

THE BONSAI Wire

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

June 2018

FROM THE President

For those of you who may be interested, particularly if you are a new member and just getting into bonsai, there will be a Bonsai Styling workshop at City Park on June 30th. It is sponsored by City Park and you would need to contact representatives at City Park in order to participate. If you are interested, Contact Jim Osborne for more details.

I am excited about Byron Myrick coming this month for a workshop on making bonsai pots. The last time the club had such an event was about 45 years ago. Byron is an excellent potter and we are indeed fortunate to have him coming. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity.

The July meeting will center around a bonsai exhibit, open to all our members. I encourage everyone to bring at least one tree to exhibit. We want to see what our members are developing in their Bonsai collections. Whether you have been growing Bonsai for a few months or for many years, we encourage you to show a tree. As part of the program, a couple of our members will select trees to

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MEETINGS & Events

Note: Study Groups are for signed up participants. Programs are open to ALL members.

Friday, June 22, 2018

Intermediate Study Group (for signed up participants) 6:00pm-7:15pm

Program: Byron Myrick Designing and Creating Bonsai Pot demo 7:30pm

Byron Myrick has been a potter and teacher of pottery for many years, and a bonsai enthusiast for the past ten. His style for these vessels is traditional; in trying to keep with the tradition of bonsai pottery.

Saturday, June 23, 2018

Program: Byron Myrick Workshop Create Your Own Bonsai Pot 9:00am

Byron will assist workshop participants in creating their own custom bonsai pot. He will take the finished raw pots back with him to his studio and then ship the fired pots back to participants. Sign up sheets will be available at the meetings. Full payment must be made at least one month before the workshop. Cost of the workshop is \$60. **Byron has generously agreed to expand his workshop to 15 members. That means there are now 5 spots available.** If we have a large enough group, we may run a little past lunch or split into a morning and afternoon session. If you wish to sign up for one of the 5 additional spots, email Dawn at dkoetting@msn.com to sign up and arrange payment

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Intermediate Study Group (for signed up participants) 6:00pm-7:15pm

Program: Johnny Martinez Competition 7:30pm

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. Even if you are a beginner, we would very much like to see your best tree. Some of our most experienced members will provide a constructive critique.

Saturday, July 14, 2018

Program: Adam Lavigne Bring Your Own Tree workshop 9:00am

This will be a beginner through advanced workshop. You may bring raw material or

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Meetings take place 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

If you are interested in doing a slab or rock planting and need to mix some muck for a muck wall, below is Bill Butler's Muck Recipe.

- 1 part Peat Moss (milled sphagnum)**
- 1 part Sphagnum Moss (the long stringy type)**
- 1 part cow manure**
- 2 parts Clay (Good, sticky, Louisiana blue clay)**
- Water**

Adjust clay component depending on quality of clay. Some can be sandy. Clay should be pliable like modeling clay. Moisten peat moss and sphagnum moss before incorporating. Quality of cow manure can affect muck. The goal is a sticky, firm mass that holds its shape. It shouldn't crack into large gaps when it dries. Use less clay if it does. After making your muck wall, cover muck with sheets of collected moss to keep the muck moist. Water the muck wall lightly when watering your bonsai.

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established bonsai. For anyone unfamiliar with Adam, check out his website <http://adamaskwhy.wordpress.com> Based in Florida, tropicals would be considered his specialty, but he also has experience with a large number of other bonsai species. Cost of the workshop is \$40. Sign up sheets will be available at the meetings. Full payment must be made at least one month before the workshop.

Saturday, August 11, 2018

Annual GNOBS Auction

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

Viewing of trees and other auction items – 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Auction – 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Get your donations ready! 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 club accepts bonsai, pre-bonsai, nursery stock and rooted cuttings (for the bargain table), bonsai pots, books and tools and anything else bonsai related. Huge selection of bonsai, starter material and pots for every budget from the novice to dedicated enthusiast. FREE and open to the public.

GNOBS Board Meetings

June 26, July 17, August 14, September 18, October 16, November 20

1816 Fairfax Ave, Metairie, LA 70003 (Randy's house)

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critique and offer advice on how to improve them.

Another aspect of the exhibit will be the voting for the Johnny Martinez Award. If you are bringing a tree to be considered for voting, please let one of the Board Members know as you enter. There will be a designated area to display trees to be voted on.

Johnny Martinez was an avid Bonsai enthusiast and long-time member of the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society. He served on the Board for many years and contributed greatly to the success of our club. After his passing, the Board voted to have this event, aimed at recognizing outstanding bonsai created by our members, as a way of honoring Johnny's contributions and his dedication to the art of bonsai.

Plans Are Under Way!

We are now beginning our plans to have a large bonsai exhibit in the Spring Garden Show at City Park next April. Our goal is to display about 20 to 30 bonsai trees during the two-day event. Throughout the weekend, we will conduct bonsai demonstrations and share with the general public, what bonsai is all about. It has been several years since we held a show like this at City Park and we are excited to, once again, have a large show.

So why am I talking about an event that is still 10 months away? Because you need to start planning ahead to have trees that will be ready for an exhibit at that time. You may have a nice tree that is still in a training pot or nursery container that could be ready for a show in the spring. You will need to find a suitable pot and prepare the tree for transplanting this fall or winter. You may have a tree that, with some judicious pruning, could be ready next spring if it has sufficient time for new growth. So it is not too soon to start planning which tree(s) you will want to exhibit.

In the coming months the Intermediate Study Group will be offering ideas and suggestions on preparing trees for a show. In addition, some of our monthly program meetings will address topics that will prove helpful.

I encourage each of you to strongly consider participating. We are not just looking for master-class bonsai. We want the public to see what can be done with trees that may have only had a year of training as well as those that have been trained for many years. The purpose of this exhibition is to educate the public about bonsai, how they are developed and how they are cared for.

Each tree will be displayed with a card providing information about the species, the source of that particular bonsai: seed, cutting, nursery stock, air-layer or collected piece, the approximate age and the number of years in training as a bonsai.

On Sunday, we will recognize outstanding trees according to their size as bonsai: mame' bonsai (2-3 inches), shohin bonsai (3-6 inches), komono bonsai (6-12 inches), chu-mono bonsai (12-24 inches) and omono bonsai (24-48 inches). In addition, we will recognize the most outstanding bonsai in the exhibit according to a panel of judges and we will recognize the "Fan's Favorite Bonsai", where we allow all visitors viewing the exhibit, the opportunity to cast a vote for their favorite bonsai.

So start planning now and decide which tree(s) you will want to enter into the exhibit.

Randy Bennett
GNOBS President

Spring Rendezvous at Brussel's

By Randy Bennett

I have visited Brussel's Bonsai Nursery a number of times in years past, but was never able to attend his annual Spring Rendezvous until last year. Last month I attended for the second time and thought I would share my experience with you, especially those of you who have never been to Brussel's.

I used to go to Brussel's years ago to buy plant stock for my nursery. At that time, it was comprised of 15-20 little hoop houses barely tall enough for me to stand upright in. Nevertheless, I always had a great time and looked forward to going. Now... it is a very different nursery. The first thing you notice is the sheer size of the place. It is HUGE! It utilizes state-of-the-art systems for maintaining the trees and one would have to walk the equivalent of a full city block

just to get through one set of greenhouses!

There is a large display greenhouse with a number of specimen bonsai that are truly awe-inspiring. The main system of greenhouses contain literally thousands upon thousands of bonsai trees of various sizes and stages of development. There is an outdoor area of at least an acre in size where thousands of other trees are being grown in larger nursery containers.

There are thousands of pots for sale as well as stones for root-on-rock plantings, tools and other supplies. But Spring Rendezvous is something very special; it is three days of fun, food and non-stop workshops with a wide variety of plant material.

This crepe myrtle bonsai is about 30 inches across at the base!



This crepe myrtle bonsai is about 30 inches across at the base!



Rodney Clemons creating root-on-rock with multiple azaleas

attending Rendezvous and bonsai activities are non-stop. Last year my wife worked with John Powel during on the Japanese garden elements that are scattered about the nursery grounds. John is a professional landscaper who trained in Japan and travels about the country each year, working on some of the most prestigious Japanese Gardens in the country.

The drive is not bad at all, about 6 1/2 hours to the nursery from Metairie. I had



Robert Reed in a Satsuki Azalea workshop with Kathy Shaner

The food provided for this event is fabulous. If it weren't for the several miles of walking I did each day, roaming around the nursery and observing various workshops, I would have put on another 10 pounds!

Each night, after dinner, there are visiting bonsai masters conducting lecture domos, usually three at a time and each with different material. Each bonsai created is then raffled off to attendees.

There are bonsai enthusiasts from all over



Marc Noelanders, from Belgium, after designing a juniper

a great time again this year and plan on going back every year. I highly recommend it to anyone who is serious about wanting to learn bonsai. It's a great opportunity and a lot of fun.

SPECIES Spotlight

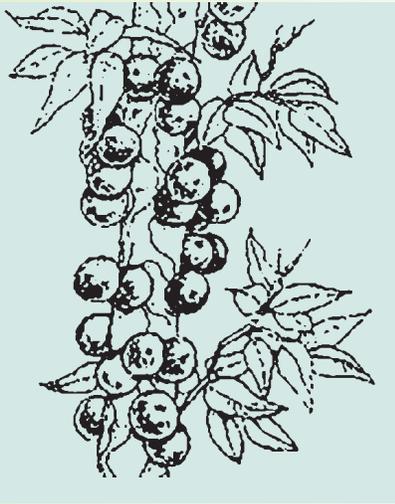
Jaboticaba

Myciaria cauliflora

by Erik Wigert wigertsbonsai.com

Origin: Jaboticaba's are perhaps the most popular native fruit-bearers of Brazil. They have been cultivated since pre-Columbian times throughout Brazil not only for their fruit but also as ornamental trees. They were introduced to the United States in the early 1900's.

Description: The bark of the Jaboticaba is very smooth, with a mottled creamy tan and reddish hue. The bark tends to peel off in curls as the trunk and branches expand. It is evergreen but sheds half its leaves each spring before new growth begins. The leaves are 1 to 2 inches in length, narrow and tapering to a point. They emerge pinkish but change to a light to medium green. It blooms several times a year during warm months. The flower is small and yellowish white and comes singly or in clusters from the trunk and main branches. Jaboticaba grows to a height of 30 to 40 feet in Brazil, but seldom exceeds 15 feet here in Florida.



Fruit: Fruit is mature 30 days after flowering. A mature tree will produce fruit 5 to 6 times a year. Grapelike in appearance but with a thicker and tougher maroon-purple to black skin. It ranges from a 1/2 to 1 and a 1/4 inch in diameter. The whitish gelatinous pulp contains 1 to 4 seeds and has a pleasant grapelike flavor. The skin has a slightly turpentine but not unpleasant flavor. By squeezing the fruit between the thumb and forefinger, one can cause the skin to split and the fruit to slip into your mouth. The skin contains tannin and it is recommended to avoid ingesting it in large quantities. The fruit can be made into jelly, marmalade and wine. It has been our experience the solitary trees bear poorly compared to those planted in groups.

Location & Climate: Jaboticaba trees will take full sun or some shade. They are fairly wind tolerant but do not like salty sea air. Mature trees will tolerate minimums of 27 to 29 degrees for 2 to 3 hours if they are in good condition. In 1917 one very young tree in Brooksville survived a drop to 18 degrees with minimal die back of some foliage. However young or stressed trees should be protected during these temperatures.

Soil & Fertilizing: We grow our Jaboticaba trees for the first years in a 50 – 50 mix of Canadian peat and perlite. After their second year we move them to a mix of 50 – 50 hardwood cuttings and Florida peat. To this we add 20% sand and 30% perlite. We fertilize 4 times a year with a granular mix with a ratio of 17-5-11.

Watering: Abundant water is essential to survival. The root system of Jaboticaba is somewhat shallow and watering is generally required when the upper 1 to 2 inches of soil becomes dry. Wilting and browning at the leaf tips will occur when they become too dry.

Propagation: The preferred method of propagating Jaboticaba is from seeds. These are nearly always polyembryonic, producing 4 to 6 plants per seed. The seeds germinate in 20 to 40 days. Air layers tend to take up to 1 and a half years to obtain roots, and grafting is often unsuccessful. Growth of Jaboticaba is very slow, a seedling may take up to 3 years to reach 18 inches in height. Generally they will produce a few fruit in their sixth year, none in their seventh then have good production by their eighth year of age.

Pests & Diseases: There are no serious pests or diseases of the Jaboticaba in Florida. The fruit however will be scavenged by birds, opossums, and racoons.

Bonsai Notes: Jaboticaba sets heavy branches very quickly, especially towards the top of the tree. Remove heavy branches from nursery stock then train new growth as it develops. Wounds tend to heal very quickly. The wood does not die back so cuts can be made flush with the tree. Wiring should be done somewhat loosely during the growing season. Repot only in warmer weather. If the tree is healthy it is safe to remove up to 2/3 of the roots. Frequent watering in bonsai soil is a must. Neutral brown and soft blue colored pots contrast well with the bark and leaves.



Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

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