



CORPUS CHRISTI

BONSAI CLUB

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The Corpus Christi Bonsai Club, Inc. was organized in 1976 and is a member of the Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Bonsai Clubs International and The Corpus Christi Area Garden Council Inc. Our club members are passionate about the art of bonsai and we strive to share our knowledge and skills with others. We organize regular meetings, workshops, and exhibitions to foster the love of bonsai in our community.

MAY MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 23RD - 6:00 P.M.

***Lecture: Bougainvillea* by David Whitaker**



**DAVID
WHITAKER'S
BOUGAINVILLEA**

Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month, January through October, at the South Texas Botanical Gardens. 8545 S. Staples St., Corpus Christi, TX 78413.

2024 Club Officers

President

David Whitaker

1st Vice President

A.J. Guzman

2nd Vice President

Wayne Helgerson

Secretary

Tom Andrews

Treasurer

Betty Whitt

Individual Membership is \$15.00 per year (students \$5.00). Membership for couples is \$20 per year. Dues are pro-rated for persons joining after May. Early payment of dues is appreciated.

SUBMISSIONS

Contact Gilbert Cantu at can2creative@gmail.com or call 361-946-4851 for submissions, articles, comments or suggestions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

- We will be handing out Turners 10% Discount cards and May's Club Meeting. Be sure to be there or be square!
- Club merchandise is available thru Gilbert's Little Jade Bonsai website: <https://www.littlejadebonsai.com/online-store>
- July 13th Touring Artist, Mike Lane, will be coming down and working on a beautiful Ficus to be raffled off





**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

JUNE

Thursday, 27th

Membership Meeting at STBG
6:00 p.m. *Club Fundraising
Auction.*

Sunday, 30th

1pm - Andy Graham: lecture and
workshop on Tropicals.

JULY

Saturday, 13th

*Guest Artist Mike Lane.
Location TBD.*

Thursday, 25th

Membership Meeting at STBG
6:00 p.m. *Lecture: Saikei tray
landscapes (Juan).*

Sunday, 28th

1pm - Workshop at STBG. Saikei
techniques with Juan Contreras.

AUGUST

Thursday, 22nd

Membership Meeting at STBG
6:00 p.m. *Lecture: Portulacaria
afra "dwarfjade" (Gilbert).*

Sunday, 25th

1pm - Workshop at STBG. Little
jade bonsai with Gilbert Cantu.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We had a really fun time in Houston at the Bonsai Clubs International convention. AJ, Gilbert, Liza, David O, and I had a blast at the international convention that was hosted by the Houston Bonsai Society, Lone Star Bonsai Federation and Bonsai Clubs International. We met members from all over the world, I rekindled old friendships and made new ones. We saw several artist and a couple of masters. The vendors were all top shelf, including our very own Gilbert.

I had the privilege to exhibit my 75+ year old Texas Ebony that I just re-styled to a fukinagashi (windswept), and 1 of my Fukien tea Saikei. The theme of the convention was "cascade", that I totally forgot so I came up with using 1 of my shohin cascades as my shitakusa (accent plant) in the display and that seem to make it balance out and come together.

May 23rd 4:30 Board Meeting; South Texas Botanical Gardens. All members are welcome, non-board members should remain quiet, please as we have lots to go over.

6:00 Monthly meeting. If someone wants to volunteer to bring snacks, we would enjoy them most graciously.

I will be giving a Lecture / Demo on bougainvillea, more specifically the "Pink Pixie" variety, which has been the oldest of the very few dwarf varieties. I will go over the care, what to look out for, as far as insects and watering needs, seasonal placement, propagation and training. The tree that I'll be working on was originally collected during the mid-90s from a house that was demolished

during the McArdle expansion. Me, and a few hard core "urban yamadori" collectors went knocking door to door seeking specimens we liked, lol nobody seem to care, they usually chuckled while we rubbed our hands together saying "oh-boy oh-boy oh-boy," when they said yes was ok to collect. This tree has been back in the ground for the last 2 years to build up the branching, until AJ helped me collect it yet again a few weeks ago, thanks AJ.

May 26th CANCELED In our "Calendar of events", shows that there is a workshop. This has been canceled as its Memorial Weekend.

CCBC President
David Whitaker | 361-688-0109



**DAVID'S EXHIBIT ENTRIES
AT THE HOUSTON CONVENTION**





VP'S MESSAGE

Spring is in full effect. What does that mean? Water, water, water! You should be watering daily or close to it (depending on how much sun your tree gets and what kind of soil you're using).

As we approach the 90's it's critical to protect your trees from extreme heat or direct sunlight for long periods of time. It's best for them to get part sun throughout the day and shade other parts of the day. For healthy trees be sure to be fertilizing frequently, whether it's a slow release like osmocote or biogold monthly or liquid miracle grow or medina hastagro weekly.

Growth will be more quicker so it's important to get your trees trimmed frequently to promote more ramification and tighter canopies. Now is your time for defoliation or hard pruning if your tree needs it but only after its shown signs of health. It's also repotting season for your

tropicals, should you need it.

It is extremely crucial you not only inspect for pests and bugs but apply pesticides to your trees. This weather is pest season so be prepared! I recommend a system insecticide. I use the one from Bonide. Dilute it in a 1gal sprayer and spray the whole tree and soil level for maximum effectiveness. I usually try and do this every month or 30-45 days.

Should you have any questions regarding tree care, fertilization, watering, styling, pesticides, fungicides, or wiring, please reach out to any of us or myself and I will be glad to help or point you in the right direction.

See you guys at this months meeting!

CCBC VP
AJ



AJ'S BALD CYPRESS FOREST

JUNE MONTHLY TIPS

Now that our overnight low temps are consistently staying above 70 to 75 degrees, it's safe to root prune/repot Texas Ebony, Anacua, Fiddlewood, Kidneywood, Colima and other south Texas natives. It is also time to repot tropicals and sub-tropicals. Remember that if your bonsai are blooming or have fruit, it's better to wait until they have stopped, too much stress from pushing nutrients from flowers to replacing trimmed roots is very stressful to the plant.

Keep an eye on your bonsai, you will need to protect your newly repotted plants from hi winds and heavy rains can wash away fresh soils too. 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 they will be a constant challenge, so inspect for insects and treat accordingly. Along with the rapid new growth, you will see an increase in bugs! 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 gets their 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. And our other beneficial insects and critters are kept safe from being poisoned. Lacewings and praying mantis are also great "pest control" that usually can be found at local nurseries. A regular fertilization schedule should be continued at this time of year.

A lot of bonsai books tell us that June is a good time to defoliate deciduous trees but, we have a summer dormancy during July through August into September. The best time to defoliate here is right after this as all our plants start to wake up after this heat dormant period, and really get new growth. Some even repot during this time too, me included.





PICTURES FROM THE CONVENTION

