

THE BONSAI Wire

UPDATE

October 2015

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

FROM THE President



his month we have two activities - a demo and lecture by Lowell Tilley and a workshop with Guy Guidry. Due to an

error, we have two spots open in the Guy Guidry Hinoki workshop. The workshop is reasonably priced with some very nice material. You can sign up at the Oct 13 meeting or by contacting Peggy Howard.

October/November is election time for the club. I will be ending my term as President but continuing to do the newsletter and web updates. Peggy has been nominated as next year's President. The positions for Vice-President, Secretary and Masters Program Coordinator will be open. The President's position requires a previous board experience but the other positions are open to all members. The Masters Program Coordinator benefits from at least some knowledge of the bonsai community and resources but the other two positions only require a willingness to participate in board meetings and work on club events so even beginners willing to give their time are welcome. Jim Osborne, as past President, is responsible for putting together the slate of prospective officers. Please contact him if you are interested. Speaking from experience, it can be interesting and very rewarding to participate in club decisions and aiding the promotion of the club. We want our club to continue to grow and improve and new voices on the board can help us to move forward.



Kathy Barbazon,
GNOBS
President

MEETINGS & Events

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Program: Lowell Tilley Boxwood Demonstration & Lecture 7:00pm

Lowell has over 20 years experience developing bonsai. He teaches bonsai classes for LSU Student Union Leisure Classes. He is the Vice President of Louisiana Bonsai Society, member of Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society, Gulf Coast Bonsai Foundation founder, member of American Bonsai Society, and member Bonsai Clubs International. Bring a boxwood or evergreen for display.

Saturday (NIGHT), October 24, 2015

Program: Guy Guidry Hinoki Cypress Workshop 7:00pm

Two spots are open for this workshop. Don't miss out on a reasonably priced workshop with Guy on some extremely nice material. **A sign up sheet will be available at the meeting for the workshop. Bring your checkbook, cash or credit card, you must pay when you sign up.**

Friday, November 13, 2015

Program: Dorothy Schmitz Juniper Demonstration 7:00pm

Dorothy Schmitz is a professional full time bonsai artist from Southwest Florida with a Southern European origin. Dorothy was elected twice among the national finalists of the New Talent Competition, won the open Florida BSF Instructor Scholarship Award in 2005 and the coveted Ben Oki Award in 2006. Dorothy is an active editor at the Knowledge of Bonsai Forum and the Art of Bonsai Project and owns a Bonsai Studio in Bonita Springs. She specializes in conifers and tropicals, as well as in carving with hand and power tools.

Saturday (morning), November 14, 2015

Program: Workshop Dorothy Schmitz Juniper - time to be announced

Dorothy Schmitz will conduct a workshop on large 3 gallon Green Mound Junipers from Brussel's Bonsai hand selected by Brussel Martin. Brussel promises even better quality than the Shimpakus he provided last year. **A sign up sheet will be available at the meeting for the workshop. Bring your checkbook, cash or credit card, you must pay when you sign up.**

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Annual GNOBS Christmas Party (Details to be announced)

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.

Wisteria by Harry Harrington

Wisteria is a genus of about 10 species of twining, woody, deciduous climbers found in moist woodland and on stream banks in China, Korea, Japan, and central and southern USA. Wisterias do not conform to normal bonsai styling; they are styled to show off their highly scented racemes of flowers. Flower color changes according to variety but is normally a mixture of blue, purple or white. Flowers appear in late Spring or Summer and are followed by pendant bean-like green seed-pods.

The two species of Wisteria normally seen as bonsai are *W. floribunda*/ Japanese Wisteria and *W. sinensis* (syn. *W. chinensis*)/ Chinese Wisteria.

ENCOURAGING WISTERIA TO FLOWER

Wisteria planted in the ground flower prolifically but as bonsai they can be more reluctant. Nearly every Bonsai Book ever written suggests a different approach to encouraging flower production. Firstly, it should be noted that what ever techniques are applied, Wisteria will not flower until they reach a certain age; this seems to be around 10 years.

Wisteria have two stages of growth; the first is the juvenile stage where they will produce vegetative growth

(foliage and new extending shoots) and a mature stage where they will produce flowering spurs at the expense of vegetative growth.

In terms of bonsai, the trunk and branches of the Wisteria bonsai are developed first by allowing the roots plenty of room to extend; either by using a large pot or by annual rootpruning. Once the trunk has developed, the tree is allowed to become completely rootbound. This stops all vegetative growth in the tree; that is, though it will produce new leaves each year, it will produce very few new shoots (if at all). The Wisteria stops producing juvenile vegetative growth and is forced into a 'mature' phase in its life where it tries to reproduce (make flowering spurs and flowers).

Finally, feed correctly. As a member of the Leguminosae family, Wisteria are able to harness Nitrogen from the atmosphere. Feeding with fertilizers that have anything other than a low nitrogen content will encourage excessive vegetative leaf-growth at the expense of flower production.

BONSAI CULTIVATION NOTES

POSITION Full sun or partial shade. Wisteria bonsai can become quite top-heavy and care should be taken that specimens are not blown over in strong winds. Wisteria are fully-hardy when grown in the ground but due to the high

moisture content of the roots, should be given some protection when temperatures drop below 23°F.

FEEDING Feed with a low-nitrogen fertilizer fortnightly after flowering has finished until Autumn.

WATERING Wisteria require large quantities of water in comparison to most other bonsai species and need heavy watering to keep them continually moist. In periods of hot weather during the Summer they will happily tolerate their pots being stood in a shallow tray of water to keep up moisture levels. However, water trays, if used, should be allowed to dry out daily.

REPOTTING Repot every 2 or 3 years after flowering has finished in a basic soil mix. Wisteria can be repotted in early Spring as with other bonsai species but flower production will be affected. Repot annually to encourage vegetative growth (at the expense of flowering)

PROPAGATION Basal cuttings from side shoots in early to mid-Summer and root with bottom heat. Ground layer in Autumn or air-layer after flowering.

PESTS AND DISEASES Leafspot, brown scale and aphids might be a problem.

STYLING Wisteria are styled into forms that allow their flowers to cascade to their full length. Style trees to show off their flowers rather than their foliage. Use informal upright, slanting or cascade forms in medium to extra-large sizes.



Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

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THE SHOHIN SIZE **Book Review**

Title: Bonsai Life Histories: The Lives of over 50 Bonsai Trees in Photos and Words (*available as a used book on Amazon*)

Author: Martin Treasure

Level: Beginner to Intermediate

What's good: Life histories in detailed text and photographs of the development of 50 bonsai over numerous years. Multiple species and styles developed from different sources - garden stock, collected, redone bonsai etc. Also good information for the beginner on choosing material, care and styling, pot selection etc

What could be better: No real faults to the book - though I wish sometimes authors would not feel the need to go over the basics - again, and instead focus completely on the main subject of the book.

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