

ISSUE

12

DECEMBER  
2025

A Publication  
of The San  
Antonio  
Bonsai

# SA Bonsai News

## Upcoming Bonsai Events

### December

#### December 11<sup>th</sup>

Club Meeting:  
Holiday Party, Lions  
Field, 6:00pm

#### December 13<sup>th</sup>

Board Meeting:  
Planning 2026

#### December 20<sup>th</sup>

Bonsai L/D by Ryan  
& Kevin, Rainbow  
Gardens-Thousand  
Oaks, 10:00am

#### December 24<sup>th</sup>

No club meeting  
due to holiday

### January

#### January 8<sup>th</sup>

No club meeting

Additional events  
listed on Page 3

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



## In this issue...

President's Message **P.1**

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

## President's Message by Kevin P., [hattie1@gvtc.com](mailto:hattie1@gvtc.com)

**NEW CLUB MEETING TIMES AT LIONS FIELD  
6:00PM TO 7:45PM**

Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Happy Hanukkah, Kwanza, etc. to my Bonsai family!

This will be my final (yippee!) newsletter to you as president of SABS.

We hope to get in before 6 pm at our Christmas Party on December 11<sup>th</sup> to start setting up refreshments, decorated contest trees (cash awards will be given out, so please decorate your bonsai).

We will have a short time to eat, vote for the best decorated trees, talk a little bit, and hold the white elephant exchange. Remember, a gift can be stolen 3 times before it is "locked". The person who has a gift purloined will go up to the gift table to select another one.

**We MUST be out of the building by 7:45 pm.** Those who stay longer will automatically be given lifetime board positions!!!!

It has been a pleasure serving as your president for 2025 and am happy to turn that position over to the current Vice President, Richard M.

I again want to thank the board members who are stepping down: Diane, Ryan, and Bryan, thank you for your ideas and suggestions for making SABS a better club.

I welcome the returning board, Richard, Carl, Cheryl, Penny, myself and want to introduce you to the new Board members voted in at the November meeting, Rob, Drew, Gill, and Hattie.

Your new officers are **President: Richard M.**, **Vice President: Carl D.**, **Treasurer: Drew G.**, and **Secretary: Rob M.** We will be holding our first official meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> to line up programs for

*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.,  
[millermlaw@aol.com](mailto:millermlaw@aol.com)

It has been an honor to serve as the Vice President of the San Antonio Bonsai Society this year. It was a great year. I am looking forward to a wonderful year ahead as President of SABS. I would like to thank our President, Kevin Preston. He did an amazing job for all of us. I would, also, like to thank all members of the board for their great work and ideas.

I am sure that all of us ask the following questions: How can I build a quality collection? Do I have quality trees? Jonas Dupuich, in his book titled *The Essential Bonsai Book* answers those questions in the following way: "What is a quality collection and why would you want to create one? Isn't it enough to maintain your trees as they are?"

A quality collection is a group of healthy and - in your eyes - beautiful trees. It's a collection that fits your lifestyle in terms of budget, space, and free time and supports your goals for growing bonsai.

Any number of experiences can inspire you to create and maintain a quality collection. Maybe you want to develop bonsai that have the same characteristics as trees you admire in nature. Maybe you want to enter a tree in a local show. Maybe you want to create the most beautiful trees possible."

I personally like larger size bonsai with great taper and well defined pads. One of the great benefits of being a member of SABS is the ability to meet and learn from bonsai professionals/artists and more experienced members. As you mature in this hobby you will find that your image of quality will become more defined as your knowledge of bonsai grows.

## President's Message (cont.)

2026, so get ready since it seems we will have a very busy 2026.

The refreshment chairperson is Cheryl B. She will have a sign-up sheet at the Christmas party. Please, please sign up for the year. We prefer two people each month to share costs. SABS will take care of January. The food needs to be at least snacks (chips and drinks). This does not need to be a competition to see who can outdo each other. Just enough goodies for 30-35 people. Thank you.

Our first SABS meeting is January 29th at the Botanical Gardens (Betty Kelso Center where we had an exhibit last year), NOT on the 8th!!! This meeting will be an introduction and showcase of collected Texas native trees as bonsai with Matt Turner of Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania and bonsai grower. Following our meeting, Matt will lecture on the Longwood Gardens collection and style a demo tree to SABS members, Botanical Garden staff, and local horticulturalists with food and drinks sign-up for those bringing Texas native trees.



## Soil/Book Sale

CLUB SOIL NOW IN STOCK. Free Delivery to Club Meetings in Dec.

Club Soil  
\$25/five gal.



APL Soil  
\$75/five gal.



BONSAI TREE CARE BOOKS NOW IN STOCK

Care Book \$30

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



**January 28<sup>th</sup>**  
BYOT Workshop  
with Matt Turner,  
Botanical Gardens,  
6:00pm

**January 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Club Meeting at  
Betty Kelso Center,  
Botanical Gardens,  
5:00pm

**January 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Lecture by Matt  
Turner, Betty Kelso  
Center, Botanical  
Gardens, 6:00pm

**Jan. 30-Feb 1**  
Bonsai Exhibit at  
Botanical Gardens

## 2026 Events

Collecting  
Opportunities  
Leaky, TX: 02/07  
TBD: 02/07

Asian Festival:  
02/21-22

Randy Bennett,  
Blad Cypress  
Workshops 02/23

Jennifer Price  
Workshop  
02/26

Festival of Flowers  
05/30

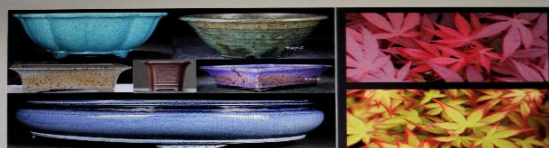
Our first BYOT workshop will be on January 28th with Matt Turner. More details in January's newsletter including a sign-up.

Thank you, John T. for coordinating his visit and the Botanical Gardens and Schultz & Co Landscapes for sponsoring this event. Here is a link to the Longwood Gardens on Matt Turner and bonsai:  
<https://longwoodgardens.org/blog/2024-10-16/practice-patience>

Also in January, is our first bonsai exhibit at the Botanical Gardens. Beginning at Noon on Friday and running through Sunday afternoon, SABS is cosponsoring with the Botanical Gardens a weekend of Bonsai. For those that wish to bring collected Texas native trees to Thursday's event, may leave their trees overnight and into Friday's bonsai exhibit. We will have a large array of bonsai trees with an emphasis on Texas natives – though all species are welcome – as well as a couple of lecture/demos on the weekend in the classrooms. We will also have a large sales table so bring trees to sell. More information on set-up/take down and a sign-up will be in January's newsletter.

This is all I have to talk about, and as I sit here typing, it gives me time to reflect on our past year: Progressive workshops, Asian Festival, visiting artists: Young Choe, Andrew Robson, Mike Lane, and Adam Lavigne, Festival of Flowers, Botanical Gardens Exhibit, collecting excursions, regular club meetings, good food and camaraderie, and oh yeah, how can I forget THE Convention!!!!

Have a happy and safe holiday season my friends,  
Kevin



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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](http://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](mailto:bonsaiode@gmail.com)**

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