 12th
Day of Bonsai,
Sales and Exhibit of
Bonsai, Fanick's
Garden Center,
8:30am - 4pm

September 19th
Austin Club
Auction, 13974 FM-
2769, Austin, TX,
10am

September 23rd
Progressive
Workshop & BYOT
Workshop, Lions
Field, 5:30pm

Additional events
listed on page 5

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



In this issue...

President's Message **P.1**

Vice-President's Message **P.2**

Photos/Recognitions **P.3**

Monthly Tips **P.4**

President's Message by Richard M., millermlaw@aol.com

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

Please support the by attending this month's auction and/or visiting our volunteers at the Bonsai Festival on September 12th.

BONSAI FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 12th, 2026
9 AM - 3 PM

FREE SEMINAR
HOW TO PICK AND TRAIN
YOUR NEW BONSAI
at 11:00 AM

EXHIBITION OF STUNNING BONSAI
by the San Antonio Bonsai Society
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LOCATION: FANICK'S GARDEN CENTER
1025 Holmgreen Rd. SA, TX 78220
www.fanicknursery.com

SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY INC.

FANICK'S GARDEN CENTER
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Please Welcome our Newest Member(s)

Jame M., Martin
M., & Anthony N.

*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

Hope you got a good rain (Friday - 08/28) like we did out near Sea World. What a difference in all the plants, even knocked the aphids out of our big Burr Oak tree. Lucky us to get a good rain in August.

Thursday September 10th

We will be having our Fall Auction. Please bring any bonsai related items such as trees, pots, tools, stands, plant materials, books, as well as any Chinese/Japanese items such as dolls, silks, etc. The split is 70/30. Auction tags are attached to this newsletter.

Saturday September 12th

SABS is participating in the **Day of Bonsai** at **Fanick's Garden Center** from 8:30am to 4pm with a lecture/demonstration by Kevin and one lucky person at 11am. SABS will be filling a large pavilion (with chillers) with an exhibit and vendor booths. Vendors include SABS, High Water Bonsa (Drew and Martin), and Hawk Eye Bonsai (Brandon Baldauf). Anyone may bring items to sell with the standard 70/30 split. Food trucks will be there too. We will start **setting up at 7am** with the sales and exhibit area open to customers at 8:30am. Tear down will begin at 4pm. Fanicks Garden Center is located at 1025 Holmgreen Road, 78220.

Saturday September 12th

In a recent LSBF Board Meeting, the New Orleans Bonsai Society hinted at the possibility of registration opening for the 2027 NOBS/LSBF/ABS Convention in New Orleans from March 11th to 14th. Be on the lookout for an email and watch for an announcement on SABS's and LSBF's Facebook pages.

[SABS Facebook](#)

[LSBF Facebook](#)

Saturday September 19th

Our friends in Austin are having their auction. Their auction begins at 10am and is at 13974 FM-2769, Austin, TX. Show your support to our "sister club".

Wednesday September 23rd

Progressive and BYOT (bring your own tree) workshops. Bring in your new plants, tools and creativity.

Saturday September 26th

Kevin and Ryan are providing a small exhibit as well as a free lecture/demonstration at Rainbow Gardens-Bandera beginning at 10am and coinciding with the Koi and Fancy Goldfish Society's annual Exhibit and Judging that weekend. This is the first time Rainbow Gardens has hosted this group.

Monthly Food/Bev. Host(s)

September

Rob M., Richard M.,
& Penny B.

October

Drew G., & Martin M.

SABS STORE

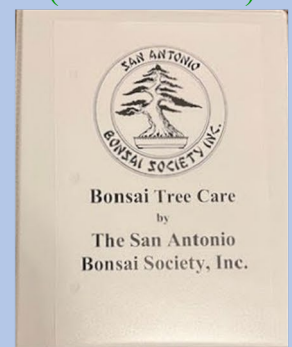


Club Soil

\$15 - ½ bucket
(Club & non-members)

\$25 - 6.5 gal.
(Club Members)

\$30 - 6.5 gal.
(Non-Members)



Care Book \$30

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



Photos/Recognitions

A Tidbit from Carl D.

Even though the rain gave us a little relief from the Texas sun, it is back and blazingly relentless again. I've found that shade cloth is a good method to combat some of its deleterious effects. In the left photo the PM sun sneaks in under my 30% shade cloth and directly hits some of the leaves on the left side of my Sheffleras for no more than an hour or two. You can see the drastic scorching. In the right photo (right side of same plant) the leaves are protected by shade cloth (see top of photo) all day long (nice and healthy). I think most plants (especially those in pots) benefit from some protection from the peak summer sun.



CHECK OUT THE SABS STORE

We have added a new item!!!

**SABS is now selling ½ buckets of soil for \$15 for members
and non-members)**

"Not only is it half the price, but it is half the weight too"

says SABS's Newsletter Editor, Ryan O.



Monthly Tips by the late John Miller of the Dallas Bonsai Society

After last month's triple digits hitting 110 degrees and multiple daily waterings, I got low 90's and a week without turning the hose on. The best advice I can give you is that you have to know your own backyard, plan for the normal conditions, and expect and be ready for anything else.

I think plants are more attuned to the varying length of days than to temperature to set their life cycles--dormancy, flowering, etc. For example, the cedar elm sets buds in early August, so they are ready to bloom with the first fall rain. That way its seeds have the best chance to get a root down far enough to survive the next summer. It is probably not late enough for the bonsai to go into their pre-dormancy slow down period. If they are still growing, continue twig pruning and other summer care.

There will still be some days with pretty hot temps. So as the sun changes its angle make sure that the pots do not get too hot in the afternoon sun. Also watering now becomes harder. As trees slow their growth they do not take as much water. Neither will they transpire as much on the cooler days. So check each one separately and water as often and as much as the individual tree requires.

Help your trees go into dormancy. The general rule of thumb on fertilizers is to stop giving nitrogen early in September and fertilize with one that has a formulation like 0-10-10. They will need less water as they quit active growth but on warm days trees with green foliage will still transpire and will have a need for water. Most tropicals have a dormant season also but it is usually caused by dry conditions rather than cold. These types need to be hardened also by cutting the fertilizer to halt active growth and give them lighter watering. This will enable them to withstand the transfer to the greenhouse better.

Check the trees you still have wire on. When the cooler days get here some trees will expand their branches and get wire cuts rather quickly. You need to check them periodically over the winter also. Winter growth will usually be pretty slow but can occur, especially on the evergreens. Cut the wire off. You can easily break the branches trying to unwrap the wire and it's just not worth trying to save the wire. Work from the outside end back so that you do not overlook a small piece of wire. It would cut into the branch very soon. If you need to reapply some wire, take care.

Two other things you can do now. You should prepare your winter quarters, and you should study your evergreen trees to determine if you need to do any restyling later on this fall. Bonsai in Texas should be a year around sport; you don't need to cover them completely like up north. Try to put them where you can see some of them. Just remember that they will still need to be watered and evergreens will need some sun.

Species Highlight

Portulacaria afra (PA)

PA, also known as the elephant bush, porkbush, purslane tree, spekboom, or dwarf jade, is a small-leaved succulent plant native to South Africa & prefers the dryer rockier outcrops & slopes.

It is a soft-wooded, semi-evergreen shrub or small tree typically 8-15 feet tall – when not shoved into a bonsai pot. It has small, fleshy green leaves on reddish-brown stems. There are several varieties including: Limpopo (much larger leaves than PA. It is the natural form from the far north of the species' range), Prostrata (a low-lying, flat form that is frequently used as a groundcover), Aurea: (a compact, upright form with rounded leaves that go bright yellow in the sun), Foliis variegatus (a variegated form), Medio-picta (variegated with a lighter center), & Lilliput (miniature cultivar).

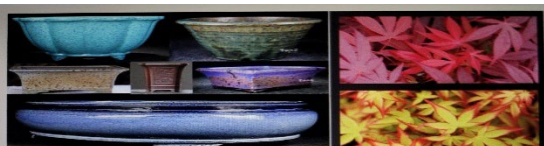
PAs are drought-tolerant & fire-resistant. Unlike the true Jade plant, PAs endure desert like sun & heat once established.

Light: full sun

Watering: soil to dry out between waterings.

Temperature: Prefers 50°F to 75°F+ & must be protected from frost & freezes. Bring inside below 50°F.

Soil: fast-draining gritty mix.



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September

September 26th
Bonsai Exhibit and
L/D, Rainbow
Gardens-Bandera

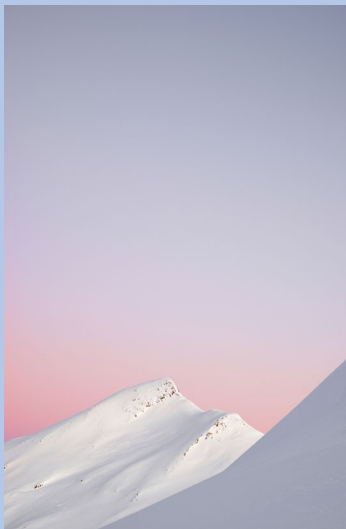
October

October 3rd
Bonsai Exhibit at
Fall Asian Festival,
Camargo Park,
11am-6pm

October 8th
Club Meeting,
Lions Field, 5:30pm

October 22nd
Traveling Artist
Meeting, Rob
Kempinski, Lions
Field, 5:30pm

October 28th
Progressive
Workshop & BYOT
Workshop, Lions
Field, 5:30pm



Monthly Tips cont.

Check on the place you expect to winter your bonsai.

- (1) Make sure that it is clean. Debris harbors insects and other plant pathogens. A strong lime-sulfur spray can be used to disinfect the area as well as your growing area after the trees are removed.
- (2) Be sure that you will be able to check the water needs of the trees.
- (3) It should be somewhat protected from wind but should have some air movement to help prevent mold from developing.
- (4) Having it in a location where you can see the trees will allow you to enjoy the winter silhouette, i.e. the branch structure and twiginess, that is a great part of deciduous bonsai.

There is not too much that has to be done on deciduous trees at this time. Bugs and other problems are usually not a matter of concern since the foliage will be dropping soon. Evergreens and tropicals will still need to be watched for their insect problems, especially the spider mite which will be active into fall. Use the organic spray formula to control them. If we should have a stretch of damp weather you should be watching for fungal problems, leaf spot, mildew, etc. Treat fungal with potassium bicarbonate, (baking soda-sodium bicarbonate- will work about as well). I would be okay with using a 1% hydrogen peroxide solution at this time of the year for fungal control.

The organic spray formula is one tablespoon each of liquid seaweed, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water. This supposedly can be used as a foliar feed, but I only consider it an insecticide.

Pruning and trimming 'can' be done any time that there is not a lot of sap flowing but is usually advisable to do it during dormancy. Sap flow is indicated by the foliar activity of the plant like in the spring. If your tree went into summer dormancy, which sometimes occurs during hot weather then the cooler weather might result in a larger sap flow in late summer or early fall. If your plant gets a flush of new growth, it would be advisable to postpone large pruning cuts for a while. Basically, let your tree tell you when it is ok to operate.

Check nurseries for possible bonsai material. When the planting season is over, they usually put everything on sale to clear it out so they can fill up with Christmas trees. Help your club officers by keeping a lookout for possible digging sites. Remember pastures and other open sites are usually better than forests for our type of material.

LSBF has a new logo!!!!



Vice-President's Message (cont.)

Here is a recent article from Michael Hagedorn of Crataegus Bonsai (crataegusbonsai@crataegus.com) about hard water similar to our discussion at July's meeting.

Can't I Just Use a Water Softener for Hard Water?

It would seem the perfect solution. Water softeners are often used in homes to prevent white scale buildup from hard water. Why not use it to prevent the hard water that can weaken our bonsai? Trouble is, water softeners introduce sodium to our water. It's only a small amount, & plants do use very small amounts of sodium in cell processes - & yet horticulturists do not use water softeners. Even small amounts of sodium introduced into water, over time, weakens plants.

Instead, horticulturalists use acid injection or reverse osmosis water systems to control the hard water buildup of calcium or magnesium. Let's take a quick look at all three of these systems. What is the water softening process? Water softeners swap calcium & magnesium salts for sodium and potassium salts.

This is ion exchange, one salt for another, & while it does get rid of the troublesome salts that tend to make white deposits, the sodium it's replaced with is still not good for plants. This is the water softener process. By the end we've swapped salts & now have sodium in the water. Few plants do well with even small amounts of sodium, long term.

What then reverse osmosis, & how does it help prevent hard water? This is a reverse osmosis (RO) process, useful for severe hard water issues. Under normal conditions, water passes from areas of low solute concentration to areas of high solute concentration. This is osmosis, a natural process, & it requires no energy. Reverse osmosis goes in opposite direction the water wants to go so it requires energy.

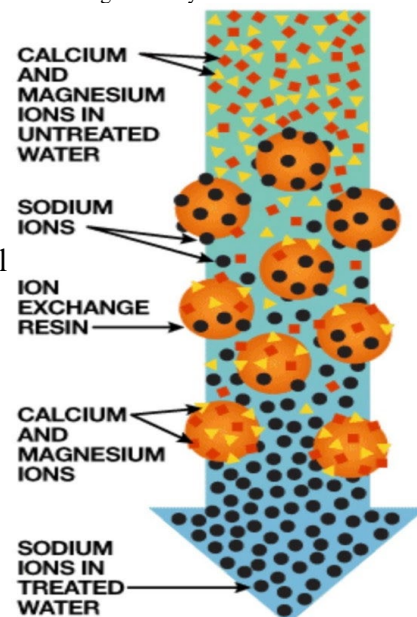
Among the many impurities an RO system can take out are the dissolved salts that cause hard water. A problem with RO is that it can be so successful that it's close to distilled water, which is trouble of another sort. It may have little minerality. So it can leach minerals from the soil, with mineral deficiencies resulting. One fix is to add some non-RO treated water to the RO water, mix [W]hat is acid injection, & how does that help? [A] bucket holds your dilution of acid (or fertilizer, as shown here). The line going into the bucket siphons the acid (often citric or phosphoric) into the watering hose, where it mixes to your desired pH. Some calculations of the dilution in the bucket is necessary. More complex systems exist, such as Dosetron.

Acid works differently from both water softeners (which replaces ions) & RO (which removes contaminants).

Acid injection utilizes a chelation process that binds with the calcium and magnesium bicarbonates & carbonates, preventing them from forming scale. The salts are not just transformed & harmless, they are soluble, making them useful to plants. So, what could have formed insoluble white scales on our pots & soil surface becomes useful minerals: fertilizer. Kinda cool, right? But do you need RO or acid injection? Maybe not. Many folks get good water quality from a municipality or well (or rain).

Water Softener Process

Image courtesy of H2O Distributors



REVERSE OSMOSIS

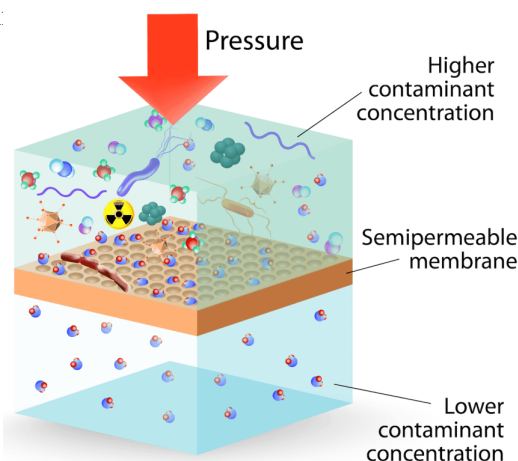


Image courtesy Advanced Water Solutions



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**27925 Bonn
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**info@sanantoniob
onsai.org**

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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.

Website: Sanantoniobonsai.org

Facebook: @sanantoniobonsai

Instagram: @sanantoniobonsai

YouTube: [Click Here!!](#)

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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