

THE BONSAI Wire

April 2022

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

FROM THE President

We had a great turnout for this years Spring Garden show in City Park. Saturday started out wet but that did not deter many from coming out. By the afternoon we had more than 400 hundred visitors that had passed through our exhibit. How do I know this? Did I count them? No, I did not! However, Melissa and Cheryl were wonderful enough to go through the votes for the Viewers Choice award. There were over 400 who voted, not everyone that came through voted. We had a great time answering peoples questions. The most phrases we heard were “I can’t vote for only one, they are all so beautiful” and “How do I start a bonsai?” and of course we heard “are they for sale?” then it was “where can I buy one?”. We had a lot of engagement with the public being a passport stamp location for the Garden Show and people seemed to really enjoy voting for their favorite tree even though some had a hard time deciding. It was a really good feeling to see how welcome our exhibit was with the LSU Ag folks and the public. We had more than a few people who took applications to join, I hope we get to see them at the next meeting. I would like to thank the following extreme-

President cont. pg 7

MEETINGS & Events

With the Marine Corps Hall being sold at the end of March, the club has found a new home for our meetings:



**American Legion Hall
1225 Hickory Ave,
Harahan, LA 70123**

(on a main street, with large parking lots on both sides)

Our FIRST meeting at the NEW hall will be the APRIL meeting.

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Program: All about Roots by Dennis Burke 7:00pm

(FIRST meeting at the NEW hall)

Dennis will do a program on root form and function, development, pruning, improvement, treatment etc. as well as ground and air layering to develop or improve roots. Members are encouraged to bring in any trees with root issues.

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Program: Juniper presentation by Robert Reed 7:00pm

Note: This meeting has been moved from May 10 to May 17 due to a scheduling conflict

Robert Reed will be doing a comprehensive lecture on junipers. Members who know

Meetings cont. pg 7

The Further Adventures of Guy Guidry

(Part 2)

By Randy Bennett

In Part 1 of this article, I shared some of what Guy has been up to recently. In addition to concentrating on developing his personal collection of large masterpiece bonsai, Guy makes several trips a year to Indiana to maintain a collection of bonsai displayed on the roof of a corporate office building.



Just one of the many trees in the rooftop collection

The extensive collection of bonsai, all of which are creations of Guy Guidry, are owned by the corporation's CEO. The roof of the three story building, in addition to housing the collection of magnificent bonsai, also serves as an outdoor break area for employees and is located just outside the glass wall of the corporate Board Room.

Guy is flown up several times a year to work on the trees and see to their care and maintenance. In late fall, Guy oversees the removal of the entire collection from the rooftop and their placement into temperature controlled greenhouses for the winter. Tropicals are placed in greenhouses while evergreen and deciduous trees are placed in large structures that serve as cold-frames and protect the trees from the harsh winters of northern Indiana, while still allowing them to go into

winter dormancy.

The trees are removed from the rooftop, one by one, via a large crane! This is a slow and painstaking procedure to ensure that no damage is done to the trees as they are lifted and make their decent to waiting pallets on the ground below.

Once they are down and centered on pallets, they are lifted one by one by a tractor with forklift blades attached.



The trees are then transported across the grounds to a waiting 18-wheeler that then transports them to the appropriate winter facility.



The Collection is transported, one by one, across the company landscape



Each tree is carefully loaded onto transport trucks and taken to their respective winter holding facilities.



Once in their winter homes, the trees enjoy winter dormancy in relative comfort.

A Forest of Foemina Junipers

Repotting for those trees requiring it is carried out in early spring. This too, is no simple task, given the size of each specimen. It takes several people to maneuver to trees to a point where a forklift can get underneath the root-ball and remove it from the large pots. The roots are then worked and pruned while supported on forklift blades.

Once the roots have been pruned and the work completed, fresh soil is placed in the bottom of the container and the forklift carefully lowers



Guidry cont. from pg 3

the tree back into its pot. Fresh soil is then worked in around the perimeter and on top of the rootball.

Once all danger of frost has passed and spring has returned, Guy is flown up again to oversee each trees' return to its rooftop display area.



A large bald cypress being returned to the rooftop display after its winter rest

While Guy is not currently teaching or giving lectures on bonsai, he, nevertheless, stays quite busy caring for, not only his extensive personal collection, but also the corporate collection. Guy has created bonsai masterpieces that are too many to count. His knowledge and skill are incredible and he has far exceeded his humble beginnings in the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society. We are indeed proud to call him one of our own.



GNOBS Events

For anyone that did not make it out to this years City Park Garden Show - we missed you! Everyone who attended had a great time talking bonsai to all of the folks who stopped by to view our exhibit.

GNOBS had a great display. Following are a few of the pictures from our area.



Congratulations to Dawn Koetting for winning the People's Choice Award for the beautiful Brazilian Rain Tree below.





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Robert can attest that he is both an expert juniper stylist and well versed in their horticultural needs. Members are encouraged to bring in a juniper for display, questions or critique.

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Program: All About Tropicals (Multiple Presenters) 7:00pm

A number of more experienced members will be bringing in and discussing a wide range of different tropicals. Members are asked to bring in tropicals for display and questions.

Friday, July 8, 2022

Program: Demo/presentation by Make Lane 7:00pm

Program: Initial Competition for Johnny Martinez Award

Subject/Demo to be announced. 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. (He did a demo for GNOBS in 2020 and was very entertaining and informative.)

All members (including beginners) 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. Time permitting, Mike will provide a constructive critique.

Saturday, July 9, 2022

Program: Workshop with Mike Lane 9:00am

Material for workshop to be announced.

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ly helpful members who made this Garden Show exhibit a great success: Kathy Barbazon (she made an awesome styles poster!), Randy Bennett, Byron Carr, Mark Fisher, Keith Hawkins, Dawn & Donald Koetting, Melissa Le Blanc, Cheryl & Harold Mechler and Brandon Schuler. In case I missed anyone else that I have not mentioned, thank you too!

It is time to watch out for spring pests that have emerged from their winter hibernation. Pay close attention to those tender leaves and branches, aphids and other sucking insects love to drink from new growth. You can use a granular systemic pesticide such as Bonide systemic insect granules. I use this on my pines against the pine tip moth, junipers for spider mites, elms and maples against aphids and white flies. I like this product because it's granular and it gets watered in every time you water your trees. There are other that are liquid drenches but I'm not convinced they work as well in bonsai pot culture, they may work great in the landscape but there it gets to stay in the soil. In bonsai or grow pots it gets washed out quickly and I wonder how much is retained in the soil long enough to be absorbed by the tree. Please note, do not use on your flowering trees as to not kill any pollinators. In those cases I would use an insecticidal soap or neem oil to deal with pests. Whatever insecticide you use just be aware of it's mode of action and if you can use on that specific species of tree! Always read the labels. Hope this finds all of you well and I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting in our new meeting hall.

Dennis Burke
GNOBS President



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