

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

A publication of the Azalea City Bonsai Society Mobile, Alabama

THE CHRISTMAS DINNER MEETING DECEMBER 01

ACBS members celebrate the close of the bonsai activities for 2009 with a covered dish dinner. The dinner will be on our normal meeting night, December 01 at our normal meeting location, The Garden Center. We will open the doors at 6 P.M. with the desire to be ready to eat by 7P.M. This is a family night that includes the children so we need to be ready to eat by 7P.M. so the youngest members can get home and bed on time. Older member are welcome to have a extra cup of coffee and dessert and stay as late as they would like. Every member should bring either a vegetable, salad or a sweet. Please e-mail Joe Kuhn and let him know what you will bring. We need a good selection of vegetables, salads and sweets. ACBS will supply the drinks, table wares and the main meats. This is our only eat, drank and relax meeting. We all will have a busy holiday season and a busy bonsai work season ahead so come, relax and enjoy this event. **Joe Day**

The ACBS Christmas Dinner Meeting December 01,

We open the doors at 6 P.M. to be ready to eat by 7 P.M. Members bring a covered dish of either a Vegetable, Salad or Sweet. A raffle item that would please anyone for our special Christmas raffle. This is family night so members and guest are welcome.

Happy Holidays to everyone

Ben Oki will be our be our only **January meeting**. We will not meet on the first Tuesday of the month. You can have the first 21 days of the month of get over the Christmas and New Years celebrating. We do wish all a very happy holiday season.

February 02 ACBS Meeting
Thread and Approach Grafting
Host: Russel Coker
Tokanoma: Russel

BEN OKI WORKSHOP JANUARY 22

Two things that seem to always to happen with Ben Oki, a great workshop and a cold night. Last year and many years in the past the Ben Oki visit came with the very coldest night of the year. Does that present a problem. No, our meeting place is always

Warm, the coffee is hot and the night fun, productive. We will meet at the Garden Center with the doors opening at 6:30 P.M. Joe Kuhn needs to know who will work with Ben at this workshop. The cost to bring a tree and work with Ben is \$20.00. To view the

workshop is \$3.00. Where else can you work with a world class master of any art form for less than the cost of a couple of burgers and a coke? Please e-mail Joe Kuhn at Masterdorn@aol.com to sign up. **Joe Day**

BELLINGRATH GARDENS EXHIBIT

ACBS was invited to show bonsai at their Kiku Matsuri Chrysanthemum Festival. We set up about 8 A.M. in the restaurant on four tables. Joe Day, Joe Kuhn, Don Corley had bonsai in the exhibit. Tommy Skelton, Joe Day and Joe Kuhn set up and spent the day talking with visitors.

Bellingrath management and employees were great. We had a great mix of bonsai species, styles and sizes. We had a chance to talk bonsai with some very interested Bellingrath employees and many nice visitors to the festival. It was nice to see lots of familiar faces of other artist

who participated in the other Japanese art displays. Joe Kuhn brought two pre-bonsai to work with. Both pieces of material were from the recent ACBS auction. I have now see 7 pieces of pre-bonsai from our auction become very good bonsai in training.

This Asian arts festival has all the elements to become a very good venue for ACBS to show bonsai every Fall. Set up was quick and easy. The people at Bellingrath were very nice. The time spent was relaxing and comfortable. The people we talked with were visiting a garden so they were knowledgeable and seem to be very interested in the bon-

sai on display. A nice added plus was the good lighting in the restaurant area.

It takes time and a good bit of effort to get ready for a show of any size. ACBS shows at more locations each year and we certainly appreciate the time and effort of ACBS members who provide support and provide bonsai to show. Bonsai societies either grow or die. The more visible a society becomes the greater the number of members it attracts.

This is our last show for 2009 but plans for 2010 are currently being set up.

Joe Day.

A BONSAI CHRISTMAS

If you need to get bonsai related items for yourself or you need to let your family know how to get items you will most likely need to use the internet. The internet bonsai stores that I and other members have used are Dallas Bonsai and Bonsai Monk.

I have ordered from both companies and found them both friendly and very quick to ship the order.

Dallas bonsai.com

Bonsaimonk.com/

Bonsai-mart.com/

You can Google each of these location. Bonsai Mart is located in Pensacola, Florida.

He is the vendor at our Day of Bonsai event each year.

Most bonsai artist would be happy with just some free time to spend working on their bonsai. That would be a wonderful thing to give and receive. Don't know exactly how you do that, just passing it along.

Joe Day

IF NOT NOW...WHEN!

The tropical storm Ida is still passing as I write this. The frost line is already just north of Mobile. That's our climate. A location where Summer must be pushed aside if winter is to show up. Bonsai artist get antsy to start their cold season bonsai work. You can try to be safe but you can never be certain. Safe is considering the species you are working on. Understanding the procedure you are starting

to do and taking your time as you do the procedure. The last step in , safe, is after care. Any hard pruning, root work or transplanting from the ground produces a lot of stress for any plant. Hot, cold, windy, wet or dry weather also creates stress when it exceeds the normal range. Any time you do serious work on a bonsai it will need to be placed in a sheltered area. Wind that dries

the tissue is the most dangerous, too wet soil or too dry soil is almost as dangerous as a drying wind. Even dormant trees must maintain their optimum moisture levels in their tissue. A- Understand the procedure you are doing. B- Take time and do it correctly. C- Move the plant to a safe area. D- Check the plant often and correct any problems.

Joe Day

THE ART OF BONSAI

The only time you make a great change with a bonsai is the first time you style the material. Every time you work on that bonsai tree after the first styling you must take time to look at the tree and make solid decisions. Don't pick up a bonsai tool until you are certain that the next thing you do is the correct thing to do. No bonsai is created quickly so don't be in a hurry. All styling is a slow process of improving the positives and reducing the negatives.

Improving the positives usually happens first. The positives are things moved into new places and things grown

and placed into the correct positions. Creating Jin and Shari is a big improvement that can happen quickly. Reducing the negatives is usually the slowest change that comes to a bonsai. Negatives include creating a new apex, scar healing, correcting inverse taper, correcting or creating roots. If these things are the slowest to happen the best procedure is to start making these changes as soon as it is possible and work often to continue these changes.

Sounds simple. It isn't. The human condition works against this procedure. We want to enjoy the positives

we don't want to deal with the negatives. We want to believe the process of improving the positives will make the negatives less negative. It won't. You will see the bonsai in that manner because you told yourself that the positives would reduce the negatives. Another bonsai artist viewing your bonsai will see the negatives as negatives. They didn't see the progress happen. They never saw the positives become more positive. They can only see the fact that the negatives are still there. It's almost a 1-2 process. 1. find the problem, 2. solve the problem. Joe Day

COLD FACTS

Tropical bonsai can and are killed if they are not protected from freezing. Non-tropical bonsai often killed when they are protected because they are in non vented places that heat up on a clear day and the bonsai are difficult to water correctly. I have never had a bonsai that was out of the wind and on the ground killed by cold weather. I have

had bonsai pots crack because the soil froze, expanded and cracked the container.

Unless we are having record breaking cold your non tropical bonsai in either mica pots or nursery pots will be ok as long as they are on the ground and out of the wind. Your non tropical bonsai in

good bonsai containers will be ok if they are inside where the soil mass can not freeze solid. It has to get cold and stay cold a long time to freeze soil solid when its inside and room. If we go below 15 degrees or stay below freezing for more then a few hours it takes heat to protect the soil from freezing solid. Joe Day

QUESTIONS

IF someone ask you this question could you answer it? What are your best 5 bonsai? What are your planning to do with these bonsai next year to make them better bonsai?

Bonsai only get better if you make them better. If you don't improve your best bonsai and only work on your other bonsai you end up with benches full of just so-so bonsai. Making good bonsai better is difficult and time con-

suming. When you have a plan of what needs to be done you can add the following information, when is the best time of the year to do this work, what do you need to buy to do this work, what help do you need to do this work.

It fun to just go out and mess with a few bonsai. I love doing that at time but good bonsai trees need dedicated time to move them

forward to the next stage of development.

Always plan to make the best bonsai the material you are using will allow. You can always get help from other bonsai artist when your design needs technical work that you think is beyond your current ability. Do the work correctly the first time and it will not need to be done over later. That's a great way to speed your bonsai along. Joe Day

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Dedicated to the art of bonsai


Organization

Why I Enjoy Bonsai

My city garbage truck shows up always about 10 to 11 A.M. This morning after tropical storm gave us 45 mph winds all night making placing a trash can on the side of the street a bad idea I hear the trash truck at 8 A.M. My new digital camera is actually a computer that takes good pictures. I'm old-just want to take pictures then delete them after they are uploaded into the computer. It takes about 15 menu steps to do this simple delete procedure.

I took my car for service. The service area is better than the VIP lounge at a major airport. Free Starbucks coffee. As I stood at the urinal I see they have a flat screen TV over each urinal. If you have time to watch your favorite television program as you do your urinal business your car isn't the only thing that needs service call.

I went out to do my shopping and other stops. I found a line with only a lady and her cart of big items ahead of me. They swiftly check her items and she starts to swipe her debit card. Somehow she manages to push the card reader off the counter and on the floor. I'm suddenly next in line....as soon as they can repair the reader. I leave to go to the library on Grelot. As I pull in I stop to allow a little grandmother type to exit. She rolls down her window and yells " get the hell out of my way" I roll down my window and say "And Merry Christmas to you." I got the finger. Joe Day