

THE BONSAI Wire

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

August 2021

FROM THE President

Well it's that time once again, after a year pause that is, to make a great attempt to fill our coffers. The auction is how we are able to bring in the visiting bonsai artists throughout the year for all members. We were fortunate enough to have had a successful 2019 auction that has seen us through the past two years. This auction should be a great endeavor for the club with a plethora of material we have. Our auction will be a little different this year as Governor Edwards has reinstated an indoor mask mandate for Louisiana. As a club we hold the health and safety of our members in high regard so we ask that you wear a mask while inside at the auction. Remember, the public is invited to our auction so we will have more people attending than a normal meeting and we want to keep everyone safe and healthy! We are sure to still have a good time with our fellow bonsai enthusiasts. I look forward to seeing who wins the Johnny Martinez award for this year.

September 11 & 12th GNOBS will be at the City Park Fall Garden show. If you have a tree you would like to display we will be setting up Friday Sept 10th. We will need some

President cont. pg 7

MEETINGS & Events

Louisiana has reinstated the indoor mask mandate. Please wear a mask to the auction.

Saturday, August 14, 2021

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. 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.

We have some great bonsai done by visiting masters as well as some very nice material from Wigert's bonsai this year!

Note to Members: With no auction last year, this years auction is doubly important to support the club and its activities. Volunteers will be at the hall from noon on to accept your donations. As always - your generosity is deeply appreciated by the board and the club as a whole.

Saturday & Sunday, September 11 & 12, 2021

City Park Fall Garden Show

Mark your calendars for our club participation in the Fall Garden Show at City Park. This is an excellent venue to gain exposure for the club, educate the public about bonsai and increase membership. **Contact Dennis ((504) 224-0038 or dpbbonsai@yahoo.com) or another board member if you can volunteer or submit a tree for exhibit.** We will need to know common name, species name, years in training, approximate age of your tree. (Unless we have a shortage of trees, we will limit participants to two submissions). The public will vote for their favorite tree.

Meetings cont. pg 3

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

BONSAI Design

Bonsai as Art

By Randy Bennett



movement of its branches and its overall proportion and shape which evolve over the years.

It is our experience which helps us to define these parameters in the bonsai we create. And indeed, this is one of the goals of our art – to return us to some experience, some memory; a woodland forest, a lone tree in a meadow, or an isolated tree on some distant mountain peak.

When one strives to become a visual artist, one studies all the mechanics of that art and the various methods of its application. In oil painting for example, one studies the rudiments of design, how objects are created in perspective, how balance is achieved and how to use positive and negative space. One learns the various styles of painting and practices their application, such as impressionism, realism and cubism. The oil painter learns to use a variety of tools, such as various types of brushes, palette knives, mediums, glazes and canvas preparations. One learns about color and how analogous and complimentary hues are used to create certain effects and moods and how best to utilize tones, tints and shades.

One learns the mechanics, methods of application and how to apply these principles so that one may then develop a style that is uniquely one's own. Becoming an artist in any visual art is a process of growth and once the artist has developed his or her skill, the rules and forms are then molded to form the art that is unique to that artist.

It is the same with bonsai. We study the mechanics of working with trees and various methods of applying horticultural techniques. We study basic design and how perspective is achieved with trunk movement and branch placement. We learn about visual balance and the use of positive and negative space. We learn the many styles of bonsai and practice their application in a variety of formats and design. We learn how to use the many tools available to us and become proficient in their use. We learn about color and texture and the effects of style and container upon mood. And we learn how to express time through the structure of our creations.

We learn so that we may grow; so that we may become artists with a style uniquely our own and more importantly, with creations uniquely our own. A part of that learning process is being molded by the rules and structure of bonsai. But we need to be careful that the rules and structure, the mechanics and principles do not become our end, but are simply the means for us to begin. We need to be careful that we do not conform our creativity and expressions to the rules of bonsai and models that define specific styles, lest all of our creations look the same. If we are to become artists of a living medium with nature as our guide and inspiration, we must remember that living things are not rigid and we have but to look around us to see that nature creates magnificent beauty and works of art in trees that often break the “rules”.

Lastly, we must be careful not to simply be imitators of nature, for there is little art in recreating what has already been created.



A note on a Louisiana Day of Bonsai Workshop:

For newer members that were not here for Byron Myrick's previous Make Your Own Bonsai Pot Workshop:

I was apprehensive when I did this workshop - but you do not need any special talent to make your own pot. Byron has cleverly put together templates and extruded pot sections that can be custom cut, decorated and put together. He brings all sorts of tools you can use to create texture and decoration. Byron clearly explains everything and assists you making your pot. You pick your glaze from his samples and he fires and sends it back to you. I can honestly say all the pots looked great!

Meetings cont. from pg 1

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Program: Boyd Snellgrove Bougainvillea Lecture 7:00pm
Boyd, a longtime president of the Acadiana Bonsai Society, has over 21 years of serious bonsai study and has participated in numerous conferences and classes (including the full Pedro Morales Tropical School). Bougainvilleas are among his favorite species.

Saturday, October 23, 2021 Louisiana Day of Bonsai

**St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
6017 Camphor Street - Metairie LA 70003**

Exact times to be announced.

Early Registration: will begin on August 1st through September 15th 2021. Workshops will be filled on a first-come - first-served basis. The early registration fee is \$20.

Late Registration: will begin September 16th and end October 15th. This is to ensure that the club knows how much food and drink to purchase. The late registration fee is \$25

Registration at the Door: The registration fee for registering the day of the event will be \$20 but will not include lunch.

Registration Fees includes: free continental breakfast (and lunch for those registering before October 15th)

All day lectures, demonstrations and workshops featuring Byron Myrick, Dana Quattlebaum, Joe Day and Evan Pardue.

Workshops:

Byron Myrick - (Morning) Make your own bonsai pot workshop \$95

Dana Quattlebaum - (Morning) Bring your own bonsai tree workshop \$45

Joe Day - (Afternoon) Kingsville Boxwood workshop \$95

To register and for more information go to <https://LAdayofbonsai.eventbrite.com>





The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

Annual

Bonsai Auction

(Free and Open to the Public)

August 14, 2021

Viewing of trees prior to auction: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Auction 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Marine Corps League Hall
2708 Delaware St, Kenner LA 70062
 (near Williams Blvd & Veterans Blvd)



- **Quality, developed bonsai**
- **Featured bonsai designed by nationally known bonsai masters**
- **Starter material**
- **Pots and supplies**
- **Bonsai for every budget from the novice to the dedicated enthusiast**
- **Bargain table**

Light Refreshments

Join us for great bonsai and a great time! gnobs.org [facebook.com/NewOrleansBonsai](https://www.facebook.com/NewOrleansBonsai)

BONSAI Books

By Kathy Barbazon

There are many beginning bonsai books around - most with adequate information on bonsai history, basics of style, wiring care etc. Many of us have multiple versions. Occasionally though you run across books on specific subjects or a different take on existing information. Depending on your needs, these may prove useful to you. I've recently been reading two books which may be of interest.

Bonsai Heresy
 by Michael Hagedorn
 (Available through Stone Lantern Bonsai and Superfly Bonsai)
 \$24.95

If you are looking for a book full of pictures - this isn't it. It is purely information. Michael Hagedorn, a bonsai professional who studied with Boon Manakitivipart and with Shinji Suzuki in Japan, was raised in a scientific household by an entomologist father. The book's approach is to look at common bonsai myths from a scientific perspective - both through actual scientific research where available and evaluation of long standing traditions and observations. Practices in the nursery industry are also evaluated for what can or cannot apply to bonsai.



I have finished reading this book and have highlighted enough relevant information that I now need to go back through my highlights - reread and make notes.

A few highlights:

- When you buy raw plants at nurseries, the tags usually have the hardiness zones. Those stats, however, are for top hardiness of plants in the ground - not plants in containers. The book has a chart of both root hardiness and top hardiness for various plants in containers.
- A section on what growth enhancers have been found to work or not work.
- Sections on growing media, growth and development, repotting, watering, fertilization
- A section on wiring different species
- A section on aesthetics

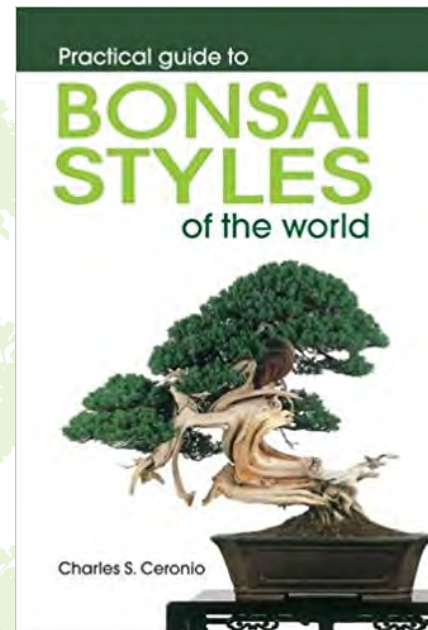
You may or may not agree with everything in this book, (I'm sure some things in Aesthetics, Fertilizers or Soil will set off

arguments), but it is written from a unique perspective and well written. I would recommend it.

Practical Guide to Bonsai Styles of the World
 by Charles S. Ceronio
 (Available on Amazon)
 \$26.21

I am currently reading this book but have been through enough to recommend it. Charles Ceronio studied under John Naka. He is based in South Africa and has developed a number of African bonsai styles.

This book is chock full of illustration and pictures. There are small but very useful sections in the beginning about Bonsai Composition and Design and Basic Art Concepts Applicable to Bonsai.



The rest of the book

is a guide to more than 40 bonsai styles. All the styles are clearly illustrated with guidance on what those styles entail as well as what should or shouldn't be done to achieve those styles.

- An example of this would be the Twin Trunk style. Advice is given on the proportion of the width and heights of the two trunks, harmony and trunk movement of the two trees, positioning in the pot and branch arrangement. In addition 12 different examples are shown of variations on that style (slanting, literati etc) along with descriptions and advice pertaining to those sub-styles.

If you are looking for help in learning how to style your bonsai - or if you are looking to expand your horizons to different or more unusual styles, I would recommend this book.

Do you have a book you would like to recommend to fellow club members?

If you do, send me an email with the title, author and a synopsis of why you recommend it.

kbarbazon@me.com

Louisiana Day of Bonsai

(Open to the Public)

October 23, 2021

Registration begins at 8:00am Event 9:00am – 4:00pm

St. Matthews' United Methodist Church - 6017 Camphor St, Metairie, LA 70003

Bonsai Exhibit • Lectures & Demonstrations • Workshops • Raffles • Vendor Area
Featuring Bonsai Artists: Byron Myrick, Joe Day, Dana Quattlebaum and Evan Pardue

Early Registration: August 1 through September 15 - \$20 (includes lunch)

Late Registration: September 16 through October 15 - \$25 (includes lunch)

Registration At the Door: - \$20 (Does NOT include lunch)

Workshops (Additional Fee): Register early to participate in one of the workshops.

To Register and for more information go to:
<https://LAdayofbonsai.eventbrite.com>



A link can also be found on our website
home page gnobs.org

Attendees are invited to submit their best tree for the **Vaughn Banting Award for Design Excellence**. (Trees should not have been in a workshop in the past 3 years.)



Hosted by
The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

Join us for great bonsai and a great time! gnobs.org facebook.com/NewOrleansBonsai



Embracing the Art and Science of Bonsai

Underhill Bonsai is a full service bonsai nursery focused on horticultural science and the timeless traditions of bonsai. We offer products and services for everybody at every level of interest. We support you in your bonsai journey.

We are back to normal days and hours
Wed to Sat 10 – 6. Our online store is always open
and both Evan and Doug are available for local pick-up and appointments!

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President *cont. from pg 1*

information about the tree if you bring one to display. The genus and species, the source of the material, the age and how long you have been developing it as a bonsai. We need this information ahead of time so we can make display cards for the show. We will need volunteers at various times both days to help man the display. We will be judged on our booth and we need members help with our public exposure. This is a great way to gain new members and help our club connect with the public. We are once again a passport station for the garden show which will aid in our exposure and help City Park. We were a great hit last show and are sure to be again this year. I look forward to seeing you all out at the garden show.

October 23rd will be here before we know it. I hope everyone has a tree that they will display at the Louisiana day of bonsai. This is another opportunity to display your work on that tree you've been developing. We will need volunteers to help the day before on Friday Oct 22 to set up the hall. We will also need volunteers to help clean and return the hall back the way we found it. If you can help out either day let a board member know which day you can help. I hope you all registered and got a spot in one of the workshops available. This day of bonsai is sure to be an educational event filled day!

Dennis Burke
GNOBS President



Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

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