

# THE BONSAI Wire

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

March 2021

## FROM THE President

**I**t appears Spring has sprung already even though the calendar states

it's not for two more weeks. Spring is a favorite time of year, getting to watch new leaves emerge displaying their changes of color and texture. Most of my deciduous trees have started "waking up". How are yours doing? My Chinese elms and a few of my maples are leafing out. My boxwoods are showing new light green spring growth. I hope your trees escaped the last few cold snaps unscathed. I still have a few deciduous trees that are still dormant and show no signs of bud swelling, such as a hornbeam, water elm and most of my bald cypress. You still have a small window to re pot any deciduous tree that is still dormant. Once leaves emerge it's hazardous to repot. Better to wait till next year.

Get ready to start fertilizing your trees. Evergreens can be fertilized now, wait till your deciduous trees are leafed out for about 3 weeks before applying fertilizer. They won't be using fertilizer until their leaves have hardened off. That's when they will start producing food for the tree. Until then they use their stored energy from last years growth. Watch your watering routine, it should increase soon

President cont. pg 2

## MEETINGS & Events

**Attendees at our regular meetings will be required to wear a mask. Due to social distancing guidelines, we will not be able to conduct the study group at 6:00pm. With that activity being postponed for the time being, our regular meeting time will be moved up half an hour to 7:00pm.**

**REMINDER: GNOBS Club dues are due Now.**

**(\$30 Individual or \$35 Family)**

**This is your LAST newsletter for the year if you have not paid your dues! Please come to the March meeting, pay your dues and get your FREE juniper!**

**Our very reasonable annual dues help to pay for our regular club expenses - hall rental, postage, printing, snacks, web fees etc. Thank you in advance. You may pay at the meeting or mail in your payment to:**

**Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society**

PO Box 381 Kenner, LA 70062

**Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

**Program: Juniper Giveaway 7:00pm**

The FIRST 30 members arriving with dues paid (or who pay on arriving) will receive a FREE juniper that they may work on for the meeting. Experienced members will be available for help. These will be similar to the junipers used for the multi-part bonsai class that Randy conducted in 2019.

***Members attending the March meeting will be asked their preference of two species for the Brussel Martin April workshop!***

**Friday, April 23, 2021**

**Program: Brussel Martin Demonstration 7:00pm**

Brussel Martin of Brussel's Bonsai will be here to do a demo and lecture. Species for the demonstration will be discussed and decided on at the March meeting.

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

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

## Saturday, April 24, 2021

### Program: Brussel Martin Workshop 9:00am

Brussel Martin of Brussel's Bonsai will conduct a Saturday morning workshop. Species for the workshop will be discussed and decided on at the March meeting.

## Tuesday, May 11, 2021

### Program: Flowering and Fruiting species by Dawn Koetting and Randy Bennett 7:00pm

Dawn and Randy will lecture on various flowering species (azalea, gardenia, camellia etc). Bring in a flowering or fruiting tree for display and questions.

# SPECIES Spotlight

## *Limoncillo (Limeberry)* *Triphasia trifolia*

by Erik Wigert

**Origin:** Java, Indonesia, Suriname, and Puerto Rico

**Description:** A member of the rutaceae (citrus) family. Grows as a shrub to a height of 9 feet. It has trifoliate dark green leaves, and small white fragrant flowers. It has small thorns, and half inch round red fruit. The fruit is edible and can be cooked to make a preserve.

**Culture:** Can tolerate full sun to partial shade. Keep soil moist. Protect from frost. Can be grown as indoor bonsai with good lighting. Propagated by seed, cutting or air layering.

**As Bonsai:** Limeberry or limoncillo as it is called in Puerto Rico makes excellent tropical bonsai material. Nursery grown stock is available, but limoncillo is a slow grower. To get larger trunks use collected material if possible. The photos I have inserted are from the collection of Budi Sulistyono of Indonesia. He uses collected material from his country and states that some of his pictured trees are over 100 years old. The wood of limoncillo is very dense and hard to cut. It lends itself well to the creation of jins, and shari. Limoncillo can be defoliated and this makes wiring much easier. The

new shoots set to position very well when wired. Repot in the summer using a well draining mix. Resistant to most pests.



as your trees leaf out and temperature start to rise.

Now is a good time to keep an eye out for emerging pests. A preventative spraying of horticulture oil or neem oil mixture could be beneficial to smother those overwintering critters that like to chew on your trees. Aphids love new spring growth of tender leaves. I usually notice a crowd of them on my elms in the spring some years. It's better to get them before they overpopulate and spread across your collection.

If you like starting cuttings or air layers, get your supplies ready. The perfect time to make those is nearing. I find that press and seal from the storage aisle in the grocery works well with holding wet sphagnum moss in place. It works a lot better than a split lunch baggy with twist ties to hold it on. I know some like using aluminum foil to hold moss and keep out sunlight but the press and seal is transparent and you can easily see when it needs watering and see when roots emerge. I put my air layers in the shade so they won't dry out too fast and newly formed roots won't get burned by direct sunlight. Cuttings should be in the shade but remember roots grow with heat. If you don't have a heat mat you can place cuttings in the shade on the south or west side of your house, those are the warmest sides. You can put your cutting pots or trays on stepping stones that are partially exposed to the sun, use the radiant heat they produce.

Dennis Burke  
GNOBS President



### Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

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