

SPECIES Spotlight *Campeche* (*Haematoxylum campechianum*)

Common Names: Logwood, Bloodwood

General Information: Campeche is a fast growing tropical ornamental tree that can reach up to 50 feet in height, and up to 5 feet in diameter! The alternating pinate leaves consist of several pairs of reverse heart-shaped leaflets. The leaves can vary in color and in size from 0.4 inches to 4 inches depending on environmental factors such as sunlight, substrate, and available nutrients. New leaves can be reddish in color, turning green as they mature. Showy yellow fragrant flowers appear throughout the year. The tree trunk and branches are thorned and become more gnarled with age, lending to it's attractive appearance. The wood of the tree is heavy and extremely hard and dense. The

heartwood is orange changing to red with exposure to air. As bonsai, the hard wood lends itself to Jin & Shari.

Lighting: Campeche do well in full sun, and this seems to keep the foliage compact and the internodes short. (will tolerate 1/2 day sun)

Fertilizer: Use a balanced fertilizer.

Repotting: When average night temperatures are above 70°F.

Prune: Can be heavily pruned. There is no need to worry about leaving foliage as this tree will leaf out quickly. New leaves will break out of old wood.

Propagation: Grows well from cuttings and will gain girth quite quickly if put into a large container.

Insect/ Disease: No major pests noted.

Watering: Keep evenly moist in a well-draining soil.

Training: Responds well to wiring. As a fast grower - check wire often to prevent scars. Because of the alternating leaves, clip and grow can also be used as a styling technique. .

Temperature: Protect below 50°F. Cold sensitive.



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.

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THE BONSAI Wire

July 2016

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

MEETINGS & Events

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.

Johnny Martinez Competition: All members are asked to bring in their best trees (limit 2) for a friendly competition. All members present will get 3 votes for their favorite trees. The 3 trees with the most votes will be displayed at the Auction. Auction attendees will vote for their favorite tree from the 3 for the Johnny Martinez award. We ask that you NOT bring in a tree from a workshop done in the past year.

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 we hope to bring you even better programs next year. Besides, you'll need the space for the fabulous new bonsai that you just can't live without and bring home from the auction. The success of the GNOBS Auction can be attributed to the generous donations of its members and local businesses. If you have any bonsai material from pre-bonsai stock to well styled trees or anything bonsai related, contact any of the GNOBS board members to make arrangements for your donation. GNOBS members will be available from 12 noon through the start of the auction to accept donations at the Marine Corp League Hall. Thank you for anything you can donate!

Saturday, September 17, 2016

Louisiana Day of Bonsai – 9:00am - 5:00pm

Featuring Internationally Renowned Bonsai Artist Ryan Neil

A full day of workshops, demonstrations, raffles, vendors and lunch all for \$15. See full details inside the newsletter.

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.

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FROM THE President

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i. This month's meeting is by our own Dawn. She is going to show us what Shohin is and when a tree is better as

a Shohin. It should be interesting as another way to do our bonsai. Shohin is small bonsai that you can hold in your palm. It is a different way of looking at your trees. This month we are also having our Johnny Martinez competition. Everybody can bring 2 of their favorite trees of any style. They just can't have been from a workshop in the last year. This is your chance to show off your favorite tree. After the voting and Dawn has finished her presentation, she will critique your trees, as the winner of last year's competition. It is fun to be in an exhibition. We will pick 2 trees for voting at the auction in August. Everyone can vote at the Auction, and the winner is selected, and awarded. Have you been planning for the Auction. This is how you can really upgrade your collection. And pass on some you are tired of looking at. This the way we get to have such great speakers, and other functions, and keep our membership dues so low. Please plan on attending and remember to bring your wallet. September is our awesome meeting we have been working on preparing. Now is the time to mark your calendar and plan on attending. The raffle tickets are for sale to pick the 5 for the workshop. Being one of only 5 and having Ryan Neal make suggestions on your tree. Will be a fantastic chance. This is the last time Ryan is traveling, he extended his time just for us. Jim has been talking to him for 3 years. In the afternoon Ryan will be styling a large Shimpaku Juniper. I've seen it ,should be great. The sales tables will be open all day - pots, bonsai and bonsai stuff. Lunch is included and by our own Gerald. Just Lunch is worth the \$15 cost. Looking forward to seeing you. Ya'll have a great month and look forward to a large turn out for our own Dawn's presentation.

Bye,
Peggy
President GNOBS



2016 Louisiana Day of Bonsai

The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society presents
Internationally Renowned Bonsai Artist

Ryan Neil

Come to the July GNOBS meeting and ask about the raffle to win a spot in Ryan's workshop.

Workshops and Ryan Neil Demonstrations all Day • Raffles

Vendors Including: Byron Myrick, Joe Day, Guy Guidry,
Bill Butler, Dana Quattlebaum

Custom Pots • Slabs • Soil • Pre-bonsai • Bonsai

September 17, 2016
9am-5pm

Marine Corps League Hall
2708 Delaware St
Kenner LA

Admission
only \$15
(which includes
lunch)

TECHNIQUE Tips

Reduction, Chopping Or Hacking Back

by Jerry Meislik

Definition and goals of reduction

Reduction is the cutting back of a bonsai or bonsai material to a shorter trunk line. This is also commonly referred to as a "chop", "hack" or the process as chopping. The reduction achieves several goals including the decrease in height of the tree as well as an increase in the taper of the trunk and can introduce directional change or movement to the trunk.

Often beginners complain about their tree's small size but most often the trunk size is not deficient but it is the lack of taper that causes the tree to appear young and immature.

Not all trees require dramatic or extreme taper – often called a "Sumo" design. Many designs use long, linear, slowly tapered trunks and they can be quite elegant. One design is not intrinsically better than another.

Another possible goal with reduction is the opportunity to build in trunk movement and directional change to the trunk's flow. Do you wish a trunk that is straight or one with lots of movement? Reduction can give you that choice.

Redesign of a finished tree or new bonsai material

Young trees can be improved by reduction cuts introducing taper and directional change to the trunk.

Reduction is often needed in an older or finished bonsai. Bonsai trees tend to grow most strongly at the apex and over time the top outgrows the bottom. Over time trees "lose their way", get longer than desired and upper branches get too heavy. The original design gets lost. The taper set by the lower trunk is then not matched by the upper trunk. To recover the design and to force lower branches to get healthier and thicker the top must be reduced back and not infrequently the whole top must be removed and the top re-grown.

Material suitability

Not all plants can be reduced back in size. Most conifers cannot be cut back leaving no foliage or needles below the reduction; conifers (most often) will die and not sprout back from the trunk.

Generally, reductions are fine on many deciduous plants. However, all plants considered for reduction must be healthy. A sick or weak plant will lose branches or die completely after a reduction cut.

Since all plants will not tolerate reductions check with experienced bonsai growers to see if that specific species

will sprout back. Some trees sprout back but do it quite unreliably. Some species sprout back all over the trunk and will give you lots of choices for branches and for apices while others are so erratic in sprouting back that reductions are always a problem.

Time of year

Reductions ideally are done when the tree is actively growing. Making large injuries when the tree is inactive is an invitation to invasion by fungi, bacteria, borers etc. These wounds cannot callus or heal until the tree is growing.

Speed of recovery

The time that it takes to re-grow a new apex varies with the material and the diameter of the reduction. Some materials grow slowly and this of course slows the development of the new apex.

Roughly, if the trunk is two inches in diameter than the new segment will need to be approximately 1 inch. And the next segment will be approximately half an inch. These are rough guesstimates of the proper transitions. Transitions going from a 3" trunk to a new 1" apex often look peculiar.

Calculate how long it takes for the tree in a bonsai container to grow that 1" trunk. The more foliage that is left on the growing apex the faster that 1" thickness can develop. Trimming, and keeping the new apex well-groomed slows down the process. The more rampant the growth on the new apex the faster the growth to the 1" diameter and the faster the next reduction to 1/2 inch can occur.

Shohin or small sized bonsai can be developed in a much shorter time as the re-growth of the smaller apex material is much faster; the larger diameter trunk will require longer time to re-grow a suitable apex.

Allow the tree to recover in as large a pot as is feasible and not in a small bonsai container.

Appearance and types of reduction

"Blind" reduction – no existing branch is available to become the new apex at the desired reduction point and a new sprout will hopefully develop or a graft will be placed to become the apex – grafting becomes necessary if there is no growth suitable for the new apex

"V" cut reduction – shape suggested for the reduction point to prevent over-swelling of reduced broom style trees

Tapered/slanted reduction – a slant away from the front to produce taper and to hide the reduction point – can be done primarily at the time of reduction or at a later date after the apex is healthy, strong and growing well – advantages of the slant is immediate visual improvement – disadvantages are more potential die-back at the apex, and committing to an incorrect apex as new branches grow out in other areas

Cut Paste or wound sealants

Some experts use sealants while others do not.

Design of the new tree

Where to do the reduction depends on how tapered you wish the tree to be. Before doing any reduction establish where your root line/tree base really is. Discovering later that the new apex is too high since the true root line was discovered later to be deep in the soil of the pot

New branch breaks are often stimulated by the reduction - the reduction will stimulate latent buds in the trunk, providing new branch choices that did not exist before the reduction

Plants that fail to break properly

Some materials are reluctant to bud back and if they do, they bud back in a weak and unpredictable fashion

In unreliable species make a blind reduction point higher than you want the new apex to start and then once the apex has sprouted and is growing you can cut off the excess apex and reduce to a lower point.

Do wounds on this species heal?

If wounds heal well - no worries about the scar



Ficus microcarpa showing dramatic taper and trunk movement



Ficus microcarpa with top outgrowing the bottom



Same Ficus with blind reductions

Non-healing - incorporate the scar into design or conceal the reduction scar on the back

How to handle the new apex

Do not wire until it is slightly woody or you may break it off

With blind reductions the apex may grow at the back and it is not at the right position or it may be at awkward angle to trunk – this may necessitate re-orienting the bonsai and choosing a new front

Allow rampant growth – do not trim or wire excessively

Conclusions

Determine what style of tree you wish - tapered or not and how strongly tapered.

No one design is superior to another – they are just different.

Determine where to cut depending on the future design and the root/base.

Cut back less or more depending on the vigor of the species.

Use a large growing container or the ground.

The larger the trunk the longer time to re-grow the apex.

Decide on whether to hide or use the scar or try to callus it over.

Know your material before you reduce it and how it responds.

Make sure that the material is very healthy.