

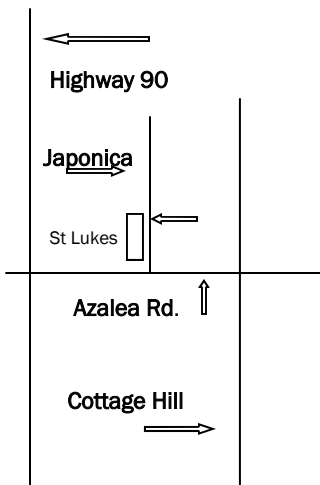
SOUTHERN BONSAIST

A publication of the Azalea City Bonsai Society Mobile, Alabama

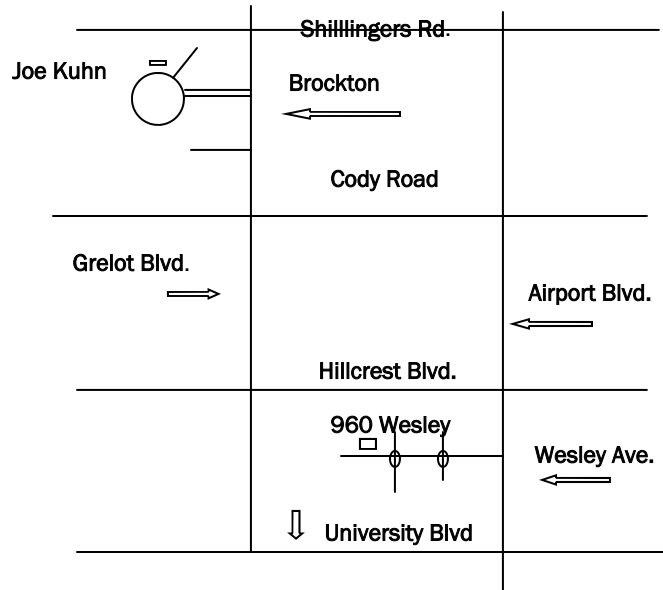
BONSAI BACKYARD VISIT THE OCTOBER 25TH MEETING

The
ACBS Fall
Auction
Oct-11th
St Lukes School
And Church
Azalea Road

Doors open
4 P.M.
Viewing
5 P.M.
Auction starts
6 P.M.



No first Tuesday meeting. A lot can be learned about bonsai when you visit a bonsai collection. Collections are made up of bonsai at very different stages of development. You don't see this at a bonsai show. Clamps, wire, iron poles, turnbuckles, epoxy and many other items are bonsai tools that shape bonsai material into beautiful bonsai. It's nice to have a show like backyard but the reality is a backyard bonsai area is the bonsai garage where bonsai are built and get a tune up. Much of what we do to develop bonsai is a bit unique to bonsai so never worry about asking question about what you see. What you think is going on just might not be what is actually going on. This back yard meeting at the collections of Joe Day and Joe Kuhn is a look, ask questions and learn tour. The tour will start at Joe Kuhn's house at 10:00 and then over to Joe Day's house. Refreshments will be on hand. Bring a friend along if you wish. 10 A.M. until we finish. Joe Day



Joe Day's house is easy to find. Just turn half way between University and Hillcrest left on Wesley Ave. The Bay Bank is on the right side of Wesley. Past two traffic circles to 960. Park on the street as the actual driveway is at the rear on McNeil. Joe Kuhn's house in **Brockton** is half way between Cody and Shillingers. Turn into the subdivision and take your first right. Go around **past** the first street on the right. Joe Kuhn house is the first house on the right. 7480 West Brockton Lane. We will both have balloons or something out front.

THE LIBRARY SHOW REVIEW DOWNTOWN BEN MAY BRANCH

Joe Kuhn, Joe Day, Russell Coker and John Lee displayed bonsai at the Ben May Library Downtown Mobile. It was a great show. Not a big display of bonsai but a display rich in species, sizes and years of development. The library staff was wonderful. The facility is

amazing to behold. We had a nicely equipped lecture room to give lectures. The flow of people all day was steady. Almost all the people who can to the display room stayed and talked with someone and showed a lot of interest. This was a fun but relaxing show.

The morning lecture by Joe kuhn had a nice group of people. John Lee sold a table full of small bonsai to the public. I think the library staff bought about half the bonsai. Most said they would come to a ACBS meeting. A great Day. Joe Day

BUILDING A BONSAI COLLECTION

New bonsai artist should plan their bonsai collection but I never found one that actually did any planning. Why plan how your collection will grow? Limited space, limited knowledge, limited help, limited money and limited time are all good reasons. Anyone with any amount of talent, time or money can have a nice bonsai collection. If they take the time to plan the bonsai area, bonsai species and styles they want to have in the collection it can all happen much quicker than it would without a plan. All bonsai species have growth requirements. They grow better when you

put them into a place that fits their growth requirements. Sunlight is a major factor. Water is a major factor. Plants need both to grow well. Some species need full sun most of the day. The type of yard you have, shady, full sun, windy or out of any wind will make species choice more critical. If you have a yard that has areas that are shady, some full sun, some where the wind blows your choices are not so critical. If you can't spare much time for your bonsai choose species that require less work to look great. If you choose species that take lots of work you will never have a good looking bonsai collec-

tion. If the smell of chemicals or the spray is harmful to you that will make your species choice come from a list of plants that have few insect or fungus problems.

Building a bonsai collection around plants that fit your personal life style and living conditions will make your bonsai time more productive and more fun. Each year should provide you with a much improved bonsai collection. If you should have to move to another location you can adapt much easier because you know how to plan your bonsai progress.

Joe Day

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

REMEMBER THIS ABOUT BONSAI

Plants grow where the conditions are best for them. Very small trees grow into big trees without ever moving to a better area to grow or changing the soil where they are growing. They do this by adapting to make the best of where they are. The roots become the type roots that do best in the soil available. The buds know where the sun is and

set growth to use that sunshine.

Find a place in your yard where a bonsai grows great. Don't move it around after this spot is found.

Don't mess with the soil when you find a soil that is great for each bonsai. Always repot into the same type soil that the roots have adapted to use.

Buds need sunlight. Turn your bonsai often, Turn not move.

Water each bonsai individually. Not as difficult as it sounds and it makes watering quicker. You can water deep those that need deep water, skip those that need to dry for another day.

Pot your bonsai to grow not show. The correct pot will do both.

Joe Day

AUCTION REMINDERS

THE ACBS FALL AUCTION AT ST LUKES OCT-11

It's a party, social gathering, a bonsai event and the primary fund raising event for the Azalea City Bonsai Society. All items up for bid are donated by wonderful bonsai artist. Most of the money raised for the event pays for bonsai teachers and meeting places. Bonsai, Bonsai pots, tools, soil, fertilizers, chemicals, books, magazines, whiskey, wine, cakes, cookies, bonsai stands, 5 gallon paint buck-

ets, tool chest, You get the idea. If it can be used by people who do bonsai in any way it's a good item to donate. We will open the doors at St Lukes at 4 p.m. All donations must be brought in to the building, tagged with a number and placed in the viewing area. Any ACBS member that can be at St Lukes by 4 P.M. can help make this process go smoothly. Anyone with a small cart that can haul

plants should bring it along. They make haul to and from the parking lot a lot easier. The goal is to get almost all donations numbered and in the viewing area by 5 P.M. This gives those attending time to view what they will try to take home with the high bid. Bidding will start at 6 P.M. If you want to bring some cookies, cake or any snack for the refreshment table it would be appreciated.

Joe Day

OCTOBER

MOVE OVER SUMMER HERE COMES WINTER

With days in the 80's and nights in the 60's the first hint of season change shows up tomorrow, Sept 16. It will be a much welcomed change. The Fall surge of growth is happening all over the bonsai area. I will put out my last bit of organic fertilizer on all trees to give them something to feed on as the growing season winds down. I do some Juniper work now. A bit of trimming and some wire where it's needed. Most Juniper will flush out some new growth and settle down for the winter. A second bit of pinching early spring and a Juniper can look show perfect just in time for Spring shows.

Some Japanese Maple and Trident Maple can push out some long growth in a hurry the next 6 weeks. It's ok to leave it if it helps the design or cut it off if it's not needed. Elm's, Hawthorne and Hornbeam leaves start getting brown edges, brown spots and turning yellow. It is part fungus, part normal shedding old leaves. If overall the tree looks healthy don't bother with it. Start your cleaning of any dead wood and treating it with Lime Sulphur. It's one of those jobs where you won't be bothered by anyone because it's dirty work and the Lime Sulphur stinks,,,,,bad. Do this work after a good meal not

just before a good meal. That smell hangs on your fingers. A good trick is to wet your hands, sprinkle baby powder all over the hands, scrub them together a bit, rinse then use soap. This works great when you use a strong cleaning soap and it just won't rinse off.

October is a good time to plant container plants into the ground. If you have some bonsai material you want to fatten up in the ground this is a great time to get it in a growing area. October can be hot, wet, cold, dry or any combination. Daily bonsai care is a very good idea. Joe Day

THINKING ABOUT WINTER

Winter protection kills more bonsai than Winter weather. I can't protect all my non-tropical bonsai and bonsai stock. I have never lost a plant that was sitting on the ground to extreme cold. I have had bonsai over heat and dry out inside the winter protection building. I have had bonsai pots cracked from the soil freezing and expanding.

The point is, with non-tropical species protection from cold temps, not freezing wind, can be rather simple. Just keep the soil above freezing. Any structure that keeps the temps just above freezing and stops the wind will work. It's usually the heat rising during the day that cooks the bonsai. We only protect for about one or two days in a row. Dark will

not harm the trees during that length of time. A garage, storage area of a carport are good. For very low temps one or two ceramic heaters will be all you should need. In a garage you can hang some plastic curtains to create a smaller area that will have to be heated. A bit of time a bit of work you should be ok. Adapt and survive. Joe Day

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

LIVING THE MOMENT

Every year is a different growing year. This has been a wet growing year. Not too wet but wet during our normal dry months. The good that can come from this is Fall color. If we get a night of about freezing temps in early Oct we will get some good Fall color. The bad is we have plants with very active root systems. Active growing roots are soft roots. Either a period of low humidity with some wind or a

sudden freeze could severely damage the root system. If we get into that low humidity and wind, water, and water to keep the soil moist but not wet. If we get a sudden freeze protect your trees. September and October are normally dry months. Be quick to react.

Bonsai is more about reacting to reality than going by any set of rules. Never do a lot of development work on a weak bonsai. No large cuts, hard

wiring or pruning off of next years buds. Try to determine the cause of the weak condition of the bonsai. 90% of the time it will be root problems but don't be too quick to believe that. If a tree was in too much shade or had fungus problems cleaning the root system and new soil might not be the answer to the problem. Take time to ask yourself all the correct questions before you react.

Joe Day

Azalea City Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 9591
Mobile, Al 36691
E-Mail: ACBSbonsai@aol.com
Web site azaleacitybonsaisociety.com

Phone: 251-344-5873
Fax: 251-342-6431

Dedicated to the art of bonsai

Walking Point

Walking point is a army term. It's the unlucky fellow who is first in line as the row of men walk a trail, road, etc. A TV drama I watched in the 70's had a drunk man holding a gun to a man's head as he drank more and more. The poor fellow had ask what it was like to walk point, the man held the gun to the fellows head and said " I might get drunk enough to pull the trigger or I might not but you will have to just wait and hope I don't , that's walking point. You just have to wait and wonder." It's the same way now as we watch the latest hurricane move across the water twisting and turning. With each twist the cone of landfall moves back and forth. When it moves across your point of the world the mental dread moves upward, moving away from your area the mental dread eases up a bit. Much like getting shot. Where it hits, how it hits, how hard the hit makes the difference between inconvenience and a fatal blow. Move away to where this doesn't happen? California had it's fires, and earthquakes, floods in the mid-west and north. Extreme dry conditions in much the upper south and southwest. Tornadoes almost every where inland. Snow and ice storms over much of the nation each winter. It's impossible , short of death, to get away from it all. I put my bonsai on the ground, sprayed fungicide on almost all. For the hurricane, yes but I do it every September to allow me a chance to power wash the benches and repair the continuous decay. Putting bonsai down is a chore but picking them up again is a pain but sitting on benches that are clean and free of the green glow of whatever is eating them is wonderful. Effort can have rewards. Some times it the most rewarding thing in life. Joe Day
