

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

A publication of the Azalea City Bonsai Society Mobile, Alabama

THE SHOW AND TELL MEETING OF THE AZALEA CITY BONSAI SOCIETY

**ACBS
FALL AUCTION
October 6th
ST Lukes
Church &
School
980 Azalea Road
Mobile, Al.
Viewing 5 P.M.
Auction starts
6 P.M.**

I love the stories attached to every bonsai. I have started to record the history of the trees in my collection at the request of someone I know. The second part of every bonsai is the development history of the bonsai. The best story you can hear about a bonsai is the story of how the artist kept it alive and healthy over the years it took to turn it into a nice bonsai. Growing information for your area is the best information you can get. No bonsai book has been written for our area so listen close to the successful bonsai artist from your area.

A show and tell meeting can be a bonsai at any stage of development. If you are growing something unusual we would like to see it. If you have a unusual bonsai pot we would like to see it. If you have a development or styling technique we would like to see it. If you have a piece of material you need some advice about, bring it.

Joe Day

ACBS

September 4th

Mobile Botanical Gardens

7: PM

Program: Members Show and Tell

Host: Carla Moon

Tokanoma: Joe Day

Every bonsai is a teaching tool. Every bonsai has a interesting story and every bonsai can inspire someone in some positive way. Bring a bonsai in any stage of development to share with ACBS members.

ACBS

October 2nd Program

Bonsai

Horticultural Management

By

Joe Day

ACBS

November 6th Program

*Bonsai Containers for
Growing and Developing*

By

Russell Coker

YOU MISSED A VERY GOOD PROGRAM

The August program on Bald Cypress by John Lee was filled with great photographs showing the development of his Bald Cypress over about 9 years. His detailed description of how he grows his Bald Cypress in water and

keeps them healthy will benefit all ACBS members that have a desire to create great Bald Cypress within a reasonable time frame. This information gained and documented by John Lee will be presented again at the 2008 Day of Bonsai event. We will

present the 2008 Day of Bonsai on March 15 at St Lukes Church and School on Azalea Road. The information presented should make this event a "must go" date. Joe Day

MUSHROOMS, HUMAN NATURE AND FALL BONSAI AUCTIONS

Mushrooms spring up on the lawn overnight, Fall Bonsai Auctions spring up on a Saturday night in a given location. Mushrooms are an act of nature, The Fall Bonsai Auction is an act of human nature. The fact that they happen depends on the kindness that is a part of "most" people. All items are donated for the benefit of the art form. The money bid is often more than the item is worth. It's this spirit of the human heart that keeps bonsai societies alive and helping local artist. The Fall Auction is the primary source of funds for ACBS. It pays most of the bills, brings in the expert teachers and

allows ACBS to put together bonsai shows with nice back drops.

ACBS draws a good crowd because we strive to have a high quality group of auction items available. The benefit should go both ways, benefit ACBS and benefit the person with the winning bid.

ACBS members will be at St Lukes Church and School at 3 P.M. on October 6th to receive donated auction items and set up for the auction. We would love to have bonsai stock plants, bonsai in bonsai containers, bonsai pots, bonsai tools, bonsai books, bonsai soil, rocks, plastic buck-

ets, home made cake, home made cookies, bonsai stands, bonsai magazines, accent plants, landscape plants, art items, tool boxes, tool pouches, and any other item that would help another artist with their joy of bonsai.

The ACBS fall auction is a fun gathering of bonsai artist. We would like all our area artist to come and be a part of the evening. Bring a friend with you. If it's a normal auction the items auctioned will include many things that a non-bonsai artist would love to have. Any question you have you can contact either Joe-Joe Kuhn or Joe Day.

THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS BONSAI AUCTION

I caught a ride with ACBS President Joe Kuhn over to the New Orleans bonsai auction. It was wonderful to see so many "old time" bonsai artist. The great news is the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Auction is alive and well. Every table was full of nice auction items, no junk, no cast off items. Every chair was

filled with people from all the area bonsai societies and they were doing some spirited bidding. Felix was at the gavel keeping everyone in high spirits even those not drinking the available cold "spirits." I have a number of people say they would certainly come over and attend our October auction. It was a

nice day for a ride to New Orleans, we had a very good sandwich at a place called Mona's, middle eastern food and the ride back was smooth and quick.

It certainly brought a smile to my face to see the New Orleans group in high spirits and moving forward.

Joe Day

JUMPING AHEAD

With a high temp today bumping 100 degrees most bonsai artist are not thinking Spring repotting. Why should you? Well if you need a special bonsai pot for a special bonsai you need to start looking now. Special pots are either, difficult to find, hard to find, impossible to find. Either way it takes time. Larger cascade pots seem to top the list as either, too small, too ugly, too colorful, or too expensive. The

last big cascade pot I purchased was the correct size and color but the thickness made it almost too heavy to lift...before the plant and soil went into it.

The larger the container the more difficult it becomes to find it outside of non-glazed colors and traditional shapes. Classic bonsai pots are usually found available at normal bonsai retail outlets. If you are thinking something a bit

less than traditional and a bit more expressing your own thinking you might check out retail stores that sell antiques, décor-items and pottery outlets. You can also pick up all manner of items to overstuff your bathroom, clutter your wall and fill up every table top, mantle and corner of your house. Check out e-bay often to see what's out there.. but check out the sellers reputation.

Joe Day

SEPTEMBER

THE SUCKER PUNCH MONTH

The sucker punch comes along like this, you water like normal allowing the pots to become a bit dry before the next watering. The weather will become great. The temps will be in the 80's the breeze cool and the day entirely comfortable. The sucker punch is the very low humidity that will make the day feel so wonderful, the sky so clear and be breeze a thing of joy. The change from air off the gulf to air down from the north will suck moisture from your soil so fast you won't notice it happening until you see all the leaves curled up and turning brown. If you are away from home, at work or just

busy in the house you can find the hours have brought about a very sudden change.

Most of what we call Winter damage on our bonsai is actually Fall damage caused by the extremely low humidity and wind drying the twigs killing the buds. This warm, dry weather is spider mites best friend, the last chance for all insects to take a bite out of your foliage and to lay eggs before winter.

Visit you bonsai often. Listen to the weather reports. Water deeply in the morning so your bonsai will start the day with plenty of moisture. Look extra close to find the

beginning of any insect damage. A great Spring has a lot to do with a carefully maintained Fall growing conditions. It's difficult to tell if your bonsai are not in good health during the Fall months. The leaves on your bonsai are beginning be aborted naturally by the tree. You can't depend on the leaves looking green and healthy. Pine will be aborting old needles, Juniper old growth will be turning brown. Learn to understand what in natural and normal during each season of your bonsai species life. Only alive and healthy plants make great bonsai.

Joe Day

BRINGING THE CURTAIN DOWN

The sun is making its fast slide down to the edge of the world. Those long, lazy, hazy days of Summer will during September become short, busy and clear. We loose daylight hours fast during September. Those dark when you get up for work and dark when you get home days will soon be back. This short day

problem makes finding time for good bonsai maintenance difficult. If possible set up outdoor lights that will allow you to do what is needed when you have the time. Having the time and having the Natural light don't always go together. Your bonsai work after you get home from the job will disappear. 6 P.M. will

become a night time hour. The longer nights will give you some time to catch up on some bonsai reading. If you take picture of all the trees in your collection you could spend those long evenings going over your collection in the comfort of your home making styling, potting and other decisions. Joe Day

TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCE

My wife remarked to me this week that my "big" Boxwood seem to be getting smaller every year. It does because over the years very nice people and circumstance have brought into my collection a lot of big pieces of bonsai material. As I develop them and add a canopy of branches and apex growth they get even larger. My Boxwood sitting next to this material does now look smaller than it did

years ago. The boxwood was heavy, the larger material is now very heavy and growing stronger and more beautiful each day. "I" on the other hand find I also grow older each day but not stronger and certainly not more beautiful.

Harbor Freight tools has a wonderful hydraulic lift table. The smaller and lighter and cheaper \$99. model will lift 500 pounds, fit all but a very small door opening and rolls.

The rolling part is limited to a hard surface so I plan to modify it for outside use. The larger of my bonsai don't fit my studio door now that the canopy fits the trunk.

The lift ability certainly makes working on this material much easier. Bringing the roots up to a working level is great, bringing the apex down to eye level is wonderful. Not having to use my back to make this happen is stupendous. Joe Day

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Dedicated to the art of bonsai



Perplexed, Bothered and Bewildered

As the old saying goes, put a bunch of monkeys in a room with a typewriter and if you leave them alone long enough they will write the great American novel. The point mostly is-left alone to our own devices at some point in time, allowing for lots of time, we will get something right. Bonsai is a complex art form and most people are in hurry so the monkey theory probably isn't the best way to learn what you need to know. I have observed that most people love to be entertained, don't much like to being taught and hate being "Told" anything. This makes putting the Day of Bonsai together very interesting. The goal of The Day of Bonsai is to deliver hard teaching. Give bonsai artist who have real knowledge and experience a chance to reveal to other artist very important and practical knowledge. Not exactly side splitting entertainment and damn close to telling people what to do. It takes a lot of personal development to accept the value of another persons teaching. Teaching is just making information available to be used. Use it or forget it, it always up to you. Time is hard to come by and shouldn't be wasted by others. Our goal for the Day of Bonsai is to assist serious bonsai artist to become better serious artist. Making it a day of entertainment probable can only be possible if you consider a day full of great information presented by serious artist for serious artist,...entertaining. The 2008 Day of Bonsai will take place at the usual location St Lukes School and Church on March 15th. The complete line up is still not firm but the committed programs and artist include, Leo Fortner-teaching the ability to do a virtual bonsai style on computer, John Lee- a super program showing the development of Bald Cypress grown in water over many years, Southern Style Part -2 by Joe Day, using both photographs and detailed line drawings Joe will show how to create wonderful bonsai inspired by the beauty of our local species. The subject of American Bonsai/European bonsai will be covered. This is just part of the full day of bonsai instruction . Vendors, displays of bonsai and a great lunch will be part of this "Day of Bonsai"

Joe Day
