

ISSUE

06

JUNE  
2024

A Publication  
of The San  
Antonio  
Bonsai

# SA Bonsai News

## Upcoming Bonsai Events

### June

June 13<sup>th</sup>

Club Meeting –  
Olives, Lion’s Field,  
6:30pm

June 15<sup>th</sup>

BYOT  
Workshop/Training  
at Café College,  
9am-1pm

June 29<sup>th</sup>

Convention Tree  
Repotting  
Workshop &  
Meeting, David’s  
House, 10am-4pm

### July

July 11<sup>th</sup>

Club Meeting – L/D  
with Mike Lane,  
Lion’s Field,  
6:30pm

Additional July  
events listed on  
Page 5

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



## In this issue...

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## President’s Message by Conrad Gamboa, [cgamboa013@gmail.com](mailto:cgamboa013@gmail.com)

Although summer hasn’t officially started, the heat and humidity have. I have a few things I want to address in this month’s letter to our SABS members, so grab a cool beverage (adult or otherwise), kick off your shoes, put on your outside clothes and Crocs, and grab a seat next to your favorite tree as you read this month’s issue of The SA Bonsai News!

I begin June’s newsletter by taking a moment to express gratitude and appreciation to all the courageous men and women who have served our country. There is no greater service than to give your time and life so that others may continue theirs. To all of those who serve, who have served, to all of those who have a spouse or children, or grandchildren who have served, and to my dad and all the moms and dads who are no longer with us but served to defend and maintain the liberties and freedoms that we have today. We Salute You! We Praise You! We Pray for You! I hope everyone had a terrific Memorial Day Weekend.

Now, on to the bonsai business! If you’ve been waiting for the perfect moment to dive into transplanting, root trimming, and caring for your tropical trees, the time is now! Remember to strike the delicate balance between watering and fertilizing - just enough to keep your trees thriving without drowning them (my wife tells me I overwater all the time, but I don’t believe her, and my trees are doing just fine).

By the way...Did you catch our May meeting featuring the talented Randy Bennett from LA? Randy treated us to an enlightening demonstration on caring for Bald Cypress trees, and even worked his magic on a stunning specimen raffled off to our lucky members, Willow and Joe Hoyt. Congratulations, and may your new tree bring you years of joy and growth! Randy also continued his instructional classes, guiding students in shaping their collected Bald Cypress trees. A huge thank you to Randy for his ongoing dedication to our club.

*President’s Message continued on Page 7.*



Please  
Welcome our  
Newest  
Member(s)

Manuel G.  
Kiesha G.

*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  
2024

5 years

Conrad, Joe,  
Gloria, &  
Veronica

10 years

Leydana

15 years

Evelyn, Roberto,  
Alberto, & Virgie

20+ years

Jay, Kevin,  
Hattie, Donna,  
Chuck, Pat,  
Alfred, David,  
Dawn, Paul, &  
Jack



## Vice-President's Message

by Gabe Hernandez,  
[gaberher@gmail.com](mailto:gaberher@gmail.com)

Is everyone enjoying the heat? I know the tropical trees are! Temperatures are above 70° so it's safe to repot those tropicals. Now is also a good time to repot, because that allows the rest of the year for the roots to grow healthy until winter, unless you have a greenhouse. After care is important, so make sure to place your tropicals in morning sun/shade for 2-3 weeks to let them recover if you repot.

With temps in the 90's you might want to protect your trees from the heat. Some members use 40% shade cloth, others use burlap around their pots or even white t-shirts! You can also water twice a day. I water in the mornings and then do my second watering in the afternoon. The second watering is more of a splash just to cool them off. However you decide when to water make sure to keep an eye on your leaves. They will tell you if they want more or less water. Try to avoid the afternoon sun, which is the hottest time of the day. My trees are shaded by the hottest time of the day.

I just want to remind everyone to take care of yourself with this heat! Stay hydrated and cool while you are out there caring for your trees! Wear hats, long sleeve and sunscreen if you plan to water and work outside.

### JUNE 13<sup>th</sup>

I'm excited for this month Lecture Demo! We will be having Brandon Baldauf of Hawk Eye Bonsai located in Austin! He will be working on an olive! Expect a repot, carving, styling and answering questions you might have! The tree will be raffled at the end of the night.

**BREAKING NEWS!!!** As a treat, Brandon will bring trees to sell! This will be your chance to purchase from his stock! He'll be bringing natives, tropicals and quirky bonsai!

He will be selling after the lecture demo! First come, first serve!

### JUNE 15<sup>th</sup>

BYOT WORKSHOP! Come to Cafe College from 9am-1pm to get help styling, repotting or have questions about your tree.

### ON DECK

### JULY 11<sup>th</sup>

We will be having artist Mike Lane from Kitsune Bonsai in Fort Meyers, Florida! He is best known for working on shohin and tropical trees! He began his bonsai journey at

*Vice-President's Message continued on Page 7.*



# Monthly Food/Bev. Hosts

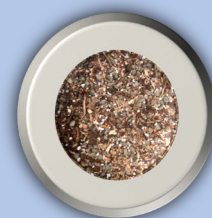
June

Irvin R. & Conrad G.

July

Bruce B. & Joe H.

## Soil/Book Sale



Club Soil  
\$25/five gal.



APL Soil  
\$75/five gal.



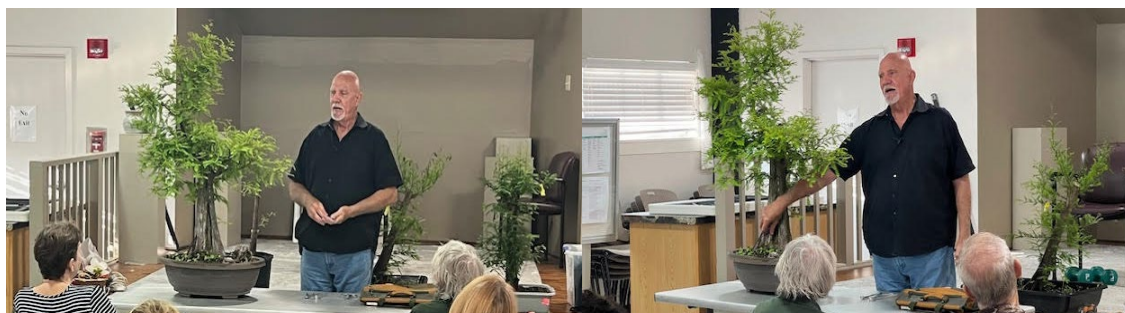
Care Book \$30

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



## Photos/Recognitions

If you missed the meeting on Bald Cypresses, here are a few pictures from the meeting. Joe H. was the luck raffle winner of this tree.



## Bonsai Funnies



## Monthly Tips by Ryan Odegaard, [bonsaiode@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaiode@gmail.com)

In a 2-part series, these articles cover common insects associated with maintaining bonsai in the San Antonio area. Troublesome or damaging insects are covered in this article, while beneficial insects are discussed in the July newsletter. Additional information can be found in the Bonsai Tree Care book authored by SABS members.

Bonsai, with its delicate beauty and meticulous care requirements, is not immune to the threat of insect pests. Our miniature trees, cultivated with patience and artistry, can fall victim to various insects that feed on their foliage, sap, and roots. Understanding the common pests that afflict bonsai and implementing effective management strategies is essential for maintaining the health and vitality of our cherished creations.

Several insect species pose a threat to bonsai trees, each with its distinct characteristics and mode of damage. Aphids, tiny sap-sucking insects, often congregate on tender shoots and undersides of leaves, causing distortion and discoloration. Scale insects, appearing as small, immobile bumps on stems and foliage, weaken bonsai by draining their sap. Spider mites, minuscule arachnids, weave fine webs on bonsai foliage while extracting plant fluids, leading to stippling and yellowing of leaves. Mealybugs, resembling fluffy white masses, can infest bonsai, particularly in hidden crevices, and compromise their vigor. Additionally, whiteflies and fungus gnats may plague bonsai, albeit with less direct damage.

Here are a few effective pest management strategies:

- **Regular Inspection:** Vigilance is paramount in pest management. Regularly inspect bonsai foliage, stems, and soil for signs of insect infestation. Early detection allows for prompt intervention, preventing pests from proliferating and causing extensive damage.
- **Cultural Practices:** Maintaining bonsai in optimal health through proper watering, fertilization, and pruning practices enhances their resilience against insect pests. Healthy trees are better equipped to withstand pest infestations and recover from damage.
- **Mechanical Control:** For larger insects like aphids and mealybugs, manually remove them from bonsai using a soft brush or a stream of water. Physical removal can effectively reduce pest populations, particularly in the early stages of infestation.
- **Organic Remedies:** Natural insecticides such as neem oil and insecticidal soaps offer effective control of many bonsai pests while minimizing harm to beneficial organisms and the environment. Diligently apply these remedies to affected bonsai parts, ensuring thorough coverage.

- **Biological Control:** Introducing predatory insects like ladybugs and lacewings can help control pest populations in bonsai ecosystems. These natural enemies prey on common bonsai pests, providing sustainable pest management solutions.
- **Horticultural Oils:** Horticultural oils, applied according to label

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

## Bonsai Term(s) of the Month

### Terms Heard in Workshops

#### Ichinoeda

- first branch from base of tree

#### Sabamiki

- part of a trunk damaged or split by nature

#### Sashieda

- directional branch, or show branch, that acts as the focal point

#### Keiseiso

- cambium

#### Karusu

- callus

#### Sokone

- bottom part of the root coming into view directly under the trunk

#### Shinsho

- current year's new growth of branches

#### Atama or Jushin

- head of the bonsai tree

#### Ushiroeda

- back branch

[https://bonsai.shikoku-np.co.jp/en/#google\\_vignette](https://bonsai.shikoku-np.co.jp/en/#google_vignette)



## Upcoming Bonsai Events

### July

#### July 12<sup>th</sup>

BYOT Workshops  
with Mike Lane.  
More info Coming  
soon

#### July 13<sup>th</sup>

BYOT  
Workshop/Training  
at Café College,  
9am-1pm

## Monthly Tips, cont.

instructions, can suffocate and disrupt the life cycles of insect pests, effectively managing infestations without leaving harmful residues. Neem Oil can defoliate and kill Elms and Buttonwoods.

Below is a list of common pests, causes, and treatments.

| Name                  | Description  | Causes   | Treatments   |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| Aphids                | 1/8 inch long & pear shaped. Can cluster on leaves/stems, sucking sap from plant. Reproduce quickly. May be green, black, & white.         | Wilted/weak leaves/branches. Leaves yellow/curl. Ants like aphids, so look for ants.   | Use an insecticide soap spray but may become re-infested. Chemical insecticide recommended if recurrence.              |
| Spider Mites          | Tiny arachnids cause damage by sucking sap from leaves. Moving black specs when foliage is shaken over a white piece of paper.             | Stippling, discoloration, & leaf drop. Brown/yellow spots on leaves. Produce fine webbing - often visible.                       | Use an insecticide soap spray. Chemical insecticide recommended if recurrence. May need to follow up 21-28 days later. |
| Mealybugs (tree/root) | Soft-bodied, white, waxy, & furry (cotton ball). Found under leaves/branches & leaf joints. Root species found within roots. Feeds on sap. | Stunted/weak growth, yellow/dead leaves. May cause black sooty mold.   |  |
| Thrips                | 1/16 inch long "worms with legs." May jump/fly when disturbed.   | Brown/yellow/black spots on leaves. Leaves a semi-transparent "slim" trail.  | Use an insecticide soap spray but may become re-infested. Chemical insecticide recommended if recurrence.              |
| Whiteflies            | Small, 2-winged flies. Able to over-winter. Feed on sap.   | Stunted growth, yellow/dead leaves. May cause black sooty mold.  |  |
| Ants                  | Narrow waist between abdomen & thorax with large heads. Over 10,000 species.   | May damage root structure by causing dry spots. Ants carry aphid's eggs. If you have ants, you might have aphids, too.           | Diatomaceous Earth, Sevin dust, insecticide soap spray, or chemical insecticide  |
| Fungus Gnats          | Small, flying insects. Larvae feed on the roots.   | More of a nuisance than a direct threat to bonsai. Causes damage & may lead to root rot.   | Diatomaceous Earth, insecticide soap spray, or chemical insecticide  |
| Leafminers            | Larval stage of many insects.  | Mottled/blotched leaves with zig-zag lines. Arborvitae & junipers that turn brownish in the winter also may signify leaf miners. | Use Neem Oil (do not use Neem Oil on Elms, Buttonwoods & Fukien Teas).   |
| Scale                 | Scale insects appear as small, flat, oval-shaped bumps on stems and leaves. Feed on plant sap.   | Tree becomes weak. Noticeable droppings. Wilting leaves.   | Hand removal. Chemical insecticide recommended if recurrence.  |

**SEE LAST PAGE OF PICTURES TO HELP IDENTIFY EACH INSECT**





|                 | APHID   | SPIDER MITE  | MEALYBUG  |
|-----------------|---|--|---|
| Identification  |    |    |    |
| Possible Damage |    |    |    |
|                 | THRIP   | WHITEFLY   | ANT   |
| Identification  |   |   |   |
| Possible Damage |  |  |  |
|                 | FUNGUS GNATS  | LEAFMINER  | SCALE   |
| Identification  |  |  |  |
| Possible Damage |  |  |  |



## President's Message (cont.)

In May, we also had the pleasure of participating in two outreach events. Hattie, Kevin, and Ryan showcased a bonsai display at Rainbow Gardens Center while spreading the SABS spirit and offering assistance with repotting plants. A warm welcome to our newest members, Manuel and Kiesha G., who were so taken with our team that they decided to join our ranks—welcome aboard!

Our second outreach event, “An Introduction into the Art of Bonsai,” held at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens, was a resounding success, thanks to the efforts of Jim, Donna, Gabriel and Veronica. Twenty-two eager learners transformed their Boxwoods into budding bonsai, and the event was such a hit that we’ve been invited back for a weekend exhibit in September. Stay tuned for more details!

As we move forward into the summer months, remember to take care of yourselves, stay hydrated, and protect against the sun’s rays. And while you’re tending to your bonsai, remember that the grass is not greener on the other side – it’s greener where YOU water it!

Thank you all for your continued support and participation. Our club thrives because of your dedication and passion. Until next time, keep nurturing nature and embracing the beauty of bonsai in all its forms!

Peace and happy bonsai-ing

## Vice-President's Message (cont.)

Wigerts Bonsai working under Erik Wigert! Mike will be having a lecture/demo and the tree will be raffled off at the end of the meeting!

### JULY 12<sup>th</sup>

Mike Lane will be having two bring your own tree workshops! You will be able to bring two trees to get help from Mike! This is a great opportunity for you to learn from Mike and build a connection with you, Mike and your tree! We will be sending out information to sign up for the workshops!

### REMINDERS

We would like two members to bring trees to display and talk about them so other members can see the progress you have made! New members are encouraged to participate.

## Other News

- SABS has a **YouTUBE** page now! Have you seen Gabe filing the latest L/Ds, well he has uploaded them to YouTube for us all to watch again. Use the link below to see our expanding media content. <https://www.youtube.com/@SanAntonioBonsaiSocietyI-ks9dp/videos>
- Don't forget to sign up to host snacks and beverages for our monthly meetings. We would like to have two members donate. Please get with Joe H. to find a date that works with you! SABS provides plates, plasticware, cups and ice!
- Feel free to bring old pots, books, or young trees you would like to donate for our raffles during the monthly meetings. We appreciate the help as it helps us raise money for future artists and events.
- **2025 Bonsai Convention Updates** – Kevin P. is now the Co-Chairmen representing SABS for the convention. Here are the additional chairpersons represented by SABS: Treasurer: Conrad G.; Secretary: Bruce B.; Exhibit: Carl D.; Registration: TBD; Raffles: Kevin P.; Workshops: Don B.; Food/Beverage: Pieter S.; Marketing: Chancey B.; and Goodie Bags: Jay N. The convention theme will be Windswept and Semi-cascade. A repotting of various materials for the convention will occur on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 10am at David's house ( ). Volunteers appreciated. Raffle items are also greatly appreciated.







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](https://www.facebook.com/sanantoniobonsai)**

**Instagram: [@sanantoniobonsai](https://www.instagram.com/sanantoniobonsai)**

**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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