

ISSUE

03

MARCH
2025

A Publication
of The San
Antonio
Bonsai

SA Bonsai News

Upcoming Bonsai Events

March

March 13th

Board Meeting,
Lions Field, 5:45pm

March 13th

Club Meeting –
Kusamono w/
Young Choe, Lions
Field, 6:30pm

**March 13th, 14th, &
15th**

Workshops –
Kusamono w/
Young Choe, Don
B.'s house, 9am &
1:30pm

March 26th

4th Wednesday
BYOT Workshop &
Progressive Bonsai
Study, Lions Field,
6:30pm

**Additional events
listed on Page 5**

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



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A Bonsai Technique in Short **P.3**

Monthly Tips **P.4**

President's Message by Kevin P., hattie1@gvtc.com

Hello Bonsai Buddies!

I hope everyone had a nice Valentine's Day. We had quite a month starting with the Asian Festival, then workshops with Andrew Robson, continuing with David Rizwan's repotting seminar and culminating with our second Progressive Workshop.

I forgot to thank Ryan for his talk on tree collection and follow-up care so THANK YOU RYAN!

And a big THANK YOU DAVID for improving the club's knowledge on repotting techniques. David worked on our *Pyracantha* and remarked that the root structure was unhealthy. We repotted it again 2 days later into a MUCH larger growing container to give the roots room to grow. (after we asked him if he thought it was okay). A word of caution, we would not have touched it if David thought it would cause any damage to the tree. Always check with someone more knowledgeable than yourselves when attempting something you are not 100% certain of.

Ryan said he had a good turnout for the 2 club digs earlier in February, Thanks to all who attended.

Paul Tyler asked me to pass on to whoever is doing the newsletter to keep up the good work. It provided valuable knowledge and is very well presented, so thanks (you know who you are!).

Our 2nd progressive workshop (the same night as our Bonsai 101 class) was enjoyed by all who attended. Everyone came back! We will continue to work on these projects throughout the year and see how quickly we can go from nursery stock into a passable bonsai in a year! Thank you to Jay, Carl, Richard, and David H. for your help and guidance. David H. helped Penny with her green mound Juniper (he knows what he's

President's Message continued on Page 6.



Please Welcome our Newest Member(s)

Beau
Brady
Juan
Martin
Shawlonda

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

One of my favorite bonsai books is titled; Bonsai The Art of Growing and keeping Miniature Trees by Peter Chan. For the month of March, Peter Chan states “*Any branch or root pruning done now will heal very quickly and the trees will therefore be assured of continued vitality. By the end of March, trees that have been kept under the staging or in a specially constructed winter shelter can be brought out into the open again. Spray all trees with a fungicide such to kill any remaining spores or mildew and other fungi. Spray also with an insecticide to kill overwintering insects.*”

Peter Chan also writes about repotting at this time of the year. In our area, I started repotting deciduous trees during the last half of February and I will continue repotting through the first couple of weeks of March, or until leaves emerge. In my personal collection, have numerous Chinese Elms that bud out at different times which makes repotting planning a difficult chore. Because each tree is different, the repotting season can vary from February into March and that is why we don't stipulate an exact day/week to begin/stop repotting. It is the trees that tell us, not the calendar! Also, in our area I am already bringing cold hardy trees outside and will bring my tropical trees outside when I am sure that nighttime temperatures will stay above 45-50 degrees.

Good Luck

Thursday, Mar. 13th

Prior to the meeting, we will have our first quarterly Board Meeting. Any member may attend and listen.

Thursday, Mar. 13th

Guest artist Young Choe is discussing Kusamono. She studied traditional art in her native Korea before moving to the US. Also, Don Barker will be hosting Young Choe this month and a sign-up email should be sent out soon.

Mar. 13th - 15th

Barker Bonsai is hosting morning and afternoon kusamono workshops for Young Choe (<https://www.kusamonochoe.com/>) starting on Thursday, March 13th to Saturday, March 15th. Barker Bonsai will supply succulents and rocks until the supply runs out. However, these are Bring Your Own Plants & Pots workshops, and you can bring as many plants and pots as you want. The morning workshop will be from 9:00am to 12:00pm. The afternoon workshop will be from 1:30pm to 4:30pm except on Saturday which will end at 4:00pm so Young can catch her flight home. **Each workshop is \$60 per person** (payable to Don the day of), and you can reserve a space in any of the

Vice-President's Message continued on Page 6.

Monthly Food/Bev. Host(s)

March

Kevin & Hattie P.

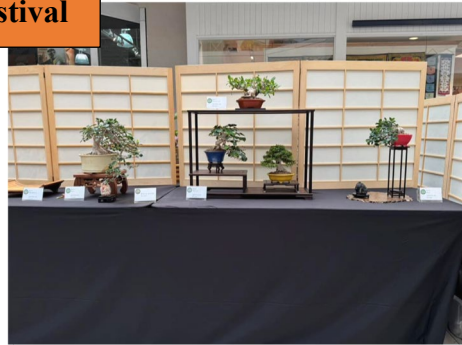
April

Francis R. & Beau P.

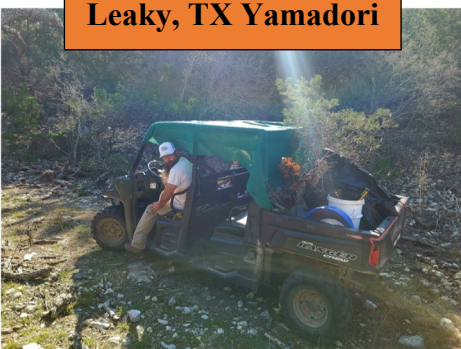
Photos/Recognitions

February in Review through Photos

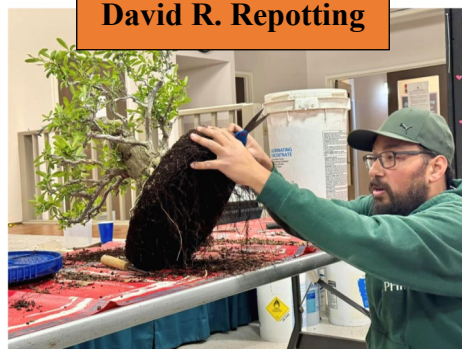
Asian Festival



Leaky, TX Yamadori



David R. Repotting



Soil/Book Sale

LIMITED QTYS LEFT

Club Soil
\$25/five gal.

\$5 OFF IN MARCH

APL Soil
\$75/five gal.



Care Book \$30

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

A Bonsai Technique in Short – On-Hole Pot Wiring



Use a larger gauge wire to create what looks like a cotter pin.



The tie-down wires are then wrapped around the pin at least one and a half times.



Carefully feed the ends of the tie-down wires through the mesh of the drainage screen.

Pictures from [Bonsai Tonight](https://bonsaitonight.com/2016/12/23/tips-using-basic-bonsai-tools/), by Jonas Dupuich at <https://bonsaitonight.com/2016/12/23/tips-using-basic-bonsai-tools/>

Monthly Tips by Conrad G.

Preparing Your Bonsai for Spring in San Antonio

As winter loosens its grip and the Texas sun starts warming our gardens, it's time to prepare our bonsai for the burst of spring growth. Here in San Antonio, the changing season brings both opportunities and challenges, so let's make sure our trees are ready to thrive.

1. Assess Winter Damage

Start by giving each tree a thorough once-over:

- Dead or damaged branches - Prune these away to encourage healthy new growth.
- Pests or disease - Look for signs like discolored leaves or insect activity. Ashe Junipers, for example, can be prone to spider mites, so check carefully.

Early detection of pests and damage is key to preventing larger issues as the weather warms.

2. Repotting

Early spring - when buds begin to swell but before leaves fully open - is prime repotting time for most deciduous species like Crepe Myrtles. Tropicals shouldn't be reported until later in the Spring season. For evergreens, like Junipers, repotting can wait until slightly later but still before the growing season. Each species is different, so revert to your SABS green book, but here are a few things to consider:

- Refresh the soil to prevent root-binding when appropriate.
- Trim back about a third of the roots if needed.
- Secure the tree firmly in its pot with fresh bonsai soil.

The [American Bonsai Society \(ABS\)](#) emphasizes that not all trees need yearly repotting - younger, faster-growing bonsai may need it annually, while more established trees can go 2-3 years.

3. Pruning and Wiring

Spring is a time to set your trees' structure:

- **Structural pruning** - Shape major branches before growth becomes too vigorous.
- **Shoot removal** - Pinch back new shoots on species like Junipers to maintain their shape.

Bonsai Term(s) of the Month

Aluminum vs Copper Wire

ALUMINUM WIRE

Pros:

- Great for beginners
- Easier to work with
- Cheaper than copper
- Best for deciduous and tropicals
- Wiring mistakes can easily be fixed
- Easier to straighten and reuse

Cons:

- Typically need larger diameter wire than copper
- Easier to see when exhibiting a tree

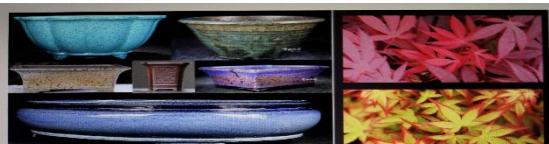
COPPER WIRE

Pros:

- Stronger than aluminum
- Can hold thicker branches w/ smaller diameter wire
- Fades over time to match the tree's trunk
- More aesthetically pleasing
- Best for conifers

Cons:

- More expensive than aluminum
- Becomes stiffer from bending
- Less malleable when correcting wiring mistakes
- Can't just unwind if made a mistake



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TheGardenCenterSA

Upcoming Bonsai Events

March 29th

Bonsai demo/lecture
& Exhibit at The
Garden Center
Nursery, 10am-3pm

April

April 10th

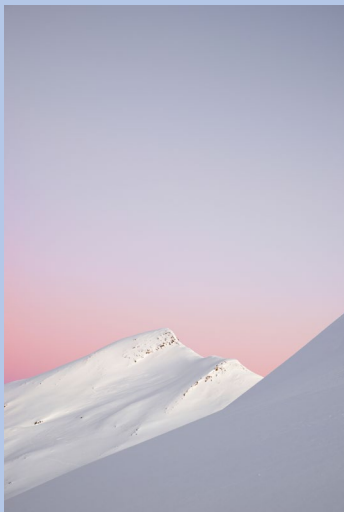
Club Meeting –
Deciduous Trees w/
Andrew Robson,
Lions Field, 6:30pm

April 11th & 12th

Workshops –
Kusamono w/
Andrew Robson,
Don B.'s house,
9am & 1:30pm

April 22nd

4th Wednesday
BYOT Workshop &
Progressive Bonsai
Study, Lions Field,
6:30pm



Monthly Tips, cont.

Julian Tsai, during his recent lecture for our society, reminded us how delicate new spring growth can be, so wire carefully to avoid scarring.

4. Fertilizing

Our Texas climate means bonsai often break dormancy early, so start a light feeding regimen as soon as buds swell:

- Use a balanced fertilizer (like 10-10-10) every two weeks.
- For flowering species like Crepe Myrtles, a bloom booster formula can encourage vibrant blossoms.

As noted by [Bonsai Empire](#), it's best to gradually increase feeding as the season progresses - too much fertilizer early on can lead to weak, leggy growth.

5. Watering

San Antonio springs can be unpredictable - warm days followed by cool fronts - so monitor your bonsai closely:

- **Water when the top layer of soil feels slightly dry** - avoid keeping roots constantly wet.
- **Humidity trays or misting** can help prevent dryness as temperatures rise.

Rob Kempinski has highlighted the importance of proper watering, especially for species like Ashe Junipers, which are accustomed to our region's drier conditions.

6. Guard Against Late Frosts

We all know Texas weather can surprise us. Stay alert for any late frosts and be ready to move your trees to a sheltered spot or cover them overnight if needed.

7. Pest Management

Spring means insects are waking up too. Keep an eye out for pests like aphids or spider mites, especially on your Junipers. A gentle spray of neem oil or insecticidal soap can prevent infestations before they start.

Regular inspection is your best defense — it's easier to stop a small infestation than to battle a full-blown pest problem.

Let's embrace the new beginnings of spring together! This season is a time for growth - both for our bonsai and for us as caretakers. With a little preparation, we can set our trees up for a year of health, beauty, and artistic expression.

For more bonsai care tips, check out these resources:

- [San Antonio Bonsai Society](#)
- [Austin Bonsai Society](#)
- [American Bonsai Society \(ABS\)](#)
- [Bonsai Empire](#)

We look forward to sharing more bonsai wisdom at our next meeting. Happy growing!



President's Message (cont.)

doing and is a great teacher). I also want to thank Ryan for leading the Bonsai 101 class, I believe there were 7 attendees. Both classes were popular, thank you members.

We are finalizing our convention registration form this month and will be sending it out April 18th (that's right around the corner for you planning types).

Vice-President's Message (cont.)

workshops you wish to attend by emailing Don at barkerbonsai@gmail.com. The workshops are held at: 316 W. Mulberry Ave. San Antonio, TX 78212. Please contact Don B. either by text or email to reserve your spot:

Cell: (210) 259-7209 Email: barkerbonsai@gmail.com. Payments will be received by Don B. and payments can be made by check, cash, Venmo, or Zelle.



Young Choe

Saturday, Mar. 29th

Ryan O will be presenting the art and history of bonsai while working on a nursery tree. The lecture/demonstration is from 10am to noon followed by an exhibit of bonsai trees from noon to 3pm. Free event to all. A lucky winner will receive Ryan's demo tree.



Registration Opens in
April 2025



San Antonio
Bonsai Society,
Inc. (SABS)

All correspondence
should be
addressed to:

San Antonio
Bonsai Society,
Inc.

27925 Bonn
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

Facebook: @sanantoniobonsai

Instagram: @sanantoniobonsai

YouTube: [Click Here!!](#)

Annual Membership Due:

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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