

THE BONSAI Wire

December 2022

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

FROM THE President

I Most of you all have heard of the Johnny Martinez award. We honor him by holding a friendly competition every year. At the July meeting the members vote on the tree that they like the best, any member can enter one tree in the competition. The top 3 that are selected in July are then displayed at our annual auction for all attendees to vote on. The winner gets the prestigious Johnny Martinez award that year. In the past the previous year winner has passed that plaque on to the next recipient. Names of all winners of the award are on that one plaque. I believe there is one empty spot left on that plaque to be filled next year. The board has decided to award a single plaque to the future winners of the Johnny Martinez award to keep in perpetuity.

I would like to share with you something you may not know about Johnny. Besides the fact that Johnny was quick to smile and welcome you at a meeting, I remember that he had his camcorder at almost every meeting for years. He would not only record the visiting artists that would come to do a lecture and demo, he also taped club members doing talks and demos on material. When we moved out of the hall in Kenner I came across a box of VHS tapes! The club saved some of his tapes more than likely given to us by Johnny's wife

President cont. pg 5

MEETINGS & Events

Reminder - our new home for meetings is:

American Legion Hall 1225 Hickory Ave, Harahan, LA 70123

All members are invited to attend our annual Christmas Party!

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Program: Annual 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. (**Note: Please bring a serving spoon or fork for your dish**). The club will supply a ham, beverages and plates/utensils. *Everyone attending gets a free raffle ticket for door prizes (including a tree and gift certificates).*

Friday, January 27, 2023

Program: Lecture/demo on Trident Maples by Jennifer Price 7:00pm

One of the new rising stars in bonsai, Jennifer Price discovered bonsai after retiring from the stage as a professional ballerina. For the last several years she has been involved in an intensive study program with Walter Pall from Germany and Jim Doyle from Pennsylvania. She has taught workshops and given demonstrations worldwide and last year was in Germany to be a part of Generation Bonsai and went on to represent America at an international bonsai convention in Shanghai, China. Jennifer was our guest last year for a demo and workshop and she is both talented and an excellent teacher!

Saturday, January 28, 2023

Program: Trident Maple workshop with Jennifer Price 9:00am

Cost for the workshop is \$125 for some large trunked trident maples and is currently full. You are welcome to sign on to the waitlist. *Members not taking the workshop are welcome to attend as SILENT observers.*

Meetings cont. pg 5

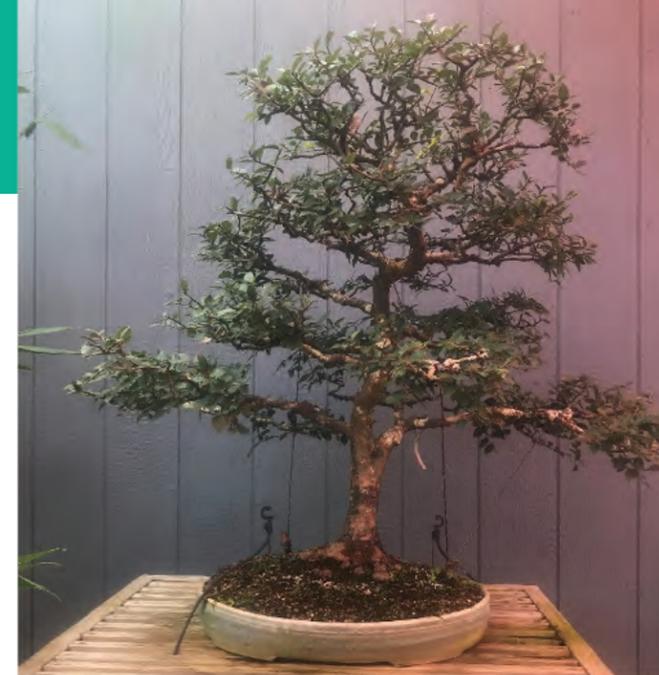
A Visit to Underhill Bonsai Nursery

By Randy Bennett



I recently drove to Underhill Bonsai Nursery near Folsom, Louisiana. I hadn't been there for a few years and wanted to see what they had been up to. As I exited my truck, I could see right away that a number of improvements had been made. The changes that have taken place are nothing short of amazing. Everywhere I looked, improvement upon improvement had taken place. This was not the nursery I had visited a few years before.

Underhill Bonsai Nursery is now a full-service bonsai nursery. They grow, sell and broker pre-bonsai to top quality specimen bonsai to every level, from the beginner to the serious collector.



I began by walking toward the office-studio, admiring the many excellent specimen bonsai on display they had under the shaded area in front of the office. Upon entering the office – studio, I was once again impressed by the variety and quality of merchandise. They had high quality bonsai tools for sale (not the cheap stuff one typically finds), large rolls of bonsai wire, and bonsai pots ranging from entry level plastic growing pots to hand-crafted works of art created by some of America's best artisan potters.

I found excellent suiseki stones, bags of Akadama – virtually every conceivable product one could possibly use in bonsai. And I was drooling over several 60 inch, kiln-fired, shallow oval pots of very high quality! As soon as I got home, I began measuring the backyard for a possible place to put one. All I could think about was

how perfect one of those pots would be for a bald cypress forest! Evan Purdue, the nursery manager, has been studying bonsai for 10 years and offers in-house and on-site services. He has produced a number of YouTube videos on bonsai and has conducted lecture/demos and bonsai workshops for a number of bonsai organizations. He is an avid collector of potential bonsai material from the wild. He also told me about the services that the nursery offers to its customers: repotting, styling, monthly maintenance, and consultations of bonsai collections. In addition to their services, Underhill Bonsai Nursery has its own proprietary products such as soil, cut paste, fertilizer, wound seal, fungicide and insecticide – only available at Underhill!

I spent a good deal of time talking to Evan about the nursery and bonsai, of course. And eventually asked him to show me around the nursery. I was amazed at the amount of material being field grown! Row after row of bald cypress, maples, several varieties of elm. In addition, there were potted pre-bonsai plants of every size and variety.



One of several rows of trident maples

Underhill Bonsai Nursery is owned by Doug Green. I have known Doug for many years. His first bonsai was a Barbados Cherry that was purchased from me about 30 years ago at a craft fair booth I had, and I was delighted when I heard that he had opened a bonsai nursery near Folsom, Louisiana. Doug has been a long-time advocate for the art of bonsai and has been a huge supporter of the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society. We are fortunate to have such a high quality bonsai nursery so near to New Orleans and our members.

The nursery has come a long way in just a few years' time and if you haven't been yet, or if it's been a few years since you were there – you need to go.



Drawing Bonsai

By Kathy Barbazon

Editors Note: I presented this program years ago for a GNOBS meeting. The information is still valid and of use - but some of the apps mentioned may have changed. I know most are still around. Possibly new ones have been added.

Why you should draw your bonsai:

- To explore different styles for a bonsai without doing any cutting
- To more easily spot flaws in your potential design
- To preview a major change to a bonsai without doing any cutting
- To create a master plan for a bonsai for reference

What to know before you draw:

- Know all the characteristics of the species you are drawing Do the branches grow fast? Can the species be used for deadwood? Does it heal easily or scar? Can the branches take a lot of bending or are they brittle? etc
- All these characteristics will influence what you can realistically do with your bonsai and what you can draw as your plan.

Do you need drawing skills to draw bonsai? NO!

- This drawing is not about making a pretty picture - just an accurate plan and there are various easy ways to do that.

No matter how you draw your bonsai - even when using a photograph - you will still need to look at the actual bonsai as you draw.

- Not everything will be visible in the photograph. You will still need to push foliage out of the way to look at branches; look to see what branches are in the back and not visible in the photo etc. It is a good idea to at least do some basic clean up on raw stock before you take your picture.

Always draw your branch structure first and then draw your foliage on top. You want to make sure you have the structure correct before building on it.

Easy manual drawing options

- Take a photograph and print it out
 - Use a transparency or acetate (available at art supply stores in sheets or rolls) to trace your drawing. If you use Sharpies, the ink can be wiped off with alcohol or even alcohol hand sanitizer. Vis a Vis transparency markers can be wiped off with water.
 - Use tracing paper. The advantage of this is you can use easily erasable pencil - but it is much less transparent than plastic. If you don't have a light box, you can tape your drawing to a sunny window or even to a piece of glass with a lamp underneath to make it easier to trace.
- Use graph paper and draw manually. This is more labor intensive as you will need to take a lot of measurements of your bonsai and then scale it on the graph paper. (not recommended)

Easy apps and programs for drawing your bonsai:

- Take a photograph and insert it into an app - draw over it
- Most drawing apps are much more complex than you need and are more for artists that want to "paint" on an ipad. There are a few basic ones.
- Note taking apps tend to be simpler with basic drawing/painting

tools. The app just has to have the ability to import a picture and let you draw on it. It also has the added advantage of letting you take notes.

Some suggested easy apps:

- ipad** - Notability, Penultimate, Notesuite, Microsoft One Note, Autodesk Sketchbook
- iphone** - Notability, Metamoji Note Lite, Microsoft One Note
- Android** - Microsoft One Note
- Mac** - Notability, Sketchbook Express

What your drawing should look like:

You don't need tons of detail - just main branch structure and foliage pads



If you decide on the app option, consider buying a stylus - the type with a finer tip:

I've seen this type as low as \$9



If you draw manually keep a book or binder of your trees for reference, or if you use apps save your drawings in a way that is easily accessible.

Meetings cont. from pg 1

Monthly study groups begin in January

1st Saturday - Randy Bennett, 2nd Saturday - Kathy Barbazon, 3rd Saturday - Jim Osborne.
(Dawn Koetting will be doing a quarterly group and Dennis Burke is doing a Black Pine group as needed)

Tuesday, February 14, 2022

Program: Potting Lecture/Demo by Dawn Koetting 7:00pm

Dawn will discuss all the proper procedures and timing of potting/repotting trees as well as pot selection including the difference between masculine and feminine pots and selecting the appropriate pot based on characteristics and color to complement different trees. Members are invited to bring in trees that either need pot selection advice or already potted trees for evaluation of pot selection. You may also bring an empty pot if you have questions of what type of tree would be appropriate for that pot.

President cont. from pg 1

Gerry. I finally went through the tapes and compared them to the DVD's Peggy had already converted over. I found a few that were not on DVD. I selected some of those tapes mainly because of who was in those videos. Two of them have Vaughn Banting (bald cypress and JBP), One has Guy Guidry with some chainsaw action on a bald cypress! How could I not save a video with Guy working on a bald cypress? One with Dylan Grantz (JBP). As I remember, Dylan had a lot of knowledge on Japanese Black Pines among other species. He was always willing to share that knowledge and I was pleased that there was a video with him working on a JBP. One is with Dennis Makishima, unfortunately the sound is terrible on his. These are old videos from the 1990's! I think it was worth it to save and share with the club not only for posterity but so that you may see our founding bonsai club "father" in action. If you would like to watch them online they'll be available till 2/7/2023. I have the DVD's coming in the mail if you don't get a chance to watch online and want to borrow any of them. We have others as well that are on DVD. They are club property and will need to be signed out and returned.

Website is orderdirect.yesvideo.com

Use my email dpbbonsai@yahoo.com for sign in, password **Vaughnbanting1972!**

Click "Digital media" tab at top of screen, then Click the "my memories" tab at the top of screen to get to videos

I look forward to seeing you all at our Christmas party Tuesday evening.

Dennis Burke
GNOBS President



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