



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

September 2019

Volume 44

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

Number 09

What's New!

- **SEPTEMBER 13TH MEETING STARTS AT 6:30PM**
- **September 21st – The Garden Center** – Representing SABS, Ryan O is leading a bonsai lecture/demo for bonsai enthusiasts that want to learn the about bonsai and bring home a small bonsai. 10am-Noon.
- **September 21st – South Texas Bonsai Kai** – David. W's annual bonsai event will include a lesson on a particular technique, prepping our Anaquas and shohin trees, and a raffle. Mark your calendars for this event.
- **September 27-29th – San Antonio Fall Home and Garden Show** – We are back at the Home and Garden Show. This year we will focus on promoting the convention with new marketing materials to promote this event. Ryan O. is looking for those that would like to display a tree or two and for those to volunteer their time answering questions and giving the full-time/3-day volunteers' lunch and dinner breaks. Email Ryan O. if you have a tree to display or can volunteer hours. Those volunteering hours are not required to stay all 3 days nor a full time. You may pick the hours you are free as long as there is space available,
- **October 18-20th – TTSBE's Kathy Shaner Seminar** – TTSBE is hosting Kathy Shaner in a 3-day workshop/seminar near Austin. Mark your calendars with these dates!!! More information to follow soon.
- **October 26th – Art Under the Oaks at The Garden Center** – Ryan O. is looking for volunteers to display tree and to discuss bonsai to guests at our booth. Please email Ryan O. if you are available,

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.

SEPTEMBER'S EVENTS

Lecture/Demo:

September 12th – Traveling Artist
Andrew Robson

Food/Beverage Host(s):

Bruce B., Kamala P. & Oscar G.

Bonsai Study Group:

September 25th

OCTOBER'S EVENTS

Lecture/Demo:

October 10th – Winter plant preparation & Cotoneasters

Food/Beverage Host(s):

Nick B., Evelyn K., & Virgie V.

Bonsai Study Group:

October 23rd

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

President's Message

Klaus C.
collklaus@yahoo.com

Our September 12th Club meeting is preceded by a workshop late afternoon from 3-6pm. The afternoon workshop will style some well-cared and developed Chinese elms.

The evening Lecture and Demo will utilize a juniper of high quality from 6:30-8:30.

Our guest artist is Andrew Robson.

Reserve your pot and tree for \$50. (limited number)

Reserve your smaller tree and pot for \$35 (limited number)

Observation only for \$20.

Your check to SABSconfirms your registration.

Mail to:

Leydana Matthews

SA TX 78259

Convention Updates!

Next Convention meeting will be held September 14th, at 9:30 am at Donna 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

Andrew Robson is an emerging deciduous artist in the American bonsai community. Andrew recently completed a 3 year apprenticeship with Michael Hagedorn, after graduating from Yale University. Andrew serves as a member of the Portland Bonsai Village, and is additionally a board member of the American Bonsai Society. He currently exhibits work at the Portland Japanese Garden, and regularly lectures at the garden's Japanese Arts Learning Center. Andrew and his family are currently building a deciduous-focused bonsai garden, school and nursery, RAKUYO-en, just outside of Portland, Oregon. While some conifers hang around RAKUYO, the overwhelming focus is on deciduous bonsai.



You Speak... Editor Prints...

Below begins a mini-series by Donna D., our 2020 Convention Curator, which will be included in our newsletters up to our convention. This mini-series prepare your trees for display. Enjoy!!!

The Beauty of Bonsai in Exhibition

Bonsai is a plant that has become a work of art that allows the observer (and us) to experience the beauty of trees in a container. It captures the feeling of a natural landscape where there was nothing but a plant in a pot.

How does one construct that feeling, that beautiful scene? Well, one first learns some basic skills, watering and nurturing, etc. How does one take care of that particular species in our climate?

Whether you are experienced in bonsai care or just a beginner the club offers guidance. Pick a person you would like to work with, listen to their suggestions. It is best to stick with one person because even bonsai does not follow a specific set of rules and different people will offer different approaches. There are choices that must be made along the way to develop that magnificent example of a tree in nature.

If you have visited formal exhibits of bonsai or viewed them on line then you have seen there is a little more to the presentation than just the bonsai. Special care is taken in the choice of container. What type of display stand should be used? There are many choices, traditional stands, slabs of rock or wood, a simple bamboo mat or one of your own making.

Now is the time to begin the process: Which tree do I want to display? That first answer can give you the guidance for all the other choices to be made.

In a formal display (traditional) there are 3 elements. 1. The bonsai, container choice and display stand. 2. The accent plant and its stand which is selected to compliment the bonsai. 3. The scene behind the bonsai, a scroll, or a picture the adds to the drama of the bonsai on display.

It may sound complicated but it really isn't. It's just a methodical approach to the final presentation. Please come to each meeting before the big reveal in May of 2020. There will be examples on display and all the help you will need to make that first contribution to your bonsai exhibit in 2020.



Bonsai Techniques

Courtesy of John Miller
from the Dallas Bonsai Society

Looking at some of my latest issues of BCI magazine I was struck by the quality of artists at the LSBF Convention. Our headliners have done some big world conventions. E.g., Golden State and Asian conventions artist Boon Manakitivipart will be at Longview in April, Dallas's Bjorn and Juan at World Bonsai Friendship Fed. In Japan 2 weeks later, Nomoto at Noelanders Convention in Europe in Feb., John Naka, Walter Pall, Kathy Shaner, and many other great ones over the years. Also our fees are much cheaper so make plans now to enjoy Longview in April.

During September your main job is to get your stuff ready for winter. Do not encourage new growth, hold back on the fertilizer and pruning. Get winter quarters ready. Be sure the tropical are healthy, no bugs or other pathogens.

If it rains days on end, tilt the pots to aid drainage and make sure the drains are not stopped up. When it is hot and dry, maybe water 2-3 times a day and protect plants and especially the pot from direct sun. 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. If air layers have developed roots they may be separated and potted.

In Sept and Oct 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 late 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.

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. 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 of the wire back so that you do not overlook a small piece of wire. If you have trouble seeing each twist of the wire don't cut, just unwrap the wire (with care). If you miss a turn of the wire you will make an unsightly bulge and the limb will probably have to be cut off. If you need to reapply some wire take care to not follow the same path.

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 with 0 first number, like 0-10-10 or 0-0-10. They will need less water as they quit active growth but on warm days trees with green foliage will still transpire and will need that 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.

Fruiting bonsai spend a lot of energy growing fruit. They should not be allowed to fruit heavily each year. They benefit from a light fertilization at this time. Flowering bonsai especially need to receive the minor elements. Get a good fertilizer, such as the Espoma plant-tone fertilizers, that include them in their mix for good color development. They should be listed on the label.

There is not too much 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. Spray top and bottom of leaves and trunk thoroughly on a regular basis (7-10 days). If you miss getting scale in their vulnerable crawler stage, you may have to go to a systemic.

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.

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. A mulch cover over the pots on the ground will minimize temperature extremes.

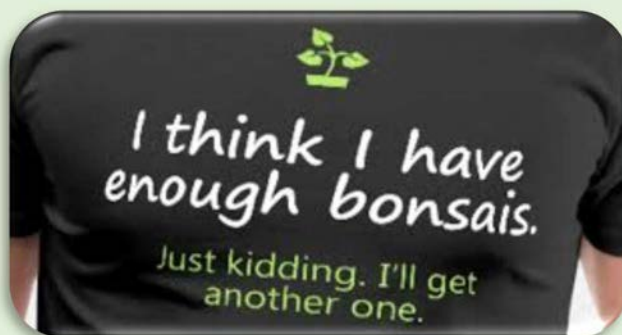
Make sure that it is clean and that you will be able to check the water needs of the trees. It should be somewhat protected from winds but should have some air movement to help prevent molds from developing. Being in a location where you can see the trees would allow you to enjoy the winter silhouette, i.e. the branch structure and twiginess, that is a great part of deciduous bonsai.



BONSAI FUNNIES

Who Said This?

Images provided by various internet sources. Spreadshirt.com



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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