

SOUTHERN BONSAIST

My personal thanks to Becky and Mrs. Kuntz for the kitchen help. The chicken run took a bit more time than I expected but when I arrived back at the Day of Bonsai they had everything ready to immediately start serving lunch. Saving me from being the guy that make lunch late ..that gets a personal thanks

Joe Day

AZALEA BONSAI

HOW TO BY RUSSELL COKER

Azalea bonsai are created by knowledge, hard work and attention that never stops. They can be your best achievement in bonsai or your biggest disappointment. The main element that can make a Azalea bonsai your best achievement is ..Knowledge.

Azalea plants in the yard are rugged, able to tolerate almost anything and keep on keeping on. Azalea in a container live a long life only with knowledge about their life cycle and good care from the keeper of the container full of Azalea.

The nursery where Russell studied bonsai in Japan had many great bonsai. Russell had plenty of time to both work on Azalea bonsai and get to know their care and development.

Mobile has a great Azalea growing climate and nurseries that grow and sell many types of Azalea. It also has millions of old Azalea in landscapes. The material is here you just need the knowledge andWant to...Joe Day

ACBS APRIL 5th
Monthly Meeting
7 P.M at
The Garden Center

Program

*AZALEA BONSAI by
Russell Coker*

Host: Becky Guthrie

Tokanoma: Shanna Madsen

DAY OF BONSAI 2011

Set up, program presentation, display, hospitality, clean up smooth as silk. That's great ACBS members doing their thing. Fred talked tropical bonsai hour after hour all day. The computer photo shows from the Fabians and Mrs Voelker were great. My-Joe

Day- program on Loropetalum seem to interest lots of folk. Our two bonsai pot vendors Byron Myrick and Paul Katich pots were as good as any in the world. The weather was as good as it gets. Lots of compliments and no negative comments . It all hap-

pens so smooth because the ACBS members work without request or management. They just do what needs to be done , when it needs to be done, the way it needs to be done. That is the ..smooth that makes the whole thing slide along so nice. Joe Day

BONSAI ARTIST ARE AS BONSAI ARTIST DO

The leading edge of how and who becomes a good bonsai artist shows up mostly in the amount of work a person puts forth every year. I know Russell has been posting on IBC his work on some large and very nice bonsai. Joe Kuhn and Fred have spent the fall and winter months improving their bonsai areas. Some bonsai artist who were in ACBS but are not now came over during the winter and talked about their work on their bonsai collection. The members workshops ACBS held over many fall and winter months were always filled with members bonsai so bonsai here is alive and doing

well.

If you ask me what is the most important thing I have discovered over my many years in bonsai it would be this, it gets a lot more complicated as the bonsai get older and more developed. The questions get more complicated the answers harder to find. The amount of time you must spend looking for more detailed information on how and why to proceed is often much more than the time you actually work on the bonsai.

How do you trust the information you find in your search? You ask someone who has been successful with

that species over a long period of time in your climate area.

A lot of bonsai information is repeated over and over again in word and writings by people who because they don't actually know the truth, repeat it slightly different. Over a short period of time the information moves from "truth" to something like "that sounds about right to me". About right is ...wrong. Right is either right or wrong..not-about- either.

Old bonsai don't get old because of luck. They get old because of good, intelligent and hard work. Joe Day

WHEN IS POTTING TIME OVER

It's August, you find a bonsai knocked out of its pot and the soil badly disturbed, immediately take the bonsai and pot to the potting area. Add soil, wire the bonsai back into the pot...gently...work the new soil into the root ball, now water the pot until the water runs freely out of the drain holes. Place the bonsai out of the

wind and in dapple shade. Every day make certain the soil is moist and the level of the soil is never below the top 1/3 of the surface roots.

Potting is never over..just the best, safest time ends when the days get in the high 80's and above for non tropical bonsai. You can ..always..take a bonsai

out of a pot and quickly move it into a larger pot. This is often done when the root ball is drying too much between watering. Just be certain to secure the bonsai into the new pot and add new soil by gently working it into the edges of the old root ball. The fun never ends.

Joe Day

BONSAI PRUNING-COMPLEX THINKING

When you prune a landscape plant your thinking is usually just about removing parts that need removing. When you prune bonsai you must think about what happens next. What your prune, where it was located on the bonsai, how it was pruned, when it was pruned, the species, time of the year and weather conditions all play a part in whether you just helped your bonsai or hindered its progress. Much

of bonsai pruning is about directing growth or increasing growth. You are pruning off to actually cause the next effect and you must know why you want or need that effect. That's called "thinking" and planning so impulse pruning should be very limited.

Building a bonsai is actually the yearly progression of a design. Making a design progress along a determined path is possible only if you

have a path. Now is the time to define the path of each bonsai in your collection.

When you define the path you are creating a blueprint of the construction of your bonsai. It is work but it makes working on your bonsai a lot more interesting and progress a lot quicker. Some species are much more cause and effect steady. The cause most always leads to a predictable effect. More ahead.

Joe Day

BONSAI PRUNING CAUSE AND EFFECT

The predictability that a bonsai will do what you intend when you prune depends largely on the health of the bonsai. In simple terms, the bonsai must be able to do what you intend it to do. A weak and or sick bonsai might not have the energy to push new growth where it is needed. This is the reason you spend time improving the health of a bonsai before you prune on a bonsai. Some species are more predictable than other species. Pine, Maple and Elm are very predictable. Juniper a bit less predictable but not difficult when you are working on a healthy Juniper. Working with

any species is interesting. Working with rough material, small material, inexpensive material is a excellent way to learn. Starting with a expensive, very developed bonsai is a expensive and possible very disappointing way to learn.

Pruning and weather can be an interesting combination. When the weather is a constant combination of regular rain and cloudy days bonsai push new growth almost all the time during the spring and early summer months. When the days turn clear, hot and dry many plants have the ability to react and slow any new growth. If you have a bonsai that you defoliate , or

cause to defoliate by lack of water you need those regular rains and cloudy days for the plant to push all new growth and keep it in a healthy condition. High heat, dry days and a bit of wind can create conditions that make pushing very tender leaves and keeping them healthy a "iffy" condition.

If a species is apex dominant or base dominant can change how you prune a species. Not enough space to cover the topic here but you should try to find some info on the net about this subject and do some self education.

Joe Day

THE ACBS SPRING SHOW APRIL 16TH

Ready, set , show. Ready is having the bonsai you are going to show selected. Set is knowing what each bonsai needs before it will be show ready. Show is making certain you have a day free to allow you to spend a great day watching people, watch bonsai plus answering a few questions. The show will be

at the West Regional Library on Grelot road. We need to be show ready by 9 A.M. A show up time around 7 A.M. to pre set bonsai is our normal routine. Set up at the West Regional Library has always been quick and easy.

We do need to know the number of bonsai that will be in the show. We have to request

tables from the library. Extra tables beyond the number we request are not normally set out for us. We do not want to either crowd the bonsai on the tables or exclude any bonsai that a member brings to the show. Please e-mail Joe Kuhn with the number of bonsai and the approximate size of each bonsai. Joe Day

THE PENSACOLA BONSAI SOCIETY HOSTED TRI-CITIES REGIONAL BOSNAI SHOW APRIL 23

Date April 23 is the date. The Garden Center located at 1850 North 9th avenue, Pensacola, Florida is the location. The bonsai will need to be at the show location by 8 A.M. to be "worked" into the show area. Joe Kuhn will need to know who will be showing bonsai at the regional show, the number of bonsai you will show and the size of the bonsai. Ms T of PGCBS said the show hall is large and will

hold a lot of bonsai. You can probably show as many bonsai as you can transport to the show.

The regional show is a great place to see a lot of bonsai and also a lot of bonsai artist that we don't get to see on a regular basis.

Pensacola has a lot of places to enjoy a great meal. Check the internet if you don't already know where you want

to eat lunch or dinner.

We will update this information at the April ACBS meeting or with a e-mail from ACBS President Joe Kuhn.

The April ACBS meeting would be a good time to give Joe Kuhn the number and size of bonsai you will take to both the ACBS Spring show and the Regional show.

Joe Day

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