



# Alabama Bonsai Society Newsletter August 2011 Edition



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Alabama Bonsai Society

August 2011

## President's Notes for August

We will have an open discussion regarding our program content. The programs are difficult to design because of the broad differences in knowledge between the beginner and mentors. This makes it difficult to present information that is equally interesting to all.

The other problem is finding members who are willing to spend the time to gather the information and organize into a presentation format. I know that preparation for programs I presented often took 20-30 hours of research and preparation. I would like all members to think about this and come up with innovative answers. We will discuss this in an open format and all suggestions will be recorded. We will not discuss the pros and cons regarding any suggestion at this time as it tends to inhibit other's suggestions. We are looking for ideas, so please spend a little time thinking about how we can improve our programs in

general as well as topics to be considered.

### Some ideas:

Have mentors bring trees for the evening show and make a short presentation/ demonstration on a seasonally appropriate procedure on the tree they have brought to make the night show a little more educational. Scan a relevant article on bonsai procedures and post it in the member only section. Everyone could read it and then we could have an open discussion at the meeting. Scan photos of a number of trees of a certain style and species and then discuss the merits of all aspects of each tree, from the trunk, to the design, to the pot in photos presented by Power Point. The goal would be to help members develop an eye for quality bonsai. This should include member's trees and trees that would be available to the average member and only a small

portion of Koko Fu quality trees. We could also make this a part of the night show and openly discuss the aspects of a specific tree in the night show I would like to ask each of the mentors to think of a topic they would be willing to cover for a presentation and email the idea to me for developing a program.

*Jack*

**ABS Officers**

**Jack Pierce**  
*President*

**Brian Van Fleet**  
*Vice President*

**Belinda Waldo**  
*Treasurer*

**Marge Wirth**  
*Recording Secretary*

**Marty Bostick**  
*Corresponding Sec.*

**Directors:**

**John Walker**  
2011 – 2013

**Sandra Haynes**  
2009 – 2011

**Brian Van Fleet**  
2010—2012

**Upcoming Events**

**August 8th Meeting**

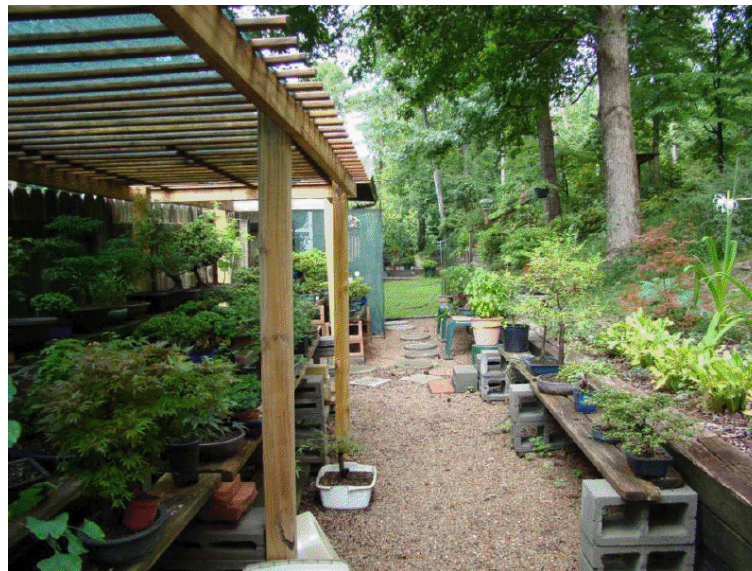
**Saturday Workshop August 13th starting at 8am**

**August Meeting—August 13th**

**6:00-7:00** Board Meeting

**7:00-7:20** President's announcements and group discussion regarding what types of programs members want and how we might provide them.

**7:20-8:00** Evening Program: "Virtual Yard Tours" Several members will share a pictorial tour of their display areas



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**Saturday Workshop—August 13th**

There will be a regular workshop Saturday, August 13 starting at 8:00 am at the BBG Potting shed.

## August Care Calendar

What to do when there isn't much to do...

August is a do-nothing kind of month for bonsai. It's still hot here in Alabama; two-needle pines are candling after last month's candle-cutting activities. Trident maples are still going strong, as are many in the Elm and 'prunus' families. Azaleas are beginning to set flower buds for next spring's display...what does that leave us with?

### Here is a list:

Continue feeding if you're using organic fertilizers; it takes a few weeks to realize the benefits of organic fertilizers and you want trees to be strong for that last growth spurt when the heat breaks in September.

Look for pests and fungal diseases. Overnight humidity begins to increase this month, which increases risk of unwanted pests and diseases. Pay close attention to pine candles and ficus trees, scale can pop up quickly and telltale signs include shiny leaves, "sooty" leaves and shoots, increased presence of ants. Aphids are also active now, keep an eye on succulent new growth on camellias and fruit trees, and even on the bark of pines. Often, the presence of ants are an indicator that you have a problem on a tree...follow them to the reason they're on your tree!

Aerate the soil surface gently with a chopstick. Constant wet-dry cycles along with moss and fertilizers can add surface tension to soil and deceive you into feeling the soil is being completely saturated, but it is possible that water is not penetrating the full volume of soil.

Scrub trunks (carefully) and pull back the moss. It will grow back quickly in September!

Rotate trees when you're on vacation. I'm bad for not rotating my trees because I like to see the front, so I turn them around before I go on vacation. The person taking care of them doesn't notice...I also built my benches so they face 3 different directions so I can still look at the fronts of them while they have a different view of the sun from a different bench.

Pinch deciduous trees one last time if you suspect they have one more flush of growth in them. Junipers, elms, Pyracantha, and tropicals will still respond to pinching now and have enough time to harden off by winter.

Photograph the collection and keep photos of trees in full-leaf to help guide winter pruning and wiring efforts.

Take pride in your collection and show your friends! Estimates put the number of bonsai enthusiasts in the US at around 15,000...we're a rare breed indeed!



*Brian Van Fleet*

# August 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> <i>Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> <i>Saturday Workshop</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>			