

THE BONSAI Wire

August 2023

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

FROM THE President

It was good to see so many participate in the styling competition. It was a different exercise

we thought would be good for the members. The first time conducting such an endeavor you don't know how well it will go. The participants gave it a nice go of styling a juniper in a few hours. It was interesting to see the different styles attempted. We did get some feedback from some of the members who did not participate. It seems that the critiques of the trees voted on for the Johnny Martinez award was missed by some members. We can return to that next year as being the subject of the meeting. Congratulations to Justin Jolet for winning the styling competition.

The Auction is almost here! I hope you all are ready to make this another fantastic year for GNOBS.

Dennis Burke
GNOBS President



MEETINGS & Events

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

Saturday, August 12, 2023

2023 Annual GNOBS Auction & Plant Sale

VFW Hall – 1133 Hickory Ave, Harahan, LA 70123

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 and we hope to bring you even better programs next year. Besides, 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, bonsai pots, books and tools and anything else bonsai related as well as ordinary (non-bonsai appropriate) plants for the bargain tables.

Auction Setup - 11:00am

Donations Accepted – 12 Noon – 4:00pm

Viewing of trees and plant sale begins at 4:00pm

Auction – 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Tuesday, September 12, 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. This is an excellent time to bring in your Auction purchases and get help to establish a plan for your trees.

Saturday, September 30, 2023

Louisiana Day of Bonsai - New Iberia 8:30am - 5:00pm

See the ad on page 6 for more information

Friday, October 13, 2023

Program: Doctor Hoe Chau Azalea Presentation

Doctor Hoe, an award winning bonsai artist and member of the Houston Bonsai Society will do a

Meetings cont. pg 7

SPECIES Spotlight

Dominance In Azalea Flower Color

By Michael Hagedorn crataegus.com

You might recognize this Satsuki from a post earlier this year. Now it's blooming. While that may be reason enough to share it, one of the curiosities of Satsuki is also evident: flower color dominance.



Satsuki before growth and blooming cycle, April 2023. If you look closely, the flower buds that set last summer are everywhere.

Same azalea, two months later, June 2023. The cultivar is "Toyo".



Take a look at that lower left branch. All red flowers. There's none of the shade complexity of the rest of the azalea.

Genetic mutation is displayed in flower color, an unusual and fun feature of azaleas. Understanding dominance makes it even more fun.

Red is dominant in azaleas, white is recessive. Because of the range of values in Satsuki colors, it's easier to say to "darker is dominant to lighter". Red is recessive to carmine, a dark red, for instance.



A light flower, recessive for azaleas.

A medium-value flower, mid-range in dominance.



And a red flower, out of these three the most dominant. This means, if you see a dark flower color like this, that shoot will never grow out and produce flowers lighter in color.

An article on the inheritance of azalea flower colors spells out their complex dominance:

"Colour, whether it be purple, carmine red or red, is dominant over white. Red is dominant only over white. Carmine is dominant over red. Purple is dominant over carmine. Inversely, red is recessive to carmine, and carmine to purple. The order is, therefore, headed by purple followed by carmine red, red and white."¹

All this asks the question: how does this change what we do with Satsuki bonsai?

If you've got a few azaleas you might keep eye out for dominance issues. Once a shoot heads down the dark path, those shoots won't have light flowers again.

Old variable-color Satsuki, unmanaged, may end up with all dark flowers—purple or red. Pruning or labeling shoots at this time of year, while the plant is flowering, may help the retention of recessive characteristics.



The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

ANNUAL Bonsai Auction

& Plant Sale

(FREE and Open to the Public)

August 12, 2023

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

VFW Hall
1133 Hickory Ave
Harahan, LA 70123



- **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 tables**

Light Refreshments

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

Dawn Koetting
(Eleagnus, Jade and Neea)

Julie Trigg
(Buttonwood)

Evan Pardue
(Water Elm)

who will have their trees
exhibited at Nationals
in Rochester this
Sept 9 and 10.

Flaws - and how to deal with them

By Kathy Barbazon

Flaws in bonsai are caused by nature, man or both. Fortunately many flaws can be corrected.

The first obstacle to correcting a flaw - is not seeing it.

You need to train yourself as bonsai artists to actively assess your material and look for flaws. We are all guilty of becoming used to the way something looks and not consciously looking to determine what is wrong with a tree and what needs to be fixed.

- Try to spend some time regularly looking at your trees from different angles and spotting original problems or ones that may have developed or are in the process of developing. (Photographs can help you here)
- Get opinions and suggestions from other bonsai practitioners and give good consideration to their suggestions.

Things to look for:

Roots

- Is the nebari of your tree attractive?
- The roots should be balanced around the tree. This doesn't mean it has to look like a wagon wheel - which can be very unnatural but the roots should be spread nicely around the trunk.
- Do you have crossing roots?
- Do you have some roots that are very small and some very out-sized large ones?
- Do you have roots (not aerial roots) that protrude from higher up the trunk - left over from the tree being deeper in the pot?

Solutions to these issues can include:

- When re-potting your trees, try to spread your roots out attractively.
- Look for a possibly better set of roots below the surface to use for your new nebari
- New roots can be developed higher up the trunk by either air-layering or if only just a little higher than the existing nebari, the tourniquet ground layering method.
- Move or remove crossing roots.
- Excessively large roots can be split to form two normal size

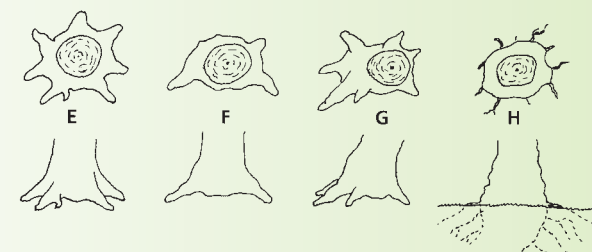


Figure 11-2 Continued - Ideally, roots are evenly distributed around the trunk (E), but choosing the widest side of an unequal base can also make a stable appearance (F). Ideally, the strongest roots will be opposite the direction of trunk movement (G). Trees that have only fibrous roots may have the widest part of the trunk used as the base (H).

from David De Groot - *Principles of Bonsai Design*

roots. A small wood wedge can be inserted to spread the two pieces apart.

- Remove roots higher on the trunk
- A lack of roots on one side can often be addressed by approach grafting seedlings of the tree to form roots on that side

Branches

- Are your branches well placed and balanced around the tree or do you have gaps or branches placed too close together or bar branches?
- Are your lower branches thicker, decreasing in size as they go up to thinner and more closely spaced branches at the top of the tree or do you have heavy branches too far up the tree and thin branches lower?
- Do your branches generally come from the outside of curves or do you have the coming from the inside curves
- Do you have branches that are excessively straight with no movement?
- Do you have branches that are the same diameter for most of their length with no taper?
- Do you have nice development of secondary branches all along your branches or is all the branching just at the ends?
- Do you have "eye poker" branches that stick straight out toward the viewer?
- Do you have too many tertiary branches coming from one spot? (Example: azaleas produce whirls of branches - but should be cut back to two)
- Knobs developed on branches from too many branches coming from one spot (this can happen easily on ficus)

Solutions to these issues can include:

- Sometimes correcting branch placement can be as simple as slightly changing the angle or front of the tree.
- Branches too close to another can be eliminated. For gaps, sometimes a branch can be wired and moved to fill in that spot. A branch can also be scion, approach or thread grafted where needed.

- Lower branches that are too thin can be allowed to grow freely to thicken. You can also foliar feed only those with miracle grow to encourage their growth.
- Branches that are too thick near the top of the tree will either need to be eliminated or cut back to regrow a thinner branch.
- Some branches that are too straight can be wired to add movement. Other will need to be cut back and movement established through clip and grow.
- Larger unwanted conifer branches can be cut back and jinned as a feature
- Knobbed branches will either need to be cut off or partially cut off and number of shoots coming from it reduced

Trunks

- Do you have a lack of good taper in the trunk?
- Do you have inverse taper
- Do you have appropriate curves or straightness for the style you are trying to achieve?
- Are there large wounds or knobs on the tree?
- Is the tree/trunk an appropriate height?

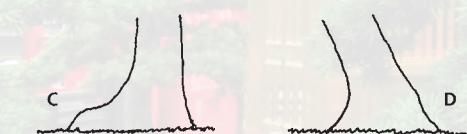
Solutions to these issues can include:

- Cutting back the tree and growing or using a new leader to induce taper, curves or straightness.
- If inverse taper is just starting due to bar branches or branches originating at the same level - remove a branch before the taper escalates.
- Changing the potting angle for different curvature
- Changing the potting angle to hide ugly wounds
- Re-wounding the edges of wounds and working on the interior of the wound to increase healing (soft, decayed wood should be removed and the wood either carved or filled with epoxy putty to a flat to slightly curved surface so the tree can heal over it. The re-wounded edges should be sealed.
- Using bridge grafts through a wound to speed healing (and possibly add a branch in a bare area)
- Carving out wounds or knobs to become a design feature
- Reducing tree height - general rule is height should be 6 to 10 times base of trunk width. (1" wide trunk = 6 to 10" high tree) Height will be determined by what you are trying to achieve with the tree. A more masculine tree will tend to be at the 6 times ratio. A more feminine tree will be taller and more slender.

As you try to deal with the various types of flaws, remember that the process can not only improve your problem solving ability but working through all the various options can actually spark your creativity and make you a better bonsai artist.



Figure 11-2
A basal flare indicates age and stability (A). Do not accept the first large roots you find as the base of the tree if they are unattractive. There might be a better base under the soil surface (B).



If the base is unbalanced, (C) try tilting the tree to give a more stable feeling (D).



LOUISIANA DAY OF BONSAI 2023
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th 8:30–5:00

Feature Artist – Jennifer Price

Lecture/Demo. Slide Show Presentation. BYOT workshop (\$30/person)

2023 Vaughn Banting Bonsai Design Contest

Vendors, Raffle, Silent Auction Items

\$20 admission includes coffee, donuts, drinks, and lunch. As well as a great day of bonsai with friends!

Event will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 119 Jefferson St., New Iberia, LA. Same location as the previous 2 BSA-hosted LABS events.

Contact Boyd Snellgrove at 337 380-2860 with any questions.

Meet our visiting Bonsai Artists for October

Hoe Chuah became interested in bonsai after visiting the Montreal Botanical Garden's Penjing and Bonsai Collections in 1990. Largely self-taught, he learns from books and videos. He was fortunate to have made over 20 business trips to Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan, where he took opportunities to attend national and international shows, visited bonsai nurseries and gardens, observed and learned from several professionals; many of them became friends.



Hoe has won numerous awards. His Tiger Bark Ficus received an award among the Twenty Five Exceptional Bonsai in the 7th World Bonsai Friendship Federation Convention and the Best Tropical Bonsai in the 5th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition. He also won several awards in the Lone Star Bonsai Federation conventions, which include Best of Show, Best Conifer, Best Evergreen and Best Deciduous.

He works on both Lingnan Clip-and-Grow Penjing and Japanese style bonsai, from mame to large trees. In 2006, he co-founded the Houston Chinese Bonsai Society and served as their President for 10 years. Hoe also served the Second Vice-President of the Houston Bonsai Society.

Soon is an avid gardener. About ten years ago, she became interested in kusamono and applied her gardening skills in this new venture. She says, "Since my husband works on big trees, why don't I work on small stuffs like kusamono." That husband-and-wife team work was recognized when she received the 5th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition Best Kusamono Companion Award along with Hoe's Best Tropical Bonsai.



Soon has her unique style. She draws inspirations from nature. The result is best summed up when Colin Lewis critiqued her kusamono in the 2013 Lone Star Bonsai Federation Show; Colin said they look very natural, like an English wildflower meadow where he could just lie down and enjoy the nature. Besides the more complex looking kusamono she also creates simple, minimalist kusamono from a single plant.

She is a popular speaker, has taught classes in Houston, Austin, Dallas and Corpus Christi bonsai clubs, and at Timeless Trees Bonsai Nursery and several Houston community centers. Her works were featured in "Penjing World", an online Chinese magazine, and she received invitations to do workshops in Shanghai and Yunan.



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.

Underhill Bonsai
80272 Hwy 25
Folsom, LA 70437
(985) 635-2413
underhillbonsai.com

Evan Tylor Pardue – Manager
(985) 351-4797
evan@underhillbonsai.com



Meetings cont. from pg 1

powerpoint presentation on azaleas (one of his specialties). He has requested that members bring in azaleas for critique and advice. Dr Hoe has not only won multiple bonsai awards but his pupils are now winning awards as well. See more information on Dr. Hoe on page 6.

Saturday, October 14, 2023

Workshop 1: Doctor Hoe Bring Your Own Tree

Workshop 9am

You may bring a tree of any species (species suitable for work at that time of year preferred). Cost for workshop is \$55. Sign up sheet will be available at the September workshop or you may email Dennis at dpbbonsai@yahoo.com

Workshop 2: Soon Cheah Kusimono Workshop 9am

Soon Cheah, an award winning Kusimono artist (and Dr Hoe's wife) will be conducting a Kusimono workshop. She will do a short powerpoint presentation at the beginning of the workshop and will provide plants. More information and a cost for this workshop will be provided shortly. See more information about Soon on page 6.



Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society
PO Box 381 Kenner, LA 70062

President: Dennis Burke 504-224-0038 (cell) dpbbonsai@yahoo.com	Newsletter/Website Editor Kathy Barbazon 504-470-8134 (cell) kbarbazon@me.com	Hall Manager Tina & Carl Gilbert 985-346-2974 divercq33@gmail.com
Vice-President: OPEN	Masters Program Director: Byron Carr 318-218-4844 bcjcec@aol.com	Past President: Randy Bennett 504-402-3646 (cell) 504-888-7994 (home) ourproperty4u@gmail.com com
Treasurer: Dawn Koetting 985-859-3400 (cell) dkoetting@msn.com		Recording Secretary Melissa Leblanc missyokobe@hotmail.com

Congratulations to

Justin Jolet

on winning our first GNOBS

Styling Competition

and our Johnny Martinez Finalists

Melissa LeBlanc, Carl Gilbert and Dennis Burke