

### Water Jasmine cont. from pg 3

I have grown several Wrightia trees indoors under lights and have found them to be undemanding to grow. Wrightias like temperatures constantly above 65F. Cooler temperatures are not well tolerated. They also like more light than some indoor bosai such as Ficus or Schefflera. More work needs to be done to determine whether Wrightias are useful for windowsill growing. Wrightias should definitely be used in all tropical and semi-tropical areas.

In the tropics Wrightias are defoliated several times a year to produce smaller leaves and to increase twigging. Several weeks to one month before a show plants are defoliated, forcing the plant to refoliate and to be in complete flower for the display. Flowers develop after the 3rd new leaf forms. The blooming period then lasts about two weeks. The flowers are white, pendulous, and fill a

room with a very lovely fragrance. Long, green bean-like seed pods follow flowering if insects pollinate the flowers.

Seed pods ripen, turn black, and crack open to release the small fuzzy capped seeds. New plants are easily grown from the fresh ripe seed. Flowering starts in two years from seed, and cutting grown material.

Insects do not bother Wrightias to any significant extent and insect infestation is cured with the usual treatments. Wrightias are not particularly sensitive or damaged by any of the usual insecticide sprays, but Sevin insecticide causes leaf drop.

Wrightia appreciate a regular fertilizer regimen, and are not fussy as to fertilizer type. Of course, as with all potted trees never fertilize a dry plant.

Wrightias tolerate high heat and humidity but low humidity levels are also not a problem.

We are not sure how much cold it takes to severely injure them, but I would suggest keeping temperatures above 65 Fahrenheit.

In Southeast Asia bonsai designs can include virtually every type of design but lots of exposed roots, and formal tiered canopies of leaves seem quite popular. Branch arrangements follow classical bonsai design. Wrightias are formed into upright, hollow trunk, forest, rock planted and every other conceivable style. The natural growth pattern of Wrightias is to produce many basal shoots so sprout, raft, and clump styles are quite logical and easily designed.

In conclusion, Wrightias are delightful plants with good bonsai character. Everyone with an interest in tropical plants should give them a try.

Visit Jerry's website: [bonsaihunk.us](http://bonsaihunk.us)



### Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

PO Box 13212  
New Orleans, LA 70185

### Meeting & Events cont. from pg 1

## Tuesday, November 11, 2014

**Bonsai Basics: 7:00pm Bill Butler on winterizing your trees**

**Program: 7:30pm Open workshop**

Bring a tree or two from your collection to work on with the help and advice of other members. Free use of club wire.

**Election of GNOBS board**

## Tuesday, December 9, 2014

**GNOBS Christmas Party: 7pm**

Our annual pot luck dinner. Food, fun, door prize and mystery gifts. More details to follow.

## 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:

Jim "Ozzy" Osborne

# THE BONSAI Wire

October 2014

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

## FROM THE President

I hope everyone is as excited as I am about our upcoming programs. Our October programs feature Adam Lavigne. Those of us who have followed Adam's blog always find it entertaining as well as informative. I would highly recommend attending both Adam's demo/lecture on Friday night and, if you have the time, as a silent observer on Saturday.

In November, our own Guy Guidry has agreed to do a "bring your own tree workshop". At last count, we had 15 members signed up. If we have enough, we will go to two sessions. As a favor to the club, Guy is giving us a heavily discounted rate. You would never be able to have a class with Guy elsewhere for this low a price.

Also coming up - if anyone is interested in running for any of the GNOBS board positions, please give Jim Osborne your name and the position you are interested in at the Oct meeting. Elections will be held in November.

The board has one request of all members. Please, at the end of each meeting, dispose of your own trash and pick up any mess you've made. Gerald is responsible for the hall being kept clean and board members regularly stay when needed to sweep up, take up dirty tablecloths etc. We just need you to do your part. If everyone clears their own trash, cleanup goes quicker and everyone can get home on time. Thanks in advance. Kathy

Kathy Barbazon,  
GNOBS President



## MEETINGS & Events

### Friday, October 17, 2014

**Program: 7:00pm Adam Lavigne Presentation and Demo on Neea Buxifolia FREE and open to all members.**

**Bonus: Adam will be bringing Nees and other bonsai material for sale**

For anyone unfamiliar with Adam, check out his website <http://adamaskwhy.wordpress.com> Adam is a very talented and irreverent bonsai artist and you can expect not only an informative demo but also an entertaining one. If you have a Neea or a tropical tree, please bring it for display

**Election Nominations:** If you are interested in running for a GNOBS board position, please let Jim Osborne know at the meeting

### Saturday, October 18, 2014

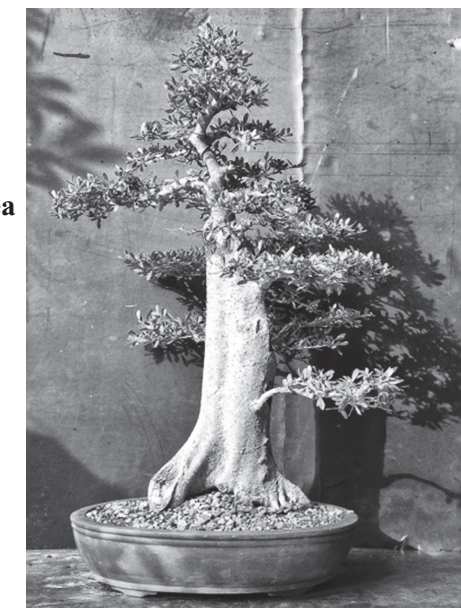
**Workshop: 9:00am - 1:00pm Adam Lavigne-Neea Buxifolia**

Tropicals are one of Adam's specialties. **Workshop is full but open FREE to all members as SILENT observers.** Nees are easy trees with tiny leaves that can produce beautiful bonsai. If you have not participated as a 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.

### Saturday, November 1, 2014

**Workshop: Bring Your Own Tree Workshop with Guy Guidry**

Guy Guidry, a GNOBS member, and for those new to the club - a nationally renowned bonsai artist, will conduct a "Bring your own tree workshop" at a specially discounted rate of \$50. Sign up now. You won't find a better deal for a workshop with an artist of Guy's caliber anywhere. If enough members sign up, we will do two workshops.



Adam Lavigne's Neea Buxifolia exhibited at Epcot

Meeting & Events cont. pg 4

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)

## BONSAI Basics

### Propagation:

#### Ground Layering

by Harry Harrington

This form of layering mimics the process by which some species propagate themselves naturally. Low branches on some plants come into contact with the ground as they lengthen and become weighed down by their foliage; from these points, adventitious buds produce roots into the ground and the root system eventually becomes established enough to support the branch as a plant in its own right.

Suitable species for ground-layering include Acer, Azaleas, Berberis, Buxus, Chaenomeles, Chamaecyparis, Cotoneasters, Euonymus, Forsythia, Hedera and Wisteria. It is always worth investigating around the base of all of these species when found growing in the garden or field to see if there are any naturally occurring ground-layers that can already be removed.

To create ground-layers artificially, try to find fairly young growth that will touch the ground; make an upward slit in the underside of the bark where roots are required. Dust with rooting hormone and wrap the wound with long-stranded sphagnum moss. The section of the branch to be rooted now needs to be shallowly buried in the soil and pegged in place with a piece of U-shaped wire.

This process should be carried out in Spring and should be left for at least three months ensuring that the area is kept damp. If the layer has failed to root after 3 months, re-cover it and leave until late-summer. If it has still failed to root by this time it is still worth leaving it in position until the following Spring. When successfully rooted, the new plant can be removed and planted up.

Don't be too eager to separate the layering, it is better to leave it intact until there is enough root system to support the layering, rather than remove it too early and watch it slowly die. If there are not sufficient roots on the layering by September, it is better to leave detaching it until the following Spring as any new immature layering may not survive on its own through the Winter cold, however hardy the parent plant is.

Visit Harry's website: [Bonsai4me.com](http://Bonsai4me.com)

# SPECIES Spotlight *Black Pine* by Jim Osborne

**F**or all my bonsai friends here in the New Orleans area, and in fact all over the south in Zone 9, I put together some information on Japanese Black Pine, *Pinus Thunbergii*. It is some techniques for the improvement and ramification and branch development on Black pine bonsai. Black pine has been called the King of bonsai, and I agree, and therefore everyone serious about bonsai should have at least one in their collection. However, there is some confusion about how to care for black pine and the techniques used to create and maintain one as a bonsai. I get questions all the time on things such as needle pulling, candle pinching, and candle removal. Black pine are top dominant and you must learn how to balance the strength of the tree in order to maintain the bonsai's shape. If you do not learn this, the lower branches on the tree will become weak and in time, die. So, the following will hopefully clear up some of the questions you may have about this fantastic tree used as bonsai.

Once again, this is for the New Orleans zone 9 area. The timing of the tasks outlined may work in other areas but note that I only have experience here.

1) Needle Pulling: October through early December. Once the pines's needles have become fully matured, you must thin them in order to balance the trees energy. Remember, they are very top dominant. Carefully pull the needles leaving only between 6 to 8 sets of needles per shoot throughout the tree. Remove a bit more needles at the top of the tree as this upper part is the most vigorous. This is also a good time to remove any small or excess branches.

2) Needle pulling in late winter, say the end of January through early February. You can reduce the number of needles to 3 sets on each shoot. Do this only if your tree is healthy and vigorous. I should note here that this technique is only to be used on designed and established healthy bonsai.

3) Candle Pinching Mid March through Mid April. This will be your spring task on your Black Pine bonsai. Simple, no fuss. But again, this is to only be done on a tree that established. You must do this in order to balance to trees energy, and keep your needles short, and that is exactly what you want. When your candles

become thick or too long, break them in half. Doing this will also not let the branchlets become to thick and out of scale.

4) Summer Candle Removal. Mid June. My birthday is June 15th and I always find myself performing this task within days of my birthday, give or take a day or two. How do you know exactly when to remove the candles? Other than the timing, the best way to tell when to remove them is when the needles are at a 45 degree angle from the candles. This is the exact time to prune the candles. When you prune them, leave only about 1/8" to 1/4" stub. This will slow down the budding down and the tree will then form smaller and thinner new growth. And don't you want just that for your black pine? I know I do!

5) Pinching Newly Emerged Buds. End of July through early August. Okay, in June when you

pruned the candles, they should have produced shoots about 1" long. More than likely you will have between 3 and 5 shoots on most of your branchlets and you will need to reduce down to just 2 shoots. Leave the horizontal shoots so that new twigs will form and always remove any vertical buds, hopefully you already have an apex, and you don't need any other buds trying to become the new leader, so remove them. Also, always thin excess buds because if you don't this will create reverse taper and no one wants that. See? Simple right?

It really is not hard, but if you take away only one thing from this information, it is that there are only several times a year to work on your black pine bonsai and if you neglect them, even for a short time, you will have a tree with very long needles, weak lower branches, and reverse taper on your trunk and some branches. Not a good thing. So learn your black pine, perform the simple tasks required in order to maintain them, and enjoy your "King of the Bonsai"

## SPECIES Spotlight

### *Water Jasmine - Wrightia religiosa*

by Jerry Meisluk

On a visit to Malaysia in 1989 we observed many and varied tropical materials used for bonsai including ficus, citrus, juniper, and Fukien tea. The Water Jasmine, *Wrightia religiosa*, was the material most often used for bonsai in Malaysia but one with which I had no familiarity. In subsequent travels I have seen Water Jasmine used as bonsai in Vietnam, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and in other Southeast Asian countries.

The plant is a common hedge material and grows 20 feet tall and up to one and a half feet in diameter. It is widely planted because of its medicinal qualities. *Wrightia* bonsai may be seen from mini-size to giant five footers. The plant has attractive two inch leaves that dwarf well. Additionally, the *Wrightia* is twiggy and exhibits good bonsai character. It has a smooth gray bark with old specimens occasionally displaying a fluted lower trunk. *Wrightias* have prominent almost succulent roots which may be used to great advantage in many exposed root bonsai styles.

Propagation is easy since *Wrightias* sprout readily from seed contained inside a green bean-like pod. It is also easily grown from both branch and root cuttings. Most of the small sized bonsai are derived from root cuttings.

As its common name suggests, *Wrightias* tolerate moisture, and prefer as much direct sun as possible. Despite the name keeping the trees normally moist is better than sopping wet.

Several forms of the *Wrightia* are in cultivation. The typical plant has a cluster of small drooping single white flowers and there is a less common double flowered form. Interestingly, the double flowered plant does not set seed, so it must be propagated from cuttings. There is also a miniature leaf *Wrightia* that is less commonly seen, as well as a medium sized leaf form. Both of the smaller leaf varieties are less vigorous and more difficult to grow. Growing the *Wrightias* in Southeast Asian heat demands that small trees be watered frequently. Often small potted trees are placed into a larger sand filled container to help keep roots cool and moist. Since *Wrightias* grow quickly repotting should be done at least every two years.

Water Jasmine cont. pg 4

## Selecting Trees for Collection

from previous articles by Donna Banting, Vaughan Banting and Alan Walker

*Editor's Note: Though the original intention of this article is how to select trees for collection from the wild or landscape, many of the the same attributes can be looked for when selecting nursery material.*

Control your urge to dig up everything in sight and be very selective using the following guidelines for selection:

1. Is it alive? The trees will usually be dormant, so you do not want to collect a dead tree. Scratch a twig with your thumb nail. If there is a light green color exposed, the tree is alive. This is the cambium layer.

2. Rootage. Check to see if you have some large surface roots by digging at the base of the trunk with your fingers. See that they radiate out in at least three distinct directions.

3. Flared base. Although not essential, the base of the trunk should flare out to some degree. This will contribute greatly to the illusion of age.

4. Trunk diameter. Since you are not restricted to the small trunks available in nursery stock, take advantage of this and try to find the thickest trunks compared to the total height.

5. Taper. Does the trunk taper from a large base to a fine twig for the apex? If not, is there a secondary branch that can be wired up for a new apex, allowing you to remove the upper portion of the tree?

6. Overall height. Remember, a bonsai is not really considered a bonsai when it is over 48 inches tall, so don't collect trees that cannot be reduced in height and still have a convincing taper.

7. Ratio of overall height to trunk diameter. Is the trunk thick enough to account for the height? Remember, the thicker the trunk and the shorter the tree, the older it will appear.

8. Low branching. Are there branches at least as low as one third the total height of the tree now or after you have topped it?

9. Branch arrangement. Are the branches spaced evenly enough to allow the later removal of all "bar branches", "cross branches", etc., without removing all of the branches on one side or disfiguring the tree?

10. Twig ramification. Look for specimens that have developed more than just secondary branches. Secondary branches should have an abundance of tertiary branches which should give rise to an abundance of fine twiggings.