



CORPUS CHRISTI

BONSAI CLUB

EST. 1976

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.

MARCH MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH - 6:00 P.M.

Lecture: Bonsai Soil + Repotting portulacaria afra for Convention by David & Gilbert

Using the right soil mixture for your Bonsai trees is crucial. Soil is important to supply your trees with nutrients, but it also needs to drain properly, provide enough aeration, and retain water. Most online Bonsai shops offer ready-mixed soils, but preparing a soil mixture yourself saves money, and gives control over the exact mixture for your particular tree species.



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.

Friendly Reminder!

Don't forget to pay your club dues if you havent paid them for 2024. :-)





UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

Saturday, 6th

8am - Big Bloom at South Texas Botanical Gardens

Thursday – Sunday, 25-28th

Lone Star Bonsai Federation Convention Show and Demo in Houston.

MAY

Thursday 23rd

Membership Meeting at STBG 6:00 p.m. Lecture: Bougainvillea Bonsai (David).

Sunday, 26th

1pm - Workshop Bougainvillea Bonsai STBG.

JUNE

Thursday, 27th

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

Sunday, 30th

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

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Members, this month has been very busy for us, we started off Saturday March 10th, with a small bonsai display and an open to the public workshop at the Texas State Museum of Asian Cultures. We had a pretty nice turn out with 10 people joining in the workshop, which we also recruited 3 new members. Please join in welcoming Teresa Youngblood, Rachael Mingus, and Ronnie Martinez. We had several people inquire about our club and I won't be surprised if we see them soon.

The meeting on March 28th will have Gilbert and me discussing various bonsai soils and the components used to make different types of soils. We'll have the 3-tree bald cypress forest from the March workshop for the raffle – yes we are doing raffles at the meetings again! Also, we'll be repotting some dwarf jades into nursery containers for the 2025 convention; these will be used for convention workshops. Also regarding the 2025 convention that CC and SA will be co-hosting, please check the signup link for any positions you would be interested in. --> <https://shorturl.at/juzX6>

Just a reminder there will not be a dig on March 31st, too late for digging trees now.

We have the Big Bloom on April 6th at the South Texas Botanical Gardens! CCBC will have two 10' x 10' areas, one for our tree display and another for selling. If you want to sell you'll need to bring a table and will be part of the \$50 fee being shared among the sellers. Sale trees must be *finished bonsai in bonsai pots*, they are being sold as an "art or craft", no nursery stock! Set up for the Big Bloom starts at 8:00am.

There will not be a meeting in April as we're having a state bonsai convention, on April 25th through 28th, Houston Bonsai Society is hosting the Bonsai Clubs International and Lone Star Bonsai Federation

--> <https://shorturl.at/hDGLV>

CCBC President
David Whitaker | 361-688-0109

VP'S MESSAGE

Spring is here! This is usually the busiest time of the year for us bonsai folks as the growing season begins. Fertilization can now begin thru the growing season, which here in South Texas is Spring - Fall. On most tropical's a granular slow release is good once a month and any form of liquid is good weekly. I use Osmocote on most of my trees monthly and use liquid Miracle-Grow or Medina's HastaGro weekly. One is a chemical fertilizer and the other is a organic. Also, please ramp up your watering if you haven't already. Don't underestimate the wind. That alone will dry out trees more frequently. This will all depend on what type of soil you have, how shallow your pot is and how much transpiration your tree's are doing. The more foliage your tree has, the more transpiration occurs. If you have trees in direct sunlight, keep in mind that the temperature of that area is much hotter than the outside temperature. I suggest you get a outside Bluetooth thermometer that shows you levels of heat. For example, outside might be 85F, but your bench outside that is getting direct sunlight

will be at 97F. Expect your trees to start push more growth at a rapid rate. I tend to let them grow wild a bit to gain strength and then start trimming back for ramification (more density).

Announcements/Reminders: We will not be having a April meeting. Lone Star Bonsai Federation's convention is April 25th-28th in Houston for any of those that want to attend. This is a great event to learn and see what the community is. Look forward to seeing anyone there! Turner's Gardenland is giving a 10% discount for all members!

Look forward to seeing everyone tomorrow at our club meeting as David & Gilbert talk about soils. Soil is a huge proponent to a successful and healthy tree. Feel free to bring any tree's you want to show or need help with! Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need help.

CCBC President
AJ





APRIL MONTHLY TIPS



Well, looks like the 3 days of winter is all we will received this season, and you can sure tell that the growing season is here, every tree and plant on our property is in full bloom! All my bonsai are growing like crazy, I've had to do a lot of pruning and pinching, it's a challenge to up keep with it. Everything is awake and growing! Wait to start repotting (bonsai term; for root-pruning and potting back using same pot), semi-tropicals we want to wait a couple of more weeks. A safe rule to remember, when root pruning/repotting South Texas natives and semi-tropicals is to wait until the lowest temperature of the night stays above 65 to 70 degrees. I and others have had success repotting at earlier dates in the season, when we do it we have to give it all the things it needs like the correct high and low temperatures every 24 hours, the correct light and humidity. It's the same way you treat an "indoor bonsai" during the winter...Well on second thought we might as well wait until that 65+ degrees" to be safe. Don't take too many risks. We really dislike losing a loved tree. Be patient, it's too early in the season to repot your tropicals too. Tropicals need to be repotted in mid-summer (Fukien tea, Bahamas Black Olive, Buttonwood). 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 a few days can also help brace the tree against the seasonal winds.

It's NOT recommended to re-pot any deciduous trees that you need to root prune. If you must re-pot due to problems with a tree, change the pot or repot it in larger container with fresh soil. DO NOT prune the roots. Deciduous trees have very tender roots during the growing season.

April can be a windy month for us, watch the soils every day so they do not dry out. As the heat increases so will the water needs. Inspect your bonsai from top to bottom, also inspect the drain

holes. Inspect for ANY and all insects and treat accordingly. If you discover an infestation treat according to the label of the pesticide. Until you get to know what insect attacks which plant/ tree species and get to know watering better, try to spray with insecticide and apply fungicide at least once every 4 weeks. When searching for insecticides and fungicides, look on the label for "safe for veggies, roses, fruit or nut trees" and will kill spider mites, these should be safe on our bonsai.

As I've mentioned in the past, "know your species". You should know the information of each and every type of plant you have! What it needs are as far as water, light (full sun exposure, shaded, morning only) placement through-out the seasons, is it tropical, is it deciduous, its max low and high temp it should be exposed to, when to & not to trim, when to repot, can it be defoliated, does it back bud, is the bud near the trunk or at the end of the branch, fertilizing, trimming, clipping, pinching, wiring... getting the picture?

Pretty much everybody's back yards are growing pretty vigorously by now, so do not forget to prune, pinch and also fertilize. When pinching back on most trees (except conifers) you want to pinch back to the second or third node of leaves to reduce leaf size and node length. Elm trees have alternating leaves and should be pinched down to the 2nd or 3rd leaf so it will grow back in the direction you'd want the branch to grow. Be sure to alternate the direction you pinch on different branches so all the branches don't end up growing into each other. As the two buds emerge, pinch back the one you don't want or is growing in the wrong direction. The sooner you pinch the young, tender emerging leaves the shorter the nodes will be, I've used tweezers to get the very tiny leaves. I read that the Japanese also use a magnifying glass to see the emerging leaves.

Please note that the information and repotting schedules are suggested guidelines for the Coastal Bend and South Texas area.



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
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MEMBERS TREES IN DEVELOPMENT

GILBERT CANTU'S PORTULACARIA AFRA ROOT OVER ROCK - 5 YEAR DEVELOPMENT

