

ISSUE

01

JANUARY
2025

A Publication
of The San
Antonio
Bonsai

SA Bonsai News

Upcoming Bonsai Events

January

January 9th

Club Meeting -
Yamadori Digging
Procedures and
After Care w/ Ryan
O., Lions Field,
6:30pm

January 25th

Yamadori Dig in
Boerne, TX, \$5/pp,
9am -2pm

January 22th

4th Wednesday
BYOT Workshop,
Lions Field, 6:30pm

February

February 1st & 2nd

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

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



In this issue...

President's Message P.1

Vice-President's Message P.2

Photos/Recognitions P.3

A Bonsai Technique in Short P.3

Monthly Tips P.4

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

Happy New Year!

Hopefully, you had a peaceful Christmas/Holiday Season and are ready for 2025.

I want to thank the previous board members for their contributions last year. Conrad took over for me last year due to my term limits and did a wonderful job. Now that I'm back, I get to keep the momentum he built up last year. (I should have retired and been a "SABS member at large, but..."). It will be difficult, but with the help of the remaining board members as well as the new ones it'll be a breeze.

We have an exciting year planned with Andrew Robson, Young Choe, our LSBF visiting artist, and one or two other surprise artists that still need to be worked out.

I'm also the raffle chairperson this year and will be on the lookout for donations to our club raffle as well as a lot of donations for our 2025 convention in Corpus this year.

We need about 6-10 items per member for the convention so **PLEASE** bring anything Bonsai or garden related to the meetings. I will also be needing raffle items for our club raffles too.

I believe Corpus has stopped having monthly raffles so they can stock up. Remember at a convention, the real money maker is the raffles. We will also be doing only 1 club auction which will be held later this year.

I also want to ask, demand, whatever you want to call it to sign up for our monthly refreshments. Hattie and I will be doing March, and we need you to help out the remaining 10 months. (I know there are 11 left but I'm not counting Christmas) So please help out the club, buddy up with someone and help out. We don't expect a 5-course meal, but chips, cookies, and soft drinks are fine. We normally have between 25-30 attendees at each meeting, and some of you haven't contributed but have enjoyed the fruits of others, so step up to the plate guys! (Pun intended).



Please Welcome our Newest Member(s)

None in December

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)



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)

Vice-President's Message

by Richard M.,
millermillerlaw@aol.com

I am honored to be the Vice President of the San Antonio Bonsai Society for this year. Since January is a slow time of year for our bonsai, I will give you a brief description of my bonsai experience.

I started in this hobby approximately 15 years ago. My love of nature and trees brought me to Jade Gardens in Wimberley Texas. When I saw the collection of bonsai there, I was in awe. Initially, I saw bonsai as a way to bring more and various kinds of trees into my world. As I began to study with the incredibly talented Chuck Ware, co-owner of Jade Gardens, my understanding of bonsai grew. Bonsai was not only a way to introduce more and various kinds of trees to my property, but it was also an incredible art form. I joined the San Antonio Bonsai Society a few years ago. As a result, my understanding of bonsai as a living art form has continued to grow as I meet and learn from the amazing and gifted professional bonsai artists that this club brings to San Antonio. Also, I met many talented members of this club as well as newbies to the hobby. I invite all members to immerse themselves in the coming year in all that this club has to offer, and you will find that your bonsai knowledge and skills will benefit greatly.

Annual 2025 membership fees are due in January: Individual (\$30), Family (\$50), Senior (65+) Individual (\$25), or Senior (65+) Family (\$40). Please see Ryan at the meeting to pay.

Thursday, Jan. 9th

At our January meeting, Ryan O. will provide a lecture on digging preparations and aftercare of the trees that members collect on the dig. Collecting trees in the wild for bonsai is really a lot of fun. His expertise in collecting trees will truly help all those that sign up for the upcoming digs in Boerne and Leaky, TX.

Saturday, Jan. 25th

We are back at Ed O's house in Boerne, TX (aka – Beekeeper Guy), where we will be collecting Ashe Junipers, Elms, Rocks, and other items. Fee: \$5.00/pp. See here for more information: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AF2CA1FF2-46993296-2024>

Saturday, Feb. 1st and 2nd

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/

Vice-President's Message continued on Page 6.

Monthly Food/Bev. Host(s)

January

Carl D.

February

Volunteers needed



Photos/Recognitions

Here are your 2025 Board Members:

Kevin P. – President & Raffle Chairperson, hattie1@gvtc.com

Richard M. – Vice President, millermlerlaw@aol.com

Carl D. – Secretary & Food Chairperson. mcdixon@satx.rr.com

Ryan O. – Treasurer, Social Media Editor, & Newsletter Editor, bonsaiode@gmail.com

Diane C. – Member at Large, klausm8@yahoo.com

Ricky R. – Member at Large, rickyruiz1995@yahoo.com

Bryan B. – Member at Large, brywen2@yahoo.com

Cheryl B. – Member at Large, cherylbarboza8@gmail.com

Penny B. – Member at Large, barboza5@att.net

Our Board is working on a few novel items for 2025, including:

- Bryan B. is outlining a mentor/mentee program where the Club will pair up individuals (mentee) with more knowledgeable or experienced members (mentor) in bonsai. The protégé will be able to ask questions or solicit comments on tree maintenance, bonsai techniques, etc. If interested in being either a mentor or protégé, please contact Bryan B.
- Kevin P. is spearheading an idea envisioned by Carl and Richard of a Progressive Study Group involving a group of participants wanting to enhance their knowledge and techniques of bonsai through monthly meetings (separate from Club or BYOT) while working on a tree. Each month is a new topic such as front selection, wiring, branch placement, apex formation, pot selection, etc. At the end of 1 year, participants may elect to purchase their tree, or the tree is used for Club fund raising. If you are interested in this study group, please contact Kevin.

Soil/Book Sale



Club Soil
\$25/five gal.



On Sale in January
\$65/five gal.

APL Soil
\$75/five gal.

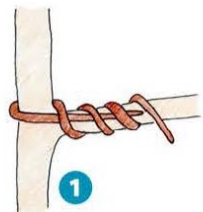


Care Book \$30

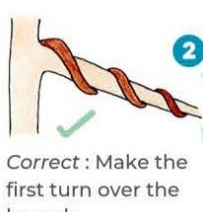
Email Ryan O. at bonsaiode@gmail.com for details or delivery to meetings

A Bonsai Technique in Short

WIRING BRANCH OF A BONSAI TREE



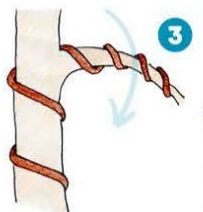
1
In case there is no place to secure the wire, secure the wire under the winding.



2
Correct: Make the first turn over the branch.



3
Incorrect: Do Not make the turn underneath the branch. Branch will break.



Start from down and take the wire over the branch when bending downwards.



Start from above and take the wire under the branch when bending upwards.

Monthly Tips by Ryan O.

2025 Challenges & Goals

As many of us reflect on changes/resolutions we can make in the new year, I bet many focus on typical goals such as those associated with health, religion, time management, work, family, happiness, and/or other personal goals. I wonder if you have considered adding bonsai-related goals/challenges.

Along your journey, remember that SABS has nearly 100 members, many of whom have 15, 20, and over 30 years of experience growing and maintaining bonsai collections. Feel free to reach out to any of them, as this journey does not need to be completed alone nor cost an arm and a Tokonoma pot... I mean leg!!!

Below are a few examples of goals/resolutions you may incorporate into your overall 2025 goals/resolutions. I hope you enact them and thus challenge yourself to a year-end goal of self-improvement and collection improvement.

Collection Goals

- **In-depth Species Knowledge:** Do not rely on one source for technical information about each tree species in a collection. Consider all sources of media (books, internet, videos) and personal resources of local gardeners, horticulturalists, and Club members. Knowing more about a particular species will significantly increase the tree's survival in our climate, keep you informed of growth habits, and assist with insect and disease identification/treatment. **BE YOUR OWN COLLECTION'S HORTICULTURIST!!!**
- **Pruning:** Instead of "race to the finish" pruning possible due to the substantial number of trees in your collection, step back and allow time for a more "methodical approach." Before pruning, thoroughly examine the bonsai to understand its current structure and identify areas that need attention, including deadwood, crossing branches, and poorly positioned foliage. For significant shaping, work in stages by first removing major branches that disrupt the desired design, then refine details with smaller cuts. Also, look for/identify visible buds and consider your research on the species to determine the direction of the new branches from the buds. Prune to produce bifurcation (division into two branches). Aim to maintain a balanced branch structure with proper spacing between branches, ensuring no single branch becomes dominant. Most importantly, always remember your chosen bonsai style while pruning, ensuring all cuts contribute to the overall aesthetic you want to achieve.

Redhawk
BONSAI



Cultivating Bonsai Since 1976

Nursery Floral Class 2 Lic #0822998

DAVID WHITAKER

Lone Star Bonsai Federation Artist
Lecture-Demos & Workshops

South Texas Bonsai Kai Founder
3rd Saturday of September

San Patricio, Texas
361-688-0109
redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

**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.

Bonsai Term(s) of the Month

Adding Technology to Bonsai

Here are a few examples of how technology is enhancing bonsai:

- **Water Management:** We now have digital and web-based watering timers, as well as watering control systems with soil meters to ensure proper water usage.

- **Light Management:** LED lighting that closely mimics the sun are used to provide additional lighting options on cloudy days or nights and can be automated.

- **Information Management:** Digital apps can now keep track of your information such as potting regiment, pricing, age, pots, etc.

- **Bonsai Management:** With AI advances we can monitor the health, pests, soil conditions, and growth patterns through cameras and other monitoring systems.

What technologies do you use? Let Ryan know.

Upcoming Bonsai Events

February

February 8th

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

February 9th

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

February 13th

Club Meeting –
Repotting
Techniques w/
David R. &
individual repotting,
Lions Field, 6:30pm

February 26th

4th Wednesday
BYOT Workshop,
Lions Field, 6:30pm



Monthly Tips, cont.

Pruning by to incorporate bifurcation techniques the to what you are pruning.

- **Wiring:** Great bonsai wiring is a technique that requires lots of patience, time, and practice. Before wiring any tree, practice wiring on dead twigs or even handles of shovels. Practice to achieve evenly spaced wiring and similar angles of approx. 45°-50°. Wrap the wire tight without too much pressure, but not so tight it bites into the bark. A loosely wrapped wire with gaps will not hold the position of the branch after bending. Wiring should also be applied based on the direction of the desired bend or said differently; if you wish to bend/twist a branch clockwise, curve the wire in the same direction and vice versa. When bending a branch up or down – think of opposites. Bending a branch down requires the first wrapping or turn of wire over the branch. When bending a branch upward, the wire begins from the bottom of the branch. Other wiring techniques include creating guy wires and using branch benders.
- **Personal:** Take time to learn, such as attending a community college lecture on horticulture and/or listening to other plant experts at local nurseries and seeing how their knowledge can be applied to your trees. Attend more SABS-sponsored workshops or the new and upcoming mentor/mentee program and Progressive Study Group. Take on a YouTube challenge (periodically, YouTube personalities challenge others to design a bonsai from scratch, such as landscapes, unique designs, and a \$50 bonsai challenge). Attend the Club-sponsored digging opportunities to challenge yourself to acquire and maintain a collected tree. All of this helps you to learn more about bonsai while having fun.

A great resource that prompted this article was watching the YouTube channel Growing Bonsai by Jelle Don't hold Yourself Back: Create Better Bonsai, released Dec. 14, 2024.



Vice-President's Message (cont.)

Saturday, Feb. 1st and 2nd

performances, Sumo wrestling, vendor shopping, and BONSAI!!!! A member of SABS will provide a small lecture 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 here for display sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AF2CA1FF2-54190172-2025>

Saturday, Feb. 8th

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. 9th

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. 13th

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. 13th

This Club meeting will be a Club Auction, or we will have Young Choe presenting with a workshop to follow. Club is finalizing the event.

Thursday, Mar. 13th

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



PRESENTED BY NA MAMO
PRODUCED BY ALOHA EVENTS LLC & YUMICON

**SAN ANTONIO
ASIAN NEW
YEAR FESTIVAL**
FEB 1-2, 2025
YEAR OF THE
SNAKE

KPOP RANDOM PLAY DANCE
COSPLAY CONTEST
MARTIAL ARTS
FOOD AND SHOPPING
CULTURAL PERFORMANCES
SUMO WRESTLING
ANIME DEALERS
ARTISTS
VOICE ACTORS

12-5pm at Rolling Oaks Mall
6909 N Loop 1604 E | San Antonio, TX

FREE ENTRY | FREE PARKING

AsianFestSA@gmail.com | @asianfestsa
Anime Vendors: info@yumicon.com | @YUMICON



A CORPUS CHRISTI & SAN ANTONIO BONSAI EVENT

LSBF 2025
**BONSAI
on the BAY**
FROM THE RIVER WALK TO THE BEACH

SAVE the DATE
September 18th-21st, 2025
Holiday Inn Corpus Christi Downtown Marina
707 N. Shoreline Blvd
Corpus Christi, TX 78401



2025 BONSAI CONVENTION FEATURED ARTISTS

Jennifer Price Mike Lane Jonas Dupuich

LSBF 2025
BONSAI on the BAY
FROM THE RIVER WALK TO THE BEACH



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

Advertising for SA Bonsai News is based on the minimum size of 3" by 2" for \$35 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, 27925 Bonn Mountain, San Antonio, Texas, 78260. For situations other than the above, please contact the Editor, bonsaiode@gmail.com. Original articles from SA Bonsai News may be reprinted only in their entirety. Full credit must be given the author and to SA Bonsai News.