

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

A publication of the Azalea City Bonsai Society Mobile, Alabama

THE FUSED TRUNK MAPLE WORKSHOP THE ACBS REGULAR FEB MEETING

ACBS will furnish the materials for this workshop. We will know the cost at the meeting as we are still putting the parts together. We have 10 people signed up as of now. This should be a very interesting workshop and very interesting to follow up on the progress. The idea of this came from a Bonsai Today article about planting seedlings into a base plate that has holes cut into the material. The seedlings will grow and the trunks will expand over the base material. The trunks will fuse into one large base after a few years.

This style is never seen available in the nursery or bonsai nursery trade. If you want it, you will have to create it.

Joe Kuhn is handling all the sign up details. We only have materials for 10 people .

Joe Day

**ACBS February 6th
Regular Meeting
Fused Trunk Maple Workshop
Mobile Botanical Gardens 7 P.M.**

Host: : Joe Kuhn

Tokanoma: Don Corley

ACBS
March 6th Regular
Meeting
*Multiple Trunk Bonsai
Style by
Beau Strickland*

ACBS
April 3rd Regular
Meeting
Upright Styles
By Brenda Castle

THE BEN OKI WORKSHOP REVIEW

I've watched Ben Oki workshops for more than 20 years. He was always good but now he is great. He works fast but never loose. He appreciates good material too much to not make the best bonsai possible with what he has to work with. This was clear during his 2007 visit. Much thanks to

acBS

ACBS members who brought great material to the workshop. We had visiting bonsai artist from Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida. I know Ben and ACBS appreciated the turnout. I know the workshop was interesting to everyone because most of the snacks were left over at the

finish

of the night. Ben will be 80 years young by the time you get his newsletter. He will do about 25 workshops in 18 days at about 16 locations. Don't know how he does it but hope he continues to be able to do it for some years to come.

Joe Day

APRIL 28TH, TRI-CITIES SHOW

The Tri-Cities show will be held at the Grelot Road, West Regional Library on April 28th.

Tuesday 01/16 was cold in the low 40's, windy with a steady blowing rain. Crappy is the word. The parking lot of the West Regional Library was full. The library was very busy with every age group of people. That's the way it is every day and that's why we will hold the Tri-Cities Regional Show at this location. The room we will show in is large, easy to enter but out of the direct flow into the library. The library will get publicity out for ACBS and promote the show.

We will use both our back drops and the wall as a backdrop. The lighting is good. We have permission to have a vendor at the show. We will set up both in the show room and outside under the overhang to catch the attention of the crowd entering the library.

We will shortly have an estimate of the number of bonsai that we can show. We will need to know the number of bonsai coming from Ft Walton, Pensacola and Mississippi Coast bonsai group. This year we will actually have 4 bonsai societies showing together. It would be nice if this show could grow in coming years to 5 societies, then

6 then 7 until it became a regional show.

Now is a great time to select the bonsai that you will show at this show. Select two from your collection and start getting them ready. Bring the best one on show day. It is expected that one bonsai from each artist will all we have room for.

We will ask ACBS members to give us the species, and size of the bonsai for the Quad-Cities show at the March

ACBS regular meeting. If you have some nice accent plants we could use a bunch of them at the show. Joe Day

A VISIT BY WALTER PAUL

BY JOE DAY

One morning about the middle of December I got a call from Guy Guidry's wife. She said she had someone who wanted to talk with me. It was Walter Paul, world famous bonsai teacher from Germany. He would be heading up I-65 with a client and wanted to stop by for while if I was going to be home. Sure I

said, come on. The bonsai were all on the ground, the ground full of leaves, not exactly a "bonsai show". Walter and his client came walking around the house about 45 minutes later. I was still raking leaves and placing trees back on the benches. We had a great visit, caught up on lots of bonsai talk and had a good

lunch at a Vietnamese restaurant before they had to get back on the road.

Walters client was a very nice gentleman from Birmingham who is building a bonsai collection. He had purchased 6 large trees at Guidry's nursery with Walters help.

Joe Day

DAY OF BONSAI MARCH 24, 2007

St Lukes will be the location again this year. Vendors, coffee, sweets on arrival and lunch furnished. The theme this year is "Bonsai for a changing tomorrow". We will feature tropical and semi-tropical bonsai. Computer projection talks by Lynn Fabian on the national collection in Washington D.C. and world class tropical and semi-tropical bonsai by Russell Coker. Talks on Serissa by

John Lee and on Desert Rose, (Adenium Obesum) by Brian Gibson. Joe Day will talk on how to adapt your bonsai area for abrupt climate changes. Leo Fortner will talk on Maple bonsai. Leo has lots of experience with Maple bonsai so his information on how to keep them healthy will be welcomed by all who try to keep this species healthy in our climate. A workshop with a semi-tropical species will be

Offered in the afternoon. The cost will be \$35.00 for single and \$40.00 for family. Vendors pay \$60.00. This will be an information packed day. Tropical and semi-tropical bonsai are a large part of our bonsai collections now. They will become a much larger part in the coming years. Now is the time to get the information you will need to be successful with all tropical, semi-tropical species.

Joe Day

BONSAI EUROPE, THE MAGAZINE

BY JOE DAY

The client with Walter Paul ask me if I had a subscription to Bonsai Europe. I said no, he said he would purchase me a subscription. I received the first issue, Jan/Feb 07 last week. I am very impressed. The focus of the magazine is "how to" for the average bonsai artist. Many of the articles are by European artist. It's 100 pages of color so you get a lot. The single issue cost is \$9.95 so a year sub would be around \$75.00 for the USA, magazine plus postage. You get 6 issues of 100 pages so for the money you get 600 pages. The average bonsai book is a bit over 200 pages so you get

about the same as 3 bonsai books. That makes the cost for the information very low. The article photographs are excellent, large and the text is easy to read and understand. The issue I received is issue 84. I certainly wish I could afford to back order all 84.

This magazine certainly gives me another reason to enjoy walking out to the mail box. Europe is making great strides in bonsai. The shows, the artist and the bonsai are becoming world class. The ability to better keep up with knowledge and techniques will certainly be appreciated. The world is has a lot of nice people. I'm thankful that I got

the chance to meet a couple of them. Walter and his client brighten my day with their visit. Now the Bonsai Europe magazine will brighten many days and evenings as I read them sitting in my Lazy Boy chair and sipping on a good cup of coffee.

If you would like information on how to get a subscription to this excellent magazine let me know.

I see some bad bonsai books but all the magazines are good. The focus is different with each magazine and the formats are different but the information is usually timely and correct. Joe Day

WORKING WITH SPECIES THAT WORK

We chose to focus the 07 Day of Bonsai on Semi-tropical and Tropical bonsai for two reasons. The first reason is most semi and full tropical plants grow very well in our climate. The second reason is, our climate is quickly moving to a more tropical climate. Only species that grow well in a hot climate that has periods

of high rainfall and periods of dry weather are going to work with the grower without requiring someone on had full time to take care of their daily needs. If you have unlimited time, facilities and money you can grow just about anything anywhere. Most bonsai artist have limited time and money so they work with species that

work for them. At the Day of Bonsai 07 we will lots of semi-and tropical bonsai on display, talented speakers who will speak of their experiences and a computer visual of many wonder tropical/semi-tropical bonsai to show what great bonsai they can produce. Joe Day

WHERE TO GO TO BE IN THE KNOW

Suthin Sukosolvisit will be the master teacher at a workshop for the Pensacola Bonsai Society the night of February 3rd. The time is 7:30 P.M. and the location is the Best Western on 29th street. Suthin was a excellent teacher at the ACBS workshop in 06.

Ted Matson will be holding a workshop at the Mississippi Gulf Coast bonsai society on March 10th and at the Pensa-

cola Bonsai Society on the night of March 11. Time and location are not known as of now. It's great to work with the teacher at the workshop but you learn the most by sitting up close and watching and listening to the teacher work on all the trees. I plan to be at both workshops if life allows. I'm signed up to work with Ted.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Bonsai society Will change their meeting night to the second Wednesday night each month. The location is still the same Mississippi Coast Community College. Ted Matson workshop will be on March 11, the next Mississippi Gulf Coast regular meeting will be on February 14th at 6:30 P.M. Patrick LaNasa in the contact person for any questions.

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Dedicated to the art of bonsai



Going around the same block or down a new road

*The race is on and it's a good one this year. The first week of January is still trying to make its dent in 07, I'm looking out my window and I see the Cherry tree pushing its first blooms. A quick walk around the bonsai area and I find some green leaves from 06 and on Quince and Chinese Elm new leaves just starting to emerge into the still winter light. Hard wire work, hard pruning and hard root reduction is best done before bud swell. The tropical house plant vine that is still green and growing on my Oak tree in the bonsai area is testimony to the lack of cold weather this year. The forecast of a mild week ahead will certainly influence my bonsai a bit more that it's not too early to jump out and get a head start on this fact" **The weather forecast by the weather experts say 2007 will be the hottest year we have had in more than 500 years.** Wouldn't you want to get up a bit early and catch the cool before the days get to be more than you can handle? I believe my trees do. We will certainly be covering this subject at our Day of Bonsai in March. 2006 the heat, lack of rain, wind and low humidity taught me more than a few lessons about how to handle adverse summer weather. I will do my best to tell everyone how I will handle a repeat of this horrible weather if all those factors come together again at the same time. We do bonsai in local weather. It can be the hottest year ever for the world in general but no so very different for our local area. Or it could be spring and summer of 06 all over again.*

How to adapt your collection quickly for changing weather conditions is a subject that is not covered by bonsai books, magazines or on the internet to any large degree. We will do our best to put enough information into your hands to allow you to keep your bonsai alive. The adverse conditions did not allow some species in 06 to do anything but push their first leaves and stop active growth until the August rains came.

Joe Day