

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

BONSAI-BONSAI ARTIST-JOE DAY OVERVIEW OF THE ART OF BONSAI

Bonsai is a exciting way to enjoy expressing your creative ability. It is a complex art form but it is accomplished in simple steps over a long period of time. Most bonsai artist spend the majority of their time alone with their bonsai but most bonsai artist say knowing other bonsai artist is the most rewarding part of bonsai. How do you make bonsai simple.....

You can't. But you can try to lift the curtain on the world of bonsai enough that people who want to be bonsai artist can get a bit of perspective about the art form.

What is the world of bonsai? Plants, tools, books, magazines, stands, fertilizers, internet, people, places, pots, travel, shows, teaching, landscape, management, education and money. That's probably just the short list. We will spend the August ACBS meeting sorting through this short list and trying to raise the curtain a bit...on bonsai. Joe Day

**ACBS August 02
Regular Monthly Meeting
At The Garden Center 7 P.M.
Bonsai and the Bonsai Artist
An overview of Bonsai
By Joe Day**

Host: Tommy Skelton

Tokenoma: Leo Fortner

Azalea City Bonsai Society Fall Auction

ACBS can not set a date at our ST Lukes Location until after the school begins the school year late in August but we expect to be able to set a mid-October date. Now is the time to start thinking about items you would like to donate to the auction. If you don't want or need to keep plants or bonsai over the winter, didn't have much luck this year with a bonsai or just realized you either have to build more benches or get rid of something....donate it to the auction and help ACBS make it through another year.

ENRIQUE CASTANO WORKSHOP REVIEW BY: JOE DAY

The material for the Enrique workshop was excellent. Good bonsai that could be made better. Enrique brought with him a group of Ft Walton and Pensacola bonsai artist ready to see and hear more of his excellent bonsai wisdom and techniques. How do you know

it was a great workshop? Joe Kuhn brought a great spread of food, it was hardly touched. The people were too busy watching and listening to take a break and eat. Enrique is a great addition to the league of touring bonsai teaching artist. We can hope that he can find

time in his busy life to do another tour. He told me his 2012 year was already filled with obligations related to his profession so we can only see what happens down the road. I personally enjoyed the time I spent showing him Mobile.

FALL INTO

Spring is four to six months away. In bonsai that's a very short time. We do...fall into fall season. It is summer one day and suddenly it gets cold and if we are lucky...stays cool or cold until it's spring time. Spring, springs up on us. Much like Fall- it is a sudden transition. Cold days suddenly turn into hot days.

Those sudden transitions mean you have to be ready for what happens, when it happens. Now is the time to start stocking up on all those bonsai things. I put this in the newsletter every year. Buy your plastic sheet now... one hurricane close by or here

SPRING

and it becomes almost impossible to get large rolls of poly.

The retail outlets are getting ready for Fall events so the Home and Garden section will suddenly become the Halloween, Thanksgiving and the Christmas section. All that garden stuff gets marked down. You will need a lot of that stuff next Spring. Buy now and save.

Soil items are becoming more and more difficult to obtain. Give yourself some extra time to come up with those necessary items.

Your bonsai area is the 2 of the 1/2 of bonsai. The one is the talent and time the artist

spends with the bonsai, the 2 is the area the bonsai live in. If your growing area is working against the health of your bonsai you will never have the collection you are working so hard to get. Make a plan, get the materials on site and use time when time is available to improve your bonsai area.

If you bonsai are filling your benches this year you will either have to get rid of some bonsai or increase the amount of bench area you have. Bonsai need sunlight, air circulation and space. They need to be at a working height. If they are healthy they are happy. Joe Day

FINDING GOLD

Finding great bonsai, bonsai pots and bonsai material at a price that fits even the most shallow wallet is a bit like finding gold. Russell Coker, Joe Day and Becky took advantage of the back yard auction held in the yard of a Pensacola Bonsai Society member who was reducing his collection due to back sur-

gery. Joe and Russell brought home 5 excellent bonsai and or bonsai material, and some pots. Becky took home pots.

These auctions are a great place to find bonsai material that just wouldn't be in a normal nursery or bonsai material that has a good start at becoming a bonsai. Russell and I brought home some

vintage Japanese signed pots that can't be bought new at any price.

I now have a very unusual Crepe Myrtle that will challenge my styling and working talent. The fun part of bonsai. Transforming a vision into a reality.

Joe Day

NEW ORLEANS BONSAI SOCIETY FALL AUCTION SATURDAY AUGUST 13TH.

E-mail President Joe Kuhn if you want to car pool to this fun event. Good bonsai material is always on hand and with smart bidding bonsai gold might just come home with you.

The Auction will be held the Marine Core League Hall, 2708 Delaware Street, Kenner, LA. The GNOBS web site will give you more information. Viewing at 4P.M. with the bidding starting at 6 P.M.

Can you build a good bonsai collection from ...just...bonsai auction purchases. Absolutely! By selectively buying you can get a great bonsai in a container already adapted to bonsai soil. A big jump in time and effort from a collected stump from the woods.

I have never seen a bonsai container sold at a auction that sold for more than half retail price. Usually the price is one fourth the price of re-

tail. Collected material is the great bargain of auctions. If you take in consideration the time, trouble, expense of collecting and the knowledge the collected material has survived the shock of being collected the price you pay at the auction is almost nothing.

The money from bonsai auctions allow bonsai societies to exist. It's a party that isall good. Joe Day

AUGUST-THE LAST SUMMER MONTH

The rain started late this year. That's not a complete negative as less daily rain equals less problems with fungus and leaf chewing insects.

About the end of the first week of August I always notice a lot of my bonsai starting to shed their interior leaves and needles. The weather is still hot and wet but the bonsai know winter is ahead. Science is just now beginning to understand how plants form memories and use those memories to adapt to seasonal conditions.

Recent studies show young plants form roots that remember the conditions of the soil

when the root system was forming. When you change the soil conditions the roots have a problem adapting ..some don't adapt and the plant dies. If you have been a bonsai artist for a good while this is old knowledge. The change from collected or nursery soil to a bonsai soil is the first "huge" leap in development . If you succeed in changing the soil and keeping the plant healthy all else becomes possible.

August bonsai work is largely a month of watering. Maintaining the health is very important. Everything that happens next Spring season depends on allowing the bonsai

to go into a dormant or semi-dormant state healthy. Our Fall season is long...longer than the entire spring and summer for some artist in northern climates. We have to maintain our bonsai health as the bonsai are adapting to a much slower growth rate. The time period is too long to withhold fertilizer but the use of organics or low nitrogen fertilizer is a way to keep the bonsai healthy.

A weak bonsai and a very cold winter are a deadly combination. August can be a trying time so concentrate on maintaining .

Joe Day

2012 BSF SPEAKERS TOUR ARTIST

Ben Oki-

We are signed up for Ben Oki. He will probably be in Mobile late January or the first week in February.

Rodney Clemons

Rodney has been around a long time. Rodney lives in Georgia and owns a landscape business. Rodney has

spent his entire bonsai time growing bonsai in our climate and with native species so his knowledge is very good.

Ted Matson-Ted started as a bonsai artist in 1979 while living in San Francisco. Moving to Los Angeles in 1980 Ted was able to study bonsai with many of the best California bonsai artist including

John Kaka and Warren Hill. I met Ted during his last BSF tour. I found him to be a very knowledgeable bonsai artist and a easy guy to talk with.

Every bonsai artist you meet can have information that will help you be a better artist. As our recent workshop with Enrique proved,

Joe Day

ANOTHER GREAT BONASI EVENT

THE NEW ORLEANS "DAY OF BONSAI EVENT"

October 29th the Louisiana Bonsai Societies "Day of Bonsai" will be hosted by the New Orleans Bonsai Society. The location will be the Riverdale Middle School at 3900 Jefferson Highway in Harahan, La just outside the city of New Orleans. 8a.m. until 5 p.m. with presentations by Guy Guidry on Black Pine Bonsai, Dana Quattlebaum on native collecting native species, Joe Day on preparing the artist

and the bonsai for a major bonsai show. Randy Bennett will critique the trees submitted for the Vaughn Banting award, Jjim Osborne and Gerald Noland of New Orleans will do demo's on phoenix grafting. Vendors will be on hand .

All New Orleans Bonsai Society events are great fun. For a mini-vacation go down Friday night and come home late Sunday. Eat your way around

New Orleans. Google < New Orleans Attractions> and you will find more than enough places and thing to fill the extra time.

The New Orleans bonsai artist always come over and help make our events a success. Now is your turn to have a great time, increase your knowledge about bonsai and return the good will of your fellow artist.

Joe Day

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ACBS Web Site

The Fade

Gaban Wilson, one of the greatest cartoon artist ever was very much a favorite of mine. His cartoons appeared in The New Yorker magazine, New York Times, Playboy magazine for over 50 years. The older he got the better he became. In short, his cartoons were "weird". One of my favorite cartoons of his was simply- a man sits in his big recliner and is slowly absorbed into the chair. In a major way.....that is the story of a bonsai artist. You simply want to relax and before you realize it, your life becomes absorbed by your love of all that is bonsai. Ben Oki arrives in January and event after event fill the Spring and Summer months. If you are a part of making the events happen that work fills the weeks before and after the event. Summer and the too hot to spend the day working outside shows up and then before you know it, hurricane season. The problem with hurricane season is- it isn't a good time to start a do it yourself project that will take weeks to complete.

A home is either a fix it up or watch it fall down situation. With bonsai taking up my Spring and the heat of the summer dulling my energy it's either back off of bonsai activities every weekend in the Spring or watch my house fall down from neglect. It hard to be homeless and do bonsai so I will use the late Summer and early Fall months to set up outside project, do inside projects. I will spend next spring with the big outside work. I probably won't be at a lot of bonsai events and not all meetings. I will definitely not be getting out of bonsai,,,,, just adjusting forreality..

Joe Day
