

ISSUE

01

JANUARY
2026

A Publication
of The San
Antonio
Bonsai

SA BONSAI NEWS

Upcoming Bonsai Events

January

January 8th
NO CLUB
MEETING

January 17th

2026 Progressive
Workshop Pick your
Tree, The Garden
Center Nursery,
10am-12pm
[SIGN UP HERE](#)

January 28th
NO 4th Wednesday
BYOT Workshop

January 28th
BYOT Workshop w/
Matt Turner, 6pm-
8pm, SA Botanical
Gardens Classroom
[SIGN UP HERE](#)

**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., millermillerlaw@aol.com

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

2026 Membership Dues are payable to Drew G. before March 01, 2026

Individual: \$30

Family: \$50

Senior (65+) Individual: \$25

Senior (65+) Family: \$40

WELCOME TO 2026!

Bonsai is an art form using trees as the canvas. Most of us have one or more pieces of art hanging on our walls. We may see a name of an artist on a painting. Chances are that we will never or rarely ever have a chance to meet the artist. As I have said before as Vice President of SABS, one of the greatest benefits of membership is the ability to meet the artist and learn from the artist. Members can even bring one or more of their trees to workshops and work hand in hand with the artist. With that in mind, SABS members will have the opportunity to see the following artists in San Antonio this year: Zach Adams, Brandon Baldauf, Randy Bennett, Mike Lane, Jennifer Price, Andrew Robson, and Matt Turner. There will, also, be a visiting artist in September or October whose name we will find out later in the year. There will also be plenty of opportunities for members to learn from some of the more experienced SABS members. The Board hopes that you will enjoy the exciting plans scheduled for this year.



Kevin P. was awarded the
coveted distinction of
Honorary Member for his
dedication to educating
others in the art of bonsai,
at the 2025 Holiday Party.

CONGRATS KEVIN!!



Please Welcome our Newest Member(s)

Bridgette P.
Christopher P.

*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

Happy New Year to everyone!!

After the excitement and celebratory activities of the Holidays, are you a little worried about post celebration let down and blues? Bonsai fun may have the answer for chasing the blues away, but you will have to wait until the end of the month. Note: **There is No Regular second Thursday meeting on the Jan 8th.** Instead, in its place, there will be a flurry of interesting and educational activities at the end of the month.

The SA Botanical Gardens, along with SABS, are highlighting a Bonsai Weekend. The SA Botanical Gardens is sponsoring Matt Turner (bio below) from the Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia to present lectures and workshops from Wednesday, 1/28 thru Friday, 1/30. There will also be a formal exhibit of the best of our Club's trees from Friday thru Sunday. The entire event will take place at the SA Botanical Gardens Betty Kelso Center (BKC), a beautiful, modern, indoor pavilion. To get to the BKC, walk to the left of the main entrance along the perimeter road about 100 yards to the BKC entrance. You will not have to go through the park entrance and pay an admittance fee.

Matt's time and fees while in San Antonio are sponsored by Ryan Schultz, Professional Landscape Architect, and owner of Schultz & Co. Landscapes (<https://www.schultzlandscapes.com/>) and coordinated by Club member John T.

Thursday January 8th NO CLUB MEETING

Saturday January 17th

2026 Progressive Workshop Pick your Tree. Want to create your own bonsai from scratch with expert hands and help along the way? Or just looking for an opportunity to acquire a new tree for your collection? SABS is starting another progressive bonsai workshop, this time with a new twist. Participants can meet at The Garden Center Nursery (**10682 Bandera Rd, SATX 78250**) from **10am to 12pm** to select your own pre-bonsai plant for the workshop, whether it be a 1-, 3-, 5-, or 10-gallon tree. SABS will purchase all the trees to receive a discount, and each participant will reimburse SABS at the first Workshop. Experienced club members will be on hand to assist with your selection. The progressive group will then meet on the 4th Wednesday from March to October. Experienced club members will again be on hand at the workshops to provide firsthand guidance for designing, cutting back, wiring, repotting, etc. to keep your bonsai on a path to success. Having a thriving bonsai you have started from

Vice-President's message continued on page 6.



**Monthly
Food/Bev.
Host(s)**

January

SABS

February

Cheryl B. & Penny B.

Photos/Recognitions

Photos from December's Holiday Party



Soil/Book Sale



Club Soil
\$25/five gal.



APL Soil
\$75/five gal.



Care Book \$30

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

Monthly Tips by Ryan O.

In conjunction with our Texas Native display at the upcoming Botanical Gardens, I thought I would set the tone and describe what are Texas native trees for this month.

For the purposes of this discussion, I will explain and identify what species of trees and plants are considered “native,” “non-native,” and “invasive.” As defined by cosmic web, “Texas native trees are tree species that naturally grew in Texas before major human settlement. They have evolved naturally in Texas for over thousands of years, have adapted to the state’s climate and soils, support native wildlife, and typically need less water and fewer chemicals to survive. A non-native Texas tree is a species that did not naturally grow in Texas before people brought it here from another place (such as another country or region). Invasive trees are those species “introduced from other places and potentially spread aggressively, harming native plants and ecosystems.”

Below are a list of tree and plants of Texas and their classification that are typically used as bonsai. Please keep in mind this list is not fully inclusive.

Native Species	Non-native Species	Invasive Species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agarita ▪ American Sycamore ▪ Anacacho Orchid ▪ Anaqua ▪ Ashe Juniper ▪ Bald Cypress ▪ Cedar Elm ▪ Colima (Prickly Ash) ▪ Coral Berry ▪ Desert Willow ▪ Hackberry ▪ Hawthorn ▪ Huisache ▪ Loblolly Pine ▪ Mesquite - Honey ▪ Oaks – Live, Mohr, Post, Texas Red, Emory, Vasey, Scrub, Shin, Chinquapin, & Monterey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barbados Cherry ▪ Bougainvillea ▪ Boxwood ▪ Brazilian Rain Tree ▪ Buttonwood ▪ Campeche ▪ Camphor Tree ▪ Crepe Myrtle ▪ Elaeagnus/Silverberry ▪ Elm – Chinese, Zelkova, & Winged ▪ Ficus ▪ Fukien Tea ▪ Italian Cypress ▪ Japanese Maple ▪ Junipers ▪ Mahogany ▪ Olives ▪ Portulacaria afra ▪ Powderpuff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Asian Bamboo ▪ Bradford Pear ▪ Buckthorn ▪ Camphor Tree ▪ Chinaberry ▪ Chinese Pistache ▪ Chinese Tallow ▪ Chinese Wisteria ▪ Golden Rain Tree ▪ Japanese Honeysuckle ▪ Mimosa ▪ Mulberry ▪ Nandina ▪ Privet - Chinese & Japanese ▪ Salt Cedar (Tamarisk) ▪ Tree of Heaven ▪ Vitex



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Species Highlight

Crepe Myrtle

Crepe myrtle is great material to use for bonsai, particularly the dwarf & miniature varieties. However, you should know that the dwarf & in particular, the miniature varieties are slow growing when compared to the other types.

There are different categories of crepe myrtle based upon their mature growth height: ground cover (under 12”), miniature (1’-5’), dwarf (6’-10’), medium (14’-18’) & standard (20’-30’). It should be noted that there are weeping varieties among the miniature & dwarf categories.

Within the various height categories, there are well over 75 cultivars having a wide range of flower color.

Colors include multiple shades of pink & red, white, purple, lavender, coral, peach, & various picotee types, which means that the flowers are bi-color.

As soon as your crepe myrtle leafs out, spray for aphids. They are found on the underside of the leaves. A white powdery fungus called powdery mildew sometimes attacks the leaves of many older varieties of crepe myrtles.

By Randy Bennett, gnobs.org

January 29th

- Club meeting, 5pm-6pm
- Matt Turner L/D, 6pm-8pm
- Both events at the Betty Kelso Center

January 30th to February 1st

Bonsai Exhibit at the Botanical Gardens
[SIGN UP HERE](#)

February**February 7th**

Club Dig in Leaky, TX
[SIGN UP HERE](#)

February 12th

Club Meeting w/ Zach Adamz, Lions Field, 5:30pm

February 14th

Club Dig in Boerne or Hondo, TX

February 21-22nd

Asian Festival

February 23rd

Randy Bennett, Bald Cypress Workshop, Ryan's House

February 25th

NO 4th Wednesday BYOT Workshop

February 26th

Jennifer Price BYOT Workshop

Monthly Tips cont.

Native Species	Non-native Species	Invasive Species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Redbud ▪ Retama (Texas palo verde) ▪ Sweetgum ▪ Texas Ebony ▪ Texas Kidneywood ▪ Texas Madrone (in some areas) ▪ Texas Persimmon ▪ Texas Sage ▪ Yaupon Holly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pyracantha ▪ Water Jasmine ▪ Etc. 	

Matt Turner

Since 2023, Matt Turner has been instrumental in the construction and maintenance of the Bonsai Courtyard at Longwood Gardens with over 50 trees.

Matt previously worked in Chicago at The Hidden Gardens, one of the largest retailers of "yamadori" (pre-bonsai

collected from the wild). He began collecting yamadori winter of 2017 after being inspired by discussions with Walter Pall and other visiting artists and becoming familiar with trees collected by Randy Knight, Todd Schlafer, and Andy Smith, among others. Matt completed several dozen scouting and collecting trips over the next 6+ years, collected well over 200 trees and sold around half of those through The Hidden Gardens while working there; sold most of the remaining trees in Wisconsin and Michigan upon moving to Pennsylvania to work at Longwood Gardens.

In spring 2025, he began assisting at The Kennett Collection. At first potting up newly imported trees, then continuing on to work on additional repots, deadwood work, and other tasks as needed. The Kennett Collection is finest and largest private collection of Japanese bonsai outside of Asia. They have been importing trees for over two decades and hold one of the few import licenses in the U.S. They currently have nearly 2,000 trees, an enormous selection of pots and other artifacts, with more coming in each year. Numerous international bonsai professionals visit throughout the year to help maintain and improve trees there.



Kevin and Ryan performed their final lecture/demonstration at Rainbow Gardens-Thousand Oaks on December 21st. (Kevin didn't show up in time for the photo opp.)

Vice-President's Message (cont.)

scratch is truly a rewarding experience. Due to many other club activities in Jan and Feb, the actual Progressive Workshop kick-off is on Wednesday March 25th. It should be worth the wait. For those not able to attend on this day, please let Kevin and/or Ryan know your price requirement(s) and they will pick a tree for you to work. The first 2026 Progressive Workshop begins on Wednesday March 25th. [SIGN UP HERE](#)

Wednesday January 28th

NO 4th WEDNESDAY BYOT Workshop due to the workshop with Matt Turner.

Wednesday January 28th

Bring Your Own Tree (BYOT) Workshop with Matt Turner. A workshop is being held at the SA Botanical Gardens' Classroom (**555 Funston Place, SATX 78209**) from 6pm to 8pm where Matt will assist with any styling or questions you have with a tree. You can bring up to two trees. Limited to 10 people. Fee: \$50/pp at the event. Wear your name tag to get into the SA Botanical Gardens without an entry fee. [SIGN UP HERE](#)

Thursday January 29th

Club Meeting at the SA Botanical Gardens' Betty Kelso Center (BKC). Our Club meeting includes a one-hour discussion of Texas native trees with Matt Turner with Club members describing their collected Texas native trees that they have brought in for discussion. **Meeting begins at 5pm.** Enter through the front entrance (long ramp) to the BKC. [SIGN UP HERE](#) to bring/display **only Collected Texas Native Trees** at 4:30pm. *Note: Trees brought in for Matt to view may be used for that weekend's display and left overnight in the locked BKC.*

Thursday January 29th

Matt Tuner's Lecture and Demonstration. In the Thursday lecture from 6pm to 8pm, Matt will be speaking about the Longwood Gardens' highlights and history (<https://longwoodgardens.org/>) and specifically about the evolving design of their unique bonsai collection dating as far back as 1959. He will also cover the art and ethics of "yamadori" and provide inspiration for creating your own yamadori from landscape plants. The meeting includes adult refreshments and snacks and attended by SA Botanical Gardens' staff and local landscape architects and nurseries.

SABS urges as many people as possible to participate in these events. The SA Botanical Gardens has been incredibly supportive of the club and your participations in these events help strengthen this relationship.

Friday January 30th thru Sunday February 1st

Bonsai Exhibit and Lectures at the SA Botanical Gardens. SABS's January/February bonsai exhibit will focus on Texas Natives and Winter Silhouettes. Though these Texas natives and Winter silhouettes is our theme, other trees are welcomed to reach at least 50 trees on display. Each exhibitor will be assigned one or more 6-foot tables for their display. Clean bonsai pots and stands are required and accents are suggested. We will have a sales table available at a 70%/30% (Seller/SABS) split. Those interested in displaying trees or volunteering please [SIGN UP HERE](#). SABS is also sponsoring two lectures/demonstrations on bonsai: one on Saturday at 9am and one on Sunday at 12pm.

From 9am to 12pm SABS is setting up the exhibit in the BKC with SA Botanical Gardens staff on hand to assist moving trees to the building from the main gate. Exhibit is open during the following times:

Friday: 12pm to 5pm

Saturday: 9am to 5pm

Sunday: 9am to 4pm. Take down begins at 4pm.

This is a great chance to show off your hard work and dedication to bonsai. This is by far the best venue to show off our work and publicize the Club. The SA Botanical Gardens are publicizing this event. Very appreciative audience.



San Antonio
Bonsai Society,
Inc. (SABS)

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should be
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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.

For additional information please visit SABS at

Website: SanAntonioBonsai.org

Facebook: [@sanantoniobonsai](https://www.facebook.com/sanantoniobonsai)

Instagram: [@sanantoniobonsai](https://www.instagram.com/sanantoniobonsai)

YouTube: [Click Here!!](https://www.youtube.com/c/SanAntonioBonsai)

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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