

THE BONSAI Wire

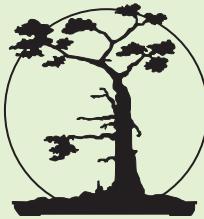
FROM THE President

Well.... I don't know about you, but I am certainly glad to see some cooler weather. The other day, when that first cool snap came through, I stepped outside and a huge smile came on my face. It felt great. And with these changes in temperature come changes in how we treat our bonsai. But more on that in a moment.

Let's talk about what is going on with the club. Covid still has a lot of people boxed in. Most bonsai artists around the country are still not wanting to risk travelling by air. But we are working on a couple of possibilities. We will keep you informed. I want to thank everyone for their support of the club these past months. Our attendance has been pretty good – all things considered. And we are doing our best to provide our members with meaningful and useful programs.

October Program – For the month of October, we will be talking about collected material: how to collect, when to collect, proper tools to collect with,

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The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society
MEETINGS & Events

October 2020

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.

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Program: How to Collect Bonsai Material by Randy Bennett 7:00pm

2021 GNOBS Board Nominations

Randy will lecture on the proper way and times to collect material and how to care for it post-collection as well as discussing the planning of future development. Members should bring in any collected trees for advice on further development.

Change to November Program

Friday, November 13, 2020

Program: Lecture and Demo on Shohin by Mike Lane 7:00pm

2021 GNOBS Board Elections

Though GNOBS can still not do workshops due to social distancing, we are pleased to announce that we will have a lecture and demo on Shohin by Mike Lane. Mike studied and worked under Erik Wigert and had additional training with Mauro Stemberger, Min Lo, Robert Steven, Vlad Novak, and Enrique Castano. He began teaching and doing workshops in 2012. He specializes in Shohin and tropicals.

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Program: Annual GNOBS Christmas Party 7:00pm

Bring your spouse or plus one for our annual Christmas party. After discussion with club members on the best way to provide a safe experience for everyone, Gerald Nolan generously volunteered to cook our Christmas dinner. Board members will do the serving gloved and masked. Water and soft drinks will be available as well as wine. If you prefer to bring your own wine you are welcome to do so. Everyone attending gets a free raffle ticket for some great door prizes. **In order to buy the appropriate amount of food, we would like to get a head count as soon as possible. Please RSVP to kbarbazon@me.com**

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 gnobs.org

SPECIES Spotlight

Louisiana Native Species as Bonsai Part 1: American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)

By Randy Bennett



This is part of a series of articles on Louisiana native species for use as bonsai. The goal is to make our readers more familiar with the pros and cons of each species as bonsai material and provide some guidance in developing them as bonsai.



American Elm, also called White Elm, is a deciduous tree that can grow up to 90 feet tall. In Louisiana, it is typically found growing in swamps and bottomland forests. It prefers soils that are extremely rich in organic matter and if provided that type of soil, can be found growing at higher elevations, provided it can get enough moisture.

The leaves are oval and are doubly serrated. They have an unequal base and a tip that draws to a point. The leaves alternate along stems and shoots and range in size from four

to six inches in length and from two to three inches in width. However, in bonsai culture, the leaves can be reduced to about an inch in length.



The bark is gray in color and becomes rough, with vertical fissures as the tree begins to mature. Young trees are very vigorous and can grow three to six feet a year! This is great news for bonsai artists who want a species that can be developed rather quickly.

Their shape is typically with a rounded canopy and spreading branches like a live oak. However, they can also grow with a central leader that diffuses as it reaches the uppermost canopy and multiple branches growing from that central leader. In any case, they still grow with a rounded canopy.

Photo taken of a mature American Elm growing in West Texas. Note the Live Oak-type growth pattern.

American Elm is susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease in nature. In bonsai culture, the most common problems encountered are brown spot disease – a fungal infection and aphids. Both of these issues are easily treated and are best controlled with preventative maintenance.

American Elms make great bonsai material. They can be grown in the full range of bonsai styles, but to me, they are most elegant when they are styled using their natural growth pattern. Because their branches often sprout from a central point on the trunk and because they are such vigorous growers, you can use the stump-cut method on larger pieces of material and develop an excellent bonsai in just a few short years. However, if you choose to grow them in the traditional first branch, second branch, back branch, etc., they are easily adapted to such designs.



BONSAI Techniques

Anti-Transpirant For Bonsai

By Harry Harrington (bonsai4me.com)

Editors Note: GNOBS President Randy Bennett has long advocated the use of Wiltpruf, an anti-transpirant, for collected material.

Anti-transpirant is a product that when sprayed onto the leaves of a sick or weak bonsai, reduces transpiration (or water loss) by up to 80%, greatly increasing its chances of survival. While water loss through the leaves is greatly reduced, the leaves are still able to function normally and photosynthesize. I've been using this product for a few years for newly collected material, weak trees and newly transplanted bonsai, particularly on tricky species.



A sick and dying Juniper bonsai (Itoigawa) prior to treatment with, amongst other things, anti transpirant.

Probably the best example I have of the usefulness of anti-transpirant, is the Itoigawa juniper bonsai, pictured above, that came to me in a very bad way a couple of years ago, and was sprayed with anti-transpirant once a month to reduce further moisture loss from the leaves while the tree recovered and grew new roots.



6 months later and the bonsai had recovered well and been re-styled.

Totally harmless to bonsai, anti transpirants are made from natural pine oil emulsions. In addition to having many uses on weak or stressed trees, it is also very useful for increasing the cold-hardiness of healthy trees during the winter, as well as reducing the chances of leaf scorch on species such as Acer palmatum during the Summer. It helps protect plants when roots are frozen in the winter depriving them of their normal moisture intake as well as during periods of drought.

How frequently should you use Anti transpirant?

The answer is, we don't really know! Anti transpirant allows the foliage to continue function normally so that it can still photosynthesize, while massively reducing moisture loss, by forming an invisible transparent coating over plant tissue. However, because the coating isn't visible, it is not possible to tell when more anti transpirant should be applied. However, it would seem to depend on how much rain there is, as water will eventually wash away the coating. As it is not possible to 'over-apply' the anti transpirant, and given the small size of most bonsai, during periods of no rain, I reapply the anti transpirant every couple of months, if it has rained a lot, every 3-4 weeks.

2021 Board Elections

Elections for the 2021 Board will be held in November.

Current Nominations are:

Dennis Burke - President
OPEN - Vice President
Dawn Koetting - Treasurer
Cheryl Mechler - Hall Manager
Kathy Barbazon - Newsletter/Website Editor
Byron Carr/Evan Pardue - Masters Program Director
Peggy Howard - Secretary
(Randy Bennett - Past President)

All members are welcome to run for any board position with the exception of President. Any nominees for President must have served on the board previously. **If you would like to run for a position please call Randy at 504-402-3646.** Nominations will be announced at the October meeting.

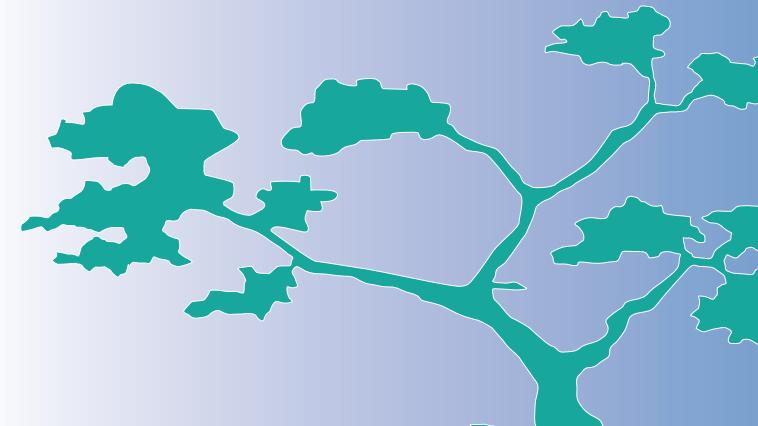
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aftercare of collected material and how to develop collected material. So, if you have one, bring a piece of material that you have collected during the past 1-3 years. We will take some of the pieces brought to the meeting and talk about how to continue their development.

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December Christmas Party – Our regularly scheduled December meeting will be our annual Christmas Party. We will have door prizes and great food! Our own Gerald Nolan has volunteered to prepare a fabulous meal for everyone. And in case you haven't heard, he is an excellent cook! What we need from our members is simply to know how many people will be attending the party, so that we can shop for and prepare the proper amount of food. So please let us know if you and any members of your family will be attending.

Randy Bennett
GNOBS PRESIDENT



Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

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