

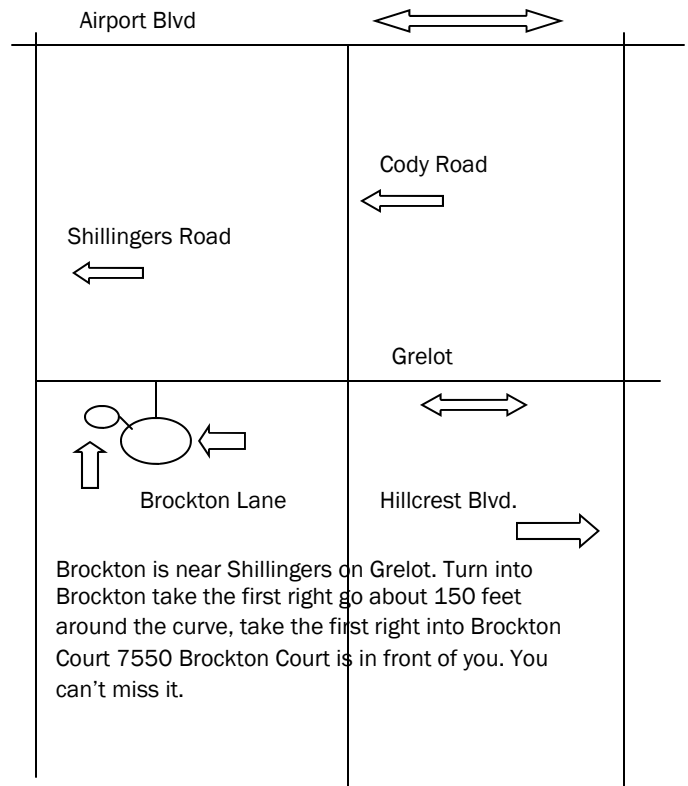
SOUTHERN BONSAIST

A publication of the Azalea City Bonsai Society Mobile, Alabama

THE ACBS SUMMER SOCIAL MAY 19TH

Summer Food and Fun

Thanks to Larry and Carla Moons we have a great location for the ACBS Summer Social. The map is on the back of this newsletter. This will be a rain or shine event for the whole family and any our sister bonsai society members. Bring a covered dish of a salad, sweet or vegetable. ACBS will have a great sandwich making tray , drinks and the party set up ready for you come and enjoy. The time will be from 2 P.M. until. The Summer Social is a time to just eat and talk with anyone and everyone about anyone or anything. We will be past the potting season, showing season and before the hurricane season so come, relax and treat yourself to a afternoon of good food, good friends and a beautiful yard. If you have any questions you can e-mail Joe Kuhn.



THE QUAD CITIES REGIONAL SHOW

The Quad cities show will be over when you receive this. The weather is going to be great. Publicity has been on the web, radio and in every branch of the library system. This is a show to inform the public about bonsai and about the bonsai societies.

A bonsai society that does not gain and retain new members is a dying society. Not too many current societies could be called healthy at this time. Old members far outnumber new members. With lots of smiles and taking time to talk with as many people as we

Can this could be a great way to gain new members for ACBS. I know our membership and we are full of people that love to meet and talk bonsai with any one who will listen so I look for new faces at our next regular meeting.
Joe Day\\\

SPRING SLIP SLIDES INTO SUMMER

Hot, cold, windy, wet, dry choose a weather condition and it might be what you got every day of April. I write this mid-month. I have put away my winter clothes and pulled them out again three times. I'm leaving out the long sleeve blue jean shirts. I can always roll up the sleeves if needed. The blessing this Spring has been regular rain. It has brought about the first "normal" spring in a long time. Regular rain sets up conditions that allow top growth that will give the bonsai a good root system before the heat of summer starts to stress the roots. When you get regular rain you get hu-

midity in the air, clouds, lightning that produces nitrogen in the air feeding the trees, cooler temps that allow the tender growth to emerge and harden off in favorable conditions. All this good growth if it continues will allow every bonsai artist, if they work hard, to get a lot of development on each bonsai. You get 90 percent of your growth the first 60 day of Spring. This year that will probably be mid April to mid June. This is the time to prune on a regular basis, wire species that allow Summer wiring and branch bending. Plants cannot grow without food. I have used with great results three differ-

ent organic fertilizers the past three years. They give my bonsai steady growth that allows great development. Strong healthy growth will decrease disease, insect damage and heat stress. I only use some chemical fertilizer now to push some species that need more foliage growth for the creation of a bonsai form. The higher amount of nitrogen in chemical fertilizer gives more foliage growth quicker but it comes with the price of less resistance to disease and pest. Know why you are doing what you are doing. If you don't the results might be damage not improvement.

Joe Day

DEVELOPMENT

DAY 2 UNTIL.....

The first day you start a bonsai from some form of plant. The second day starts the development and it continues as long as you have the bonsai or you want to do bonsai. To get the maximum amount of development you will need to keep your bonsai in the correct amount of sunlight for the species, a moist soil and

enough fertilizer to permit the tree to easily back bud and push healthy new growth. Chemical fertilizers work but a good organic fertilizer is best. Healthy plants have less fungus and insect problems. Stress isn't good for people, it's also bad for plants. Stressed plants don't push new growth. Going from too

dry to too wet is a great way to stress a plant. Check the soil with the finger. If it's wet delay watering. If it's dry water until you see water dripping out the drain holes. Happy plants show you with great leaf color and new growth. The first 60 days of Spring gives you 90% of your development for the year.

Joe Day

HEALING CUTS ON BONSAI

It would be very unusual to develop a bonsai without having to heal some cuts on the trunk. To make this process go as fast as the species can form callus here are a few tips. All cuts should be as smooth as possible. All cuts should taper smoothly from the live wood to the base of the cut. Callus almost never moves up a ledge or down a vertical wall. The cut should be covered with a sealer. All

the bonsai sealers you can buy from a bonsai outlet work well. Only a small amount rubbed on the cut covering all the cut is necessary. You need to check the coverage as the year proceeds. Cut paste, the sticky clay works but with soft wood trees it can allow moisture to collect under the cut paste and cause rot not healing. When you have deep cuts or a hole in the tree it can be filled with a

two part epoxy. If you want the tissue to heal across the cut or hole you will need to do the same procedure as a cut. Taper the live wood to the filler and put a bonsai sealer on the cut. The sealer helps make the epoxy slick allowing the tissue to move across the surface. Fast healing needs a healthy plant that is growing quickly. A good start makes a lot of difference in healing time. Joe Day

The Turning Point

The regional show with Mississippi, Alabama and Florida bonsai societies will be our last show for this Spring Show Season. It's the real turning point if you are a bonsai artist. The next five months spare time can be used to make improvements on your bonsai. Those growing months allow much improvement on bonsai. Pruning to improve ramification, wire to improve branch placement, work on cuts to allow smooth scars, cleaning and treating Jin and shari.

Every bonsai in your collection should have a personality, style, look. When you trim,

wire or do any work to that bonsai you should work to improve that style, look, personality. Never just work on a bonsai. Work to improve the bonsai. It's improvement made to improvements that slowly build a great bonsai.

Keep a notebook handy and write down bonsai related things. As you work on your bonsai collection you will probably notice that some of your bonsai are quickly outgrowing the container they are currently sitting in. Take the next 6, 7 or 8 months to decide what container would be best for each bonsai. With computers, scanners and color copiers cheap and easy

you can make pictures of the pot you like and the size you need. Don't think cost. Unless you are in a big hurry and must have the pot now you decide the pot you need and look in auctions, e-bay, other artist collection of extra pots.

Always design the best bonsai the material is capable of becoming. If you need help with handling wire, carving or any other aspect of building the bonsai ask for help from a member that has the talent to make it happen. Never let your personal lack of knowledge keep you from creating a great bonsai. Decide what you want, find what you need and get help. Joe Day

THE SUMMER WORK TOOL KIT

When you walk into your bonsai area during the summer growing season your work will be pruning back new growth, nipping off dead twigs, removing wire, weeds and treating for insect problems. Why not put together a small tool bag with just what you need. Scissors, wire cutters, a chop stick with a sharpened end to help

remove weeds, and a small spray bottle with some natural insecticide that will take care of most small insect problems before they get settled in. A small trash bag that can be hung from the side of the bag makes good sense. Put all the clippings inside the bag. You can always add a tool to the bag when needed. Just

don't add too much. This bag should be small and easy to carry around. The time you spend with your bonsai should be quality time. As there is always work to be done it just makes sense to have on hand what you need to get it done as you walk around and enjoy your bonsai. Joe Day

THE CLIPBOARD MEMORY DEVICE

I know we all have a good memory and this is just an added job we don't need in our already busy life. My brain just gets tired so I have a clip board in my studio with a yellow legal pad attached. About once a week I walk around with the clip board and make notes about what I need to buy for my bonsai, need to do to my bonsai and projects that need to be started. The project start up

is the big thing. Just now I'm finishing the "getting bonsai show ready" the next project is to air layer a lot of trees. Air layering is a project. You need supplies, plastic bags, sphagnum moss, a good knife. A 5 gallon bucket to use as a tote. It helps to make a list of what trees you want to air layer. When you have a few minutes you can pick up the bucket of supplies and the list of trees to be air layered and get a few

trees layered. Sure it can all be done without the clip board full of notes but I find a quick review of what's on the clip board when I go out helps me set a priority to the most needed work. I never know how long I can spend with my bonsai so getting the most needed work done first helps me feel that I'm doing all I can for my bonsai with the time I have.

Joe Day

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Dedicated to the art of bonsai



Organization

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Except for a rhyme
Busy month

Ran out of time.