

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

A publication of the Azalea City Bonsai Society Mobile, Alabama

No July 08
Regular Meeting

For
ACBS

We will shift the
scheduled pro-
grams

The next
Newsletter will
go out late July
with the August
meeting infor-
mation.

INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL PATRICK LANASA

My almost every day this time of the year starts with a session I call my "Dawn Patrol." I watch the sun come up while the day is still cool, check for what bonsai need watering, and look for disease or insects. I always carry scissors for trimming the bonsai and the head from any worm I find. Every Spring I find worms I have never seen before, bugs that are not only shaped strange but are probably capable of killing my bonsai and what looks like disease damage from some unknown source.

You can never know enough about insect and disease control. It 's the internet and book and magazine articles that I read over and over again and take notes. We certainly welcome Patrick LaNasa from the Mississippi Gulf Coast Bonsai Society. His lecture will add to our knowledge of insect and disease problems. Our newest ACBS members will find this lecture a "must." Only live bonsai keep getting better.

Joe Day

ACBS

Regular June 3rd Meeting

Insect and Disease Control

By
Patrick LaNasa

Host : Marguivite Dukss

Tokanoma: Joe Day

ACBS
Will not have a
July Regular Meeting

ACBS August 5th
Regular meeting
Tropical Bonsai
By Russell Coker

ACBS DUES FOR THE JULY TO JUNE 09 YEAR ARE DUE

Please either send a check to the ACBS post office box listed on the back of this newsletter or pay our Treasurer Don Corley or Joe Kuhn at our June ACBS meeting. If you are paying with cash please put your name and address on a piece of paper

So the payment can be identified correctly. Bad backs and worse memories are a fixture in bonsai. President Joe Kuhn will have some membership applications on hand at the June Meeting . It would be best if you filled out a membership form to go along

With your membership money.

We have a very active July 08 to June 09 bonsai activities schedule. We would love to have each and every member on hand to enjoy all the events. Joe Day

MORNING WATERING OR EVENING WATERING

Morning watering is best. It's also the most difficult to do if you have a lot of bonsai to water. When you water deep in the morning hours you give your bonsai what should be enough moisture to keep them from stressing during the day. Morning watering keeps your bonsai pot cooler during the hot day. The soil will evaporate moisture during the heat of the day cooling the pot. It's a must to check your bonsai as soon as you arrive home from work or whatever it is that keeps you busy during the day. It's ok to water the bonsai that need more moisture to hold them overnight. Bonsai do dry at

night. It is normally a much slower rate of drying due to the lack of sunlight but at times we can have a slight wind blowing at night speeding the drying rate.

Don't confuse the leaves wilting down at the heat of the day with a need for watering. When you see the wilting and still feel moisture in the soil it indicates the plant is losing water from the foliage faster than it can be replaced. Move that bonsai to a area that has shade or dapple shade. That will slow the loss of water and allow the leaves to recover. If you add water to the already moist soil you will be encouraging soil fungus

growth.

If you have a bonsai in a small container that becomes dry quickly during the heat of the day you can help the situation by finding a pot that is at least 1/3 larger. Put some sifted Pine bark in the larger pot. Sit the smaller pot on the Pine bark and add more Pine bark around the smaller pot. This double pot insulated with moist Pine bark will keep the smaller pot cooler. This works great if you plan to be on vacation. The person that waters for you probably can't or won't take the time to keep your neediest plants watered as well as you would. Joe Day

INFORMATION, INFORMATION AND MORE STUFF CALLED INFORMATION

My information about bonsai when I started during the late 70's was limited to a few "old" books and BCI magazine. Not bad information but mostly very general information about creating and growing bonsai in climates that were very different than our Mobile, gulf coast area. Now we have five good magazines,

many books and the internet. The information is ...vast...That good and that's bad. It's an ocean of information that best serves an informed user. If I were a starting out bonsai artist I would try and stick to information from artist from the southern area of the USA and see what they are saying

about the species that are actually growing in your personal collection. Remember we are short winter, wet, hot with lots of sunshine. That makes information from some tropical areas, and some of the west coast information also good for us to study.

Joe Day

FEEDING THE TREE

You get 90% of your growth and development the first 60 days of Spring and Summer. Your Juniper, Pine and deciduous trees have their 60 days usually in April and May. The tropical plants in June and July when the night time temps stay above 60 degrees. This is when your trees under bonsai development need and use the most fertilizer. If you are using organic fertilizer it should be applied 60 days

before it is need. This give the organic time to break down into the soil and be used. After your bonsai are in full growth, the period after the first 60 days, they need a steady food source. With the increased heat it is a time of daily watering and most years frequent rain. This flushing the soil daily makes the use of only liquid fertilizers difficult. They are flushed before they can be effective. Osmo-

cote and other pelleted fertilizer are favored by some bonsai artist because it is made to release a bit of fertilizer with each watering. Organics work well. During the very hot months plants do not actively grow but they still feed to stay healthy. The period of daily rain that is a part of every gulf coast summer is difficult with bonsai. They need the fertilizer to stay healthy enough to fight off insects and disease. Joe Day

WHY ACBS LEAVES THE LIGHTS ON AND THE WELCOME MAT OUT

The road of life has it's twist and turns and we manage those but the sharp turns, detours and dead ends of life take their toll on ACBS membership every year. We hate to loose anyone but that we do is just the reality of life. New members keep ACBS alive and in a large part bring with them renewed interest , idea's and resources.

The only thing you have to bring to ACBS to be a member is , to have an interest in the art of bonsai. Everyone proceeds in bonsai at a different rate. The types of bonsai are almost endless. The size of a bonsai collection is only set by

the desire of the individual artist. Our last show certainly reflected the diversity of bonsai. Every bonsai in the show reflected the personality of the artist. Some large, some small, different species, styles and types of bonsai containers. The ability to be "your own artist" in bonsai is very strong. The art of bonsai allows individual artist to produce very diverse bonsai and still be very good artist.

ACBS meeting are all similar. We have a short business meeting, a educational program, snacks and a chance to talk with other bonsai artist. Members take turns providing the snacks. Some, probably

most members come to a meeting directly from work. A cold drink and a snack is "supper." Members will seldom be ask to be the host more than once in any 12 month period. Members providing the refreshments allows ACBS to spend it's money to bring pay rents on meeting locations, buy bonsai show supplies and pay to bring in teaching artist. The Tokanoma is just bringing a bonsai or a plant that you are work with to create a bonsai to the ACBS meeting and telling the membership what you are doing. It's fun and always informative to the membership. Joe Day

CUT, TRIM, PRUNE, REMOVE

Most of the quality time you will spend with your bonsai will be watering. The next, most repeated procedure will be cutting on your bonsai. Pruning in a necessary function during all stages of bonsai creation. Detailed information about how to make cuts, how to seal them and how to best cause the cuts to heal is

not what most bonsai articles in magazines and books cover. Newsletters don't have the space to cover this topic in depth so...we will build a program that will be presented later this year at an ACBS regular meeting. For the remainder of the Summer months keep all cuts sealed with a bonsai sealer. Keep the

moss and fungus growth off the cut area. Good healthy growth will create callus tissue. When you made the cut, how you made the cut, where you made the cut and how and when you sealed the cut will make a difference of how fast the cut actually heals.

More about this at the program. Joe Day

BE QUICK TO REACT

If your bonsai is wilting now before the hot, dry summer days are here, up pot it without disturbing the roots, move it to less sun or put a mulch on the top of the container. If the water stands on the top of the container, gently push a rod something thin into the soil to create water channels to allow water to get down and out quicker. If the leaves are slow to green up and staying that green/yellow shade

spray the foliage with a good trace mineral spray. If you see one dead small branch on a Juniper, or it looks kind of gray check for spider mites immediately. Treat, treat, and treat again. If you have a bonsai that is in a small container you will need to keep the container from heating up too much under the glare of the summer sun. Move it to a more shaded area. Some times just moving it between

two larger pots, allowing the shade of the larger pots to keep the smaller pot cooler will solve the problem. Summer watering is always water until you see water running out the bottom of the container. Water again when you actually ..by feeling the soil.. know the pot is drying . Try this, after a good long rain go out and pick up the pots, check out how heavy they are. Pick them up dry. With a bit of memory work it's a good way to know when to water. Joe

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Dedicated to the art of bonsai

Transcending Space and Time

The long ribbon of road stretches westward. A dip, a sway, a few turns and a tank of nearly four dollar gas takes you to the off ramp and a place called Lake Charles, Louisiana. Mobile, Lake Charles, you wouldn't know the difference if someone dropped you off and didn't tell you where you were. Something about all the gas stations, fast food and retail stores looking identical and having the same names, Wal-Mart, McDonalds, Wendy's and on and on. Alan Walker my host lives in a new, 1860's Victorian in a neighborhood that is Mobile's nice mid-town. Over a bump around the block or two and you are at the university where the workshops are held. Great place, chalk boards, pull down screens, chairs and vending machines, all handy. Everything you need except for the bonsai people. The Lake Charles bonsai society always turns out a nice group of bonsai artist every time I visit. Like most bonsai people in general and Louisiana people, almost always, they are fun to be around. Alan and his wife took Xuan and I to a great restaurant on the lake that has wonderful seafood, a great view and very good coffee.

What has this got to do with all of you. Just a reminder that bonsai is actually the bonsai experience. Not just growing little trees in pots on a bench in he back yard. It's shows, meetings, teaching, visiting and spending time with people who share a common thread with your life. In a world filled with hucksters, hicks, cranks and other less than wholesome characters the chance to spend time in a nice place, with nice people makes up about half the good reasons to be a bonsai artist.

Joe Day
