

# SOUTHERN BONSAIST

A publication of the Azalea City Bonsai Society Mobile, Alabama

## BONSAI STANDS BY LEO FORTNER THE SEPTEMBER ACBS PROGRAM

Bonsai stands are the third element of a great bonsai combination. First is the bonsai, second is the bonsai pot, third is the bonsai stand. Leo Fortner makes beautiful bonsai stands and beautiful bonsai. Perhaps when he actually retires for good he will find time to also make some bonsai pots. Not many people have the room to store or the money to buy a bonsai stand for each bonsai in their collection. A bonsai stand can be used for more than just one bonsai in the collection but which trees go with each stand? I'm sure Leo will cover this point and many more in this presentation. Bonsai books and magazines don't dedicate a lot of pages to this critical part of bonsai. I'm certainly going to be at this meeting and listening very close. Why have a great bonsai in a great container then place it on a stand that isn't correct and distracts the viewers attention away from your bonsai ?

Joe Day

**ACBS September 02**

**Regular Meeting**

**Mobile Botanical Gardens**

**7: P.M.**

**Program**

**Bonsai Stands by Leo Fortner**

**Host: Bob & Yvonne Schwartz**

**Tokanoma: Craig & Doris Kunz**

The ACBS  
Back Yard Learning Day  
October ?

On a October Saturday  
Joe Day and Joe Kuhn  
invite you to their back  
yard for a question, an-  
swer learning tour. We set  
the date at the Sept meeting.

November 4, 08  
ACBS Regular Meeting  
Program: How to wire a  
bonsai

Host: Mike, Christina  
Burke  
Tokanoma: The Schwartz

## *ACBS FOR 2009*

Your wish is our command so what do you wish for? ACBS will set up our monthly programs for 2009 shortly. We need the ACBS membership to let us know what type programs you would like to see presented. ACBS has the ability to present any type of

Program . ACBS President Joe Kuhn will cover this important topic at the September ACBS monthly meeting. We need your request and suggestions. We want to cover this topic quickly and not take away time from our scheduled program. You can

E-mail Joe Kuhn with topics for programs. He would appreciate the input. It's your bonsai society and your time so spend it wisely acquiring the information you need to become better bonsai artist.

Joe Day

**Auction Schedule  
St Lukes on Azalea  
Road.**

**Oct 11th  
4 P.M. Open doors  
for auction items  
5 P.M. Viewing of  
auction items  
6 P.M. the gavel  
drops and the auc-  
tion begins.**

## THE AZALEA CITY BONSAI SOCIETY FALL AUCTION OCT-11TH

Again we will meet at St Lukes Church and School on Azalea road for our Fall Auction event. This is a Saturday night event that allow our auction to be a regional event with bonsai artist from Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida a chance to get together for a auction, reunion and party event. Auctions are held to auction off donated items. Bonsai artist "Club members" donate all the items. As club members are all very different the items that they desire and bid to win can be very diverse. Bonsai, bonsai pots and such are great but books, pictures, a vase, a flower pot, home

made cake, cookies, plastic pant buckets, and on and on are desirable items for artist building a bonsai collection or looking for something sweet to eat with a good cup of coffee.

Ongoing events at St Lukes have prevented us from starting to place items in the auction as early as we list but it is important to get the auction items to St Lukes as early as possible. Items must be numbered and set up for viewing.

4 P.M. Open St Lukes doors to accept auction items.

5 P.M. Viewing of auction items, Food and drink.

6 P.M. Auction Starts

If you need direction to St Lukes here it is: From Pensacola and New Orleans. Take 1:10 to 1:65 North, the first Exit is Hwy 90 West . Go up the hill the first light at the top of the hill on the right is Azalea road. The second light near the top of this hill is Japonica , St Lukes is there on the left. Turn left on Japonica , turn left into parking lot. From anywhere in Mobile , Airport Blvd. to Azalea Road just after you cross Cottage Hill you will see the first red light at Azalea and Japonica. St Lukes in on the right. Turn right on Japonica, turn left in to parking lot.

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## THE ROAD TRIP TO THE NEW ORLEANS FALL AUCTION

Joe Kuhn, Joe Day and Russell Coker had an enjoyable trip to the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Fall Auction. The two great thing we saw were nice auction items and lots and lots of old hand New Orleans bonsai society members. The auction was filled to capacity. New Orleans bonsai is alive and well. New busi-

ness can be seen as you come into New Orleans from the East. The Garden District is the same beautiful place. It's in the area of the garden district that the 09 BCI convention will be held. I, Joe day, brought home some bonsai books from the auction. One book is very old and in excellent shape. Russell bought

home a beautiful bonsai pot that he said he had wanted since he was 11 years old. That's why serious bonsai artist go to auctions. They can be a place to find things that you will almost never see anywhere else and sometimes at a bargain price.

Joe Day

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## THE OCTOBER 00 BACK YARD MEETING

October ACBS meeting can not be held at our Botanical Garden meeting location so we moved it to the yards of Joe Day and Joe Kuhn. This is not a back yard tour or a yard show or a house show. It 's a chance to see two different types of bonsai area. One is large and is set up to grow, work and display on a large scale one is a very defined and neat bonsai area that fits most yard situations. This is a

chance to see and ask question about many, many bonsai situations where the bonsai, stands, work area situations are there to assist in answering the question. October is not the month to show off bonsai as "show bonsai". The summer heat, insects and disease have had 9 months to wear off the Spring "new". We don't know what the weather will bring . We do know that at the point of mid August the

rain is turning yards into fast growing jungles that are too wet to allow a lot of yard work.

Knowledge is power. Knowledge allows a bonsai artist to move a tree forward with confidence season after season. This is a chance to see a lot of bonsai in different stages. You can ask as many question as you want about any aspect of bonsai development.

Joe Day

## SEPTEMBER CAN BE DIFFICULT

The weather has been kind to Mobile bonsai artist so far this year. September is a month of change. It can be and often is a very dry month. If the weather comes from the northwest it will be dry. If our systems come off the gulf it can be wet. It is difficult to stay on top of fungus and disease as the trees leaves are going dormant, changing colors and starting to thin and look wilted. What is normal and what is a product of a fungus or disease is difficult to sort out. September can be a good month to concentrate on getting soil ready, pots ready, keeping the bonsai area clean and buying

bargain nursery items at the end of the season. I use the month of September to clean up my jin and shari. I brush the wood with a brass brush off and apply lime sulphur. This year I have a lot of detail carving that is needed to bring some rough carving into a more natural look. It's not impossible for Mobile to dip below freezing in September. Unusual but not impossible. If your tropical plants are spread out all over your collection it's a good practice to place them together so you won't forget in your haste and end up with a frozen bonsai. Pick a cool September and spend part of the day

mixing soil. Most ACBS can make enough bonsai soil mix during a good day to last all potting season.

The September sequence of events until March can be,

Sept : Light bonsai work with plans and buying for Spring.

Oct: Soil mix , pot selection and set up, fix bonsai area and hot houses.

Nov: Prune, wire, style,

Dec: Prune, wire , style.

Jan: Dig, Repot, Prune, Wire , style and clean up bonsai area.

Feb: Repot, wire

March: Repot, Wire, Prune, sweat and say hello to the Summer bugs. Joe Day

## THE LOUISIANA "DAY OF BONSAI"

### HOSTED BY NORTSHORE BONSAI NOV-15

November 15 at Northshore Bonsai Nursery location, Guy Guidry will host the Louisiana Day of Bonsai for 2008. The details here are from a conversation I had with Guy Guidry at the New Orleans Auction. The event will be held at Guy Guidry's house located behind the nursery, under tents with lots of food

and drink. Three local artist will be working on some exceptional material. Everyone will be able to walk around and watch the demonstrations and learn. The cost has not been fixed as of this time. That cost will depend on the cost of the food, but it should be very reasonable. Northshore Bonsai Nursery is two

hours from Mobile just off I-10. We will supply a map to anyone who need directions. This will be a great Fall season day trip for any bonsai artist. We will provide more information as it comes available. Mark your calendar this should be a good one.

Joe Day

## A ROAD TRIP TO ALBANY GEORGIA

I took the scenic route this time , up I-65 over to Dothan then up to Albany. The good folk at the South Georgia Bonsai Society couldn't have been any nicer. Xuan and I found a good Thai Restaurant in Dothan, stayed at a Hilton in Albany that had great food saw lots and lots of cotton and peanut fields. The Albany bonsai artist brought in some very nice material for the work shop and some very good

food for lunch. I have never ate any food at any bonsai event that wasn't great. Ten years had passed by the time I got back to Dothan and Albany, Georgia. Both towns are growing fast. All the "name" restaurants and big box retailers are on hand. If the small towns have a red light it also has a Mc Donald's, a Fred's or Dollar General, a payday loan office and a nail shop. I did see on thing that held my

attention for a bit. In one small town, one red light and one caution light, I saw a place that had about 20 old Volkswagen bugs behind a wire fence. It was late, they were not open or closed down, I don't know. I do know I haven't see that many VW bugs in one spot in a long, long time. It's a good day's drive over to Albany but going the back roads was interesting. The time with the Albany group was great. Joe Day

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*Dedicated to the art of bonsai*

## *The Who's*

They are not always the person standing in front of the meeting, written about in the newsletter or giving a lot of programs at meetings. They often serve in a position and then fade back into the membership. They are the who's that keep bonsai societies going. Their reward is the reward they give themselves. My recent visit with the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society and the South Georgia Bonsai Society proved the love of the art form and willingness to keep showing up and doing what needs to be done keeps bonsai societies alive year after year. From the depths of membership comes new leaders. Bless them all. The New Orleans Fall Auction was a showcase of a bonsai society that wouldn't be kept down. So many members that have served for many, many years. They make a great team. New Orleans will host the BCI convention next June. This would not be possible at all without a core group of people who can get it done with a minimum of instruction. When you go to the BCI 09 Convention you are supporting BCI but you are also supporting and saying thanks to a great group of bonsai artist who have had to come back from the edge. Bonsai societies don't make bonsai artist. Bonsai artist make up bonsai societies. Their individual contributions both support the society and assist other artist to improve their ability to create great bonsai. Good bonsai are the only product of a bonsai society. Enjoying the other bonsai artist as people you enjoy interacting with is the grease that keeps a society running smooth. Probably the greatest contribution you can make to a bonsai society is to be the grease not the grit.

Joe Day

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