

# THE BONSAI Wire

## UPDATE

February 2016

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

## FROM THE President

# M

ark your calendar! The date has been set: Day of Bonsai with Ryan Neal is Saturday September

17 all day long at the hall. More specifics are coming.

Kathy Barbazon, our past president, is teaching us to draw in our February Bonsai Basics. If you can draw please attend this meeting. We need you. For the General Meeting we are going to do something different. Those that can draw, we are asking you to buddy with us that can't draw. Hoping it will be fun. Looking forward to drawing with you. What you are drawing is your own plant, for an open workshop, now and your vision for the future. I am getting the paper and pencils; you just bring your tools and plant to bonsai; and be ready to draw. **Remember Mardi Gras is on our regular meeting night, so we are meeting the next week Tuesday 2/16.**

Friday March 18 is a demo of a Harland Boxwood by Brussel Martin. It should be fun. And Saturday is a workshop on the Harland Boxwood. Gerald brought one to show us at the January Meeting. It had cute little leaves they should make nice bonsai, and ours were hand picked by Brussel himself. Should be really nice trees. There are several slots open. Please mail in your check for \$75 to



President cont.  
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## MEETINGS & Events

### Tuesday, February 16, 2016 (note: later date due to Mardi Gras)

**How and why to draw your bonsai - Kathy Barbazon 7:00pm**

**Open Workshop with assistance 7:30 pm**

Kathy will do a short presentation on how and why to draw your bonsai with guidelines and suggestions on computer programs/methods etc that those members without drawing ability can use. For the rest of our program we will have an open workshop with advanced members available for advice. Kathy will draw or help members draw different suggestions for the workshop trees. Try to bring material for which you either need styling direction or for which you would like to see some other styling options.

### Friday, March 18, 2016

**Program: Brussel Martin Harland Boxwood demo 7:00pm**

Brussel Martin, owner of Brussel's Bonsai will demo a Harland Boxwood. Though most of us know Brussel as the owner of Brussel's Bonsai, he is also a talented bonsai artist who began studying bonsai as a teenager. His former teachers include John Naka and Ben Oki. Don't miss this opportunity to watch him at work on one of the better dwarf boxwood species for bonsai.

### Saturday, March 19, 2016

**Program: Brussel Martin Harland Boxwood workshop 8:00am**

Brussel Martin, bonsai artist and owner of Brussel's Bonsai, will conduct a workshop on some beautiful Harland Boxwoods. Harland Boxwoods have nicely fissured bark and though dwarf are faster growers than the smaller Kingsville. **The fee for the workshop is a budget friendly \$75. Sign up and pay at the February meeting or contact Peggy Howard 504-887-3116.** Members not in the workshop are welcome to attend free as silent observers. You will have the opportunity to watch Brussel as he gives advice and helps to style ten trees.

### Tuesday, April 12, 2016

**Program: Flowering species demo 7:00pm**

Three members will simultaneously demo three different flowering species. Details to be announced.

**2016 Dues are Due!  
Please mail in your dues  
or pay at the February  
meeting to continue  
receiving your newsletter.**

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)

# BONSAI Basics

## *Bonsai Myths*

by Harry Harrington

### Never Water Your Trees At Midday

This myth instructs us not to water a tree in bright sunlight lest the leaves are burnt by the magnifying effect of water droplets.

As a UK resident we rarely (never) experience sunlight strong enough to burn leaves, however well the water droplets might magnify sunlight. I have great doubt that the concave upper surface of a water droplet would be able to focus light onto a leaf in anyway at all.

Anecdotal evidence from enthusiasts who regularly experience Summer temperatures of 100°F or more similarly have no experience of 'water induced leafburn' (!).

My prime reason for disbelieving this myth is that if water droplets caused leafburn why does this event never occur when it rains on a hot day? Surely the myth would lead us believe that the trees around us would be burnt and possibly defoliated every time there was a rain shower during the Summer?

To quote a more authoritative source, Professor Amy Liang in her book the 'Living Art of Bonsai' states that "if sunlight goes through a drop of dew directly, its energy is only 0.2 calories per minute. It is, therefore, incapable of burning leaves.....In addition, 1/4oz of water absorbs approx. 540 calories

of heat when it evaporates, it is clear that instead of scorching leaves, water helps lower temperature (of the leaf surface)".

So where does this myth originate? I believe it maybe a result of the old gardeners' advice to never water your garden during the day. Flowers and in particular, the flowers of garden annuals do spoil if they become wet whilst they are fully open during daylight hours. The reason they spoil has much more to do with the impact of heavy water droplets on the delicate, light petals of a flower than of any effect from the Sun.

*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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New Orleans, LA 70185

### President *cont. from pg 1*

reserve your place. We look forward to seeing you. If you came last year, hope you remember how much fun we had with Brussel.

New Orleans City Park Botanical Garden Historic Train Garden, enter in the back, it's all the way to the right in the corner; Saturday February 27 we are going to meet in the Train Garden for 9:00 am for some general maintenance. Bring your tools, and if any have a saw please bring it. Thank goodness at meetings we don't have an issue, but we are going to be out in public. I suggest you bring your tools and lock them in your trunk, and only bring what you need to the garden. There are several varieties to prune, should be interesting. The trains will be running when park opens at 10:00 am, so be alert.

We are putting together a beginner workshop for a Saturday in May, New Stylist, date not confirmed yet. But will be training; and open workshop, working on your tree. Open to all, members and non-members, invite your friends and come join us. Cost low, only \$20.00.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting,  
**Peggy L Howard, President GNOBS**

### Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society Board

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