

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

A publication of the Azalea City Bonsai Society Mobile, Alabama

HOW TO SHAPE/GROW AN APEX AND/OR A GRAFTING DEMO

The above might be a bit confusing so let 's clean it up. Brenda Litchfield has considerable expertise grafting Camellias. She also has an interest in bonsai. Joe Kuhn has ask her to do a grafting demo at our April meeting. Time permitting Joe Kuhn also has a nice presentation on building a nice apex on your bonsai tree. Grafting knowledge opens up a lot of expanded styling opportunities in bonsai. The types of grafting that we will see is unknown at this time. I would bring a pencil and pad and take notes on this. We will be very fortunate to have some with hands on knowledge available to teach us this highly technical aspect of plant development.

Apex development is critical to creating a fully developed bonsai. The program by Joe Kuhn if it is not presented this month will be moved to next month. Joe Day



This was Kirk Vaughn's Lantana he brought to the New Orleans workshop to show me. He picked this up at the ACBS Fall Auction two years ago. It was just a twin stump with some rot when he took it home . A true bonsai artist does just that, creates. The picture is just a snap shot and does not do justice to this work of bonsai art.

Joe Day

ACBS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
APRIL 7TH at 7 P.M.
At-The Garden Center
Grafting Procedures and/or
Apex Development for Bonsai

Host: Joe Kuhn

Tokenoma: John Lee

ACBS
May 5th
Regular Meeting
How to grow trees

Host: Craig Kunz

Tokenoma: Joe Kuhn

ACBS
June 2nd
Regular Meeting
How to Bend Branches
Joe Day

Host: Margarete
Tokenoma: Craig Kunz

THE ACBS SPRING BONSAI SHOW APRIL 18TH THE MOBILE WEST REGIONAL LIBRARY

The West Mobile Regional Library on Grelot road is the location. April 18th is the date. 9 A.M to 6 P.M. is the time. We would like a bonsai from every ACBS member included in this show. We would also like to have as many ACBS members on hand as possible to meet

The public and answer question. We will start the set up of the bonsai display are at 8 a.m. Any bonsai to be included in the show should be at the show by 8:30 a.m. We would also like some great weather for the day. Previous shows at this location have

had a wide range of weather, rain, wind, cold but it has never made the crowd any smaller. Joe Kuhn will need to know who will show bonsai, the size and number of bonsai to be show and when you can help with the show.
Joe Day

APRIL TRIM, FERTILIZE, TRIM AND TRIM SOME MORE.

You get 90 percent of your growth for the year on your bonsai during the next 60 days. If you are trying to get a lot of development work accomplished you will need to water with care, fertilize to encourage back budding and trim often and correctly. Our days and nights are mostly in the best growing range of temps. Tropical bonsai need a almost steady night time temp of around 60 degrees to grow well. That usually happens during April and continues until almost November.

During March the sun track changes each day. During April it will change even

quicker and the change of foliage density might put some of your bonsai is too much shade. If possible water your bonsai early each morning. This will give the soil the highest amount of moisture to last until you can water again during the later part of the day. Do not water the foliage if you water late in the day. Wet foliage and darkness can promote fungus problems. If you water late in the day water the soil not the tree.

New growth attracts insects that chew on the tender new growth. Lucky for us they can usually be controlled with natural insecticides that are

non-toxic to humans. Look around the store shelf for brands that are natural and non-toxic.

With enough after care root work can continue during this month but it gets difficult to predict the results as temps climb. You can certainly take a tree out of a container and simply move it to a larger container with almost no danger to the plant. Tropical root work is a different story. Many tropical species do better when they are root trimmed and repotted during the warm days and nights. Bonsai work never ends so just staying on top of what needs to be accomplished is the whole game.

Joe Day

THE ART OF WATERING

Yes correct watering of bonsai is an art. Why art ? Because each bonsai should be watered individually . Every tree every day is in it's own individual stage of development. Each bonsai has its own soil condition. Some bonsai dry quickly some dry slowly they both should be watered only enough to allow the soil to

stay moist not wet. If you have a few bonsai it's not difficult to check the soil before watering. If you have a lot of bonsai it helps to group the fast drying bonsai with each other and the slow drying with each other. You still need to check before watering but it makes things easier. As the days get hotter moving fast

drying bonsai into more shade will help. Over watering can kill roots, create too much new growth that stays soft too long encouraging insects and fungus. When it rains and rains and rains the only thing you can do is raise one end of the bonsai pot to help the soil drain quicker.

Joe Day

SHOW TIME PREP

If you want you bonsai to look their best at show time you should pick the bonsai you want to show early. You should prune it often but stop pruning a couple weeks before the show date to allow new growth to show. The time table for the last pruning date can be moved forward for fast growing species. A tooth brush is the best tool to scrub both the bark on species that need trunk cleaning.

You do not clean species that have a flakey bark that enhances the appearance of the tree. Clean the bonsai container with soapy water and the toothbrush. After the tree and pot both look insect free, pruned and clean do any needed wiring of the smaller branches. The surface of the soil in the container should be at least clean of any dead leaves or twigs. Most bonsai look best with some green

moss near the trunk. Never cut the moss into small squares and make a pattern using the moss. Make the moss look as natural as possible.

If rain is predicted close to the show date bring the bonsai into a sheltered place. A bonsai dripping water from the drain holes makes a mess on the show table. With a bit of care a good tree can become a great tree on show day.

Joe Day

THE 09 "DAY OF BONSAI" RECAP

There's always the forces of good and evil to deal with and the forces of good were with us for the day of bonsai. Reports of rain and thunder held off until the Day of Bonsai was past and entered into history. As I unloaded my van at home the rain fell and I could have cared less. I was tired and happy that a bunch of good bonsai artist had taken time from their busy lives to join us for excellent lectures, good bonsai on display and a great Juniper workshop. The coffee was good, the sweets tasty and the lunch must have been ok. Only a tiny bit of left over food was on had at the clean up.

Many thanks to Patrick LaNasa, Don Corley, Russell for their Lectures. Well presented and filled with information that could be put to use instantly by any bonsai artist this set of lectures will be had to top next year.

At the close of activities almost every person started cleaning, moving out items and making everything right, neat and tidy. A quick tally of money expended and money taken in at the Day of Bonsai shows we can expect to start planning the 2010 Day of Bonsai soon. The fact that we will continue is due to the bonsai artist that support ACBS and we do appreciate

that support. Our vendor Bonsai Mart said a quick tally after the event showed it was a good day for him.

To continue to be true to the format we invented 13 years ago called "The Day of Bonsai" we need talented and knowledgeable bonsai artist to present educational lectures every year. Do you have a subject you would like to cover at our next Day of Bonsai? We would love to schedule you at the event.

If you know how we can make our Day of Bonsai a better event contact Joe Day. I would love to hear your suggestions. Joe Day

THE TRI-CITIES SHOW IN FT WALTON BEACH MAY 2ND

Ft Walton Beach Bonsai Society will host the Tri-Cities Regional Bonsai Show Saturday May 2nd. The show will be held at West wood, 1001 Mar Walt Dr. in Ft Walton Beach, Florida. This is an excellent show that is indoors in an air conditioned area. Ft Walton always provides a nice supply of hot, cold drinks and

snacks. The area is close to many good places to eat. I use Map-Quest to get directions and they we excellent. This show is an excellent opportunity to not only see a great display of excellent bonsai, it is also a relaxing place to sit and talk with a lot of bonsai artist. Be sure to bring your camera with you. The

lighting in the display area is usually excellent for photography.

Ft Walton will need to know who is going to show a bonsai, the size, species. Vendors will be on hand at this event. This event makes for a great one day vacation or stay over for a long weekend on the beach. Joe Day

BCI JUNE 19,20,21 WORLD CONVENTION NEW ORLEANS

Your chance to go to a major bonsai convention with world class bonsai artist and only have to drive a couple hours straight down the road. This convention in New Orleans will be held at the City Park. You can do the whole 3 days or two or just one day. They have a great selection of artist, workshops. You can go on the internet to WWW.bci2009.com for complete information. You can contact Joe Day for a complete registration

Form. World class bonsai artist Peter Chan, Great Britain, Tedy Boy, Indonesai, Glenis & Lindsay Bebb, Australia, Willi Benz, Germany, I.C. Su, Taiwan, Sandro Segneri, Italy, Nacho Marin, Venezuela, Jim & Linda Brant, Pennsylvania, Guy Guidry, Ed Trout and William N. Valavanis, Richard & Dora Ross from the USA.

It is impossible to know when another bonsai congress this big and important will be held this close to Mobile. Please take advantage of this opportunity to attend this event. The location is easy to find, close to lots of good places to eat. Make it 3 days for just a great weekend. Don't forget the camera so we can all see what you saw.

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

Sometimes

Sometimes the positives in life actually line up. Great weather, smooth trip, fantastic material, great host to stay with, good, very good food and some of the best bonsai artist you ever shared a workshop with that was this weekend's trip to New Orleans to do a demo and workshop with Chinese Elm. New Orleans is largely back as New Orleans the great place to visit and eat at some of the worlds best neighborhood restaurants. Thanks to my host Fred and Pat Kreger who either drove me around or let me follow them, the confusion that is driving in New Orleans was never a problem. The Chinese Elm were fantastic. 6 to 8 inches bases and about 18" inches tall. I think we did 13 during the 9 A.M. to 12 noon workshop. I hope I did justice to each tree. Some times you see the workshop material, later, more developed, either on backyard visits or at a show but it's too rare. Our trip back took a swing into the Vietnamese shopping and eating area. I love doing bonsai but I also love to eat good food. Traffic on I-10 back was normal, fast, crowded and crazy. Kirk Vaughn the long time New Orleans bonsai artist and long time supporter of ACBS activities brought in a absolutely beautiful Lantana he had picked up a couple of years ago at our fall ACBS auction. It started as a couple of twisting stumps. I tried to get a good photograph so I hope I can include it in this newsletter. His work with this great material but difficult to turn into a great styled bonsai was truly inspiring. All in all like I said plus, plus and plus. I had a great time, learned a lot and spent time with some great people all the time the weather was great. Joe Day
