

# SOUTHERN BONSAIST

A publication of the Azalea City Bonsai Society Mobile, Alabama

## *ACBS MERRY CHRISTMAS DINNER*

**DECEMBER 02 - MOBILE BOTANICAL GARDENS**

ACBS will hold a covered dish dinner to celebrate Christmas 08. The dinner will be held at the Mobile Botanical Gardens, Tuesday December 02. ACBS members will bring a covered dish with either a vegetable, a sweet or a salad. ACBS will furnish the meats, drinks and table set up. We will open the doors about 6 P.M. to set up. We will try to start serving by 7 P.M. Members can bring a special Christmas raffle item to give the night a Christmas get a gift feeling. This is special family night for husband, wife, children or any other family members. We invite our past members and other coast bonsai artist. If you have additional questions you can contact Joe Kuhn our President or Joe Day. We sincerely hope all ACBS members can attend and help celebrate our past year of great bonsai events.

President Joe Kuhn  
Your editor Joe Day

Your editor, Joe Day gave himself a special Christmas present, he made this a one page newsletter knowing I need to spend time with my bonsai and you all need to do the Turkey and Santa thing. We have many events coming up for 2009. December will bring a newsletter detailing all our exciting plans for 2009.

ACBS January Meeting at the Botanical Gardens on Tuesday the 6th of January, 2009 will be a special **REPOTTING CLASS**. If you are new or fairly new to bonsai you want to attend this meeting. A good repotting job is a "life or death" situation for each bonsai. Our Mobile, Gulf Coast area is unique in many ways and these ways can bring either good thing or bad thing. Joe Day

## **BEN OKI, AMERICA'S TOP BONSAI ARTIST WILL HOLD A WORKSHOP FOR ACBS FEBRUARY 4TH**

The Ben Oki workshop will be held February 4th at the Garden Center at the intersection of Forest Hill and Ziegler Blvd on February 4th at 7 P.M. This will be our only scheduled major bonsai artist workshop for the Spring of 2009. Ben will be here during styling prime time, February.

ACBS will charge only \$20.00 for each of 10 workshop slots and \$3.00 to attend and not work in the workshop. Ben Oki works on any species and can create any style of bonsai. A Ben Oki workshop is a very special event. Don't be the bonsai artist that

spends a moment in the future saying "Ben Oki was one of America's best bonsai artist and I didn't work with him when I had a chance" As I said earlier, a Ben Oki workshop is a very special event that you are invited to make a part of your bonsai experience. Joe Day

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*Dedicated to the art of bonsai*

## The Journey

The bonsai journey for all bonsai artist begins the day they decide they want to create their own bonsai and end for a few lucky people the day they die. It always contains some bad moments, some wonderful moments and for some the greatest moments of an artist life. I know the best season of the year for me begins now. Today for a few hours I was blissfully lost in my world designing new bonsai from some wonderful material that had come my way this year. Watching all the bonsai drift into winter sleep only to wake with the longer, warmer days of Spring is a renewal to both the bonsai and the artist. Time is always fleeting and difficult to mold into those wonderful hours when only the things that you truly enjoy can be the focus of your life. Bonsai are much like time in a bottle. They are visual proof that your life was more than just getting a day into the past and waking to face another. They are real objects of you creativity, your caring and your desire to make the world a bit more beautiful for those who slow down enough to enjoy the trip. For those who walked the path that becomes the journey, with me, this year, Thanks.

Joe Day

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