

THE BONSAI *Wire*

UPDATE

May 2016

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

FROM THE President

Hi Everybody, Hope ya'll are enjoying this beautiful weather as much as I am.

Are you ready to have some fun. This month's regular Tuesday night meeting is featuring our own Guy Guidry. No prepared lecture, just a conversation.

We are going to have a chat. Questions about Bonsai - story about how they started, how they came to America, or how our club started. We are going a step further to have some real fun. We are going to party. We are going to have a fruit tray and sandwich tray, already have chips and drinks - to party. I got us some steno notebooks and pens to take notes. Come join us we want to socialize with new members and long time members come back and visit, and have a good time and even learn a lot about bonsai.

Thanks Kathy, she did all the work to get us our club t-shirts. We will have them to purchase at all club functions. I like us looking like a club. They look great for only \$15, women and men's sizes, and up to 2x and 3x.

The New Stylist Workshop on Saturday May 14 registers at 8:30am and class starts at 9:00am. I am going to give a basic beginner step lecture for about an hour. Hands on to

use and develop on what you learned in an open workshop



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MEETINGS & Events

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. This will be an excellent opportunity to both hear what Guy has to say on various subjects and to ask questions of a master.

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Program: Randy Bennett Trident Maple Forest demo 7:00pm

Randy Bennett, a long time member and past president of GNOBS and a very respected, experienced bonsai artist will do a demonstration on creating a Trident Maple forest planting. If you only have single bonsai in your collection, this is an opportunity to learn how to do a multi-planting correctly in both style and assembly.

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Program: Dawn Koetting Shohin Demo 7:00pm

Program: Johnny Martinez Competition

Dawn Koetting known for her Shohin styling and last year's winner of the Johnny Martinez Award will do a Shohin demo and a critique of the trees entered for the competition. More details on the competition will be announced.

Saturday, August 13, 2016

Auction Setup and Donations Accepted – 12 Noon - 4:00pm

Viewing – 4:00pm - 6:00pm Auction – 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Now is the time to go through that overcrowded bench and decide which of your trees should go to the auction for a new home. All donations contribute to the operating budget of the club and bringing in guest artists and programs. The auction is the largest source of income for the club.

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

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

gnobs.org

BONSAI Basics

Watering Bonsai While on Vacation

by Harry Harrington

Keeping your bonsai watered while you are away from home has always been problem for enthusiasts. Fears of a tree drying out in the owners' absence seem well founded as one always hears stories of well-meaning friends, relatives and neighbors who forget to water an expensive, prized tree.....

For many years I have found that a temporary (or permanent) automated watering system is the most reliable way to keep bonsai watered for extended periods of time.

Temporary Watering System

Position all trees out of the wind or direct

afternoon sun, both of which can cause excess transpiration and moisture loss, and collect all the trees together in one place (even if a neighbor ends up doing the watering while you are away; having the trees in one area of your property avoids individual trees being missed).

Garden sprinklers are positioned around the bonsai and connected to a main tap via a programmable water timer. The timer contains a valve that at preset times opens the flow of water into the hose/sprinklers, watering your bonsai. Water Timers can be preset to allow watering 1 or more times a day for anything up to ½ hour at a time. Most Water Timers are powered by battery and so are very easy to install when needed; no connection to outside mains electricity is necessary.

Set the timer so that the trees are thoroughly watered and ensure that under-watering will be completely avoided. Any period of under-watering (the soil drying out) may cause irreversible damage and loss of the bonsai.

When presetting the frequency and duration of watering, don't rely on weather forecasts to try and prejudice the water needs of your trees. Always assume rainfall will be zero and temperatures above average for the time of year. Few garden sprinklers will give out an even spread of water. There will be areas that receive more water than others; try to use these for particularly thirsty trees. It is always a good idea to set up the sprinklers for at least a few days before leaving for your vacation to ensure that all trees receive sufficient water each day.

As a short term solution, this system is the most reliable way I have found of ensuring your bonsai will survive while you are away from home. The system consists of a water timer, a length of hose and one garden sprinkler and I successfully watered over 200 bonsai and potsai, 3-4 times a year for a number of years. As a result of using this system, I never lost a tree while away on vacation



Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

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- bring your own plant to style and tools. We are hoping to have several of our advanced members to give advice in styling. The cost is only \$10 so cost won't keep anyone from being able to afford it and as many people as want can attend.

Looking forward to seeing you at these and our upcoming Auction in August 13th and our Day of Bonsai with Ryan Neal on September 17, both at our hall.

Have a great month.
Peggy
President of GNOBS

GUY GUIDRY nola bonsai



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