

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

A publication of the Azalea City Bonsai Society Mobile, Alabama

BONSAI COLLECTION MANAGEMENT BY JOE DAY

**ACBS
FALL
AUCTION
OCT. 21
St.Lukes
School
View: 5P.M
Auction
At 6:P.M.**

You can have bonsai as a casual hobby but you can not build a collection of good bonsai without some type of management system in place. Most people have a bit of management but with few rules and those are not often kept.

Bonsai management is broad based covering a lot of areas. The goal of bonsai management is first, to create a serious bonsai collection consisting of healthy trees. Second, to integrate bonsai care into the daily routine of life.

Bonsai management will be different for everyone but the rules and routines can be used by everyone.
Joe Day

**ACBS
OCTOBER 3rd
Regular meeting 7P.M.
Mobile Botanical Gardens
Bonsai Collection Management
By Joe Day
Host: Leo Fortner
Tokanoma: Joe Day**

**ACBS
NOVEMBER 7th MEETING
Wiring
by Russell Coker
Host: Don Corley
Tokanoma: Leo Fortner**

**December 5th
ACBS
Christmas Dinner
Meeting
Members Covered Dish**

THE PENSACOLA BONSAI SOCIETY PLANT SALE

Xuan and I made the trip over to the PGCBS plant sale at Larry and Jean Jongewaard,s farm. Hot coffee, drinks and sweets were on hand along with a nice selection of nursery plants suitable for bonsai. Some jewels some that would take some talent and work

But not a bad plant in the group. Nice to see Larry doing well and Jean looking her normal smiling self. I brought home a great Japanese Maple and a very good Wisteria from the sale. I talked Larry into parting with a Yew that will live this far south. This was a

Species that I had wanted for a long time. Sure I could have lived without more trees but these will certainly make next Spring a bit more interesting. A trip to a great Vietnamese restaurant after the sale made the trip just great.
Joe Day

DON'T LET THE GREAT DAYS FOOL YOU

Fall is here as a calendar affair but not so much a reality. Today was hot, muggy, misty very summer-ish. The cool days will arrive with low humidity and a bit of breeze making the urge to get out in the bonsai area and so some real work but Azalea and Camellia certainly don't like to be worked on as winter creeps near. Most deciduous species will flush new growth if they are pruned hard just in time to be harmed with the first freeze so take care not to prune too much and create a problem. Low nitrogen fertilizer is the one to use now. It will not promote a lot of new growth. The first number in a

13-13-13 fertilizer is the nitrogen amount. If you are using a chemical fertilizer for Fall fertilizing keep the first number as low as possible. You can find something like 5-15-15 that would be ok. The last two numbers are elements that help build strong cell growth keeping the plant healthy for winter. If your Juniper are still putting on light green growth hard wiring and hard bending could slip the bark and kill a branch. Best to let them have some cold weather and stop all green growth before any hard work. It is a good time to clean up your jin and shari , apply some new lime sulphur

taking care not to let it drip into the soil. Pull all weeds from your pots. Remove any wire that has began to get tight on the branches. Branches can swell in winter and get wire marks or you will forget the wire is on a tree, Spring will push a flush of new growth, hide the wire and ruin the bonsai before you notice the problem. If you have a bonsai that has pushed out a lot of new leaves unless we get a very early freeze they should harden off just fine if we get our normal first freeze late November or middle of December. Joe Day

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

AUCTION ITEMS

Plants, pots, tools, soil, wire, books, magazines, cakes, cookies, wine, flowers in pots, landscape plants, house plants, pictures, cigar boxes, candy, art supplies, fertilizer, insecticides, plastic drink cases, bonsai stands, flower vases, wood grow boxes, Pans of moss, 5 gallon plastic buckets, calendars, accent plants,

The only thing not to bring is plants with disease or insects in the pot. Plants that are more dead than alive.

ACBS members will be at ST Lukes from 3:30 until the end of the auction. You can bring your donations any time before 5 P.M. The viewing begins at 5 P.M. so all the donations need to be on the tables

with numbers on the item. If an item can be used in any way to do bonsai ,to eat , or just to enjoy it's a good auction item. It 's a fun night so invite a friend or neighbor. Leave you pets at home. They can't bid or do bonsai so they wouldn't enjoy the night. Refreshments will be available.

Joe Day

HOW YOU CAN HELP AT THE ACBS AUCTION

ACBS will need members to help set up as donations arrive at ST Lukes. We will need members to move plants off the tables and on the auction stand, then over to the purchased items area. Some members will be needed to help clean up after the auction. None of these jobs are difficult but they don't need to be done with the same few members. Home made cake, brownies and cookies are

always welcomed on the refreshment table. We will need one member to help keep the coffee made and the refreshment area neat.

The funds we raise at the auction pay for our masters, rent on our meeting place, rent for the Day of Bonsai and rent for the Auction location, refreshments at the summer social, Christmas dinner and the auction. The funds also pay for our show display re-

pairs. A lack of money would bring a reduction of events. The cost of "everything" increases each year. If everyone pitches in with donations and help and the weather doesn't become the topic of the day we should have another great auction. All the auction in the past have been fun events that brought us the needed funds to operate and pay for our ACBS events.

Joe Day

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU SEE BUT HOW YOU SEE

Building a bonsai at any stage requires the builder to be able to see the completed design in their mind, add or subtract elements that are needed or not needed. This skill is born with some people, learned over time with some people and impossible for some people.

When you are new at bonsai you can have this skill but not the experience to use it with bonsai. Thanks to the internet, books on bonsai at the library, magazines and bonsai show and bonsai meeting learning how to see bonsai is easier than ever.

Working with a experienced

bonsai artist and asking lots and lots of questions like, why do you do that, could you do this, is this possible, what happens if you do this is a great way to develop a great eye for design. You can ask these question about any bonsai at any stage of development.

Drawing, even a very simple drawing is one of the best ways to develop a great eye for bonsai. Now many people can draw fast so it tends to make you slow down the thinking process, think in a logical manner, moving from one point to another and thinking about how you get there. When you draw you

can add, subtract, move elements with ease. You can't kill a drawing so it's very plant friendly.

It takes a bit of time, talent, a computer and a good photo program but digital design is a great way to play "what if" and it is also the most accurate. You use a photograph of tree so the size and shape are true. This is also a lot of fun. You can print out the designs and have a blueprint of to follow. It's not as much fun as working on a real bonsai butalmost.

Knowing where you want to go helps a lot. Joe Day

TIPS ON MAKING MOSS FOR SPRING

Find some good velvet moss. Our sidewalks around town usually have a nice velvet moss. Dig it with care to get some nice lumps. Take the lumps home. Put the lumps between some clear wrap. Take a rolling pin and press down hard and roll the moss out as thin as you can get it. It should expand several

times it's original size. Place the moss in a pan of rich potting mix type soil. Space out the moss with some space between the new thin pieces. Over the winter the moss should cover the total surface of the pan. Don't be shy with the space between the thin pieces. Allow it space to grow and you can have

plenty of moss to make those show bonsai into show stopper bonsai. Try to find as many different types of moss and you can and start plenty of pans. Bonsai look best with more than one type moss on the surface. Swap some with your bonsai friends who didn't make that fantastic find of great moss. Joe Day

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REACTING TO THE EARLY COLD SNAP

What happens if weather suddenly turns cold, around freezing some time in October? Your bonsai will still most probably be green with a bit of new growth on some species. Sudden cold snaps in October usually come with winds and low humidity cold northern air. The wind and low humidity are the big problem. The wind and low humidity will dry the tender growth quickly killing the tender parts

of the tree. The ground will still be warm if the cold comes without much previous cold weather. Bonsai placed on the ground where the wind will not directly blow on them will do just fine. Two or three feet above the ground the air temperature on a night when the weather people say it will be about 26 degrees will usually stay above freezing. It will be cold, to a person, but to the bonsai it is just a sign that

they need to start going dormant. Tropical need to be inside any time the weather people say it will go below 40 degrees. They wouldn't need to be in a heated area but an area out of the cold, dry wind. Over protecting your bonsai and now allowing them to let the cool temps send them into dormancy is dangerous to the trees. More about this next month.

Joe Day

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Dedicated to the art of bonsai



Wow!

Writing my check in Wal-Mart Family Food Store the reality that the month had come to a close and the newsletter was still one article away from being finished . I'll just have to say it's been a strange month of a strange year. Many unexpected people and events popped up during the last two weeks. That's life. We move from Summer to Fall and the next season of bonsai. Are you ready? Because the unexpected can always be expected I don't guess anyone can be totally ready for anything. I'm ready, willing and able but will have to make enough time to get all things done that need to be finished before I'm making the statement that October is over and November is here. The focus for October will be having a great Fall ACBS Auction. November we will have to firm up our plans for all our Spring ACBS events. The holidays and other events will make December a lost month for most bonsai plans. January will bring Ben Oki, our sbort winter and then our shortest month February. March will be the month on the calendar you are looking at before you know it. March will bring our Day of Bonsai 07, the show season and the new growth of almost every bonsai in your collections. Fast times for everyone and everything. Hope to see all members at the October ACBS meeting.

Joe Day
