

THE BONSAI Wire

July 2023

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

FROM THE President



Get those donations ready! I am anticipating another great auction this year. We cannot do it without you. Gather

those trees, cuttings, old pots, garden plants, tools you want to donate and get ready to help out at the auction. There is still time to clean up those trees, pull the weeds to make them more presentable. If you know what the species is please label them as not everyone can ID plant material easily. I know a number of people have signed up to help already. We can never have too much assistance in making our auction a success! If you have club shirt, we ask that you wear it to stand out with the public.

I am looking forward to seeing what members will create during the juniper styling competition. The board attempts to come up with new topics for our meetings. Sometimes we do repeat species or topics especially when we have a number of new members that can benefit from the information. For this month the board thought it would be good to get members more involved with a hands on approach. I think this is a great way for members to get comfortable with styling and wiring with people observing. We have 14 Hollywood junipers left available at \$14 each which is a great price for any material. Don't be shy, come out and design your next tree for us to see.

Dennis Burke
GNOBS President



MEETINGS & Events

Reminder - our new home for meetings is:

American Legion Hall 1225 Hickory Ave, Harahan, LA 70123

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

(Due to a conflict changed from the 11th)

Program: Initial Competition for Johnny Martinez Award 7:00pm

All members (including beginners) are asked to bring in their best trees (limit 2) for a friendly competition. (Note: Only SINGLE trees - NO GROUPS) 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. Our experienced members will provide a constructive critique with suggestions for further development of the trees.

Program 2: GNOBS Styling Competition 7:00pm

GNOBS will supply some nice reasonably priced Hollywood junipers for entrants to purchase (bought for the wholesale price of \$14. You pay the Wholesale price and get a juniper that would cost much more retail). All competitors will receive a randomly selected juniper that they will style during the meeting. The winner will be determined by a panel of experienced judges. A sign up sheet will be available at the meeting or contact Dennis at dpbbonsai@yahoo.com.

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.

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

Meetings cont. pg 7

Re-designing A Fig in the Matthaei Botanical Gardens

By Jerry Meislik

This fig tree, a *Ficus microcarpa* twin trunk in the banyan style, is in the bonsai collection of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens of the University of Michigan. (To learn more about the collection at the Botanical Gardens and how you can help it to grow click here.) The common name of this species is Chinese Banyan. It is a material found for sale in many nurseries and bonsai shops, and is a rugged tree that tolerates abuse as well as extensive manipulations. At the invitation of Connie Crancer, the Senior Horticultural Assistant of the collection, I spent two sessions examining, analyzing, and working on the tree.

Picture one, shows the tree before any work was performed. The trunks have a poor relationship to each other, and the branches are arranged in a more or less random pattern. Aerial roots are numerous and randomly arranged.



Picture 1. October 1998

Picture two, shows the tree before the initial work session. With the assistance of Dr. William Heston III, master gardener and bonsai expert, and Connie Crancer, we removed the tree from the container, and determined that the two trunks were fused together at the base. Rotating did not improve the

relationship of the two trunks. A decision was made to separate the two trees and to reposition them in order to more closely relate the trunks to each other. The separation of the trunks was done with a saw, and excess wood was removed at the base of the trees to allow them to fit together.



Picture 2. April 2000

At the second work session, there was further refinement of the tree. Aerial roots that were too numerous, and messy in appearance were thinned out and re-oriented. The branches were thinned, and significant wiring was done to shape and position the branches. Picture three shows the tree immediately after the last work session.

We all agreed that the pot was too deep and that a new pot would likely be needed after the tree recovered.



Picture 3. July 2000

Picture four is a virtual image of the tree created on a computer to help guide the future training of the tree. The image was created immediately after the original styling was done. Notice that the original pot has been "transformed" into a shallower and wider pot. A green glazed round or oval pot without feet would be an even better choice.



Picture 4.

Picture five is the tree as it looks in February, 2004. The canopy is fuller and the aerial roots have thickened dramatically.



Picture 5. February 2004, photo by William Heston III.

In 2006, picture 6, the tree is shown in a different pot. Note how much thicker the aerial roots have become. It may be necessary in the future to remove the large aerial roots and replace them with new thinner aerals. The canopy could also be opened up a bit to show more of the branch structure.



Picture 6. 2006, photo by William Heston III.

We await future developments in the maturing of this bonsai.

Bonsai Empire Intermediate Course 2: a review

by Adamaskwhy (Adam Lavigne)

Edited slightly for length

A few months ago, I got an email from Oscar Jonker, from Bonsai Empire, asking me to give an honest review of his newest online class. I've collaborated with Oscar in the past, providing some media, hosting livestreams, etc, so I said "sure". Little did I know that the class was so in-depth and full of information that it would take me days to finish!

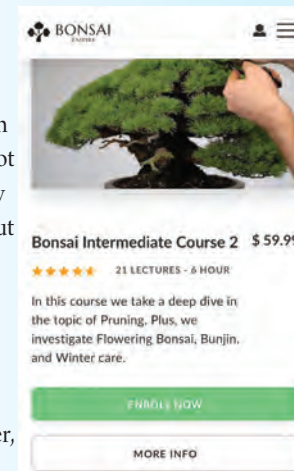
So, my friends, here is The Review well, after the mandatory legal statement: according to the US FTC, I have to disclose whether I've received any compensation from Oscar or Bonsai Empire. I have not. This is not a paid review, simply a service provided to my friend and to let the Bonsai World know about a valuable resource. I was provided access to the class though, which you see by the above pic, costs a mere \$59.99.

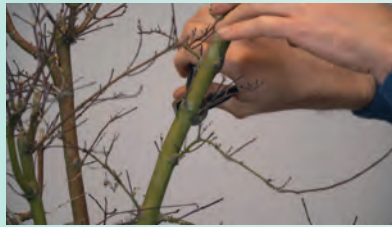
Some of you might wonder why I, as a possible competitor, might want to promote Bonsai empire (always ask why!). Easy answer, I don't see myself as a competitor nor do I think any Art is a competition. Down that road is where we find division and strife. My business model has me providing in-person bonsai instruction. I have done online classes and courses, and you can find those easily, but my blog (Da' Blog) is free to anyone. Besides, the business of bonsai is not a zero-sum game. It's not a pie to be cut up and the only way your piece gets bigger is to take from someone else's piece. By supporting and promoting bonsai, the pie gets bigger.

Ok, with all that said, THE REVIEW!

The course is laid out with 21 video lectures, starring Bjorn Bjorholm and Michael Hagedorn, two of my favorite bonsai artists from the USA. Both trained in Japan, both with amazing content (I subscribe to Michael's blog). And both very knowledgeable.

The video quality is top notch, as expected from a Bonsai Empire production. The knowledge imparted is in plain English, and presented in a humble way. You don't need to know what a "moyogi momji with a melting nebari in a nanban pot with an understated namako glaze" is. Very accessible. By the way, who would put a moyogi in a nanban?

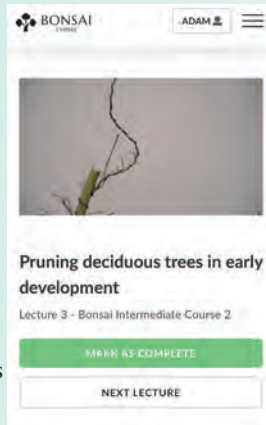




One refreshing thing, Bjorn isn't averse to trunk chopping:

The information:

both artists describe what they are doing and, most importantly, why. The chop above is for taper and movement. And after care is discussed, the how and why and when. There's one spot where Michael explains that if you do this, at this time, you'll see this result. But if it's at another time of the year, you'll see this.

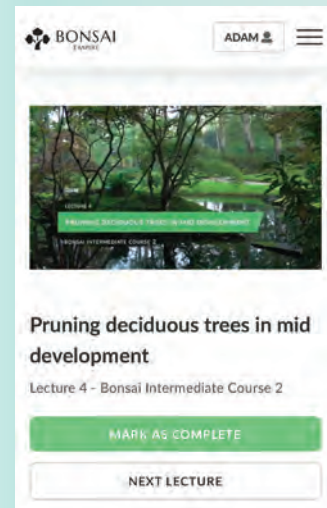


Pruning deciduous trees in early development

Lecture 3 - Bonsai Intermediate Course 2

MARK AS COMPLETE

NEXT LECTURE



Pruning deciduous trees in mid development

Lecture 4 - Bonsai Intermediate Course 2

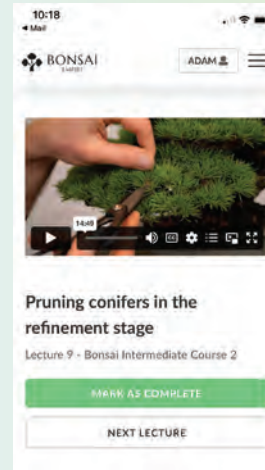
MARK AS COMPLETE

NEXT LECTURE

You can watch with the video in the text or with just the video in portrait mode or landscape and full screen mode. There is also a closed captioned mode, for when you're with company and don't want the sound to bug those near you.



Above, Michael is tackling a huge beech.



Pruning conifers in the refinement stage

Lecture 9 - Bonsai Intermediate Course 2

MARK AS COMPLETE

NEXT LECTURE

The course covers both deciduous and coniferous trees. And styles.

The pruning strategies between the two are covered, and contrasted.

If there are any drawbacks, I might have added some still photos that one could zoom in upon. You can zoom in on the video, but you have to pause it, and it's not a full zoom (where you can see the dirt under the fingernails). I'm not sure how you could structure the addition of still shots, that's above my skill level, but it would be cool.

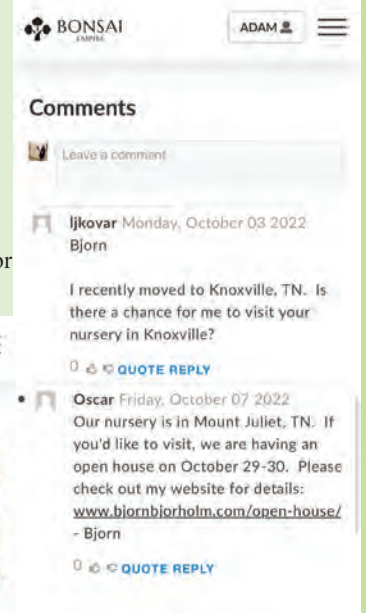
You can also ask questions and comment, and they are answered pretty well.

At the end, you get a certificate of completion, which you can print out for framing



Certificate of Completion of the Bonsai Intermediate Course 2

Course certificate You can download your Certificate of Completion here.



All in all, I'd say this course (after taking the previous courses, of course) would be a good addition to your digital library (did I mention you have lifetime access to the courses you've taken? Meaning you can go back and review what you've watched any time).

Well done Bjorn, Michael, and Oscar, and all the people at Bonsai Empire.

If you're inclined to increase your bonsai knowledge (and I recommend you learn from as many artists as you can) take a look at Bonsai Empire's courses (<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/courses>)

Now, I just might take this course: Love me some Kimura!



Kimura Aesthetics Masterclass \$79.99

5 stars 14 LECTURES - 4 HOUR

A life-time of cultivated knowledge shared by this world-renowned Bonsai master.



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



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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Meetings cont. from pg 1

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.



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