

THE BONSAI *Wire*

UPDATE

March 2016

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

FROM THE President

T

hanks so much for your help on Saturday. Both Paul and Marc, the conductors, thanked us for our work, they said it looked so much better than before we came, and when are we coming back, how about April 9th.

Friday the 18th is Brussel. I know it is Friday night date night, but how about you go out to eat with your significant other and then come listen to Brussel. I'd love to have a large attendance for Brussel.

Saturday morning workshop is full, but you can come and observe. It would be good to see you. It would be a good opportunity to learn.

We are doing a styling April 16 at Bantings. What we do is buddy a beginner with an experienced. We did it last year and had fun. A membership drive event. It is surprising how easy it is to answer questions, and how much you actually know. Come join us.

Start working on your trees this the best time of year to get all your trees looking their best. Prepare what trees you want to donate for the Auction August 13th.

Another important date to mark your calendar is Saturday September 17 is the Day of Bonsai with Ryan Neal. It is going to be awesome! You need to plan on attending.

Looking forward to seeing you,



Peggy
President of
GNOBS

MEETINGS & Events

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 workshop is full but 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: Robert Reed Flowering species demo 7:00pm

Details to be announced.

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Program: An Evening with Guy Guidry 7:00pm

Be a part of an intimate evening of conversation with our own resident Bonsai Master, Guy Guidry as we discuss all things bonsai.

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

**2016
Dues are
Due!
Please mail in your dues
or pay at the meeting.
This is your last issue of
the newsletter if your
dues are not
paid.**

SPECIES **Spotlight** *Ficus Rubiginosa - Port Jackson Ficus, Rusty Ficus*

by Jerry Meislik

F

icus rubiginosa, the Port Jackson or Rusty fig, is one of the best Ficus for bonsai. This species is native to Australia and naturally grows to be a large landscape tree.

Under bonsai cultivation it is a vigorous tree that will shape into a lovely bonsai as it has leaves that reduce well, as well as the ability to produce aerial roots.

One of the most confusing aspects of *F. rubiginosa* is identifying them. The plant shows great variability in leaf size, leaf color, and bud color. The most typical form has a

red color and a hairy texture to the underneath of the leaf. Thus the common name Rusty Fig. Other rubiginosa varieties have none of the red under color and hair and are called *Ficus rubiginosa* 'Australis'.

Leaves on rubiginosa plants can vary in size and be almost as large as *F. macrophylla*. Rubiginosa is most easily confused with *Ficus macrophylla* or *Ficus obliqua*. *Macrophylla* has leaves that are somewhat larger and more sturdy.

A specimen with fruit makes the definite identification much easier.

One of the most interesting and useful cultivars of rubiginosa is called 'Little Ruby'. This plant was discovered as a different looking seedling in a batch of normal rubiginosa. Little Ruby is a dwarf form and has much smaller and narrower leaves. It is a wonderful addition to the bonsai repertoire.



© Jerry Meislik 2011
Ficus rubiginosa normal form trained as bonsai

Visit Jerry's website:
bonsaihunk.us



Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

PO Box 13212
New Orleans, LA 70185

GUY GUIDRY nola bonsai



classes—Beginner to advanced classical Bonsai instruction in a comfortable and relaxing environment.

supplies and tools—New Orleans ONLY full service Bonsai center. All the tools and supplies you need. We stock pots, soil, wire, tools as well as bonsai books, merchandise, art and more.

bonsai trees & plants—Interior and exterior bonsai and plants for sale, including Guy's highly sought after Bonsai masterpieces—which are also available for rent for private events and parties.

(985) 705-3357 Tues-Sat 11am-5pm
1529 Jackson Ave • New Orleans • LA 70130

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

Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society Board

President: Peggy Howard 504-715-7228 peggylh@cox.net	Recording Secretary Chris Knowles 504-939-8341 chris.knowles24@gmail.com	Peggy Howard 504-715-7228 peggylh@cox.net 504-458-6956
Vice-President: Gino Monaco 504-430-3450 gmonaco300@gmail.com	Newsletter Editor/Website Kathy Barbazon kbarbazon@me.com 504-628-3546(cell) 504-988-0928 (work)	Web Site Manager 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 snootnolan@att.net 504-884-8929 (cell) Masters Program Director:	Past President: Kathy Barbazon