

# THE BONSAI *Wire*

## UPDATE

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

February 2014

## FROM THE President

**I**f you are like me, you have been doing what Ed Trout so colorfully named, the “Tropical Bonsai Tango.” Move the trees in the garage, take them out, move them in etc. The amount of cold weather this year has most of us frustrated and many of us thinking about getting greenhouses. Fortunately this weather isn’t the norm for us. If you are new to bonsai and some of your sheltered tropicals have dropped all or a lot of leaves, don’t despair. Many trees will drop their leaves but are still perfectly healthy. If stems are still pliable and a scratch of the bark shows green, they should be ok. If you have any doubts, don’t hastily throw it out - wait until the weather wams and give it some time to resprout.

Speaking of tropicals, there are still spots open for the Neea Buxifolia workshop. Neeas are new to many people but they have become one of my favorite trees. With their fast growth and tiny leaves they are perfect for bonsai. They are forgiving for beginners and capable of becoming specimens for more experienced bonsai artists. Consider signing up for the March workshop. The sign up sheet will be at the February meeting.

Just a reminder - many of you paid your dues at the last meeting and for that we are grateful. For those who didn’t, please mail in your dues or bring them to the next meeting - \$30 individual, \$35 family.

Kathy Barbazon,  
GNOBS President



## MEETINGS & Events

### Tuesday, February 11, 2014

**Program: 7:00pm Robert Reed will demo a large Juniper.** Robert is quite adept at juniper styling and care. The club was recently lucky in acquiring a large very nice quality juniper that Robert will demo. Please bring in any of your junipers to display at the meeting.

**Bonus: Raffle**

### Friday, March 28, 2014

**Program: 7:00pm Adam Lavigne Lecture and Demo on Neea Buxifolia** Adam is a talented young bonsai artist living in Orlando, Florida. Experienced in multiple species, he is quite adept at tropicals. You can check out his blog at <http://adamaskwhy.wordpress.com>

This lecture/demo is **FREE for all members.**

### Saturday, March 29, 2014

**Workshop: Adam Lavigne - Neea Buxifolia**

\$130 fee includes collected tree. A sign up sheet will be available at the Feb meeting. Neea Buxifolias are fast growing trees with exceptionally small foliage which makes them excellent bonsai material.

### Tuesday, April 8, 2014

**Program: 7:00pm Jim Osborne will demo a Bunjin style boxwood**

Bunjin is a favorite style for Jim. He will demo a collected boxwood and lecture on the nuances of the Bunjin style.

### Saturday, April 12, 2014

**Workshop: Collected boxwoods suitable for Bunjin styling**

This will be an informal workshop led by Jim Osborne. More details to follow.

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

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)

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

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

# Project Time

by Joe Day

**J**

think of a bonsai project as the use of a piece of material that must undergo a long period of further growth and the growth must be controlled to achieve the desired results. Most bonsai projects start as collected material or old overgrown nursery stock. Both collected material and overgrown nursery stock need to be severely pruned and undergo lots of root work to set it on the path to becoming a great bonsai. This top and bottom pruning creates a lot of stress for the plant. Our short winter and at times short spring before a hot summer can create a time crunch for the plant. The longer the plant has to grow in a period of warm nights and warm, not hot days the more stable the roots become. Good root development is the key to good development of branches and scar healing. January pruning and root work will give the plant the best chance to have weeks or

with luck months of prime weather to regain its health before summer heat stress becomes a factor.

After any hard pruning and root work keep the material protected from the wind, temps that would freeze the root ball and unusual heat. The unusual heat is a big factor. If the material is placed in a location such as a hot house or poly house that is not well ventilated a "false" spring condition can be created. Creating a False spring condition that causes a plant to bud out is easy. Maintaining that newly budded plant in a all day all night spring condition is very difficult. If you can keep the "heat" up the lack of sunlight on those short winter days will cause the plant to be weak. We have a very long growing season so we never need to rush our material into a false spring.

Not much beats looking at a wonderful bonsai and knowing what humble beginnings and your hard work and talent created.



## Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

PO Box 13212  
New Orleans, LA 70185

## BEGINNER Basics

### *Finger Pruning Conifers* by Harry Harrington

The maintenance pruning of conifers such as Junipers, Cedars and Cryptomeria must be carried out by finger pruning throughout the season. If scissors are used, the foliage and shoots turn brown and this looks ugly.

Coniferous species have foliage, which contains a 'weak point' that if utilised, can enable removal of the shoot/needle without browning off. By holding the tip of the shoot between the pads of the finger and thumb and gently pulling away, the weak point of the shoot breaks cleanly and the shoot can be pulled away.

Care must be taken not to use fingernails to apply more pressure; this will cause the foliage shoot to break at a point where browning off can occur.

As with deciduous species, this regular pruning will result in denser foliage emerging leading to the eventual creation of foliage pads.

## Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society Board

### President:

Kathy Barbazon  
kbarbazon@me.com  
504-628-3546(cell)  
504-988-0928 (work)

### Recording Secretary

Peggy Howard  
504-887-3116  
peggylh@cox.net

### Masters Program Director,

Forum Moderator:  
Jim "Ozy" Osborne  
wevodoo@cox.net  
504-458-6956

### Vice-President:

William Majoue  
wmajoue@yahoo.com  
504-606-4143 (cell)

### Newsletter Editor

Kathy Barbazon  
kbarbazon@me.com  
504-628-3546(cell)

### Web Site Manager,

Forum Administrator:  
Bill Butler  
bill@bayouconcepts.com  
504-455-5282

### Treasurer:

Rick Hamilton  
rick@hamiltonjewelry.net  
504-391-0111 (work)  
504-231-1914 (home)  
504-391-1810 (cell)

### Exhibit Director:

Gerald Nolan  
snoot@cox.net  
504-884-8929 (cell)

### Past President:

Jim "Ozy" Osborne