



# SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://sanantoniobonsai.org>

JUNE 2015

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 6

## BONSAI CALENDAR

All meetings are held on the second Thursday, 7 pm, at Lions Field Adult Community Center, Broadway at Mulberry St., SA, TX. 78209

**RICHARD HAYES BONSAI STUDY GROUP:** FOURTH WEDNESDAY, Workshop in Bonsai, everyone is welcome, 7 pm at Lions Field. GREAT TIME FOR MEMBERS TO BRING IN A TREE TO WORK ON —

**June Mini-show** – Junipers and Pines.

**June Food and Beverage Host** – Member Pot Luck.

**June 13<sup>th</sup>** - Club Meeting **Rainbow Gardens at Thousand Oaks**; 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>** - Exhibit and L/D at **The Garden Center**; 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

**June 24<sup>th</sup>** – Bonsai Workshop at the **Lion's Field Adult Community Center**, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

**June 27<sup>th</sup>** - Progressive Bonsai Tour at Paul T's, Oscar G's, and Ryan O's homes.

Y E A R O F  
T H E R A M

## President's Message

By Ryan O

[bonsaiode@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaiode@gmail.com)

It would be great if we could go back in time and thank the person who conceived the idea for putting bonsai trees in well-draining soil. I mean, if it wasn't for this person (*using the term person as I have not read that a group of club board members came up with the idea*) and the person suggesting we secure our trees to the pots, I believe many of our trees would have floated right out of their pots, over the past few weeks. Be sure to check your soil's moisture content. Even with heavy rains, the winds can dry out our soils quickly.

June is a busy month for SABS, so visit the website or see below the times and locations of our events:

§ **Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup> – No monthly meeting at the Lion's Field**

§ **Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>** – SABS' monthly meeting at Rainbow Gardens, Thousand Oaks - 2585 Thousand Oaks Dr. SATX (210) 494-6131

SABS' meeting from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (set up begins at 9:00 am). The extra hour includes members walking around **Rainbow Gardens (RG)** looking for additional pre-bonsai.

All attendees to bring a dish, appetizer, beverage, and/or dessert. **Our meeting location has no electricity and RG does not have a microwave.**

Bring any utensils/bowls needed for serving purposes

**SABS** provides plates, napkins, ice, and eating utensils.

Continued next page

Continued from page one.....

Our meeting is also open to **RG's** customers so this is a great opportunity to introduce our club to potential new members

I am expecting about 45 people including members and guests.

Bring your name tags - **RG** will offer a discount to those wearing their club name tags.

If anyone can assist with set-up please arrive early. I will be there at 9:00 am..

Please bring a Juniper or Pine to show-case.

**Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Lecture, Demonstration, and Exhibit at **The Garden Center** - 10682 Bandera Rd. SATX (210) 647-7900

Exhibit from 10 am to 4 pm.

Lectures at 10 am and 1:30 pm by Ryan and Kevin.

Volunteers and additional trees for display are welcome. Just email Ryan your coming.

Bring your name tags - **TGC** will offer a discount to those wearing their club name tags.

**Bring trees to sell.** **TGC** is allowing us to sell bonsai without a commission and since this is right before Father's Day it might generate good sales.

**Wednesday June 24<sup>th</sup>** – **SABS'** monthly workshop at the Lions Club; 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

**Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup>** – Progressing Bonsai Tour – **SABS'** Progress Bonsai Tour is a fun way to view first-hand the trees and displays of three members of our Club. Paul Tyler and Oscar Gonzalez are each opening their backyards to all club members to view their trees. Paul and Oscar will also host light munchies and refreshments to keep you stomachs happy as your eyes go into a visual overload. The tour ends at Ryan O's house with a view of his trees and dinner. You are welcome to visit all or any number of the locations. Our schedule for this events includes:

Continued next paragraph

Continued f

11:00 am to 1:00 pm - Tour of Paul T's backyard.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm - Ample time to travel to Oscar's house

1:45 pm to 3:45 pm - Tour of Oscar G

3:45 pm to 4:30 pm - Ample time to travel to Ryan's house

4:30 pm to 7:00 pm – Tour of Ryan O

If you did not sign up in May's meeting, please email Ryan if you are participating so all hosts know the proper amount of food to prepare.

**RYAN**

## PROGRAM CORNER

David W

[redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com)

This month we are having our monthly meeting on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, at **Rainbow Gardens** on Thousand Oaks at 10 am. We will be having a tour of their nursery to get ideas how to look for potential material for bonsai. On the 20<sup>th</sup> we will have a mini exhibit and lecture/demo at the **Garden Center** on Bandera Road. As you can see this month we have 2 opportunities to see how to spot a future bonsai.

Also for your viewing pleasure, on the 27<sup>th</sup>, we are having a progressive dinner and bonsai tour. We start at the T's, then progress to the G' and finally to the O's.

In July we have a chance to mingle bonsai with Taekwon-Do, here is a little hint.  
<http://www.chinmukwan.com/ctfnationaltest2015.html>

**DAVID**

## JUNE MONTHLY TIPS

David W  
[redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com)

Now that our temperature (night time lows) is consistently staying above 70 degrees, it's safe to repotting your Texas Ebony, Anacua, Fiddlewood, Kidneywood, Colima and other south Texas natives, and you can start root pruning/repotting tropicals also. Keep an eye on the temperature and if it is going to fall below 60 degrees, you will need to protect your newly repotted tropicals (Bahamas Black Olive, Buttonwood, Campeche, Fukien tea, Neea Buxifolia, Wrightia). When repotting, be sure to wire the tree securely in the pot to give it good stability against the winds; putting rocks on top of the soil for several days can also help brace the tree.

With the onset of warmer weather, the plants are growing vigorously and that growth can get out of hand before you know it. The more you pinch and trim, the more compact or dense the foliage will get. The quicker you do it, the smaller the leaf and the shorter the nodes will be.

Inspect your bonsai from top to bottom, and also inspect the drain holes. Insects are really on the move this season, and with all the rain we've had this month (9" here, 23" to date) they will be a constant challenge, so inspect for insects and treat accordingly. If you discover an infestation, treat according to the label of the pesticide. Also, give natural pest control a try – we've had outbreaks of insects in the past so every spring when our local nursery has them in stock we buy a couple containers of ladybugs.

We released them at dusk over a couple of nights and voila! In a few days, very few aphids or scale remained plus the ladybugs happily procreated in our yard and soon we had ladybug larva cleaning up the leftovers.

Continued next paragraph

Continued from last paragraph

And our other beneficial insects and critters are kept safe from being poisoned. This year we set out praying mantis egg sacks that are full with up to 200 babies in it. I'll let you know how that turns out as it takes up 8 weeks before they emerge and they are undetectable until they are almost full size or you just happen to look right at them. A regular fertilization schedule should be continued at this time of year.

DAVID

2015 Kathy Shaner Seminar

October 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>

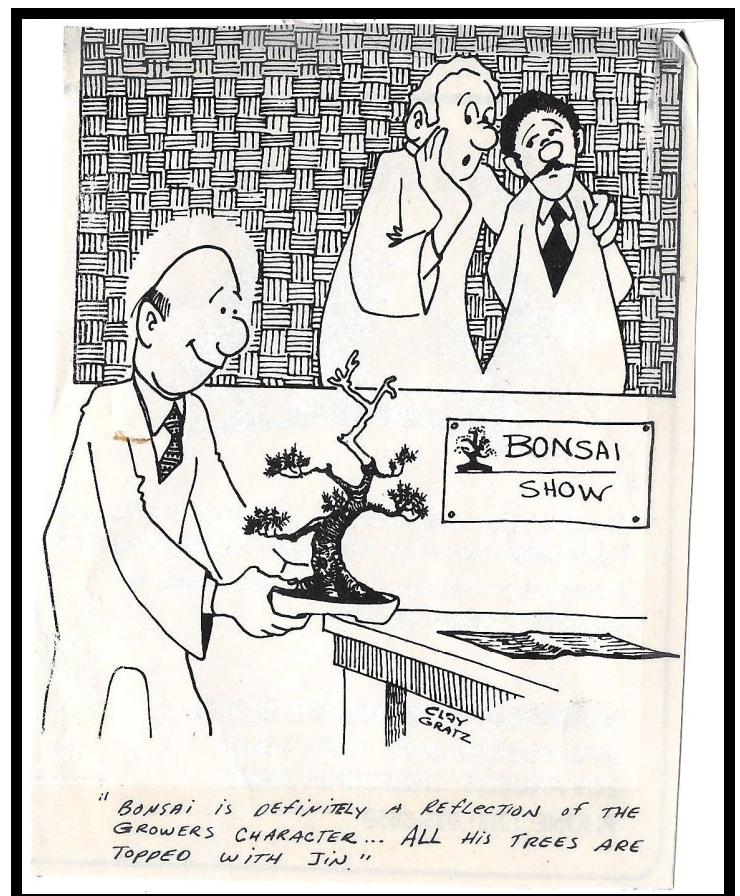
Buda, TX

\* Seminar \*

\* Home-cooked Dinner \*

\* Bring-your-own-tree Workshop \*

Registration available in July. To be notified when registration is open, email [ckmurphy2000@gmail.com](mailto:ckmurphy2000@gmail.com).



## YES THERE IS REALLY A BONSAI HEAVEN

For many years now I have dreamed of completely submersing myself in bonsai learning, being an apprentice, or just a worker at a bonsai nursery. Well that will never happen, I have to stay in my studio and keep the art commissions going (got to make a living).

Since last August and moving into a really nice studio the commission work has been steady and it has been a joy to pay those bills without hesitation. But as any work it can wear you down.

I was catching up on my hobby (bonsai) and reading bonsai newsletters from around the state and my next click brought me to Hurley Johnson's notification on the current activities at his nursery, "Timeless Trees". There it was the latest updates on the "Tropical School" with Pedro Morales. I have fantasized about going, just to Houston, just four days, JUST I DON'T HAVE THE TIME!!!

I want to go and when Hurley indicated one could take year two without year one...hmmmm, I called my dearest and mentioned the idea, I could stay with a friend, I have some bonsai money saved up, I NEED A BREAK....!

He said why not, sure, go ahead. YAHOO! The school was only 10 days out from the start time, I contacted Hurley, I contacted my friend for lodging, it was meant to be, YEAH, all was a go.

To participate take as many trees as you can, I had six that were tropical, or you could work on nursery trees, or you could buy some for your own collection and work on those. So many choices. Later I found out it wasn't necessary just to focus on tropicals, Pedro's knowledge is very broad.

Hurley and Pedro are outstanding hosts, to say the least knowledge spewing everywhere. Hurley provides: light breakfast, lunch and drinks, aluminum bonsai wire, and prepared soil for repotting. What more could you ask for? How about door prizes each day.

Well it gets better: Each day there were several lectures, species, how-to's, a lot of tropical knowledge, of course. Work on trees in the afternoon with personal attention from Pedro and Hurley. A bonsai movie about a young independent bonsai artist, the last to work under the teacher that taught Masahiko Kimura, very moving and powerful portrayal.

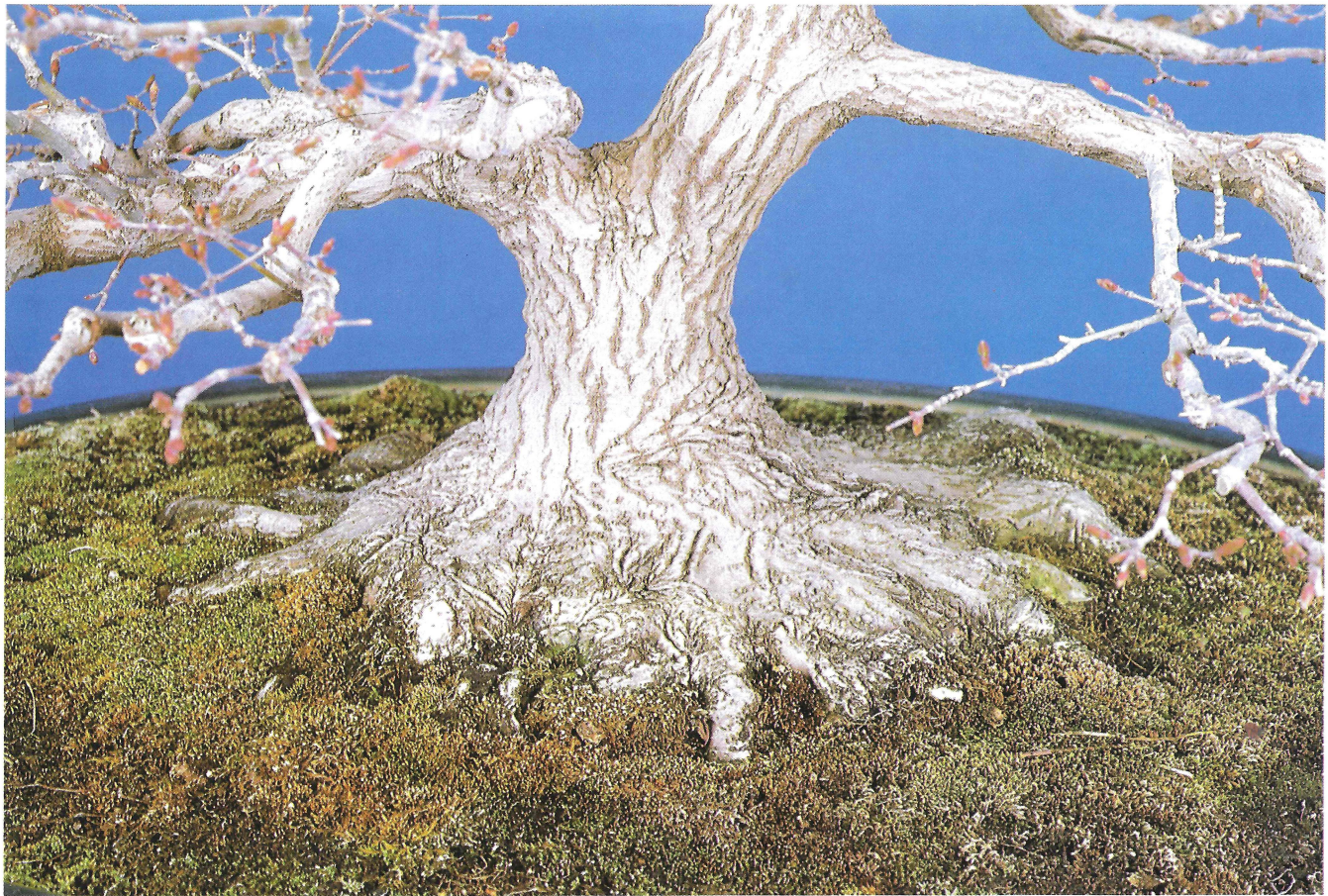
All the lectures and the movie were made available to us, we each got a USB, a patch and vest and a certificate of participation. A group portrait was taken and it all became history.

I learned so much, it was wonderful walking about the nursery, species I had not seen, tropicals perfect for our climate. Four days of bonsai heaven!

I'm planning on year three next season sometime in June-July. Prune on bonsai fans!

Quiet and rejuvenated,  
Donna L. D





Massive spreading root bases are spectacular; bonsai that display them are the center of admiration. But it is not possible to achieve them in all species. They can only be obtained with deciduous species and, particularly with the maples, usually the trident and sometimes the red maple.

When these species are trained as bonsai, a massive spreading root base is very appropriate as they are usually planted in very shallow pots.

The procedure used for achieving is simple, but it is essential to work fearlessly. It is based on the same principle as that used to achieve lateral roots on young trees: the growth of those that are growing horizontally is favored by cutting off the roots that want to grow downward.

To stimulate the fusing of surface roots, use a plane like those used by

The base of the trunk is planed a little each time the tree is transplanted. This way the roots are induced to grow out in a horizontal direction and yet the strength of the tree is not impaired.

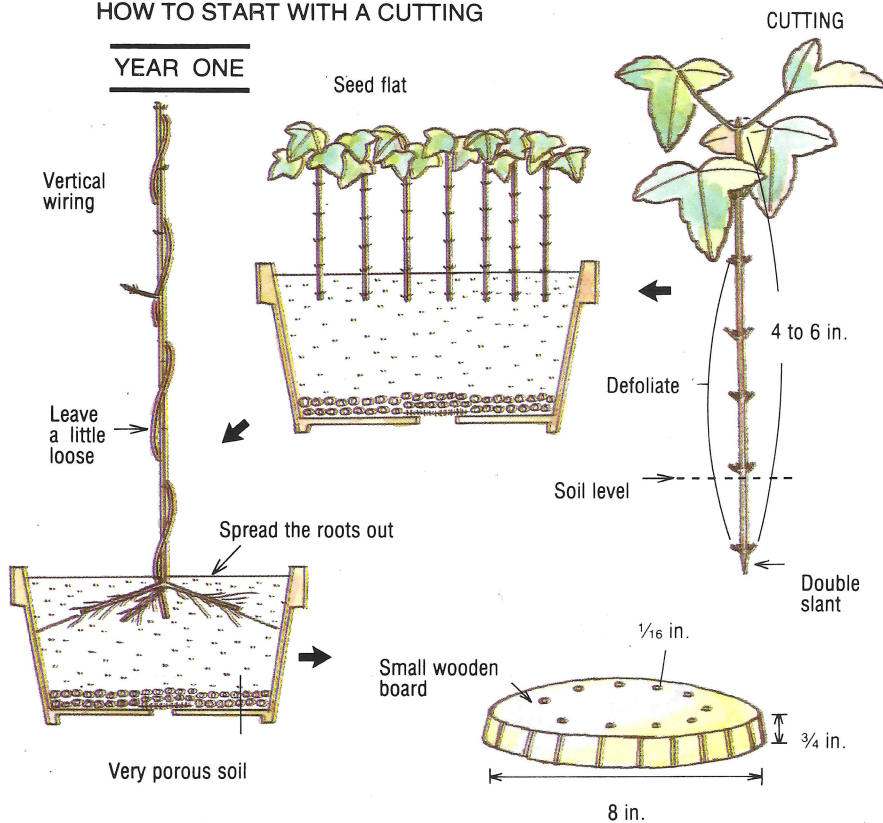


To plane the base of the trunk a carpenter's plane is used like the ones in the photograph at the left.

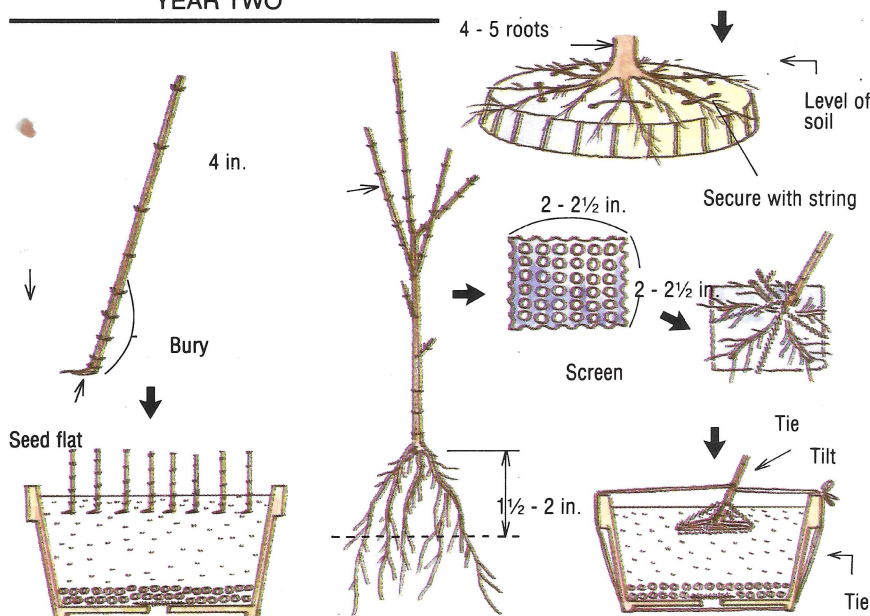


## HOW TO START WITH A CUTTING

### YEAR ONE



### YEAR TWO



illustrated on this page.

The species for which this method is most utilized is the trident maple, *Acer buergerianum*, and this procedure is the most popular one for achieving fused surface roots.

The basic material is cuttings taken from 2 or 3 year old branches which have short internodes and small leaves. Take the cuttings by breaking them off with your fingers, not cutting them with scissors as for other uses. They are planted in the usual manner since you will not begin to train the roots for two years.

At that time select those that have roots growing in all directions; those that do not have a good symmetrical root system should be pruned and used later to create other styles.

The ones selected are wired and planted in individual pots for one more year. That year having passed and after a new pruning of roots, place them over a circular wooden board that has been perforated with holes of about 1/16 inch (1 mm) in diameter at intervals around the circumference.

After having eliminated the unnecessary roots, fasten down the others by passing strings through the small holes of the board as shown in the sketches.

When the maples are planted in the training pot, do not sink them very deeply into the soil. If you want to grow them in the field the procedure is the same as in the previous case, but instead of using a small board with holes, use a wooden board and secure the tree by the trunk and not by the roots; otherwise the strong growth that is produced by growing in the field might strangle the roots.

As the tree grows in height, there will also be a corresponding rapid increase in the thickening of the roots. Because of this rapid growth, it is very important that the roots remain well placed and spread out on the little board. If they rise up or cross over it will be very difficult to correct them afterwards and all the work of starting with a cutting will be lost; instead you will have to treat it as if you were starting with a nursery tree.

carpenters and reduce, little by little, the lower base of the tree each time you transplant.

Of course, in order to do it, you will have to wash the soil from the roots leaving the lower part of the surface roots exposed. Each time you transplant reduce it only a little, thus giving the tree time to accustom

its roots to growing horizontally. The immediate secondary benefits you notice in the tree is the greater facility with which branches grow in a horizontal direction as well as the tendency to thicken more rapidly.

There is another procedure which is started with cuttings and which is explained below and which is il-

## BONSAI CALENDAR 2015

- **June Mini-show** – Junipers and Pines
- June Food and Beverage Host – All members
- **June 13th** - Club Meeting at *Rainbow Gardens* at Thousand Oaks; 2585 Thousand Oaks Dr. SATX (210) 494-6131  
10 am
- **June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Exhibit and L/D at ***The Garden Center***, 10682 Bandera Rd. SATX (210) 647-7900 10 am.

**June 20th** — ***Shohin*** meeting, ***Persimmon Hill***, Austin, TX. 10 am to 2 pm.  
Lunch provided (contribute to the kitty), Program; Neea buxifolia and small leaf Yaupon Holly.

- **June 27th** - Progressive Bonsai Tour and Food at Paul T      's, Oscar G      , and Ryan O      's.



### BONSAI OF THE MONTH

One of many trees available at "Timeless Trees" in Rosenberg, Texas, south west of Houston.

This Ficus Nerifolia is over 3 feet tall! And pretty nice I must say.

I did get three little trees for my collection but I visited this nursery each day of the Tropical School sessions.

It may be one of Hurley's personal collection.



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.

---

### THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.

[sanantoniobonsai.org](http://sanantoniobonsai.org)

Webmaster: Ryan O

President:  
Secretary:  
Publicity:

Ryan O  
Kevin P  
Chris L

Vice President:  
Treasurer/Membership  
Directors at large:

David W  
Oscar G  
John R  
Roberto M

Snips 'N Clips is published monthly by The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.  
Subscription and membership is \$30.00 per year.

Advertising for Snips 'N Clips is based on the minimum size of 3 1/2" by 2 1/2" for \$45 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, P.O. Box 6658, San Antonio, Texas, 78209. For situations other than the above, please contact the Editor, [two2views@yahoo.com](mailto:two2views@yahoo.com). Original articles from Snips 'N Clips may be reprinted only in their entirety. Full credit must be given the author and to Snips 'N Clips.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

**San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 6658  
San Antonio, Texas, 78209**

**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: Donna L. D , [two2views@yahoo.com](mailto:two2views@yahoo.com)