

ISSUE

02

A Publication  
of The San  
Antonio  
Bonsai

# SA Bonsai News

FEBRUARY  
2025

## Upcoming Bonsai Events

### February

#### February 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

Asian Festival,  
Rolling Oaks Mall,  
Noon - 5pm both  
days

#### February 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

BYOT Workshop w/  
Andrew Robson,  
Don B.'s house,  
9am & 1:30pm

#### February 8<sup>th</sup>

Yamadori Dig in  
Leaky, TX, \$10/pp,  
9am - 2pm

#### February 9<sup>th</sup>

Bald Cypress Work  
w/ Randy Bennett,  
Ryan's house, 9am  
& 1pm

Additional events  
listed on  
Page 5

Meetings held at the  
Lion's Field Center 2809  
Broadway, SATX 78209  
and/or Café College 131  
El Paso Street, SATX  
78204



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

### COME SEE US AT THE ASIAN FESTIVAL THIS WEEKEND

Hello Bonsai friends.

I hope everyone survived our first days of winter weather. (It's been said that San Antonio has no "winter", just a series of cold fronts) - that's certainly true. We kept our greenhouse at an acceptable temperature, I hope you did too.

Our first "progressive workshop" went over better than I imagined. I want to thank all of you who participated and took your new trees home. I also want to thank Jay for getting everyone a good head start on their future styling as well as Ryan and Carl for helping select the trees and deliver them to the workshop. If the first meeting is any indication, this will be a fantastic leaning opportunity for us all and a great way to increase bonsai sales next year. (I would imagine that some of the participants are going to want to keep their trees and not put them on the "open market"). See photos of our first meeting on page 3.

We had our first convention meeting of the year at the convention site in Corpus Christi on January the 25<sup>th</sup>. It went well and we had a good representation from SABS and an excellent representation from CC. The convention will start on September 18<sup>th</sup> and run thru the 21<sup>st</sup>.

The rooms (which are excellent) will cost \$110.00/night plus taxes, etc... We have three great headlining artist, Jonas Dupuich, Jennifer Price, and Mike Lane. There will be two workshops on Friday, two on Saturday, and one Sunday morning. We are estimating nine vendors to be present, five raffles to occur, and one auction on Saturday evening. (Start marking your calendars for this once-a-year Bonsai Party. The Holiday Inn Marina is a wonderful convention space. We expect more than 100 participants and if you've never been to a convention, this is a great opportunity to drive a couple of hours and spend some time with fellow Bonsai enthusiasts! Bring the family and spend a few more days and take them to the beach. Registration packets are anticipated to be released the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April.



## 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.,  
[millermillerlaw@aol.com](mailto:millermillerlaw@aol.com)

**Annual 2025 membership fees are due in before February 28<sup>th</sup>: Individual (\$30), Family (\$50), Senior (65+) Individual (\$25), or Senior (65+) Family (\$40). Please see Ryan at the meeting to pay or send your payment to Ryan Odegaard 25515 Stormy Rock, SATX 78255. Ryan can also text you SABS's Venmo QR Code.**

I have a collection of bonsai books. I rely on the experts (bonsai professionals) to help me navigate this wonderful hobby. Since it is winter-time, I will quote from one of my books. Colin Lewis, in his book *Bonsai Survival Manual*, states the following “conifers are active throughout the winter, but they generally have waxy coatings on the leaves which protect them against frost and reduced moisture loss. Deciduous trees, although dormant in winter, still need water to maintain life. All trees can lose moisture slowly through the bark, so if the roots are unable to take up water because they are frozen for long periods, the tree may suffer from the effects of drought. The main enemy of hardy trees in winter is not the temperature but the drying wind, so all hardy bonsai must be sheltered from wind at this time. Evergreens can be placed in the shelter of a wall or fence, or on the ground between the display benches. Deciduous trees, especially those with thick, fleshy roots such as Trident Maples and Chinese elms, will need some additional protection. Since Deciduous trees don't require light in the dormant season, they can even be stored in a dark garden shed or garage until the moment when the buds show signs of swelling”. Note, that all subtropical and tropical bonsai must be protected from temperatures below 45 degrees. For my bonsai, I am always very careful. They either go in a greenhouse environment or in the garage whether they are hardy bonsai, tropical bonsai, or subtropical bonsai when temperatures drop below 45 degrees. I will allow the Ficus outside once nighttime temperatures go over 45 degrees. Good luck everyone. I find winter to be the toughest time of year for my bonsai and it has been cold so far. I look forward to spring!

### Saturday, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

We are back at the Asian Festival after a 5-year hiatus. The Asian Festival has moved from the UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures to the Rolling Oaks Mall (6909 N Loop 1604, SATX 78247) and is now a 2-day event with both days from Noon to 5pm. Nearly the entire mall will be dedicated to the Asian Festival with tons of food, entertainment/ performances, Sumo wrestling, vendor shopping, and BONSAI!!!! **SABS will have 15 exhibit tables, an ongoing demonstration area, and a sales table.** In addition, various SABS members are providing short lectures on the Art and History of Bonsai. We will also have trees, shirts, tool bags, and other items to sell. Non-exhibiting volunteers welcome. See the Asian Festival ad on page 5.

*Vice-President's Message continued on Page 6.*

# Monthly Food/Bev. Host(s)

**February**

Pieter S. & Cherly B.

**March**

Kevin & Hattie P.

## Photos/Recognitions

First meeting of the Progressive Bonsai Study – finding the front and nebari.



20 trees were passed out including Abelia, Sage, Bottlebrush, & Myrtles

## Soil/Book Sale



Club Soil  
\$25/five gal.



APL Soil  
\$75/five gal.



Care Book \$30

Email Ryan O. at [bonsaiode@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaiode@gmail.com) for details or delivery to meetings

## A Bonsai Technique in Short – Proper Wire Twisting



Correctly twisted wires should be even and look something like this.



Uneven twists can apply pressure unevenly and weaken the wire.



When one wire wraps around the other, the wires may slip.

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

## Monthly Tips by Conrad G.

### The Art (and Responsibility) of Yamadori: Wild Bonsai Harvesting

Winter is here, and while some of us are curling up with a hot cup of tea and a good book, others are braving the crisp outdoors in search of the next star for their bonsai collection. Enter the fascinating world of yamadori! For the uninitiated, yamadori, or "mountain dug bonsai," is the art of harvesting wild trees to transform into stunning bonsai specimens. It's an adventure that combines exploration, horticulture, and a dash of treasure hunting!

Before you put on your hiking boots and grab a shovel, there are things to consider ensuring you're harvesting responsibly, legally, and with a conservationist's heart. Let's get right into it:

#### 1. Respect the Law (and Mother Nature!)

- **Ask First:** Whether you're on public or private land, always get permission before collecting. Trust us, nothing ruins a bonsai adventure like an unexpected encounter with the law.
- **Think Like an Ecologist:** Ask yourself, "What happens if I remove this tree?" Collect sparingly and be mindful of the local environment.

#### 2. Time It Right

- Timing is everything in bonsai, and yamadori is no exception. Late winter to early spring (just before bud break) or early fall (when root systems are actively growing) are prime seasons for collection. Bonus: You'll avoid those Texas winds and the blazing summer sun.

#### 3. Choose Wisely

- **Pick the Survivors:** Select healthy trees with good root systems. A stressed or diseased tree might not survive the transplant process—and no one wants a sad bonsai!
- **Envision the Future:** Look for trees with unique characteristics, natural movement, or interesting bark. Picture how they'll shine in your collection years from collection.

#### 4. Dig Smart

- **Bring the right tools for the job:** Spades, pruning shears, and burlap to wrap root balls. Dig carefully to minimize root damage. Your goal? A happy, healthy tree ready for its new bonsai life.



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#### Do you want to share your information on Bonsai?

If you have similar subjects or questions, you want SABS to research and possibly provide in an upcoming newsletter, please let Ryan know at [bonsaiode@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaiode@gmail.com).

## Bonsai Term(s) of the Month

### Vertical & Horizontal Leaves

Observing that many plants align their leaves vertically at night, Charles Darwin theorized that plants did so to keep warm; however, this theory was ridiculed by his counterparts and succeeding botanists throughout the years.

Re-examining this idea, Dr. James T. Enright (1932-2004) of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography has proven Darwin was right in a series of experiments in which he took plant leaves' temps. Horizontal leaves radiate more heat, thus getting colder at night than their vertical counterparts. It has been observed that vertical leaves grow faster and are fitter to survive [due to their temps.]

Separately, leaf temp has a direct effect on the biochemical reactions necessary for plant physiology. The leaf temp at which the max. net photosynthetic rate is reached falls in the range of 72–92°F.

## Upcoming Bonsai Events

### February

**February 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Club Meeting –  
Repotting  
Techniques w/  
David R. &  
individual repotting,  
Lions Field, 6:30pm

**February 26<sup>th</sup>**  
4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
BYOT Workshop &  
Progressive Bonsai  
Study, Lions Field,  
6:30pm

### March

**March 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Board Meeting,  
Lions Field, 5:45pm

**March 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Club Meeting –  
Kusamono w/  
Young Choe, Lions  
Field, 6:30pm

**March 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Workshop –  
Kusamono w/  
Young Choe, Don  
B.'s house, 9am &  
1:30pm

**March 26<sup>th</sup>**  
4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
BYOT Workshop &  
Progressive Bonsai  
Study, Lions Field,  
6:30pm

## Monthly Tips, cont.

- **Post-Dig TLC:** Once you've collected your treasure, pot it in suitable soil, water it gently, and shield it from harsh conditions. Think of it as a spa day for your new bonsai, but for the next few months until you see new growth.

### 5. Be a Conservation Hero

- **One or Two, Not Twenty:** Limit your haul to preserve the area's ecological balance. Quality over quantity is the name of the game.
- **Give Back:** Support conservation initiatives or even help replant in areas that need restoration.

### Why It Matters

Yamadori is more than just adding to your collection—it's a practice steeped in respect for nature and an appreciation for the artistry of bonsai. By following these tips, you're not just creating living art; you're contributing to the preservation of natural beauty for generations to come.

So, this winter, let your bonsai journey take you off the beaten path—but tread lightly, dig responsibly, and savor the adventure. Your next masterpiece might just be waiting in the wild!

### Hints for February by the late Richard Hayes

Watch watering as in January (unless we have a very early spring). You may still collect native materials up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week in February. You may start potting and repotting (if not already done so) of bonsai if they can be kept warm after such treatment. Do not let trimmed roots freeze should a cold front come through. Be sure to watch your deciduous trees because they need to be potted or repotted before leafing out. It could warm up this month and they might start leafing out early. One can never predict our weather!!! Get your soil mixes ready for repotting because the time is now.

2025 Boerne Yamadori



PRESENTED BY NÁ MAMO  
PRODUCED BY ALOHA EVENTS LLC & YUMICON

**SAN ANTONIO  
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## Vice-President's Message (cont.)

### Thursday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, Feb 8<sup>th</sup>

Barker Bonsai is hosting morning and afternoon workshops for Andrew Robson (Rakuyo: <https://www.rakuyobonsai.com/>) starting on Thursday (2/6) through Saturday (2/8). These are Bring Your Own Tree (BYOT) workshops, and you can bring up to 5 trees per workshop. The morning workshop will be from 9:00am to 12:00pm. The afternoon workshop will be from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. Each workshop is \$75pp, and you can reserve a space in any of the workshops you wish to attend by emailing Don at [barkerbonsai@gmail.com](mailto:barkerbonsai@gmail.com). The workshops are being held at: 316 W. Mulberry Ave. San Antonio, TX 78212. Pay Don at time of event.

### Saturday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>

We are heading back to Leaky, TX where we have access to parts of Laird's 500-acres fully of Ashe Junipers, Elms, Oaks, Persimmons, etc. Fee: \$10.00/pp. See here for more information: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AF2CA1FF2-46993296-2024>

### Sunday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>

Randy Bennett will be back at Ryan's house to any BC enthusiasts from Groups 1 and 2. We will have two sessions; 9am and 1pm. We plan to wrap up prior to the Super Bowl Game but may extend for those not interested in the game. Randy may be bringing additional trees to sell for those that want to get into the BC craze. Fee: approx. \$100-\$200/pp. See here for more information: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AF2CA1FF2-48704075-randy>

### Thursday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>

David R. is discussing proper repotting techniques for bonsai with a few tips and tricks to amaze you. Following his lecture, SABS is hosting a group repotting session. SABS will provide soil, wire, mesh for those wanting to get a start on repotting. Please keep SABS's generosity to 1-2 small trees/pots or one medium sized tree/pot. Please do not bring forest plantings, unless small.

### On Deck:

### Thursday, Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>

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

### Thursday, Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>

Young Choe will be back with us teaching and showing us how to make great looking kusamono displays.

### Saturday, Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>

Barker Bonsai is hosting morning and afternoon kusamono workshops for Young Choe (<https://www.kusamonochoe.com/>) starting on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. These are Bring Your Own Plants and Pots (BYOP&P) workshops. Barker Bonsai will provide the kusamono soils, wire, tools, etc. for each workshop, but you will need to bring lots of kusamono material and pots to work with. Morning workshops will be from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Afternoon workshops 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 \$50pp, and you can reserve a space in in any of the workshops you wish to attend by emailing Don at [barkerbonsai@gmail.com](mailto:barkerbonsai@gmail.com). The workshops are held at: 316 W. Mulberry Ave. San Antonio, TX 78212. Pay Don at time of event. The March 13<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup> workshops will be nurse crawls where we learn how to select material for kusamonos. You may buy your own materials.





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

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