

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

No July 07 Newsletter.

A publication of the Azalea City Bonsai Society Mobile, Alabama

BALD CYPRESS BONSAI BY JOHN LEE

**ACBS
Dues
Are Due
\$25.00**

Single or family

You can give you dues to our Treasurer Don Corley or President Joe Kuhn at the August meeting or Mail a check to the ACBS Post Office box. P.O. Box 9591 Mobile, Al 36691

Bald Cypress is one of the few tree species that actually matures in its natural setting to look like a bonsai style. A drive into a Bald Cypress growing area will reveal many old beautiful Bald Cypress that have a natural shape that could make a beautiful bonsai that would enhance any bonsai collection.

John Lee will share his experience growing and developing Bald Cypress. Any success in having a great old bonsai in any collection depends on the ability to keep the species alive and healthy over many years. The best information about any species will come from someone in your area who has hands on experience with a species.

Bring pen and paper to take notes. If you have a Bald Cypress and would like to receive some advice from a local artist who understands the species bring it to the August ACBS meeting.

Joe Day

Azalea City Bonsai Society

August 02

Regular Meeting

Mobile Botanical Gardens

Bald Cypress Bonsai

By

John Lee

7 P.M

Host: Joe Day

Tokenoma: Leo Fortner

September 06, 07

ACBS Regular Meeting

Members Show and Tell

Bring a bonsai and tell us about it.

Host: Carla Moon

Tokenoma : Joe Day

October 02, 07

ACBS Regular Meeting

Bonsai Horticultural

Management by Joe Day

How to grow and develop the most used species in our area.

A new host list will be set up at the August meeting.

JIM VANLANDINGHAM WORKSHOP REVIEW

What a nice guy and excellent bonsai teacher. Mother nature took out the air conditioning unit at the Garden Center so one of the ACBS founding members, Mrs. Barbara Britton welcomed us into her house and large sun room to have a great workshop-party.

Jim builds a bonsai from the inside out. His focus is, getting the core, roots, trunk, taper and branch placement correct and then build on these elements. This prevents the artist from having to make major corrections during later years when it becomes much more

difficult and time consuming. Thanks to our great ACBS membership we had a excellent turnout, great workshop trees and plenty of food. Don't you just love it when a great thing comes together.

Joe Day

AUGUST, THE SWING MONTH

August can be hot and dry, hot and wet, hurricane and hell. It isn't a good month to do any heavy work on any species I know about. Tropical defoliation done in July will usually use the month of August to fill back out nicely. August rains will very much help the process but regular care will make it happen.

August is the swing month. If the weather bring hot and regular rain it will set up all your bonsai for a very productive September, October growing period. If it's hot and dry you will get some but not much growth as Summer fades and cooler Fall weather

comes to your bonsai area. I add some organic fertilizer to my bonsai containers around the first week of August. It takes 6 weeks for organic fertilizer to break down and be taken up by a plant. This sets up a good growing condition for early September. Any semi-tropical species, Trident Maple, Azalea, Camellia, will be harmed if they have soft new growth when the first below 40 degrees weather hits. With our new, nothing normal, weather this can happen anytime from early September. If you are fairly new to bonsai and not sure how your species will react to bonsai procedures, now is the

time to sit back and just keep them watered, check for insects or disease and wait for the time when the leaves turn and fall off. When that happens in our area you can start your hard trimming, putting wire on the trees and replacing the old soil with new soil. If you are an old hand and know how each species reacts to the work and weather you can use the next 6 weeks to make some progress on some species. It's a time to let hard knowledge not a desire -to just work on a tree-guide you.

Joe Day

THE ROCK CAME FROM?

From the early days when almost everything in bonsai was new the sight of a rock in a bonsai pot, a rock that was just sitting there, made me ask questions. 27 years have past and I still have no answer. Every person, every time I ask the question, I got the same answer "I just put it in there but not for any reason".

I have a small collection of rocks under my bonsai benches. I also have grandchildren. As I walk around my bonsai, daily, I some times find a small rock just sitting in a bonsai pot. This also happened when my children were growing up. They all, when questioned about "did you put a rock in the bonsai pot,

always answer "no" and look at me as if I were a bit crazy. I still visit back yards and bonsai collections. I still find bonsai with a rock sitting some where in the container. I still ask "what the rock for" and I still get the same answer "a shrug of the shoulders and the same, I just put it in there"

Joe Day

LOUISIANA DAY OF BONSAI REVIEW

I, Joe Day was ask to be a speaker at the Louisiana Day of Bonsai Event held in Lafayette Louisiana. It was a great event. The location was a church meeting hall, easy to park, easy to enter. The room had great lighting, the lunch was fixed by a Cajun chef, the display of bonsai was nicely set up and about 75 bonsai artist from all over Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama attended. The Lafayette Bonsai

Society certainly did a great job of setting this event up. Xuan and I had to leave early to make it back to Mobile but I understand the event continued with a evening home tour of the collection of Johnny Hargrove. I hated to miss a chance to see Johnny's collection and the chance to talk with all the great artist from Louisiana. I believe Louisiana still has 7 bonsai societies. The Day of

Bonsai event is hosted by a different Louisiana bonsai society each year. This is a great system that allows the work and fun of a Day of Bonsai to be spread among a group of bonsai societies.

I have attended lots of bonsai events but never one that I enjoyed more than this event. Again, Congratulations to the Lafayette Bonsai Society and Louisiana bonsai artist.

Joe Day

THE ACBS BOARD MEETING

Joe Kuhn, Carla Moon, Leo Fortner and Joe Day were present at the ACBS board meeting. The decisions made include. A list will be sent around to sign up for hosting duties at the August meeting.

August- Bald Cypress by John Lee, Host: Joe Day, Tokanoma: Leo Fortner

September- Members bonsai show and tell, Host: Carla Moon, Tokanoma: Joe Day

October- Bonsai Horticultural Management by Joe Day,

November- Bonsai Container for growing and developing bonsai.

January-08 Ben Oki workshop

February-08 About bonsai soil by Joe Kuhn

March-08 Members bonsai workshop

April-08 Juniper Bonsai by Don Corley

May-08 Bonsai trimming workshop

June-08 Insect and Disease control by Patrick LaNasa

July-08 Critique of members bonsai under development

August-08 Tropical Bonsai by Russell Coker

September-08 Bonsai stands by Leo Fortner

October-08 How to wire- a

guided workshop to help members become more adept at this task.

November-08 Pots for bonsai show trees by Russell Coker

December-08 Christmas Dinner meeting.

We will ask our newer members to take on the privilege of teaching a program. The first program available is February of 09 giving our newer members plenty of time to set up a nice program.

Joe Day

ACBS BONSAI SPECIAL EVENTS

The dates for the listed events are the dates we desire . The dates can not be set at this time. Our event locations will not allow reservations to be made this far in advance.

ACBS Fall Auction- October 20 or 27 October.

ACBS Library Show-19/26 April 08

ACBS Day of Bonsai-22/29 March 08

ACBS Summer Social. No location or date as of now . We will need a member of ACBS to host the Summer Social . The date we will be set to accommodate the host. The listed events are our traditional events that we have held every year. We will add

events from time to time when we have an opportunity to advance the art of bonsai.

We will receive the list of Bonsai Societies of Florida visiting masters some time in the early Fall . We will be able to select the bonsai teacher or teachers we desire at that time.

Joe Day

THE FIRST 20 MINUTES

The first 20 minutes of every ACBS meeting will be dedicated to a members show and tell, show and ask advice or show and sell. If you have a bonsai, pre-bonsai or nursery stock that you want develop, or sell bring it along to the meeting. Bonsai is about bonsai plants and bonsai idea's. The mix of plants, idea's and hard work make up every bonsai. This first 20 will start at exactly 7 P.M. and

end 20 minutes after 7 P.M. Working with and on bonsai is fun but we will have to get on with the normal meeting items.

If you are selling an item ACBS assumes no responsibility . The sale is strictly between the seller and buyer. Good personal policy would be "only cash sales" but that's up to the seller. Allowing sales at meeting is intended to help everyone with

their bonsai needs as we have no local retail bonsai outlets.

ACBS meeting will begin at 7 P.M. the first 20 will be dedicated to the show and tell / sell. We will have a 15 minute break with refreshments, a short business meeting then we will have the main program for the evening. We expect meeting will end at 9 P.M.

Any questions? Ask the question at the August meeting.

Azalea City Bonsai Society

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Dedicated to the art of bonsai



EndBegin

I didn't put a space between End and Begin because in the real world the end of the ACBS year and the beginning of the next year has no space. Bonsai is daily in our climate. Planning, writing, setting up events, starts months before the time we sit down and decide what will make up the next year. Every year the membership of ACBS shifts. The mixture between bonsai artist who have been around forever and ACBS members who are fairly new shifts. The programs for ACBS must shift to include more "how to" programs that we hope will help get members off to a life time enjoyment of bonsai. ACBS is lucky to have a group of talented members who can present high quality programs that are both entertaining and informative to all. We keep our current staff of ACBS officers for the 07 and 08 July to June ACBS year. Serving as an officer is both a burden and a joy, that shifts with the pull of life each day. Our current President Joe Kuhn is trying to stuff about 30 hours of demands into a 24 hour day. We have put together what should be a very fun year of activities for ACBS. The programs, events and activities are now set. The best way to make a journey smooth is to know where you are going, have time to set it up, prepare for any problems, and be ready to go when it's time to go. Don Corley is currently photographing for a program that's many months away. Other members are setting up programs for later in 07 and 08. When you attend a meeting and enjoy a program, take time to compliment the artist who presented the program. It means a lot to those who take the time to put it all together.

Joe Day
