

# THE BONSAI Wire

December 2019

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

## FROM THE President

**W**

e had a great crowd at the November meeting with Guy Guidry as the guest

artist. Guy was informative and entertaining, designing three procumbens 'nana' junipers into three bonsai from 3 gallon staked nursery stock.



Each of the trees stood about 30 inches in the nursery pots before Guy started styling. His focus



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## MEETINGS & Events

### Tuesday, December 10, 2019

**Program: Annual GNOBS Christmas Party 7:00pm**

Bring your spouse or plus one and your favorite covered dish (side dishes, entrées, desserts) for our annual potluck Christmas party. The club will supply a ham, beverages and plates/utensils. Everyone attending gets a free raffle ticket for some great door prizes.

### Tuesday, January 14, 2020

**Intermediate Study Group 6:00pm-7:15pm**

**Program: Silhouette Show 7:30pm**

The Silhouette Program is a study of branch ramification and evaluation of plans for further development of our deciduous bonsai. Bring in a deciduous tree for display and discussion. If you don't have a deciduous tree, you are welcome to bring in any tree. Advanced members will make suggestions to further refine your trees.

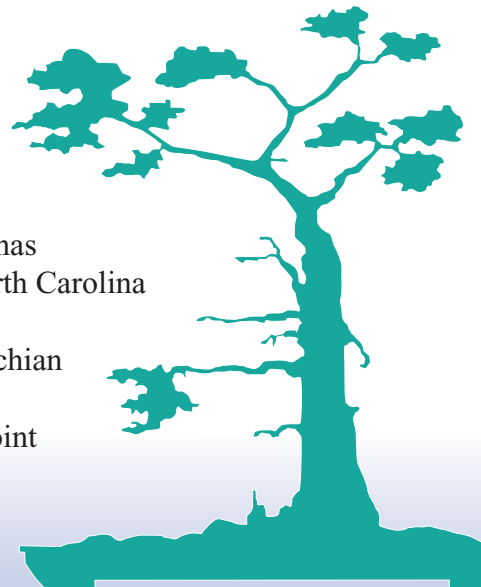
### Friday, February 7, 2020

**Intermediate Study Group 6:00pm-7:15pm**

**Program: Bald Cypress Presentation by Arthur Joura 7:30pm**

Join us for a special presentation (FREE to all members) as we welcome Arthur Joura, curator of the North Carolina Arboretum. For 20 years, Arboretum, Bonsai Curator Arthur Joura has developed the bonsai program to be one of The North Carolina Arboretum's most stunning collections. Arthur has combined the art of bonsai with a Southern Appalachian interpretation to produce this unique and aesthetic display. Arthur will be doing a lecture and powerpoint presentation on Bald Cypress bonsai.

Meetings cont. pg 4



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](http://www.gnobs.org)

[facebook.com/NewOrleansBonsai](https://facebook.com/NewOrleansBonsai) [gnobs.org](http://gnobs.org)

was on creating natural looking jin and shari to reduce the height of each tree. While shari was a key styling feature on each of



the junipers, each one was unique in design. He then potted each of them into bonsai pots. Each of these trees will be pampered by three of our members and placed in the annual auction next August.

We held elections for the GNOBS Board at the last meeting and the officers will remain the same for one more year. I hope that some of you will take a more active role next year and express a willingness to serve on the Board. It is a great opportunity to help set the course for bonsai activities and events for the coming years.

## Coming Attractions!

Wow! A huge lineup of events are coming your way!

**December** – Our annual Christmas Party will be held on the regularly scheduled meeting night, December 10. It's 'pot luck' so bring your specialty dish! We will have door prizes; a three-tree



Chines elm planting donated by Brussel's Bonsai Nursery, as well as some bonsai pots and who knows what else. Hope to see you there!

**January** – Silhouette Show! Bring your deciduous trees to the meeting on January 14th. We will exhibit member deciduous trees. We will then have some of our members pick some of the trees for discussion. The focus will be to point out strengths in the design, pot selection, etc. followed by ideas for 'next steps' in the further development of each tree.



**February** - Arthur Jura is in town! Arthur Jura is the Bonsai Curator at the North Carolina Arboretum, outside Asheville. He will be giving a presentation on bald cypress on Friday, February 7th, followed by a "Bring-

Your-Own-Tree" workshop on Saturday, February 8th.

**March** – We will have Brussel Martin, of Brussel's Bonsai Nursery visiting the GNOBS! He will give a lecture/demo on Japanese Garden Juniper Friday, February 20th, followed by a juniper workshop on Saturday, the 21st. Brussel will be bring the workshop trees from his nursery, along with a selection of pots. A great time is guaranteed for all!



**April** – While we do not have the program for April finalized yet, the month is still action-packed! April 4th & 5th is the Spring Garden Show. We will set up a large an exhibit of bonsai and present lecture/demos for the general public. Last

year was a huge success and we want this year to be even better. Beginning April 15th, we will begin a 6-week beginner bonsai course for people who sign up at the Spring Garden show. Last year we had 17 participants in the course and we can't wait to have it again. On Saturday, April 25th, at City Park, the GNOBS will provide a bonsai Styling program for participants who have signed up for the workshop through City Park. And we need stylists to help ( HINT! HINT! ).

MORE TO COME!!!!

## Bonsai Tips for December

1. Be sure and protect your trees from wind. Wind, coupled with cold temperatures can decimate trees like azaleas, camellias and other broad-leafed evergreens.
2. If we are going to get into extended days of freezing temperatures, it is a good idea to place your bonsai on the ground and cover the pots and soil with mulch.
3. This is a good time of year to spray trees with dormant oil. However, always follow directions to ensure that you don't apply to trees that can be harmed by it.
4. Continue applications of fungicide applied to the soil.
5. Some bonsai practitioners continue with applications of fertilizer with no nitrogen, like Alaska Brand 0-10-10. Such fertilizers will help strengthen stem and roots as well as help to increase flower and fruit production in the spring.
6. This is a good month to begin rewiring trees and even repotting. Remember, if you have more than a handful of trees, it is difficult to get everything done at the optimum time and if you wait until the perfect time to carry out things like repotting.... It may not get done.
7. If you are going to repot, now is the time to order that perfect pot, so you have everything ready.
8. Cut back on watering during the winter months. You can still kill trees by overwatering in the winter.

## Beginner / Intermediate Bonsai Study Group

Don't forget... the GNOBS hold a study group before our regular club meetings, from 6:00 to 7:15. The study group topics cover a wide range of information and techniques. Hosted by Dawn Koetting and Dennis Burke, the cover topics like air-layering, rooting cuttings, techniques for enhancing nebari, branch selection, bud pinching, etc., not to mention detailed information about specific species and the timing of carrying out specific tasks.

Last month's study group was on Japanese Black Pine and needle-thinning.



## GNOBS Conducts Bonsai Styling Program at City Park

Once or twice a year, City Park hosts a "Bonsai Styling Workshop". The Park provides 2-3 gallon nursery stock junipers for workshop participants. Various members of the GNOBS conduct the workshop, educating participants about bonsai and

helping them style the raw material into bonsai.

Last month's workshop only had 9 participants due to a City Park race that had park entrances blocked off. There were 17 signed up to participate, but sadly, many of them could not get to the facility because of the race. Or maybe I should say luckily. 17 participants would have been extremely difficult with the 5 club members that were there to conduct the workshop. Please talk to Jim Osborne or Randy Bennett if you would be willing to assist at the next one scheduled in April. We could sure use the help!



## GNOBS to Host Louisiana Day of Bonsai in 2020!

The Louisiana Day of Bonsai is a bonsai mini-conference, held each year. The bonsai clubs in various cities around the state take turns hosting the event each year. It is a one-day event that is always packed full of all things bonsai.

There is always at least one guest bonsai artist who conducts a lecture/demo and a workshop. There are vendors from various cities and states who come to sell everything from finished bonsai to pre-bonsai stock, pots, tools, wire, soil, stone slabs, etc. There are always numerous raffles and the demo tree(s) are raffled off as well. Lunch is always provide by the host club and a great time is always had by all who attend.

In October of 2020, the GNOBS will host the Annual Louisiana Day of Bonsai. We have already lined up two artists and are working on a third. Rodney Clemons will be here from Atlanta, Georgia, along with Robert Kempinski, from central Florida.



Rodney Clemons



Rob Kempinski

We will have lecture-demos going on throughout the day, as well as workshops, multiple vendors, good food and all things bonsai. It promises to be a day that you will not want to miss.

**Randy Bennett**  
GNOBS PRESIDENT

Meetings *cont. from pg 1*

## Saturday, February 8, 2020

### Bring Your Own Tree Workshop by Arthur Joura 9:00am

Arthur Joura, curator of the North Carolina Arboretum and a proponent of “natural style bonsai” will be conducting a Bring Your Own Tree Workshop. Cost of the workshop is a very reasonable \$50. A sign-up sheet will be available at the meetings. I would encourage beginners to sign up. Arthur is an excellent teacher.

## Friday, March 20, 2020

### Intermediate Study Group 6:00pm-7:15pm

#### Program: Brussel Martin Juniper Demo 7:30pm

Brussel Martin, owner of Brussel’s Bonsai, will be doing a demo on a large upright juniper.

## Saturday, March 21, 2020

### Upright Green Mound Juniper Workshop with Brussel Martin 8:00am

Cost of the workshop is \$120. Sign up sheets will be available at the meetings.

# BONSAI Basics

## Cascade Style Bonsai – Kengai

by Erik Wigert ([wigertsbonsai.com](http://wigertsbonsai.com))

■ A Cascade bonsai is one in which the trunk begins growing upwards but abruptly turns downward and cascades to a point below the bottom of the container.

■ Bonsai created in the cascade style should resemble trees growing on steep slopes in mountainous areas, ravines, or drainage areas.

There are two types of cascade bonsai:

### Formal Cascade style bonsai

■ The tree has one or more cascading trunk lines as well as a small upright tree. The top of the tree, the base of the trunk, and the bottom of the container and the tip of the cascade are in line as viewed from the front.

■ The trunk of the small upright tree forming the apex should compliment the curves of the cascade – with the apex ending over the cascade’s center line.

### Informal Cascade style bonsai

■ The tree has one or more cascading trunk lines with no upward growth.

### Styling Tips

■ The arch of the cascade should cross the lip of the pot at or near a corner.

■ The front of the cascade is located 45 degrees to the left or right of the trunk where it crosses the pot.

■ The angle of descent should be 45 degrees initially and may be as much as 90 degrees further down the cascade.

■ The tip of the cascade should flare upward – as if in search of sunlight.

■ The first bend on the main trunk below the arch should be toward the center.

■ The trunk should curve to the left and right as it descends.

■ The last curve in the trunk should be towards the viewer and the center.

■ Primary branches should alternate to the left and the right of the trunk. They should grow from the outside edges of the trunk’s curves. Branches should be parallel to the floor.

### Potting Tips

■ Cascade bonsai traditionally use deep containers; the depth depends on the size and style of the bonsai.

■ The container depth should be more than, or less than, but not equal to the length of the cascade.

■ For short stocky cascades choose a pot that is shorter than the length of the cascade. This will accent the rugged look of a heavy trunk.

■ A more graceful younger or sparsely foliated cascade looks its best in a taller container.

■ The ideal diameter of the pot should be equal to the sum of the following:

■ The space taken up by the anchor root on the far side of the tree

■ Plus the trunk diameter

■ Plus the distance between the arch of the trunk and cascading branch.

■ The trunk should not touch the rim of the container.

■ Display on a tall, slender stand to compliment the tree and the container’s vertical line.

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