

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

STYLING NURSERY MATERIAL THE OCTOBER 5TH ACBS MEETING

Bring your nursery material to the October 5th meeting of ACBS and get styling help. We will start the business meeting promptly at 7 P.M. keep it short so we can have most of the night to help anyone with their material.

Any material can be brought to the meeting. Material that doesn't like to be cut hard at this time can have a styling a plan worked up for later use. The amount of material at the meeting will determine how much work can be accomplished on any one piece of nursery material.

Chose the material you will bring, clean up the container, clean out dead material and clutter from the material and the pot. Bring your own tools, wire and sealing compound.

The material does not have to be in a nursery container. This is a workshop for material that needs to be styled not refined. We will schedule a refinement workshop for later in the year.

Joe Day

**ACBS October 5th
Regular Meeting at the Garden Center
7 P.M.
Styling Nursery Material**

Host: Joe Day

Tokanoma: Becky Guthrie

Programs

November- Root pruning nursery material

December- Christmas Dinner Meeting

ACBS FALL AUCTION OCT-23

ST LUKES CHURCH AND SCHOOL

St Lukes Church and School at 980 Azalea Road will be the location. The auction room is located at the rear of the Church/School on Japonica. The normal schedule will hold, doors open at 5 P.M. Viewing starts at 6 P.M. and the auction starts at 7 P.M. I

have been told by other artist that they are donating some great material. As always we never know till the auction night what will be on the tables. We will have plenty of food, drink and fun on hand for those who attend. Every year I think that we can't top

that years auction and every next year it just keeps getting better.

We have lots of interest this year for bonsai pots sotake a hard look at what you can donate.

Joe Day

STYLING NURSERY MATERIAL

Styling is complex because every piece of material is unique. It is also very logical because you are working with living material that must maintain a certain amount of conventional form to function in a way that allows it to stay healthy.

Some material has natural form that dictates the most logical way to proceed with the styling process. Working with this natural form speeds the development process. If a un-styled piece of material has a cascading form it can take a upright form with a great deal of work but retaining the cascade from will cre-

ate less work and more progress.

The way the first third of trunk moves and the direction the roots take dictates much of the styling process.

Making major styling decisions, staying with that decision and moving forward with the chosen style year after year is the quickest way to develop a bonsai. Mistakes with the initial styling decision can be corrected if detected before the location and direction of the branching becomes too thick to be corrected with wire.

When you work with another artist to style a piece of

material you should allow the assisting artist to make suggestions but you should always be comfortable with that decision. IF you don't feel comfortable with the suggested style question the assisting artist about why that would be the best style for the material. All style is based on a logic. When you understand the logic you begin to understand the style and the reasoning behind the style.

It's the reasoning and logic that can be used to create bonsai with other unique pieces of bonsai material.

Joe Day

WELCOME BACK- LEO

Leo Fortner has retired-again so ACBS and his wife will benefit from his available time. Leo has been a ACBS member for 20+ Years. He has created bonsai that were the hit of show, bonsai stands that are good as any in the world, programs that are polished and professional and great snacks when he host.

Leo has already committed to presenting some programs for our 2011 meetings.

Leo lives next to his personal lake up from the coast of Mississippi so it's a bit of a drive to make the weeknight meetings. We certainly appreciate the Mississippi folk who make the drive and the Baldwin county member. Leo has

worked with lots of species but his Japanese Maples are the species that have brought many a "wow! Look at that " from lots of folk who have taken time to visit our bonsai shows.

Again, Welcome back Leo. We look forward to the wealth of bonsai and information you bring to ACBS. Joe DAY

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

The ACBS Fall Auction is the life blood of ACBS. The funds the auction brings allows ACBS to bring in our teaching masters, snacks for special meeting, Christmas Dinner items, the audio/visual equipment that has so improved our meetings, pay for our meeting place rent and show items. Postage and internet cost are paid from these

funds. Our normal events cost for every year are now around \$1,200.

Any items that can be used for bonsai is a great auction item. We also find landscape items bring good bids as do cakes, cookies and home items. The best bid prices often come from books, tools, magazines and bonsai

pots.

Now, as you get ready for Winter and find you have too many items and too little space, put the excess aside and bring it to the auction. All the money earned is spent on -you- the ACBS membership. The more you do for the auction-the more the action can do for you.

Joe Day

SUMMER GOES INTO OVERTIME

With record heat last week 95 + and most daily temps almost 10 degrees above the normal temps for this time of the year, Summer hangs on. The month has been very dry but September is one of our normal dry months. Not much bonsai work fits into this time of the year and the current climate conditions. Your deciduous bonsai will be showing some yellowing of old leaves, Juniper and Boxwood are growing slowly. The Tropical's don't know winter is just around the corner so they just keep on keeping on.

I start putting wire on my bonsai during this time. I

don't with most species do hard bends with the branches. It takes a lot of time to wire a large bonsai so you wire when time allows not always waiting for the best time. You can wire and move the branches for better refinement without any problems. Most bonsai will not grow much more so the wire can stay on all Winter and into Spring. This many months time span will help "set" the branches.

It is a great time to clean up your Jin and Shari or create Jin on Pine and Juniper.

I buy and start getting my soil ingredients ready, sift-

ing, washing and storing. I also when time allows power wash benches. It's not fun to power wash but when it's still warm the back spray is easy to take than back spray on a 40 degree day.

The days are getting shorter fast this time of the year so your bonsai time will become more and more limited. Our day length during Feb, March are also short so the getting the set up work done now will give you the most time to do styling work during the Winter and root work during Spring. Now is a good time to decide what bonsai will be at the Spring shows.

Joe Day

JAPANESE MAPLE BONSAI

Great material for our area and with good potting and watering practice a easy species to keep in our area. Acer Palmatum need a healthy root system. When the roots system is spread out, healthy and in a good soil mix they can grow in a bonsai container of average depth. When you are converting a

Japanese Maple from a nursery container it is critical to develop a root system that is dense close to the trunk, becoming thinner as it moves outward. When Japanese Maples have long, thick roots that end with a mass of smaller roots this type root system places the small roots near the edge of the con-

tainer in the area that will be the first to dry as the day progresses. These Maple bonsai are very difficult to keep healthy during the heat of the Summer. The time to build that dense, close in root system is as soon as you move it out of the nursery container. The health of a bonsai is based on knowledge and logic. Joe Day

STYLING A JAPANESE MAPLE

You need a good design plan and you need to stick with the plan. Flaws, wire marks, cuts, kinks in the trunk, bad roots take a long time or never to correct with Acer Palmatum. Single trunk Japanese Maple need about 15 years to develop that old look. Bark texture moves up the trunk and out the branches slowly, taking years.

Start with a good smooth trunk line that has a few gen-

tle curves, lots of branches up the trunk and decent roots. Looking for that "weird" trunk isn't a good idea for Acer Palmatum. Long flowing branches are hard to match to a trunk that has lots of sharp curves and sharp angles. Start building that root spread early. Hard wire on the trunk should be done with raffia and extreme care. Any cuts are tapered and sealed. Branch positions are critical

so encourage lots of branching early to heal any cuts and help build that robust root system. Select and prune off branches not needed for the design before they get large and create large scars. Wire with care almost every year to build the flowing form of an old Japanese Maple. Check the wire daily during the growing season. The demands are great during the early years but the rewards are great during the later years.

Joe Day

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The Stars Say "Summer is Over"

Fall starts tomorrow or so says the stars and the writing on the calendar. Oil spills, recession, the hottest summer on record, it was a wonderful time to just walk out back and become lost in the world of bonsai. As I have written before, bonsai takes money but as long as you have a soil supply you can slide by for a year or two just by watering and a small bit of fertilizer and if needed a mild something to kill the bugs and fungus. This was not intended as a plug for the ACBS Fall Auction but it certainly fits the message. When times are tight you have to look for all the ways to get the most out of your limited supply of funds. The auction allows bonsai artist to get a dollars worth of bonsai items for a dime. It also allows the bonsai artist to "pay it forward"- "support the art form" as items donated benefit ACBS ability to teach artist, benefit the other artist by allowing them to continue their work as artist at a reduced cost. You have to admit it's a lot more fun to attend ACBS meetings, shows and workshops when we have good attendance. Keeping the overall cost of bonsai low enough to fit tight budgets helps us keep members, gain new members and keep the fun going.
