

THE BONSAI Wire

UPDATE

April 2015

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

FROM THE President

It looks like Spring/Summer has finally decided to stay. Your bonsai should be starting to grow at a fast clip now - which means you need to be just as fast. Keep up with

regular pinching and take a good look at your bonsai. Remove branches that you know you don't want so that your tree can use its energy on the ones you do want. Feed and water well now and keep an eye on your wire. With the fast growth wire can bite in quickly. Next month work can start on tropicals. Check now to see if you have the pots etc that you need.

The Club will be ordering golf shirts with the embroidered club logo. They are pique dry-fit polos in Royal blue available in Men's and Women's versions. A men's large and a women's large will be available at the meeting for you to determine sizing. Cost will depend on quantity, but they should not be over \$15. There will be a sign up sheet so we know who is interested and what sizes so we can estimate a count.

Reminder: get your favorite tree in shape. As a part of our July meeting, all members are asked to bring in their best tree for a friendly competition. All members present will get 3 votes for their favorite trees. The 3 trees with the most votes will be displayed at the Auction. Auction attendees will vote for their favorite tree from the 3 for the Johnny Martinez award. We will have a sign up sheet at the meetings of who will be bringing a tree so we can determine what will be needed for display.

MEETINGS & Events

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Program: Bonsai Blitz 7:00pm

Something new! Three 30 minute programs on subjects important for any bonsai artist. Bill Butler on **dealing with bonsai pests**; Cheryl Mechler on **wiring bonsai**; William Majoue on **selecting material for bonsai**. Come and learn, ask questions - and for our experienced members, share your thoughts on these three subjects

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Program: Guy Guidry Boxwood on Rock Demo 7:00pm

Guy Guidry, a GNOBS member, nationally recognized bonsai master and owner of NOLA Bonsai will do a demo on a slab with rocks and Kingsville and Saunders boxwoods. Guy's demo's are always entertaining, highly informative and fascinating. Make plans to attend.

Friday, June 12, 2015

Program: Joe Day Nerifolia '89 Demo 7:00pm

Alabama bonsai artist Joe Day will be doing a demo on a large Nerifolia '89 (a version of Nerifolia that mutated after a hard freeze in Florida in '89). Nerifolia, for those not familiar, is a very hardy and easy to work material that will take a lot of abuse. They also are one of the better figs for bonsai. Come out to see Joe, an excellent teacher and skilled artist work on this great bonsai subject.

Saturday, June 13, 2015

Workshop: Joe Day Nerifolia '89 8:00am

Due to an illness in Ed Trout's family, Joe Day has graciously agreed to step in to conduct the workshop. *All workshop spaces are filled but must be paid by the April 14 meeting or your spot will go to someone on the waiting list.* Please pay at the meeting or mail in a check before then to the PO Box. All members are invited as **FREE silent observers**.

Meetings take place on the second Tuesday each month at 7:30pm (pre-meeting activities begin at 7:00pm) at the **Marine Corps League Hall**, 2708 Delaware St., Kenner, LA. For more information, articles and everything bonsai, check us out on our website at www.gnobs.org



Kathy Barbazon,
GNOBS President

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Celtis Sinensis - Hackberry

by Harry Harrington - Visit Harry's website bonsai4me.com

Celtis Sinensis is a spreading, deciduous tree native to E. China, Korea and Japan in woodland areas. Visually similar to *Zelkova serrata*, Hackberrys have a very fine twig structure which carries glossy, blunt-toothed, dark green leaves. Small green flowers are borne in Spring followed by small, sweet, edible fruit which are a dark-orange ripening to red-brown.

Rarely seen in the UK, Hackberrys are a fairly commonly used species in America and Asia where hotter summers are beneficial to vigorous growth.

BONSAI CULTIVATION NOTES

POSITION Full sun. Frost protection advised below -5°C.

FEEDING Weekly after buds open for 4 to 5 weeks. Then every two weeks until late Summer.

REPOTTING Annually as buds extend, use a basic soil mix.

PRUNING Trim back new shoots to shape. Responds well to repeated pruning and defoliation. This can cause 3 or 4 new shoots to emerge at the same point; it is important to reduce this to two.

PROPAGATION Sow seed outside in Autumn. Air-layering or cuttings in late-Spring.

PESTS AND DISEASES Trouble free in European climates.

STYLING Formal and informal upright forms, cascade and broom forms. Suitable for single or multiple trunks in all sizes.

Members are always encouraged to bring any tree to meetings that they wish to discuss or about which they need advice.



Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

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BONSAI Basics April Tips

by Joe Day

If possible water your bonsai early each morning. This will give the soil the highest amount of moisture to last until you can water again during the later part of the day. Do not water the foliage if you water late in the day. Wet foliage and darkness can promote fungus problems. If you water late in the day, water the soil not the tree.

New growth attracts insects that chew on the tender new growth. Lucky for us they can usually be controlled with natural insecticides that are non-toxic to humans. Look around the store shelf for brands that are natural and non-toxic.

With enough after care, root work can continue during this month but it gets difficult to predict the results as temps climb. You can certainly take a tree out of a container and simply move it to a larger container with almost no danger to the plant. Tropical root work is a different story. Many tropical species do better when they are root trimmed and repotted during the warm days and nights. Bonsai work never ends so just staying on top of what needs to be accomplished is the whole game.

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