

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

**New Orleans
Fall Auction
August 14th
6500 Magazine ST.
In the Nims Commu-
nity Center. 4 P.M.**

**Joe Kukn will take a
van load so sign up at
the August meeting
Limited seating !**

AUGUST ACBS MEETING:

**JOHN NAKA DESIGNS FOR SOUTHERN TREES &
MEMBERS PLAN FOR 2010 & 2011**

A good year for any bonsai society is a year when the needs of the membership are accomplished and it was fun doing it. The second half of the August meeting will be "you" the membership telling Joe Kuhn what programs you think should be presented over the next 12 months, the shows we have and the events we support.

The night will start with a power point program that reviews the bonsai designs that apply to the trees we use for bonsai in our area. I think you will enjoy this presentation. It isn't long as time goes but it is timeless in the way John designed bonsai that represent the beautiful trees in our gulf coast area.

You the membership can get a head start on this meeting by thinking about what you want ACBS to accomplish over the next 12 months. Every member needs to give some input and help us serve the membership. Joe Day

**ACBS August 3rd
Monthly Meeting at
The Garden Center Building
Ziegler and Forest Hill
Drive at 7 P.M.**

**John Naka Designs and
Members board meeting**

Host: Tommy skelton

Tokanoma: Peter Dias

A PERMANENT BONSAI COLLECTION FOR THE OUR AREA

Lowell Tilley has worked hard over the years to find a way to get a permanent bonsai collection for the gulf coastal area. A Baton Rouge University has said they would give the collection a home. The next step is to create a foundation that would act as the

main support group. I will have copies of the vision statement available at the next ACBS meeting. Nothing in bonsai happens overnight, except for a few disease problems, so we all need to support this effort. When you give the greater part of your

life to creating a great bonsai you begin to think about "what now"- "where now". A permanent collection in our area could answer that question for a great bonsai and you vision.

Joe Day

STAYING AHEAD OF THE GAME IS THE GAME

I'm writing this mid-July for August reading about what you need to do in September. That's the normal time frame if you want to always be on schedule. The following things always apply.

Bonsai that are healthy entering winter can handle the cold temps with no negative problems.

Camellia and Azalea are species that suffer many negative effects if they are pruned hard after August 01.

Trident Maples are a species from China that normally grows in an area where the winters are mild. New growth, roots and branches are very sensitive to a

fast drop in temperature. Years ago I pruned back my Trident ground stock in early August. They grew beautiful new apex, a sudden freeze early in November killed every apex shoot. The next spring new apex grew but trying to push the plants resulted in no gain and put the health of the Tridents in danger.

September and October are normally our dry months. We historically get less rain and our weather fronts come from the northwest or the southwest bringing in low humidity. The hard rains of Summer can leave your bonsai with washed out soil levels that expose the roots a bit too

much. Make certain you top off the soil in your pots. The additional soil can make a huge difference in the length of time the soil stays moist.

Those heavy rains also washed out any fertilizer if you didn't add some along the way. A bit of organic fertilizer added early in September will feed your bonsai all winter and start them in the Spring.

When does Winter start in the Mobile area. Early as middle of September to some time in February we can have our first freeze. It's most reasonable to expect the first freeze about the middle of November. Joe Day

DAY OF BONSAI LOUISIANA HOSTED BY BATON ROUGE

A "Day of Bonsai" event done to almost perfection. Great location, close parking, vendors in the shade, a cool comfortable room, coffee, sweets, plenty of seating, audio-visual set up with mike's, great presentations, plenty of food, attended by close to 100 artist.

Lowell Tilley has been for many years a great supporter

of ACBS activities so I promised him I would attend their Day of Bonsai. Lowell Ask me to do one of the presentations plus I took a few trees to sale.

Not a lot of buying went on but their was plenty of everything bonsai for sale. Allen Roach, Greg Leblanc, Robb Fifield from Montgomery, Ala and Byron Myrick a very good

pot maker from Mosell, Mississippi were vending. I think every bonsai society in Louisiana plus Guy and myself did a presentation so the day was end to end with bonsai information. We stopped in Coventon, LA and had some great Thai food, home by 7:30 P.M with enough light to unpack the unsold. A great day of bonsai. Joe Day

SOIL-THE UN-ENDING COMPLEX SAGA

If you started the year with bad soil in you bonsai pot you probably have a sick or dead bonsai at this point in the year. The daily rain, high heat and a day or two of becoming too dry can be a deadly combination. At the Louisiana "Day of Bonsai" lots of discussion was on the topic of soil. Like gumbo everyone has a recipe. I still find our normal recipe of Pine bark, turface and red lava rock keeps all

species in every weather situation healthy. This mix does not hold excess water but dries slowly allowing for slack in the watering schedule. No soil will allow you to go much longer than 3 growing seasons before the pot is full of roots and needs repotting and the roots trimmed. Some species that grow lots of roots fast need the repotting after two growing seasons.

50 % Pine bark, 25% turface and 25% red lava rock works with all species. Old developed Juniper and Pine bonsai that can go longer then 3 growing seasons before repotting do best with less Pine bark. They can grow in a 50% red lava rock and 50% turface mix. I do 25% Pine bark, 50% red lava rock and 25% turface checking the soil often for drainage and repotting when they need the new soil. Joe Day

AUGUST

The day are shorter, but hot. Some plant species are at the very end of their growing season some taking advantage of the longer cooler nights start to push a bit then get some growing time in September and October. You begin to notice the inside leaves on some Juniper, Pine and deciduous species browning and dropping off. This is normal for most species. As the summer growth lengthens the innermost leaves drop off. The oldest Pine needles drop. Keep these out of the bonsai containers as they are insect hiding places and promote fungus growth. Notice how

each bonsai container drains water. The containers that drain slow go on the repot list. Look at any dead wood areas. Cleaning and treating dead wood can be a good way to spend some time with your bonsai now. Some bonsai just don't develop as you would like and the decision to go a different direction should be made. If you just can't find a way to proceed, bring that bonsai to a meeting and see what designs the more experienced artist can suggest. No bonsai is limited to "one" design. As you develop your list of bonsai to be repotted remember this un-potting

gives you the chance to change the bonsai container to one that is more suited to growing or showing or both. Some times it's just a matter of swapping pots around and not buying anything new.

August is when the retail outlets start reducing their stock of garden items. It's a great chance to stock up on things you need at a reduced price. Make a shopping list and put it in your car .

When you can walk into your bonsai area and know what needs to be done and have everything you need on hand to do the deeds you are making real progress. Joe Day

ACBS FALL AUCTION-GETTING READY

The ACBS Fall Auction will be a weekend yet to determined in October but now is the time to start selecting the items that you will donate to the auction.

The ACBS Fall Auction is the major fund raising event of the year for ACBS.

The funds we raise at the auction pay for our masters, food, rent, postage, the internet site cost and any other items. Without this money we don't and can't exist.

Any and all items relating to bonsai are good items to donate. Home made

sweets go fast and well. Remember bonsai items include all those things we need to have not only bonsai but a bonsai area so yard and garden items are great. Books and magazines always bring high bids. Start looking now. You clean up and we do to. Joe Day

FALL REPOTTING

Fall repotting of bonsai is a great way to get a start at next growing season work but.....Fall weather is hot, to warm going into cold with no set schedule as to when or how fast that slide into cold will happen. If you can't be home a lot to watch and care for you bonsai I don't recommend Fall repotting. Spring repotting allows your dormant trees to wake up with cold, to warm weather and finally hot

weather on a fairly dependable schedule. That said..... I have had good results repotting species that are native to our area and have a reputation for not being too fussy. Boxwood, Juniper, Bald cypress, Japanese Maples and Elms have all repotted well in the Fall. This is root trim and partial soil replacement type repotting not full clean out all the soil repotting. The main

aspect to this Fall repotting is being on hand to water as needed. New roots must have moist soil, not wet or dry soil. They newly repotted bonsai can never, never dry out.

Always tie your bonsai into the container tight enough that the tree can not shake or move the roots at all. Once repotted move them with extreme care only when they must be moved. Joe Day

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Summer Bummer

About February I always say “ Summer can’t get her too soon” about this week I always say “I will be glad to see some cold weather”. Both are true. Comfort can’t be 40 degrees, wind and wet, or 105 heat index. I’m officially old but still have at least 3 brain cells working. One brain cell tells me 105 heat index is too hot for outdoor work, the other brain cell tells me the body has a lot of miles on it and the last brain cell still understands the word “enough”. I do believe our brand of hot summer is harder on the artist than the bonsai. Bonsai if they stay moist, in good soil and a container that is deep enough for the roots not to over heat are just fine with the weather. Depending on species they don’t mind the sunshine as it is the energy engine that creates their food supply. Most get along just fine with about a half day of fairly direct sunlight, morning sun being the best. You need to spend time with your bonsai as bonsai work is daily. 6 A.M. to 8 A.M. is sort of comfortable and 6:30 P.M. to 8 P.M. isn’t a bad time to be outside. If you have seen the “Off” brand of clip on Misquito beater it actually works very good. Clip it on and you don’t have any problems. Certainly beats the oily, sticky spray. Gator Aid and a good supply of water are a must. Another thing that works for me is to only wear 100 percent cotton shirts. They breath much better than man made fabrics. Why is it that no one has ever put on the market some real clothing designed for our climate?

Joe Day
