



Monthly Meeting Recap



President Lowell Tilley presented the meeting topic on "Repotting your Bonsai" to the club on January 21, 2020. He demonstrated his technique of root trimming and repotting of a red

maple tree from his collection. He stressed that healthy roots should be white/light colored and plentiful. During the repotting, you should inspect and remove roots that are circling around the pot, have become damaged due to pests, have turned dark and mushy due to root rot or have died due to exposure. Depending on what you find, develop a plan to treat the tree with insecticide/ fungicide, change your soil mix and/or watering frequency.



Trim roots that have become too large, but make sure not to remove too many of the fine feeder roots where nutrients are taken in. Surface roots which disrupt the look of the nebari, such as circling or crossing over

other roots should also be removed or encouraged to grow in a different direction. In an area where there are too few roots, try nicking a healthy root, sprinkling some root hormone and covering with soil to promote growth of new roots at that point.

Repotting is also a good time to assess the need to reposition the tree in the pot (or change to a different pot) for the best overall pleasing aesthetic presentation of the trunk and branches. It's important to use wire to firmly tie down the root ball to prevent damage to new roots when the pot is moved or transported.

Use a good quality inorganic bonsai soil that provides good water retention, drainage and aeration. The most common components for Bonsai soil mixtures are Akadama, Hadite, Pumice, Lava rock, pine bark and fine gravel (grit). You most likely have a mix you like to use. Make sure there are no open spaces under and around the roots by using a chopstick to settle the soil mix; press firmly on the soil and around the edges of the pot to prevent water from running over the edge of the pot.

Water well and keep in the shade for a couple of weeks. Although it is a common practice to trim and pot during demo/lectures, it is a good idea to let the tree recover before pruning if possible.

We will continue to discuss repotting in the next meeting. 😊

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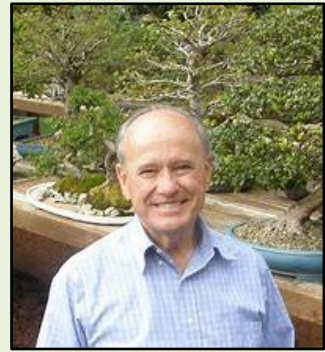
The Louisiana Bonsai Society (LBS) is a not-for-profit organization of people interested in the art of bonsai.

Those members who had paid their dues and were at the January meeting, received a free 1 gal. green mound juniper from the club. It would be interesting to have those wishing to participate, pot and style their trees and bring them back to a meeting in the next few months (how about May?) for a shohin display. Maybe have a vote for club member favorite? Start planning your tree styling!!



Mid-Winter Workshop

The club again welcomed David DeGroot as the bonsai master conducting the Mid-Winter Workshop. All 4 workshops were filled to capacity both with club members and visiting clubs, and many observers daily.



DeGroot advised each participant on styling the wide variety of high quality trees brought to each of the workshops.



Thank you to all class participants.



After a great meal on Friday evening, DeGroot presented a lecture/demo which was very informative and yielded a beautifully styled upright Juniper that was raffled on Sunday. The winner of the raffle was LBS club member Marty Miller.



Thank you to the vendors who were present to sell bonsai trees and supplies, handmade pots and bonsai soil.



Thanks also to the more experienced members who assisted other participants.



The workshop is always a very great learning experience for all in attendance.

From the President

Lowell Tilley

I lease the area right behind my house from the power company for gardening and some of my trees got loose and are growing back there. As my garden got smaller, I planted tree seedlings there to grow for bonsai and now I have more than I need. I have crape myrtles, mulberry, oaks, elms, maples, persimmons, and more, trunk sizes 4 inches and smaller. Bonsai club members are invited to come over and dig some for their collection, to use for practicing bonsai techniques, grow for sale trees, etc.

There will be a committee/board meeting starting at 5:30 p.m. before the Feb. 18th club meeting. The agenda for the committee/board meeting is as follows:

- Treasurer report
- President report
- Schedule of events and programs
- Old and new business
- Discuss beginner study group

There will be sign-up sheet at the monthly meeting for members who will volunteer to assist with the beginner study groups.

The topic for the meeting will be a general discussion about re-potting styles such as root over rock, rock plantings, different size and age bonsai. There will also be a show and tell. Bring some of your best bonsai and bonsai you are developing.

Also bring any bonsai item you have that you want to sell, trade, or give away for the swap table. We could all use practice with repotting, trimming and wiring, so take home a give-away tree to practice on.

Bonsai Calendar

There is a great article on “When to Work on your Bonsai trees” on Bonsai Empire. It’s very informative. Check it out at this link.

<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/basics/bonsai-care/advanced/calendar>

Or go to bonsaiempire.com, Home>How-To>Bonsai tree care>Advanced>Calendar.

Media Sites

Please visit and **Like** our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/LouisianaBonsai>

then new posts will appear in your newsfeed.

Also check out the website:

<http://www.louisianabonsaisociety.com>

You may even find yourself in the photo gallery.

Just for Laughs



Spotlight on Dwarf Umbrella Tree

<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/tree-species/hawaiian-umbrella>

The Dwarf Umbrella Tree, or Hawaiian Umbrella Tree (*Schefflera arboricola*) is a tropical tree with compound leaves which is very suitable for indoor bonsai.



Tree by Adam LaVigne

Although native to Australia, it is also very common in Southeast Asia. In nature it is an evergreen shrub with thin trunks without much ramification. A characteristic feature is the shape of the compound, radially arranged leaves which sit on long petioles. Scheffleras produce no hard wood and no rough bark. Wiring is not a promising technique for this species, but with constant pruning some taper and ramification can be achieved. Aerial roots can add to the character of the Dwarf Umbrella bonsai tree.

Position: Can be kept inside the house all the year round. Ideal temperatures are 65° F to 72° F. Schefflera Bonsai can tolerate low humidity and dim light, but they grow much better and produce

smaller leaves if they get much light. The temperature should not fall below 50° F. If the windows are opened for ventilation in winter, take care that the tree is not exposed to cold temperatures.

Watering: Likes moist soil which must not dry out. In winter it should be watered more cautiously, but if the tree is placed above a heating device, take good care that the root ball does not dry out.

Feeding: Use liquid fertilizer every week from spring to autumn and once a month in winter, regarding the dosing instruction. During summer you can also use solid organic fertilizer.

Pruning and wiring: Can be developed well with thoughtful pruning. A new shoot will point in the same direction as the leaf that is located directly below the cut, growing from its axil. Very healthy trees can be defoliated and at the same time the tips of the twigs should be cut off. This results in lots of new shoots, increasing ramification and smaller leaves. It produces no hard wood and their trunks and branches are likely to snap when you try to bend them too strongly. Younger shoots are more flexible and can be wired and shaped with less risk of breaking them.

Repotting: Repot every second year in spring. Be careful with the fleshy roots which break easily. Use a standard bonsai soil mix.

Propagation: Can be propagated from seeds and cuttings. Cuttings will root in soil or even in a glass of water.

Pests and diseases: The tree is not often attacked by insects. Scale can Occasionally occur. In that case use a specific oil-based insecticide

Banana Shrub

by Lowell Tilley

I bought a banana shrub, *Michelia figo*, at the Master Gardeners' plant sale several years ago. When the flood came, many projects got put on the back burner.



Recently a club member asked me about using a banana shrub for a bonsai, so, I decided it was time to put it into a bonsai pot. Here are some pictures:

I am not sure how the banana shrub will adapt to bonsai culture. The main feature of the plant is small magnolia looking flowers that smell like bananas. I had planned to put it in the landscape, but the base looked so good I decided to put it in a bonsai pot.

As a rule, you design flowering bonsai to display their flowers, so I plan to do it as a broom style with little or no wiring. It is bigger than I like, and if it doesn't work as a bonsai, I can plant it in the yard later.

I cut out some of the branches that were coming off the main fork to reduce the confusion. I sealed the cuts and will wait until it starts growing to do more pruning and trimming.



Looks like it may take a long time to get enough branches to reduce leaf size. I hope to enjoy the flowers while it is developing into a bonsai.



GCBF Study Group

The Gulf Coast Bonsai Foundation will have a bonsai study/workshop at Burden Museums and Gardens, Essen Lane, Saturday afternoon, Feb. 8, starting at 1:00 pm. We will be re-potting a bald cypress, boxwood, and trident maple. Come out and help and observe.

There are some Japanese seedlings growing in the garden that need to be dug if you are interested in getting one. This should be educational and fun. Park your vehicle at the Rural Life Museum and tell the cashier that you are there to work on the bonsai and there will be no admission charge.

Welcome to New Members

Randy Bennett
Byron Carr & Leesa Rupp
Kent Lavigne
Mike Magee
Jorge Munoz
Josh Tassin
Chris and Sharon Werner

Members are always happy to help with questions about your membership or developing your bonsai collection.

Pedro Morales' Tropical Bonsai School Begins in 2020! Hosted by the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

Instructor: The course will be taught by the internationally known bonsai artist from Puerto Rico, Mr. Pedro Morales.

Course Dates for Classes: June 12, 13, 14

Students: Members of the GNOBS will be given first preference during registration. We will make registration available to other clubs if space allows. However, participants must already be proficient in wiring and

have a good foundation in bonsai techniques. This is not a course for beginners.

Number of Students Accepted: A minimum of 8 students will be required to start a school in this area and the school will accept a maximum of 15 students

Course Description: There are 3 levels that students will work through during the 3-year school. All enrolled students will begin at **Level 1**, regardless of prior experience. The Tropical Bonsai School will require a three-year commitment from each student enrolled. The school will be held for three consecutive days each year; a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Classes will start at 9 AM each day with a break for lunch. Classes will resume after lunch and conclude between 4 and 5 PM. The school will, of course, teach you all about tropicals, with the morning hours consisting of lecture and discussions on various tropical species with a focus on horticultural information, pests, diseases, training and pruning methods required for the various species, design and care. The afternoon hours will be spent working on trees under the guidance and direction of Pedro Morales. Students will be asked to bring the same material to the classes over the three-year period so they can be guided on how to develop raw tropical stock to refined bonsai. The techniques taught and the skills acquired will help students to become proficient tropical bonsai artists. The progression and development of each tree will be discussed, evaluated and documented with photographs. At the end of the course, students will be required to enter at least one of their trees into a bonsai exhibit.

Course Material: Students will be responsible for providing their own tropical stock for the school. Mr. Morales can

provide hand-picked tropical stock, which he will bring from Puerto Rico to sell to students at their request. Each student is urged to bring at least two (2) tropicals each day to develop over the three-year course. Students would then bring the same trees back each year to build upon the work of the previous year(s). Bringing material to work on is not required and there are participants in his other schools around the world that bring no trees, but are content to take notes, listen and watch others work on their trees. However, the best way to learn is by doing hands-on work.

Cost for Enrollment in the School: The cost will be \$395 per person, per year. There will be an additional cost for the use of the Marine Corps League Hall. The Marine Corps League Hall charges \$100 per day for its use. So, the additional annual \$300 fee for the use of the hall would be equally split among participants. For example, if there are 10 participants, then each participant would pay \$30 for the use of the facilities over the 3-day period, which would bring the total cost to \$425 for each three-day session. Naturally the cost for securing the hall would increase or decrease slightly depending on the number of participants.

Enrollment: Registration for enrollment will open on Friday, February 7, 2020 at 6:00 PM, at the regularly scheduled GNOBS Club Meeting. A \$200, non-refundable deposit will be required to reserve your seat in the course. Students will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. The balance will be due at the first meeting of the Tropical Bonsai School. If we have 20 or more students wanting to participate, Mr. Morales has agreed to establish a second Tropical Bonsai School that would meet on different days.

Location: Marine Corps League Hall 2708 Delaware Ave. Kenner LA 70062. Contact GNOBS for more information or to register.

LBS Booth at Herb Day

We are planning on having a booth at Herb Day held by Herb Society of America Baton Rouge on **February 29th, 2020**, from 8am to 2 pm at Burden Museum and Gardens. (Rain date Mar. 1) We would like for members to bring some trees from their collection for display to promote our upcoming Spring Show and spark an interest in bonsai. There will be a sign-up sheet and further discussion at the Feb. monthly meeting. We'll need members to help set-up and attend the Festival to meet and greet new potential members. They are expecting about the same number of attendees as last year which was about 2000.

DID YOU FORGET TO PAY YOUR 2020 DUES?

We still have several members who have forgotten to renew their membership. We don't want anyone to lose out on the perks you receive as an LBS member. Please send a check for \$20/individual or \$25/family membership or pay at the February meeting. We don't want to lose you!!

LBS Treasurer
P.O. Box 41661
Baton Rouge, LA 70835-1661

Leather Tool Kit

LBS member Evan Pardue hand-makes these sturdy leather roll-ups for bonsai tools. The one shown here is \$50 (Tools are not included.). If you would like to have one made for yourself or as a gift, contact Evan at evan.apro@gmail.com or evan@underhillbonsai.com



And don't forget to support Underhill Bonsai Nursery in Folsom to check out their classes. <https://underhillbonsai.com>

Bonsai South

LBS member Zach Smith has been very busy lately collecting and potting trees. Visit his website <https://bonsai-south.com> to read about what he's been doing. He always has some interesting stories and info on his trees.

Coming Events

Sat. Feb 8, 1:00 pm GCBF bonsai study group, Burden Museum and Gardens

Sun. Feb 9, 2-4 pm Second Annual Flowering Tree Sale honoring Julia Hawkins' 104th birthday, at LSU Hilltop Arboretum.

A photograph of an elderly woman with white hair and glasses, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt and a white scarf with a pink floral pattern. She is holding a large branch of a flowering tree with many bright pink blossoms. The background shows a lush green landscape with trees.

"Flowers Galore for Birthday 104"

IN HONOR OF JULIA HAWKINS' 104TH BIRTHDAY, LSU Hilltop Arboretum is sponsoring its 2nd annual flowering tree sale. The Hawkins family invites you to come have cake and celebrate with Julia at the Arboretum. You can purchase a tree or make a donation to the Julia Hawkins Beautification Project for plantings at the Arboretum and along Highland Road. No gifts, please.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH
2:00 TO 4:00 P.M.
JULIA WILL GIVE A SHORT TALK ON "MAGIC MOMENTS" AT 2:30.

LSU Hilltop Arboretum
11855 Highland Road
225-767-6916
Info at: www.lsu.edu/hilltop/
Hawkins contact: margaretmatens@gmail.com
931-224-0311

Tues. Feb 18, 5:30-6:45 pm LBS Board Meeting, BR Garden Ctr.

Tues. Feb 18, 7-9 pm Monthly Meeting, BR Garden Ctr.

Sat. Feb. 22, 8 am-12 pm Sat. Study Group, Forest Community Park (Confirm with Lowell)

Mon. Feb. 24th, 8am-12 pm Mon. Study Group, Forest Community Park (Confirm with Lowell)

Sat. Feb 29, 8-2 pm Annual Herb Day, Burden Museum and Gardens