

THE BONSAI *Wire*

UPDATE

December 2014

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

FROM THE President

I've just finished doing the Bonsai Tropical Tango twice – moving my tropicals in and out of the shed as temps dropped to 40° and wondering how I managed to acquire so many tropicals when I keep telling myself to pare down. The answer is during MOST of the year – they just do so well here. You just need to be willing to put up with some work and inconvenience occasionally in the winter. One thing that helps is a great tip I got from Joe Day. At this time of the year, consolidate all your tropicals to one area so that when cold temperatures strike, you don't have to be hunting at night through several benches or around the yard to find them. It does make it a lot easier.

Please be sure to join us this month for our annual Christmas Party. We'll have lots of fun bonsai gifts to give away to some lucky GNOBS members and the company of a lot of good friends. Bring your favorite covered dish and we'll take care of the ham and beverages. Judging by past parties, we have a LOT of good cooks. Be sure to save the date and come out and have a good time and you may just leave with a bonsai related Christmas gift.

Also, please bring your donations for a worthy cause – Second Harvest Food Bank. GNOBS has collected every year for the past several years so please if possible bring any non-perishable food items to help the needy.

See at you the party!

Kathy Barbazon,
GNOBS President



MEETINGS & Events

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

GNOBS Christmas Party: 7pm

Annual Christmas Party: Bring your spouse or plus one and your favorite covered dish (side dishes, entrees, desserts) for our annual potluck Christmas party. Call Bill Butler (504) 455-5282 and let him know what you are bringing if possible. The club will supply a ham, beverages and plates/utensils. Everyone attending gets a free raffle ticket for door prizes. Featured this year will be a raffle tree and wrapped "mystery" prizes.

Friday, January 23, 2014

Program starts at 7:00pm

Program: Join us for a special presentation (**FREE to all members**) as we welcome Arthur Joura, curator of the North Carolina Arboretum. For the past 18 of his 20 years at the Arboretum, Bonsai Curator Arthur Joura has developed the bonsai program to be one of The North Carolina Arboretum's most stunning collections. As a proponent of styling bonsai in a more natural, treelike fashion Arthur will do a presentation on "Natural Bonsai."

Friday, January 24, 2014

Workshop starts at 8:00am

Japanese Maple workshop with Arthur Joura, curator of the North Carolina Arboretum. Workshop is full but all members are welcome to observe **FREE** as silent observers. If you have not participated as an silent observer at a workshop, I highly recommend it. You can learn a lot about styling watching a master working with participants on ten different trees and Arthur is an excellent instructor.

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

[facebook.com/NewOrleansBonsai](https://www.facebook.com/NewOrleansBonsai)

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Recovery Time

by Joe Day



Every time you expose the roots of any bonsai, trim the roots either just a bit or severely the bonsai will need extra care.

Bonsai in stress from any reason will need to be placed into semi-shade, away from any wind, and kept moist, not wet. Never fertilize any bonsai that has had its roots trimmed or shows signs of stress for any reason. Any fertilizer is a type of salt solution and will have a drying effect when it touches any new root growth that is very soft. Some bonsai artists like to use a root stimulator. They help reduce transplant shock. The cost

when it's mixed correctly is small. Mixing correctly is very important. Root stimulator also contains some fertilizer so it must be diluted enough to not harm the new roots.

Keeping roots moist isn't easy when the plant is growing in a good bonsai soil that is made up to drain fast and have good air circulation. At our November meeting Russell talked about using long fibered Spaghnum moss cut into small pieces and soaked in water to cover the surface of the soil to retard the drying process. The moss will not hamper watering. As the bonsai puts out new roots some will stay in the upper layer of the soil creating a

spreading root mass. The moss will give green moss a receptive environment to grow.

Our normal spring weather is a mixture of warm days with almost no wind and high humidity, rain days, and days when the wind blows from the north and the humidity drops down to 15 or 20 percent. Those low humidity, windy days are a plant killer if the plant does not have a great root system that can constantly draw moisture up to the buds or new growth. Once you lose all your new growth and buds the tree has no recovery left. It becomes a finished bonsai for the wood pile.

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

Bonsai Terms
by Harry Harrington

APEX The highest point of the tree, this can be a single branch or can consist of a series of small branches.

APICAL Growth produced by a plant which is most vigorous, in the majority of species this at the furthest points of the plant from the root system (upper and outermost branches).

BACKBUDDING Process by which apical growth is pruned to induce growth further back along the branch or trunk.

BUDBREAK The point at which a bud has opened enough to show a green tip.

CANDLE Name given to the extending bud of a Pine before the new needles open.

SHARI Deadwood on the trunk of a bonsai (as opposed to Jin which is a deadwood branch or protrusion).

Holiday Giving

GNOBS is collecting donations for **Second Harvest** for those in need. Donations will be accepted at the December Christmas party.

If you wish to donate:

Second Harvest - Bring any non-perishable food items.

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