

THE BONSAI Wire

March 2023

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

FROM THE President

Iwould like to thank Dawn for presenting a great lecture and demo on re potting and pot selection. I think it was great for the newer members to see how to do a re pot. I know it can be intimidating for someone new to bonsai to undertake the first potting of their tree. Not knowing exactly what to do when it comes to root work can be detrimental to the trees survival. Proper aftercare is crucial. I hope the new members took away the important aspects of what to do and how to select the proper pot for each tree. I had a few members over a couple of weeks ago to re pot their black pines for the study group I'm hosting quarterly on JBP. Melissa, George and Byron did an excellent job with their trees.

You can start fertilizing your trees this month. Trees you have recently repotted you should wait about a month after the repot to fertilize, especially if you use synthetic fertilizer. If you use synthetic fertilizer be mindful to use less than what the label instructs. Organic fertilizer can be used at any time. I'm looking forward seeing what trees members bring out to the Destrehan and City Park Garden shows. One of the functions of our club is to display our trees to the public. These two shows will enable us to reach a greater local audience and potential new members. If you have a tree or two you'd like to display or volunteer to help at our booth e-mail me at dpbbonsai@yahoo.com.



Dennis Burke
GNOBS President

MEETINGS & Events

Reminder - our new home for meetings is:
American Legion Hall 1225 Hickory Ave, Harahan, LA 70123

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Program: Crepe Myrtle Presentation and Open (Crepe)Workshop by Randy Bennett 6:30pm

Randy is a past GNOBS president and has done bonsai as both a professional and gifted amateur for decades. He will do a powerpoint presentation on the care and styling of crepe myrtles. Members are encouraged to bring in crepe myrtles from raw stock to developed bonsai to discuss and then work on in an open workshop. Randy and other experienced members will be available for consultation and assistance.

Saturday & Sunday March 25 & 26, 2023

Destrehan Plantation Spring Garden Festival

Set up is Friday March 24, 8:30- 5 pm.

Show hours Sat and Sun are 9-4

Contact Dennis dpbbonsai@yahoo.com if you can volunteer or submit a tree for display.

Saturday & Sunday April 1 & 2, 2023

City Park Garden Show

Set up is on Friday, March 31 from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Show hours Sat and Sun are 9-4

GNOBS will once again be doing a large exhibit at the Garden Show. We will need volunteers to set up Friday, to man the booth on Saturday and Sunday and to take down the display on Sunday. We also need trees from members to display. We would like to have as many species and styles as possible. Members may submit one tree (or two, space permitting). We will have sign up sheets for volunteers and tree submissions or contact Dennis dpbbonsai@yahoo.com

(For trees - we need species, approx age and/or time in training)



Meetings cont. pg 5

GNOBS Events

6-Week Bonsai Course Wraps Up

By Randy Bennett

The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society periodically offers a 6-week Beginner Course. This course is always taught by one of the more experienced members. It is a comprehensive study, covering all the basics needed to be a successful bonsai practitioner. This year, seven of the clubs' newer members recently completed the course.



The final class requires the participants to take a piece of raw nursery stock, come up with a design, prune and wire the tree, then root-prune and pot the tree in a bonsai container. This activity is supported by several experienced members, who are there to guide and assist the participants.



I would like to thank the participants for their participation and keen interest in bonsai. There were a number of insightful questions and discussions throughout the course. Our hope is that such activities will enable new members to gain a more solid foundation upon which to launch their journey into the art of bonsai.

I would also like to thank the members who graciously gave of their time to assist with the final class.



And thanks to Underhill Bonsai Nursery for having some nice Chinese elms for us to work on in the final class.

Underhill Bonsai
Louisiana's Premier
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SAVE THE DATE!



The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

ANNUAL

Bonsai Auction

& Plant Sale

(FREE and Open to the Public)

August 12, 2023

Viewing of trees & plant sale begins at 4:00pm
Auction 6:00pm – 9:00pm

**HUGE selection of master styled bonsai,
bonsai, starter material, pots and supplies**

VFW Hall – 1133 Hickory Ave, Harahan, LA 70123

gnobs.org

facebook.com/NewOrleansBonsai



Bonsai Society of Acadiana
is happy to announce we will be hosting the

2023 Louisiana Day of Bonsai

Saturday, September 30th.

This is our state meeting, rotated amongst the member clubs. We are also thrilled that **Jennifer Price** has squeezed us into her busy schedule and will be our guest artist. We hope that all club members around the state will mark their calendars and make every effort to attend. More details will follow at a later date.

It takes a village for a small club to do LABS. Please make plans to attend!"

BONSAI Basics

Creating a new Branch with Fusion

By Jerry Meislik
www.bonsaihunk.us

Editors Note: Though I have fused multiple ficus saplings to create a trunk, I never thought of taking advantage of a ficus' tendency to sprout multiple small branches from one spot. I have usually eliminated all but one to develop a larger branch. This is an option to speed up the process.

In this Ficus microcarpa 'melon seed' I needed a left side branch. As you can see in image 1 there is no branch. Fortunately, several small branches sprouted in the right spot and to speed the development of the branch three of the sprouts were tied together with cable ties, image 2. Two of the branches were brought outward and used to develop side branches. All the branches were allowed to grow and to fuse. Side and front views of the branch show a nicely developing left main branch. Sometimes fusion will allow you to create a heavier and more detailed branch more quickly than with the usual techniques.



Reminder: GNOBS Annual Club Dues are due in January. If you have not paid dues, this will be your last postcard and newsletter.



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.

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Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Program: Open Workshop 7:00pm

Bring your own tree to work on. Club will provide wire. (Bring your own tools). Catch up on styling and maintenance or seek the advice and opinions of other experienced members. (We are looking into supplying a limited number of trees to purchase - primarily for brand new members acquired from the Garden Show.)

Friday, May 12, 2023

Program: Byron Myrick Creating Bonsai Pot demo 7:00pm

Byron Myrick has been a potter and teacher of pottery for many years, and a bonsai enthusiast for the past fourteen. He will also be bringing pots for sale.

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Program: Byron Myrick Bonsai Pot Workshop 9:00am

Byron will assist workshop participants in creating their own custom bonsai pot (up to 8" x 10") including selecting the glaze. He will take the pots back to his studio and then ship the fired pots to participants. Sign up sheets will be available at the meetings. Cost of the workshop is \$95. (If needed there will be a second workshop group in the afternoon)

For anyone who believes they may not be able to do this - I assure you that you can. Byron has created a system and multiple tools that makes it easy for anyone to create their own pot. He has done workshops for us in the past as well as other clubs and conventions and everyone has been satisfied with their creations - plus it's a lot of fun!



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