

Exterior White Glue, Jin and Shari

by Joe Day

We live in a very wet climate so the love of Jin and Shari creates a never ending problem. Wood rots, all wood rots and nothing I know of can keep that from happening. I do know something that can delay for many years the decay. Its only limitation is it can not prevent decay deep into a tree if moisture has a way to get deep in the tree.

Exterior white wood glue (its actually a bit yellow) thinned with enough water to make it very fluid painted on the surface of dry dead wood will seal the wood and keep

moisture out of the wood. The glue must be thin to penetrate the wood. You have to keep the tree out of the rain or the watering hose until the glue dries. Summer this drying is fast, a couple of days. Winter it takes longer but it will dry. When the glue is wet, the first month it can turn a bit white but as the glue dries completely it sheds water and looks completely natural.

This is a cheap and easy way to treat dead wood. You can paint the wood with lime sulphur before you put

the glue on. It is possible to put lime sulphur on after the glue but it will not do much to help the wood but it will dry a white color. I've used this for over 15 years and it works.

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

PO Box 13212
New Orleans, LA 70185

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Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society Board

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

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

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

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

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

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

Masters Program Director,
Forum Moderator:
Jim "Ozzy" Osborne
wevoodoo@cox.net
504-458-6956

Web Site Manager,
Forum Administrator:
Bill Butler
bill@bayouconcepts.com
504-455-5282

Past President:
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THE BONSAI Wire

January 2014

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

FROM THE President

H

appy New Year!

As we start the new year, the GNOBS board welcomes William

Majoue as our new Vice-President. Jim has stepped down as President but remains as Masters Program Director and is actively working to bring us exciting programs with experienced Bonsai Masters. The rest of the Board remains the same.

GNOBS is already off to a great start for 2014 with Guy Guidry and Adam Lavigne lined up for demonstrations and workshops in this quarter. Our goal as a board is to provide talented and interesting artists and exciting programs for our membership. We encourage all members to provide feedback to the Board on programs, artists and workshops that you would like to see.

Dues are due! You would have a hard time finding a better bargain. \$30 individual or \$35 family provides you with monthly newsletters, free access to all demonstrations by masters, monthly programs and meetings and access to paid workshops with quality material. Please pay your dues before March to continue receiving your newsletter with news of all the exciting events on the horizon.

Kathy Barbazon,
GNOBS
President



MEETINGS & Events

Friday, January 17, 2014

Program: 7:00pm Guy Guidry Lecture and Demo on Bald Cypress As many of you know Guy is a GNOBS member, but he is also a world recognized Bonsai artist. Guy specializes in designing specimen bonsai and is honored to have several of his bonsai trees on permanent display in National Museums around the U.S.A. Guy is particularly well known for his techniques used for creating taper in large Louisiana Bald Cypress trees. These techniques have made it possible for more people to enjoy this fantastic material as bonsai. This lecture/demo is **FREE for all members**.

Saturday, January 18, 2014

Workshop: 8:00am - 1:00pm Guy Guidry Bald Cypress Workshop
Workshop participants: Guy has requested that you bring whatever carving tools you have. Most of the bald cypresses will involve carving.
Workshop: 2:00pm - 5:00pm Guy Guidry Bring Your Own Tree Workshop
Members are welcome at both workshops as SILENT observers!

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Handouts will be available with advice on Spring preparation
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. **The tree will be raffled at the meeting - you don't want to miss a chance on this.**

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 Jan & Feb meetings.

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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BEGINNER Basics

Always wire your bonsai SECURELY into its pot! Yes - it keeps the tree from falling out of the pot, but there's also another very important reason for doing it. As the wind blows or even as you move you bonsai, if the tree continually shifts in the pot, it damages all those lovely small roots you're trying to develop.

Resist the urge to stick your tree into a bonsai pot too early.

We have all done it and it's always a mistake. Give your tree time to develop first. Your trunk and major branches should be the thickness you want them to be before you move your tree to a bonsai pot. Once in a bonsai pot, trunks and branches will thicken very slowly if at all. Wait until your tree has achieved the right girth and it's fine development is well on its way and then you can move it to a pot.

Don't trim your tree to death.

Prune your tree for shape - but don't constantly prune every stray leaf. Your tree needs to grow sometimes to maintain its health. It may look messy on occasion but it will be better for the health of the tree and will give you a better result in the long run.

TECHNIQUE Tips

Defoliating, Leaf trimming or Leaf cutting Bonsai by Harry Harrington

Defoliating or leaf-cutting is a technique that involves removing the leaves of deciduous and broadleaf bonsai during the Summer; it forces the bonsai to produce a replacement set of leaves in a second 'false' Spring flush of growth. This replacement set of leaves results in increased ramification and leaf density, a reduction in leaf size and internode length and finally, superior Autumn colors.

A Warning about Defoliation

Many enthusiasts first try defoliating on trees that are not horticulturally and/or aesthetically ready for defoliation.

Before describing defoliating techniques in detail, it is worth highlighting the need for trees to be healthy and vigorous before leaf-cutting is carried out. The removal of the leaves from a tree is debilitating and will temporarily weaken any bonsai; defoliating should only ever be carried out on vigorous specimens that will be able to recover from the process. Trees that are showing signs of weak growth, whether it be due to recent repotting, disease, styling or recent hard pruning, are not suitable for defoliating.

Be aware that defoliating can be so taxing on a bonsai that failure to respond can occur if the tree is not vigorous; parts of the branch system can be weakened to the point that they die-back.

Defoliating is also a technique intended for 'finished' bonsai only; a tree intended for defoliation will have the trunk, primary, secondary and tertiary branches established. Defoliating a tree that requires branch or trunk building will slow down development of these parts greatly.

Different tree species react in a variety of ways to defoliating; some respond quickly and strongly to total defoliation (to the extent that they can be defoliated more than once a year) while with other species it is preferable to only partially defoliate.

Total Defoliation

The most common way to defoliate a tree is to remove each and every leaf with scissors, leaving the leaf-stalk or petiole behind. The remaining petioles nourish the tree as new buds contained within the leaf-axils begin to extend and open out. As the new leaves start to open out, the petioles dry out and fall away from the branches.

After defoliating a tree, leave it in good light to stimulate stronger budding, particularly from inner and lower branches. Without leaves, a defoliated bonsai will require less watering. Defoliating or Leaf-cutting Bonsai

The new leaves start to emerge 3-6 weeks after defoliation (depending on the exact timing, tree Vigor and tree species) and are smaller and more numerous. Vigorous trees will also back bud as a result of defoliation.

The exact timing of defoliation differs from one tree species to another. As a very general guideline, leaf-cutting can be carried out after the spring flush of growth has hardened off (the leaves lose their spring color and become more 'leathery'). For more detailed timing notes please see the specific species guide later in this article.

Immediately after total defoliation, the tree is bare for the first time since Spring and it is possible to study the branch structure; this is an ideal time to prune, wire and style a deciduous tree.

Partial Defoliation

Defoliating or Leaf-cutting Bonsai: Partially defoliating a bonsai is much kinder and with some tree species is preferred to total defoliation. Large leaves (or the largest leaves) are gradually removed through the growing season until late Summer, these large leaves are slowly replaced by smaller leaves as and when required.

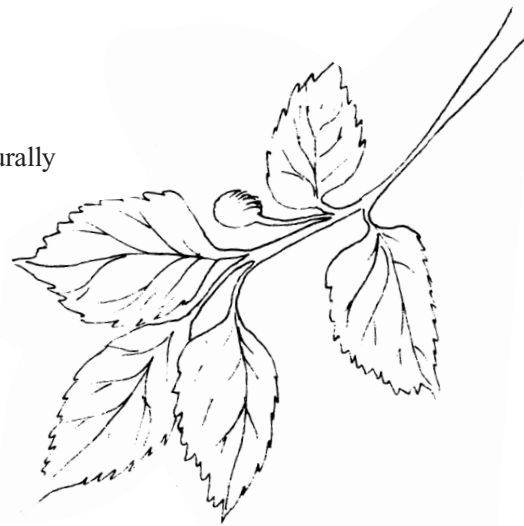
There are several advantages to partial defoliation; the stress of leaf removal is spread over a number of weeks or months. The largest leaves tend to be in the strongest, most apical areas of the tree (that is, the tips of the branches, particularly in the crown or apex) and their removal enables light to reach the weak, inner and lower branching. In this way,

partial defoliation can be used as a means to reinvigorating the weaker, lower areas of a tree by weakening the apical areas.

Species suitable for defoliation techniques

I would strongly suggest that unless a particular tree species is recommended for total defoliation by an experienced enthusiast, first try a limited amount of partial defoliation on a specimen to gauge its reaction to defoliation techniques.

Defoliation is normally carried out around midsummer in the UK; however some species are best defoliated a little earlier in late May, the others in mid June. Please note that different climates and differences in the length of growing seasons will alter the optimal time to defoliate according to where you live.



It's Dues Time!

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PO Box 13212
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SPECIES Spotlight

Camellia by Harry Harrington



Lime-hating evergreen shrubs and small trees usually with large, glossy, mid to dark green leaves. Camellias are favored as bonsai for their flowers that appear in profusion. Of the 250 different species of Camellia known, there are three that are commonly used for bonsai cultivation.

These species are: *Camellia japonica*, *C. reticulata* and *C. sasanqua*. *Camellia sasanqua* is especially favored, as it is the smallest and most compact Camellia species; it is however more frost tender than other Camellias and requires more protection from frost.

The flower buds of Camellia develop on the tips of new branches.

BONSAI CULTIVATION NOTES

POSITION Partial shade and protection from frost.

FEEDING Every two weeks throughout the growing season with an ericaceous (acid) feed.

REPOTTING Every two or three years in early Spring. Ensure that soil-mix is lime-free.

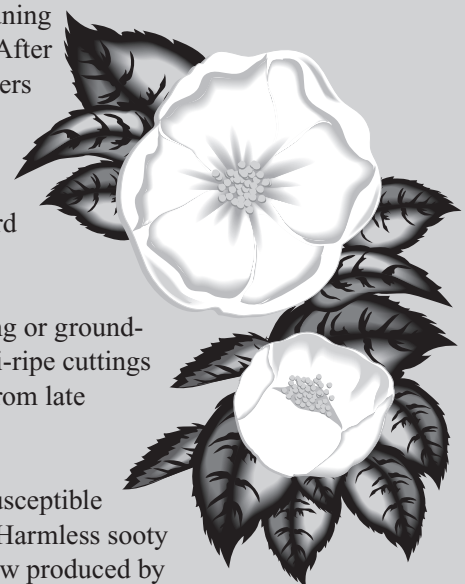
PRUNING Tolerate hard pruning in Winter or after flowering. After flowering, remove spent flowers and trim to shape.

Camellia buds back easily, even from the trunk, after hard pruning.

PROPAGATION Air-layering or ground-layering in Spring. Root semi-ripe cuttings of the current years growth from late Summer to late-Winter.

PESTS AND DISEASES Susceptible to Aphids and Scale insects. Harmless sooty mould may grow on honeydew produced by aphids and scale insects. Virus diseases can blemish flowers.

STYLING Informal upright forms with single or multiple trunks and Cascades in large and extra-large sizes.



Visit Harry Harrington's website www.bonsai4me.com and check out his new book *Bonsai Inspirations 2*.