

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

A publication of the Azalea City Bonsai Society Mobile, Alabama

BONSAI STYLES BY JOE KUHN THE APRIL ACBS PROGRAM

Our own ACBS President will present a audio visual presentation on bonsai style. Time will now allow covering all the styles but will focus on some of the main style concepts. Understanding style concepts is both the most basic and the most advanced concepts of bonsai. You never stop learning how to create the form of bonsai. If the form is not correct no amount of detail can make a bad form into a good bonsai.

This will be a fun night with input from all attending appreciated. Getting a strong base of understanding about all the styles of bonsai is critical. This is but one of many programs that will focus on this concept.

Joe Kuhn invites other members to build a presentation on styles and present these programs at future meetings. The best way to learn is to teach.

Joe Day

April 3rd

ACBS

Regular meeting

Mobile Botanical Gardens

7 P.M.

Host: Russell Coker

Tokanoma: Leo Fortner

The Summer Social
May's Meeting
Date ?
Location
Larry and Carla Moons
House

Cascade Bonsai
By
Art Kersten
The June Program

THE DAY OF BONSAI REVIEW

Great weather and lots of great bonsai artist from Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Louisiana came together for a day filled with great presentations. Thanks to lots of good people helping out the day went by without a single problem of any type.

The presentations using the ACBS audio visual equipment were fun to watch and very informative. The wood roast chicken for lunch was a hit and thanks to the vendors most bonsai artist went home with something new to work with or work on.

The Day of Bonsai 08 plans are going forward. Each Day of Bonsai depends on presenting artist and attending bonsai artist. We must have enough of them to make it happen.

Joe Day

THIS SPRING OR JUST A REPEAT OF LAST SPRING?

We are already 10 inches of rain below our normal rainfall. We are already this week 10 degrees above our normal temps. If this continues each and every artist will have to make some hard decisions about how to cope with the problem. Nothing is better than normal rainfall. It is impossible to water your bonsai and get the same benefit as a good rain. Rain comes with cloudy days, high humidity that last for a day or two. Watering just puts water in the container. That's enough to keep the bonsai going but it will not give you good growth.

Be quick to move your bon-

sai to a less stressful part of the garden. Do not move a plant where you might forget and not water that bonsai. It's hard not to over water your bonsai. Push your finger down in the soil and see how wet it is before you water again. If you have to be away every day and must water when you can a morning watering is best. Starting the highest drying period, daytime, with containers filled with moisture will help keep the bonsai healthy.

Understand your sun patterns. Place the bonsai that need the most sun in the sun filled area. Put the bonsai that love sun and are potted in big pots in the high sun areas.

Plants that look dry and wilted when you check them in the afternoon should be moved to a more shaded area. It's a dance that continues every day all summer long.

Don't allow the soil level to drop as some soil is washed out of the container each time you water. Place new soil in your pots at least weekly.

Topping the pot with just lava rock or Turface can give the tree a fresh look and help retain moisture.

It's never easy to keep a bonsai collection healthy but it is possible and worth it in the long run.

Joe Day

USING MULCH TO SLOW MOISTURE LOSS

You can slow down the moisture loss in your bonsai pots if you put a mulch on the top of your soil in the bonsai container. I have done this for many years. Moss over most of the surface is good. You must leave open area's to allow water to enter the soil quickly. Turface, lava rock and hydite also work. Lava rock is

best at making the water enter the soil and not run off the surface quickly. Turface adsorbs moisture cooling the soil and make pulling any grass very easy. Pine bark that is sifted over a 1/16 screen allowing particles that are smaller than 1/4 and larger than 1/16 will hold moisture best. This Pine bark

mulch only had one draw back. It will encourage roots to grow up into the Pine bark. With Maples, Pine bark can keep them leaf burn free all summer. Mulching the surface of the container is a good way to help out bonsai that needed repotting but missed the deadline and will have to wait for 08. Joe Day

ABOUT SPIDER MITES

Spider mites could be called the named as the number 1 reason most people give up trying to be a bonsai artist. One day you have a nice bonsai, the next day it looks off color, a couple of days later it's dead, real and permanent dead. Look up spider mite on the internet and get as much information you can. You will never regret the time spent.

The problem with spider mites is they breed very fast.

The eggs hatch after you have killed off the live mites so you must treat an infection every 5 days until they no longer exist. It's not if you get spider mites it's when you get spider mites. Always start with the safe way to handle spider mites. Spray your bonsai with a fast mist of water, often. This will knock most spider mites off and prevent a build up. It's also safe for all spe-

cies. Neem is a safe treatment for almost all species but not all species. After Neem all the other miticides available can work but are more dangerous to both you and everything else. Spider mites can build resistance to any chemical quickly so only treat the problem when you have it and treat on a repeat every 5 days until they are all dead and can not breed resistance. Knowledge is power over any problem. Joe Day

THE SUMMER WORK

The "Summer" work of bonsai is very important but it's also the most demanding and at times not the most fun work. The first job is just making certain that you take a good look at each of your bonsai as you water. The inspection is for fungus, disease, insects and wire problems. Plants swell quickly so any wire can present a problem. Remove the winter wire as soon as you can.

Know when to prune each species. Some, Maples and Elms can be pruned as soon a new growth extends but Hawthorne and Hornbeam need the wood to go from green

and soft to brown and stiff before pruning. Prune too early and these species take the cut as an injury and start a abort sequence on that shoot delaying the next set of buds until the shoot has recovered its health. Study each species and find the best way to prune.

We are very dry now but the rains will come and when they do all your dead wood will do what dead wood does, rot. Rot can be "almost" prevented with good lime sulphur treatment. Do it now and do it correctly and you will thank yourself many time over the years as your bonsai develops its style and the dead wood

stays beautiful.

Don't allow the soil level to drop in your bonsai containers. If the soil drops below the level of roots where you can see under the root many species will abort that root and seek to grow a root that is still below the soil line. You can loose a great root you need for the style quickly.

You can get better style on many species if you wire the tree after the tree finishes its spring flush of growth. With some species you can pull most of the leaves, wire and get good bud back and better style. The work never ends.

Joe Day

THE QUAD CITIES SHOW APRIL 28TH

April 28th is the date, Mobile West Regional Library is the location, 8:30 A.M. we will start placing bonsai on the display. The library closes at 6 P.M. so all bonsai must be out by that time. The library is located about 300 feet from the intersection of Grelot and University Blvd. If you are on Airport Blvd. you go west to

University, turn left at University, Grelot dead ends into University about 1/2 mile from Airport Blvd. You turn right at the red light going west on Grelot. The library is on the left about 300 feet down Grelot from University. ACBS people will be on hand with carts to help unload and set the bonsai on the tables.

We hope for great weather but the library is always full of People rain or shine so we should have lots of people viewing the show. Places to eat all types of food are located very near. The Mall is just a short drive for those who must do a bit of shopping or it isn't a good trip.

Joe Day

THE SUMMER SOCIAL

Thanks to ACBS members Larry and Carla Moons we have a location for our Summer Social Meeting. The Moons house has a great yard, large deck with lots of shade and ample parking. We will try for a early May date for this event . At the April ACBS regular meeting we will ask the membership to set the best date and see if that works for Larry and Carla. The Summer Social will be our

May meeting. ACBS will furnish the main meat, table wares and Cold drinks, members are requested to bring a covered dish of either a sweet, vegetable or salad. The time is usually early evening to about sundown. After the long potting season, Spring shows and yard cleaning May is the month we just relax, eat and enjoy time to talk to all the ACBS members. We will print all details in the

next newsletter with a map to Larry and Carla's house. They live just off Grelot Road so it's a location that is easy for everyone. As always we would love to have some of our bonsai artist friends from all the clubs along the gulf coast to join us for this relaxed eat and talk day. The food is always great, the conversations interesting and if you drink the right stuff the drinks can be very relaxing.

Joe Day

Azalea City Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 9591
Mobile, Al 36691
E-Mail..ACBSbonsai@aol.com
Web site azaleacitybonsaisociety.com

Phone:251-344-5873
Fax: 251-342-6431

Dedicated to the art of bonsai



The End is the Beginning

We always end the Day of Bonsai the same way. The ACBS members who stay to clean up start talking about the next Day of Bonsai. The final tally today shows the 07 Day of Bonsai was a both a educational success and a financial success. The Day of Bonsai Concept was created by Joe Day and Rob Moak as a way to have a fun but educational day at a very reasonable cost for people interested in the art of bonsai. Those attending have always been the most serious bonsai artist from all the bonsai societies along the gulf coast. The newest members of all these clubs, one of the main groups that the Day of Bonsai targeted, have never turned out for the event. The 2007 Day of Bonsai was the 10th year we have held this event. The name will change for 2008. It will always be the Day of Bonsai but the focus will now be a educational forum for serious bonsai artist. This focus concept will be reflected in the name we give this event. All the programs presented will now focus on artist who wish to advance to a higher level in their individual path. Our ability to focus on serious artist and use the ACBS audio visual equipment to present programs should make this a greater educational experience. The number of serious bonsai artist grows each year so the pool of artistic talent was can have present programs is ever expanding. The 08 Day of Bonsai, Bonsai artist forum, will focus on "**Defining the American bonsai**" and an updated audio visual program on "**Southern Style**" finding artistic inspiration with our great southern trees. This day will have presentations from all the gulf coast bonsai societies. From this "08 Artist Forum" could come the defining vision for many great bonsai of tomorrow. If you are a serious bonsai artist mark your calendar and leave the dates around the last two weekends in March available. The "08 Day of Bonsai Artist Forum" will confirm the exact date some time in the fall of 07.

Joe Day
