

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

A publication of the Azalea City Bonsai Society Mobile, Alabama

REPOTTING ROUNDTABLE THE JANUARY 6TH ACBS MEETING

Repotting bonsai is done for many reasons. It can involve almost no root cutting or it can involve major root cutting.

If you are only moving the tree into a better pot this is easy, quick and very safe. If you are removing a major part of the root system this is neither quick, easy or safe for the bonsai if it is done wrong. How you repot, when you repot and what type of aftercare is somewhat different for every species of plant used for bonsai. The good news is, most plants have a high tolerance for our mistakes. It best not to make any mistakes but ask any bonsai artist and they will relate how one or more of their bonsai survived their own mistakes. This roundtable will take on all questions about root work and bonsai container use. Joe Day, Russel Coker have 30 years experience, depending on who shows up we could have a few more with almost that many years of root work and container use on hand. **Joe Day**

**ACBS January 6th
Regular Monthly Meeting
Mobile Botanical Gardens
7: P.M.**

Program: A bonsai repotting roundtable

Bring your bonsai for repotting advice or just ask a lot of question. Now is the start of the best time to repot bonsai.

Host: Joe Day

Tokanoma: Joe Kuhn

We will be making up a new host and tokanoma list for 2009. You can tell Joe Kuhn the month you would like serve as host or Joe Kuhn can just include you for any month of 09. The person that host will bring the tokanoma the next month. If you know you are going to be out of town on any meeting night let Joe Kuhn know and he will not list you as host for that month. Each member will host no more than one time per year. You can sign up at the January meeting or E-mail Joe Kuhn .

BEN OKI, TOP AMERICAN BONSAI ARTIST WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 4TH

February 4th, 7P.M. at the Garden Center located at the intersection of Forest Hill and Ziegler Blvd. The workshop charge is only \$20.00 to work or \$3. to attend and view. The workshop is open to 10 people. Ben Oki is a top bonsai artist known all over the

world. Ben works with all species and all styles. Over the past 30+ years I have see Ben create some amazing bonsai from all types of bonsai material. This is a chance to work with one of the best know and most talented bonsai artist teaching today.

You can sign up to work with Ben Oki by E-mailing ACBS President Joe Kuhn or signing up at the January ACBS meeting. A Ben Oki workshop is a very special event . Don't let this opportunity pass by without attending. **Joe Day**

THE DAY OF BONSAI 2009 LOOKING BACK TO GO FORWARD

ACBS will present the 09 Day of Bonsai "Looking Back to Go Forward". March 14th will be the date. St. Lukes will be the location. This Day of Bonsai will feature in depth information on two great species for bonsai, Juniper and Azalea. We have a great wealth of information about these species but they are definitely not being used frequently by our Gulf Coast bonsai artist. Patrick O Nasa will give a in depth lecture on Disease and Insect control for bonsai artist. This information alone is worth the price of admission. Don Corley's ability to grow healthy Juniper

and Juniper bonsai is legend in our area. He will tell everyone how it's done. Russell Coker and Joe Day will review their many years experience with the development of Azalea bonsai. ACBS has acquired some outstanding "large" 5 gallon staked Procumbus Juniper. A 10 person workshop featuring these Juniper will be available for \$75.00. This is half the price this material quoted to us from a number of nurseries. This Workshop is both a design workshop and a continuation of the Don Corley Juniper development and care lecture. The person who signs up first gets to choose

their Juniper first for the workshop, second sign up person get second choice and so on. We have a number of people who will be vendors for this day of bonsai. A number of local artist have indicated they are selling both excess pots, bonsai and bonsai stock.

If you are a serious bonsai artist this is the place to be on March 14th.

The fee for this "Day of Bonsai" is still \$35. single, \$40. Family, Lunch will be served. The Juniper workshop fee is additional to the entrance fee.

Additional information, Email Joe Day at ACBSBon-

LOOKING BACK TO GO FORWARD

The first bonsai shows and workshops of all the 70's and 80's bonsai clubs were for the most part Juniper events. ACBS shows were full of Juniper and Azalea bonsai. Why? Because that was what was free to dig, Azalea or cheap to buy, Juniper. Other species were seen but in very small numbers. Juniper and

Azalea fell out of favor with bonsai artist in our area as they were too many and too cheap. Now 30 plus years later big Juniper and Azalea are rare and expensive. They are still great bonsai material and now get the respect they deserve. Our collections and our show would be better if we had more Juniper an

Azalea bonsai included. This Day of Bonsai 09 will show every bonsai artist attending the how, how not's and the pleasure of working with Juniper and Azalea to create great bonsai that will improve their collections and be, in time, show bonsai that will improve the society shows.

Joe Day

ACBS SPRING MEMBERS SHOW APRIL 18TH MOBILE LIBRARY GRELOT ROAD BRANCH

The Spring Show is a show for all the members of ACBS. It's a chance to show the public what we do and if you take time to talk with people viewing the show you can tell them why we love to do bonsai. You could say the Spring Members Show is a teaching show for the public. We show bonsai in all stages of development. This is how the public comes to understand how bonsai develop over the

years. A bonsai is never finished so it's impossible to ever show a "finished" bonsai in a show. You can only show your bonsai as it exist on the day of the show. The art of bonsai is the art of doing bonsai and that is what we show the public.

Our Spring show in April will be followed by the **Tri Cities Regional Show** hosted this year by the Bonsai Society of Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

This event will happen Saturday, May 2nd. This show combines member bonsai from Mobile, Pensacola and Ft Walton Beach. It's always a great show of many bonsai and a time to visit with other bonsai artist. The best way to learn bonsai is viewing bonsai and talking with the artist that created the work of art.

Joe Day

WHAT WE DO...WHEN

The membership of ACBS changes yearly. Some years we have a lot of new artist some years few new members. The level of talent and knowledge changes from year to year. Monthly programs are designed to teach the largest number of ACBS members how to create better bonsai. ACBS bonsai has talented bonsai artist that can teach any bonsai subject at any level, from new bonsai artist to experienced artist. As we head into year 2009 we must try to design a year of programs that best serve the membership of ACBS. You the membership of ACBS has the responsibility to talk with

the ACBS President Joe Kuhn and express your idea's about the type of programs that would best serve your desire to learn more about bonsai. Remember, we can teach any aspect of bonsai we just need to know you want and need the instruction.

The article at the bottom of this page reviews the idea's that have not worked out over past years. They might actually work now with an almost entirely new membership.

Workshop meeting only work if members bring material to the workshop. A great way to learn but it requires participation. Lectures work if the

speaker takes the time to create a good lecture. Researching and creating a good lecture is one of the best ways to learn bonsai. With the internet as a resource almost any bonsai subject can become a great lecture that will teach not only new artist but experienced artist. No bonsai artist knows it all and the old hands love to discover new information that could help them create better bonsai.

Year 09 belongs to us all now. Beautiful flowers can grow out of a cow patty. We can have the best ACBS year ever. Let us know how we can do just that. Joe Day

TO SUMMER SOCIAL OR NOT

The ACBS Summer Social was designed to be a relaxed covered dish lunch to celebrate the end of Spring and the busy bonsai work and show time. By design every year a different ACBS member would host the lunch at their house. No expense beyond the covered dish they supplied would be expected of

the host member. Only 5 ACBS members have hosted the event over the past about 11 years. Some hosted 2 or 3 times. The best time for the Summer Social is late May for Early June before the days get too hot to be outside for any length of time.

We are not asking our membership to consider hosting

this event. We would like someone who has not hosted in past years to sign up for this event.

If you think you have an idea about how to have this event, other than at a host members house, e-mail Joe Kuhn your idea. It was a fun, relaxing event that should continue, some way. Joe Day

A SHORT HISTORY OF GOOD INTENTIONS THAT DIDN'T WORK

A second meeting each month, nobody showed up for the second meeting.

Back yard workshops, lots of people signed up, almost no members showed up.

Summer Social. Few hosted, many came.

Member bonsai sales in the Spring. Sellers showed up and sold to each other.

More than one major visiting master teacher each year.

Only one or two signed up for the second master.

Workshop nights at the monthly meeting. Members show up but no trees show up.

Starting the meeting at the stated start time. Most members show up 15 to 30 minutes after the start time.

Assigning monthly programs for members to present. All accepted, all called or e-

mailed to say they couldn't do it.

Name tags: Only stick on tags at each meeting works. Only a few member can remember to bring a permanent tag to the meeting.

Club Library: The material goes out, it never comes back.

Club pins. A hot fad that burned out.

Joe Day

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Dedicated to the art of bonsai



The Journey

The very nature of a journey is the element of change. We change places, scenery and the people in our lives and we call that a trip or a journey. If that is the very nature of a journey then it's possible to take a journey and never leave the place you call home. This year for me was a journey. The changes that 09 will bring to all our lives could make the coming year the most interesting journey ever. ACBS will provide for the membership about 18 meetings and events for 2009. Attending every one , not counting membership fees to ACBS, would be less than fifty dollars. That's less than one night out eating where they offer a full menu. The 18 events could be expanded greatly if you attended events presented by our sister societies in Mississippi, Pensacola and Ft Walton Beach. If you were still looking for bonsai related activities consider spending some time with the local bonsai artist in their back yards. Some artist have almost an open door policy. Some.....not so much. Bonsai can be as big of an event in your life as you desire to make it or the other person in your life allows. Either way it can be rewarding without spending a lot of money. Time out.....that punishment to children is the salvation and mental nourishment to many that have walked down the path of life for many years. The bonsai area can be a wonderful time out place for ...time out.

Joe Day
