

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

A publication of the Azalea City Bonsai Society Mobile, Alabama

A CARVING DEMONSTRATION BY JOE DAY

The program for the March ACBS meeting will be a carving lecture and demo by Joe Day.

The great January Ben Oki workshop featured two bonsai that needed some detail carving to finish the styling process. Using the drawings by Ben Oki, Joe Day will carve the jin and shari on both trees. This will be a carving demo and a lecture on carving.

A bad carving job can ruin a good bonsai. That's the lecture part of the night. Joe will try to show how to plan a carving session. Joe will bring a wide assortment of tools used to carve. All of the tools will not be used but they will all be explained.

Mobile is not a place where a lot of carving can be or even should be done on bonsai but a good carving job can take a bonsai from just good to great.

Joe Day

ACBS

March 6th Regular Meeting
Mobile Botanical Gardens
7;P.M.

A carving Demo and Lecture
By Joe Day

Host: Leo Fortner

Tokanama: Joe Kuhn

ACBS

April 3rd regular
Meeting 7 P.M.

Upright Styles by
Brenda Castle

Host: Russell Coker

Tokanoma: Leo Fortner

ACBS

May 1st regular
Meeting 7 P:M.

Rules of Bonsai by
Derald Eastman

Host: Don Corley

Tokanoma: Russell

THE SUMMER SOCIAL QUESTION

The first years the ACBS Summer social was a day paid for by ACBS but hosted by a member at their house. Last year after a few hurricane disturbed years we decided to just have the Summer Social on our regular meeting night at the Botanical Gardens. The food was great and it was

Easy to do. This year we can go either way. If we have a member that would like to host the Summer Social it would be a Saturday event. If we do not have a member that wants to host we will schedule the Summer Social for a regular meeting night.

If a member host, ACBS picks up the cost of the main meat, paper wares and drinks. The ACBS members bring a covered dish of vegetable, salad or sweet. Either way it's a great way to have a mid season relaxed time to talk and enjoy good company.

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

Warm days and sunshine, they can lull you into a very dangerous situation with your bonsai. Bonsai in a un-vented hot house, poly house or shed can be a killer. 60 degrees outside on a clear day can translate into 100 degrees in a closed poly/hot house. A couple of hours of 100 degrees can cook even a bonsai in a large container. Keep the doors and windows open unless the temps are going down to a level that could damage your bonsai. Most of us don't grow any species that can't take temps that are just above freezing. A hot house or poly house even with the doors and windows open

will, without wind, stay 10 to 15 degrees warmer than the outside temps. Don't risk a very valuable plant on this info but if you are willing to go out in the middle of the night and look at the temps both inside and out you will find it's true. The colder it gets the less this is true due to some very complicated laws of nature. I bring this up because over the years I find some bonsai people feel the need to close up the poly/hot house when the temps are going into the 40's at night. This is dangerous because our nights into the 40 usually give us day temps into the 60's and 70's. Forget to open

up and you have a 100 degree oven. Unless you are growing a very sensitive tropical you don't need cold protection unless the temps go below freezing.

Over the years I find almost all my non-tropical bonsai do much better when they are left outside out of the wind all winter. Protection comes only when we have a hard freeze.

It's time now to begin the switch from winter protection to summer protection. Both are complicated because we grow many species in many different size containers.

Joe Day

THE QUAD-CITIES SHOW APRIL 28TH

The Azalea City Bonsai Society, The Pensacola Gulf Coast Bonsai Society, the Fort Walton Beach Bonsai Society and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Bonsai Society will hold a bonsai show at the West Regional Library, Grelot road, Mobile, Alabama on April 28th. The West Regional Library is very easy to find. Go

west on Airport Blvd to University Blvd. Turn left at the light and go to the third red light. Turn right on to Grelot. The distance from Airport Blvd to Grelot is only about one half mile. The gas station is on the corner, the library is the next building on the left past the short stretch of woods. ACBS members will be on hand with

carts to quickly bring bonsai into the building and on to the display. Places to eat all types of food are within a couple miles of the show location. The main element we need to put in place is a count of bonsai that will be shown. Letters will go out shortly to all clubs to request this information. Joe Day

THE TED MATSON WORKSHOP MARCH 10TH WITH THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST BONSAI SOCIETY

Ted Matson will be the visiting artist at the MGCB workshop on March 10th, 6:30 P.M. at the Diamondhead Community Center. The location is easy to find. Take I-10 West to Mississippi exit 16, drive straight north through the stop sign, past the guard gate, to the round building that will be straight ahead. Park anywhere and join us. If you have a bonsai in the workshop the fee is \$20.00 if you are just

attending the workshop to enjoy the education and the time with other bonsai artist the fee is \$3.00. If you are working please bring wire and tools.

Ted Matson started his bonsai quest in 1978 joining the Bonsai Society of San Francisco. Ted studied with many California bonsai artist including Melba Tucker, Warren Hill and John Naka. Ted started teaching other people bonsai

during the mid 80's. Ted works will all species of bonsai, all styles. His reviews from the bonsai societies during his previous BSF teaching tour have been very positive.

If you need more information about this workshop you can contact Patrick LaNasa at msgcbs@bellsouth.net

March 10th is on a Saturday so this is a good way to spend a Saturday night. Joe Day

THE POTTING WINDOW

If you are new to bonsai one of the most important elements to success is the ability to pot up your bonsai or change the soil and repot when needed. This short bit of information certainly won't clear up all the questions but I hope it will help. Non-tropicals can be root pruned and the soil replaced safely any time after the leaves fall off in the winter months. The best time is when you see the buds swell some time in February and March. Non-tropical bonsai that don't loose their leaves are best repotted late in February or early March. Tropical bonsai are best repotted when the night time

temps stay in the 60's.

If you are a serious bonsai artist you need to have a notebook filled with information about each species in your collection. How sensitive each species is to root pruning vary greatly. Without this detailed information you can safely prune the roots back about 25% on almost any species. You can do root work until the bonsai starts to push new leaves.

When you do root work have everything ready. Once the plant is out of the pot it is under a lot of stress. Roots are not designed to ever be out of the soil for any reason.

Repotting doesn't happen in nature. Work fast but with all care. Do not use any strong force, scraping, strong water spray, root rake on the root system. Work gently. Always keep the roots moist as you work. You must tie you tree back into the container. When you cut the roots the cutting tool must be very sharp. Smooth cut ends heal quickly. Large cuts should be treated with a wound sealer. Work the new soil into the root ball with a rounded end chop stick by gently pushing it into the soil and moving it around, don't jab into the root ball. Tropical bonsai are another story for later.

Joe Day

AFTER CARE

With humans or plants, the ability to heal after sickness or stress is the amount and type of care we receive. A bonsai after root work is a bonsai that is need of a lot of aftercare and healing.

Hot sun, drying wind, dry soil, shaking, chemical fertilizers are bad elements. Leaving more than 1/3 of any root

exposed is a bad practice.

New small roots die quickly when they are not in a moist soil and above freezing. When the wind pulls more moisture than the roots can provide the whole plant begins to dry. The soft new buds dry quickly. Without new growth the plants dies. It can not renew itself.

After root work place your bonsai where it gets filtered sunlight. Do not allow it to be in direct wind. Check the soil often. Keep it moist. Cool nights are good, cool in anywhere above freezing. Rain is great, cloudy days are great. Add soil if it settles below top root level. After about 6 weeks the bonsai is back to normal.

Joe Day

A FABLE

A man once wanted very much to be around animals so he traveled down to the local pet store buying a dog, cat, rabbit, snake and a tropical bird. He placed them all in small cages on benches in his back yard so he could walk around and enjoy his new hobby. Not wanting to spend too much time other than enjoying he bought the a large bag of cheap dog food

and some small watering dishes. He liked his new pets very much but he was a busy person so other than going out and giving his new pets some water, when he remembered, they some times got a bit of dog food. The dog did ok, his cage was fairly large and the dog food was ok. The cat didn't do too well, grew weak and sickly. The snake suffered sunburn and passed quickly. The rabbit faded almost as

quick as the poor tropical bird. Wrong food, wrong amount of water and the cold nights did them in. The poor owner couldn't understand. They were in cages when he bought them, the man said they were easy to keep.

Easy to understand when different species of animals are not treated individual ways that they die. Why is it hard for people to understand that different species of plants need the same individual care to do well?

Joe Day

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Dedicated to the art of bonsai


Organization

February by-by

I've logged enough time with humanity over my many years to know a mood swing and enough time to learn to either duck low or smile big. February is mother natures month to mood swing all over the place. Cold, hot, rain, dry, fog, wind and enough severe weather to make you tune to the weather channel and see if the same weather babes and slick haired guys are still there when it's not hurricane watching time. I've done bonsai work a bit every day, most all weekends and some nights during February. Most of the time I was cold, almost numb cold. Today as I worked I was peeling away layer after layer of clothing as the sun moved across the sky. This week of high temps day and night will push most of our bonsai to show a bit of new leaves. Our history shows we should be past the time when temps in the teens are behind us but it can always happen. Just let your bonsai do their thing. Don't push them with fertilizer, organic is ok. The wind is still the element that can do the most damage. Bonsai can and will dry out quickly on a cold day when the wind is blowing and the humidity is low. Be on guard every day. The weather for the next 6 to 8 weeks will change quickly. You must react quickly. Pick the trees you plan to place in the upcoming shows. When you have to move your bonsai to better protection, move these first.

Joe Day
