

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

ACBS
Fall Show

November 13th
West Regional Library
Grelot Road
9 A.M. to 4 P. M.

ROOTS, FROM NURSERY POT TO BONSAI CONTAINER

A bonsai by definition is a tree in a pot that is alive and continues to grow. Moving that tree from a nursery pot or growing pot into a smaller bonsai container and keeping it alive and healthy is a big first step. Any removal of roots will induce stress to the tree so the procedure should be done in a manner that reduces that stress to a minimum and combined with good aftercare results in no damage to the tree.

Probably the only part of repotting that is impossible to teach quickly is the ability to look at a plant and know it is probably safe to reduce the roots and put the plant into bonsai soil. This problem occurs when a person finds old nursery material that is very root bound and at times most of the roots actually growing outside of the container. If the plant remains in that condition it will die so do you reduce root, repot or overpot and try to build up the health of the plant. Each case is different and the outcome differs in some way. Joe Day

ACBS November 2nd
Monthly Meeting at

The Garden Center, Ziegler Blvd and
Forest Hill Dr. at 7 P.M.

Program: Roots, from Nursery container to Bonsai Pot. Open discussion and tips from the experienced members.

Host: Leo Fortner

Tokanoma: Joe Day

We will also sign up host and finalize the plan of monthly programs for ACBS.

REMINDER-MERRY CHRISTMAS

The ACBS Christmas Dinner meeting will be on our regular meeting night December 02. Why tell you now? **Because with the slow economy**-I went into Home Depot yesterday and the front half of the store was all Christmas decorations and tacky gift stuff- **you are**

going to be -except for those people who get that funny look in their eyes and sink into memories of past times- **sick of Christmas before it actually gets here.** Actually our Christmas event is the best- you give one covered dish and you get to eat from

about a dozen other covered dishes. Give one get more than a dozen not like in your actual life where you give about a hundred presents and get one thing that you usually don't need, don't like and usually can't use.

Joe Day

ROOT REDUCTION WITH NURSERY STOCK

Root work is usually done during the cold days of winter. Why? When plants push new leaves or needles during the Spring days they must grow new –root tips. Root tips and the part of the root that functions to absorb water and food. Most nursery stock has been reduced in size before it is placed into bonsai containers. This reduction of volume places less of a demand on the roots. While the roots are not active cutting the roots to create a smaller volume of roots then allowing the roots to do what comes natural, create new root tips does no damage to the root system or the plant.

Plants in nature never expose their roots to sunlight. A slow erosion of soil can expose roots and allow the plant to cope with that long term event but never a total exposure of roots. This is why working quickly is so important when you repot. Work quickly, cut with sharp scissors, keep roots damp, work the soil into the root ball and tie the tree into the pot so it does not shake the roots.

Soil removal from the roots should be done with a chopstick working quickly. If a water spray is used it should be gentle not on the Jet Spray setting. If you must stop when you are in process of

root work a dark color wet rag should be used to totally cover the root ball.

Always start root work only after you are –Totally-set up to un-pot, clean the root ball, trim the roots then place the bonsai into new soil, tie it down and water until the water exits the pot holes and runs clear. After repotting wind is your main enemy. The cut off roots do not have a strong ability to take up moisture. This can lead to high moisture loss quickly. The soil should stay moist not wet. Protect from a freeze and you are on your way to a happy, healthy bonsai. Joe Day

THE RETURN OF GATOR

Some month about 1980 a bonsai society called The South Alabama Bonsai Society was formed, to be changed later to the Azalea City Bonsai Society, with the first President being a guy with the name of Gator. Never ask him how he got the name Gator but he was a guy full of energy and plans. A

few years later Gator said he was moving to the heart beat of the art community in the mountains of Tennessee, the Carolina's perhaps so I lost touch with Gator. A couple weeks ago Gator called and said he was living in Lucedale and would drop by and catch up on the who's and what's. It was nice to see Gator but all

the Who's from then, except me, are long gone but the What's are very different. More shows, better bonsai and magazines with the internet being the big thing that didn't exist in 1980. Gator said he was still doing a bit of bonsai but health problems were a limiting factor. He said he would see more of us time permitting. Joe Day

A RECAP OF THE ACBS 2010 FALL AUCTION

I'm writing this part the night before the auction. I know of some great nursery trees, big bonsai pots and good bonsai books that will be there so tomorrow I find out what else shows up and who else shows up. Great ACBS Auction. Good turn out from all cost clubs. We actually started about 6:45 because the chairs were all filling up. No super items that went for huge prices but lots and lots

of good items that went for fair prices. The "average" was \$10 per item. One of the highest "average" prices ever.

Leo Forter's stands, Corley's trees, Becky's Maples and rocks, Russel's unusual plants and John Lee's small bonsai in nice pots created bid fever. Jeff Lignell and Don Corley did a fantastic job of keeping up with who got what for how much giving us a fast check out. The Lignell chil-

dren helped by Joe Kuhn youngest daughter placed all winning bid items in their correct groups. Thanks a million!

Can you thank everyone that made it possible by name...No. You just had to be there to appreciate the smooth flow, variety of donated items, the wonderful folk from all the bonsai societies along the coast and the table full of good food they brought to share. Joe Day

COMING ACBS EVENTS

FALL SHOW, CHRISTMAS DINNER, BEN OKI

Two Fall shows in one day are set for Saturday, November 13th. ACBS will set up at the West Regional Library under the main entrance overhang. The Library opens at 9.A.M. so we need to be on hand about 8:45. We will keep the show up until about 4 P.M. weather and enough light so see the bonsai permitting. This is show and talk to the public show so just bring something interesting that would help inform the public about bonsai. The second show is the Kiku Matsuri Festival at Bellingrath Gardens. Joe Kuhn will handle that show. If you would like to join Joe Kuhn and show a few bonsai at

Bellingrath Gardens talk with Joe Kuhn at the November meeting or E-mail with your request. Joe Day will be the contact person for the West Library show.

December brings our Christmas Dinner meeting. Members bring a covered dish on our normal meeting night, December 2nd.

Ben Oki will hold a workshop on February 18th, 2011. We still have to confirm a location for this. If you want to work with Ben we will have a sign up sheet at the November ACBS Meeting.

March will be our 2011 ACBS Day of Bonsai event. No date set as of now.

May is our normal month to hold the ACBS Spring Show at the West Regional Library. We will probably set a date after we have a confirmed date for the Tri-Cities Regional Show to be hosted by the Pensacola Bonsai Society.

New Orleans will host the Louisiana Day of Bonsai for 2011. No date or location as of now. Sound like a good event to combine some bonsai information and good food.

Joe Day

THE RAIN RETURNS

The big story of the late Summer is how dry, sunny and cool the months of September and October have been. Two small rains are all I got after about August 25th to October 24th. Most of the two months the humidity was very low and the breezes frequent. Watering twice a day was almost a daily routine. September and

October are on a 200 year average our driest months so this wasn't unusual. Enough rain fell today to allow for planting in the ground some stock plants and landscape items. Some Fall pot swapping of bonsai can now be done as the humidity will be a bit higher. Frequent watering kept most leaves green so a

early cold snap could still bring a rare show of Fall color.

We are near the end of hurricane season-near not past-so covering the poly houses can be set on the list of to-do items. Trick or treat kids running the streets are a sure sign that it can and will get cold.

Joe Day

ONE THE ROAD TO SARASOTA

Julie Trigg and Mary Madison visited with me this Spring. Julie a President and long time member of the Sarasota bonsai society-Sho Fu Bonsai Society-invited me to come down for a workshop and a lecture demo. We set it up for October hoping it would be past hurricane time and past our local busy bonsai months. Driving a large rented van stuffed full of bonsai material and rock slabs Xuan and I did

the long drive down I-10 to I-75 to Sarasota. The weather was same as here, very dry and lots of sun. Julie Trigg is a very good bonsai artist with a large collection of tropical and non-tropical bonsai. She is also a paint artist with a studio in town. A great host we drove over to visit Mary Madison one of the best and best known female bonsai artist in the world. The lecture demo and workshop were held at

the Sarasota Garden Center a large, beautiful facility in town. The attendance was about 40+ I think. I was talking now counting. We found Sarasota to be a great place. We ate well, drank well, talked with many very nice bonsai folk. I stopped in Tampa to visit kin folk and eat at a great Cuban restaurant. I also visited McDill AFB where I spent 18 month of my Air Force time. It's larger, nicer now.

Joe Day

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Looking Forward-Thinking Back

This is the end and the beginning time. The growing season is almost finished and it's time to wire, trim, repot to begin the next growing season. Did you actually move forward with your individual bonsai plan? We actually had a good growing year for bonsai. The weather was, for our area, about normal. It was cold when it should be cold. Spring came on time. The Summer rains were frequent along with the heat. Cooler and drier times came in at the normal time. The cold winter seem to be a benefit if you protected as you should have. If you didn't see any progress now is the time to seek answers on why. You might discover minor improvement could put you back on your plan. Something to consider- not everyone is set up to create great bonsai from raw stock. It's fun to do but it's a slow, labor intensive way to do bonsai. Investing in better, more improved material that is closer to a developed bonsai might fit your lifestyle and available free time better. It's also easier for a bonsai teacher to guide you to quicker progress when the material is more developed. You can be a bonsai artist starting at many points. Consider where you are now with your bonsai. If you need a change-make a change. Start the next growing cycle on a positive note. Next year might be the best year you ever spent with your bonsai.

Joe Day
