

# THE BONSAI Wire

## UPDATE

June 2015

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

## FROM THE President

**T**oday I started sticking markers in the pots of trees that I want to donate to the Auction. Some things are easy - cuttings that I've rooted, trees that are very similar to another tree. Others aren't so easy. I keep looking at them deciding whether I really can part with them. I'm sure it's much harder for those that have been members of the club longer than me and have more developed trees. I've decided I need to be brutal - like cleaning out a closet. There are good reasons to donate perfectly nice trees: like me you have way too many tropicals (too much to move around in the winter), too many of the same species (just how many yaupons does one person need), trees that look almost the same as another in your collection, species that as it turns out are just not your favorite, trees that you have never figured out how to style, trees that just don't do well in your yard's conditions. You also come to a point where you just want to "trade up" for some nicer specimens. So please be brutal in assessing your collection and remember it's all for a good cause—the main fund raiser for the club, which allows us to bring in guest artists and do workshops. Also, if you don't get rid of some trees—where will you put the new ones that you lust for at the auction.

Reminder: last month to get your favorite tree(s) in shape for the July friendly competition. You are allowed up to two. Sign up at the June meeting or call Gerald Nolan and let him know how many you are bringing



Kathy Barbazon,  
GNOBS President

## MEETINGS & Events

### 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**

Workshop spaces are filled but all members are invited as **FREE silent observers**. If any workshop spots are unpaid, they must be paid immediately or they will go to members on the waiting list.

### Tuesday, July 14, 2015

**Program: Member competition Johnny Martinez Award 7:00pm**

**Program: Suiseki by Jim Osborne**

*All members are asked to bring in their best trees (limit 2)* 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. **If you can't attend the June meeting, please let Gerald Nolan know if you are bringing trees.**

As the other part of our program, Jim will do a presentation on Suiseki: the collection, preparation and appreciation of stones that suggest a natural scene.

### Saturday, August 15, 2015

## Annual GNOBS Auction

Now is the time to go through that overcrowded bench and decide which of your trees should go to the auction for a new home. All donations contribute to the operating budget of the club and we hope to bring you even better programs next year. Besides, you'll need the space for the fabulous new bonsai that you just can't live without and bring home from the auction.

**A sign up sheet will be available at the meeting for the HINOKI CYPRESS workshop. Bring your checkbook, you must pay when you sign up.**

# SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

## Ginkgo biloba/Maidenhair Tree

by Harry Harrington - Visit Harry's website [bonsai4me.com](http://bonsai4me.com)

Genus of one species of deciduous, dioecious (coniferous) tree from South China, extinct in the wild but preserved as an ornamental tree particularly in Temple gardens in China and Japan. The ginkgo is very distinct in that though it is a conifer, it has leaves rather than the needles or scales commonly associated with dioecious trees. Its leaves are flat and fan-shaped up to 4 inches across, mid-to yellow/green turning briefly to a butter yellow color before leaf-fall. Mature specimens can reach heights of 98 feet and have been known to reach ages of 1000 years or more. Ginkgos produce unpleasant-smelling fleshy fruit, that contain edible nuts.

### BONSAI CULTIVATION NOTES

**Position** Full sun. Protect during winter frosts, particularly the roots which have a high moisture content and can burst in temperatures below approx. 23°F.

**Watering** Ginkgos require thorough watering but should not be grown in waterlogged compost. Keep on the dry side during winter to avoid frost damage to over wet roots.

**Feeding** Every two weeks through the growing season

**Repotting** As buds extend in early spring annually until tree is ten years old then every second or third year. Repot in basic soil mix

**Pruning** Prune new growth through growing season, cut back branches in Autumn after leaf fall. Ginkgos do not callus over cuts and heal so large cuts should be avoided where possible particularly those made at the front.

**Propagation** Seed outside as soon as ripe, semi-ripe cuttings in summer. Air-layering in Spring after first flush of growth has hardened off.

**Pests and diseases** Trouble free

**Styles** Ginkgos have a very narrow upright habit, for this reason are normally seen as informal and formal uprights with upswept branches in medium to large sizes.



### Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

PO Box 13212  
New Orleans, LA 70185

## BONSAI For Sale

**Donna Banting is downsizing her bonsai collection and offering most remaining bonsai plants, tokoname bonsai pots, Japanese bonsai exhibit books and more for sale. Prices are reasonable. Email [favritthings@cox.net](mailto:favritthings@cox.net) for more information.**

**Dates: June 6 and June 7**

**Times: 9 to noon both days**

**Other times available by appointment.**

**Place: 1005 Beverly Garden Drive  
Metairie, LA 70002**

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](http://www.gnobs.org)

## Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society Board

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