

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

A publication of the Azalea City Bonsai Society Mobile, Alabama

APRIL 01 ACBS REGULAR MEETING DON CORLEY & JUNIPER BONSAI

Are Juniper bonsai easy to maintain. No! if you consider the fact that not one ACBS artist has a old Juniper bonsai that has been around for a long time. I have one but it looks "bad". Don Corley always has great looking Juniper. They have always been a favorite species for Don. His maintenance and growing routine has been published in our newsletter but for the April ACBS meeting Don will do a presentation so our members can ask questions and get answers.

Finding Juniper bonsai material is getting much more difficult every year. Knowing how to keep your bonsai healthy and happy is more important than ever. I encourage every member to attend this meeting with questions, pen and paper with any Juniper bonsai that you might need to get help with. If you have a good Juniper bonsai you would like to show please bring it and share with ACBS.
Joe Day

ACBS April 01
Regular Meeting
Mobile Botanical Gardens 7 P.M.
Program
Juniper Bonsai by Don Corley

Host: Bob and Yvonne Schwartz

Tokanoma; The Kunz

ACBS
May 6th ACBS Meeting
Trimming Workshop
Host: ACBS
Tokanoma: The Schwartz

ACBS
June 3rd ACBS Meeting
Insects and Disease
By
Patrick LaNasa
A new host and Tokanoma list will be created.

THE DAY OF BONSAI 08

It's over and done, only the memories of the fun remains. That is except for the money we made, the photographs we have and the new bonsai items we bought.
Over 50 people were on hand, a bit less than that were paying attendees.

We always have some bonsai people who come by for a few minutes to do a meet and greet with old friends. The thank you words were spoken to all and often because they were certainly sincere. Without the support of all the area bonsai artist from three states

It's not possible to do the Day of Bonsai and certainly not fun and interesting to present. Wish we could have an event like this every month but that's certainly not possible. We are already making plans for 09. Joe Day

THE SECOND CHANCE

Can you repot after new growth covers you bonsai? Yes— the risk are higher but it's possible. With very strong species like Elm and Trident Maple you can wait until new growth hardens off, defoliate and repot. If it's a species that is sensitive to root work a slight root reduction, cleaning off the top of the root mass is possible. Why do this? If you have a bonsai that is very root bound and water will stand of the surface a long time, that bonsai will be under stress all

summer. The root bound situation will promote root fungus. The key to raising the rate of success with late season repotting is the aftercare you give the plant. With strong or weak species they need to be placed in a shaded area, out of any wind. Root growth is best with only moist soil and no fertilizing until the first leaves harden off. If you clean the soil off the top of the root mass it will allow water to penetrate better. Always put a good fast draining soil back on top of the root

mass. The roots must grow well in this less than perfect situation. It becomes very important to tie down the bonsai so the new roots will not be disturbed.

Risk are a part of bonsai. They can not be avoided. Never do a "It seem like the thing to do at the moment" maintenance or styling job on your bonsai. Take you time. Pick the time and weather that gives your bonsai an advantage to do well. Read the next article. Joe Day

THE THIRD CHANCE

We have a strange period almost every Summer. Mid-Point of Summer July we can have a period of almost daily rain. The bonsai do a second Spring act. They begin to grow and push new buds. The morning sun turns to clouds about mid-day. The rain

comes about 2 P.M. bringing the temps down for the evening and night. The high humidity and lower temps favor good growth. During this time you can defoliate most species. Trim back hard on many species, repot things that are in danger of root rot.

Collecting is possible for those landscape bushes and small trees that "must" be dug or be lost to the dump.

Become a good student of the weather. Learn what conditions favor this season of rain so you know the risk you are taking.

Joe Day

THE LAST CHANCE

My bonsai looks very sick what do I do.

Sick bonsai are weak bonsai so strong medicine sprays are not a good thing. Most....bonsai problems are root problems. If you take your sick bonsai out of the old pot, wash off the roots is a gentle spray of water removing the old soil, If you see any dead

roots cut them off with a sharp pair of scissors. Always dip your scissors in a good Lysol bath after this work. Put the bonsai in a fast draining soil. About 80% lava rock or Turface or a combination of the two, about 40% each with 20% Pine bark. Tie the tree into the pot that you also cleaned very good with a soap, brush, Lysol then

more clean water wash. Take your time working the soil into the root mass. Don't jab, just gently work the shop stick around and let the soil settle into the root mass. Always cover the root mass completely with new soil. Not deeply just covered. Shade and no wind, no fertilizer and moist soil. Daily care to water if needed is a must. Joe Day

THE WEST MOBILE LIBRARY SHOW APRIL 19TH

The West Mobile Regional Library is located about 100 yards going west on Grelot just after you turn off University Blvd. It's located on the left side of Grelot Road. Large, new, clean, comfortable with plenty of parking it has proven to be an excellent place to show bonsai.

This will be a members show for all species, styles and sizes of bonsai. The bonsai should show up, show ready. Clean pots, trimmed with a nice pot landscape. Be certain it is free of disease or insects.

We will set up the display tables starting about 7 A.M.

the show will stay up until 6 P.M. We always have people that see the show, inform a friend, who wants to come by after work. Public show are our chance to gain new members. We need as many members as possible to come and spend time at the show to both provide security for the tree and talk with the public.

The public enjoys looking at all types of bonsai. Any bonsai with flowers will be a hit. Any Maple with it's leaves still red will be a big hit. I've never seen a bonsai that someone at the show didn't think was the best bonsai in the show.

The location is the West Mobile Regional Library on Grelot road.

The time is, set up 7 A. M. Show ready by 9. A.M. break down at 6 P.M.

We need any member bonsai that is clean, trimmed with a bonsai stand if possible.

Every member should be able to show two bonsai.

The library now has a snack bar in the library.

We need members who can spend time at the show. All day, a couple of hours it all helps.

Joe Day

THE REGIONAL SHOW AT PENSACOLA

The Pensacola Gulf Coast Bonsai Society will host the Tri-Cities Regional Show on April 26th at University Mall in front of Belk's. We will need a list of ACBS members that will attend and bring a bonsai to show. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend a day with a great bunch of bonsai

artist and shop at a good mall. University Mall is easy to find. Take I-10 to Pensacola. The Mall exit is the exit just past I-110. The exit is on the left as you approach I-110.

More than half the Pensacola society attended our Day of Bonsai. It would be nice to see a good group of ACBS members showing bonsai at

this regional show. Pensacola has a bunch of excellent places to eat. You could make a day of both enjoying the show, the mall and a wonder day of shopping.

The raffle of the Boxwood styled by Ben will be held that day and the winning ticket pulled. See the next article.

Joe Day

BIG BOXWOOD RAFFLE BY PENSACOLA

Two very large Boxwood said to be over 100 years old will be raffled at the Pensacola Tri-Cities Show. Ben Oki styled both Boxwood during his workshop in January. Either of the two Boxwood would make a great bonsai. The trunks are about 6 to 7 inches across.

I "Joe Day" will bring raffle tickets to the April ACBS meeting. The tickets are \$5. each. You don't have to be at

the Tri-Cities show to win.

For \$5 you can either have a Boxwood the will be a great bonsai or a piece of prized material that another bonsai artist would give you much more than \$5 for a chance to have a great Boxwood bonsai. The money will go to fund masters fees for the Pensacola society. Ben used his entire workshop styling these Boxwood. I have pictures of

the Boxwood. I will print out large pictures to show at the April ACBS meeting. Small Pic's in this newsletter would not do justice to these trees.

If you receive the new issue's of Bonsai Focus, the new "Bonsai Today magazine you will see the artist is Europe using Boxwood to create some beautiful bonsai.

Joe Day

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Dedicated to the art of bonsai

Turning the Corner

*It's late March. The morning air is chilly and the wind is blowing. The morning trimming session, with a cup of hot coffee, had to be cut a bit short as the fingers chilled down and began to become stiff. It is a normal morning for this time of the year. Cold morning turn into warm to hot afternoons. Maple bonsai should be trimmed back on the first two leaves as soon as the second set of leaves emerge. This stops the growth until the next set of leaves emerge from the buds. With a healthy Maple two sets of leaves will emerge. New growth starts the moment the sun hits the leaves in the morning. With a healthy Maple the growth is fast. Daily trimming is almost a must. Daily watering is a must. Those chilly, windy morning, low humidity and fast growth are a water hungry situation. Tender leaves are tender food for any chewing insect and there are many. The least harmful treatment is insecticidal soap. Look for leaves that are ragged on the edge. The insect probably isn't far away. Pines with the new candles are feeding places for very small worms that are the same color as the needle. They can chew a Pine quickly. Any of the worm killing dust or sprays seem to kill them quickly. It's best to treat the problem not the collection. If you check your bonsai daily you can spot the problem and fix it. If you have to treat every bonsai for every problem that can happen you use a lot of dangerous chemicals that long term exposure to humans is unknown. How do we know that long term exposure is unknown? Most of these chemicals were invented during our lifetime. The old joke has been the best way to kill a worm is two blocks of wood. Put the worm on one block and hit it with the other block. It might be a joke to some but in reality it is the best way, the safe way and the most effective way to kill any bug. **Joe Day***
