



Alabama Bonsai Society Newsletter October 2011 Edition



Inside This Issue

Presidents Notes	1
Meeting Agenda	2
Saturday Workshop	2
October Bonsai Care	3
October Calendar	4

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Alabama Bonsai Society

October 2011

President's Notes for October

Well we finally got some fall weather after a never ending hot summer.

Our September program was very good. Jim McLane and Leo Wagner covered the topic of growing bonsai in the ground to get more rapid growth and development.

The board approved purchasing composite decking material for the tree display stands in the Pavilion.

I made 20 stands that should never rot or break down. At the August workshop Brian Van Fleet helped me remove 7 of the old stands and supporting boxes. The old stands were water logged, rotting and generally falling apart. On the basis of the first 7 stands Brian and I determined what other sizes would be needed. I built 13 more and at the September workshop Doug Unkenholz, John Walker and Jim Cook helped install the remaining 13 stands. It is a nice improvement. Thanks guys for your help.

Byron Myrick our master potter member has agreed to give a program on bonsai pots at our January meeting. He will cover the functional aspects of various types of pots as well as the aesthetic aspects of tree-pot combinations. He also will help match your trees to various pots. This should be an excellent presentation. So bring your trees so you can see how they look in various pots. Pots will be available for purchase.

The board will be adding a new board position. Marty has been the corresponding secretary as well as developing and maintaining

our website and providing the electronics for programs. So we will need to appoint a corresponding secretary for next year so Marty can take care of all our electronic equipment and our website. We have not come up with a title yet for this "DigiteraDoo", but we will at this meeting.

Brian has done a good job with the programs this year. Thanks Brian.

Remember we will have **SWAP AND SHOP** this meeting. Brian has asked Leo to present an interesting 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

October Meeting—October 10th

6:00-7:00 Board Meeting AND A SWAP AND SHOP

7:00-7:10 President's announcements

7:10-7:20 Show and Tell

7:20-7:40 Tree Critique: Group discussion

7:40-8:00 Sewing seeds to become bonsai, presented by Leo Wagner

Upcoming Events**October 10th Meeting**

Saturday Workshop October 15th starting at 8am

Saturday Workshop—October 15th

There will be a regular workshop Saturday, October 15 starting at 8:00 am at the BBG Potting shed. Bring any trees that you have been working on as well as any that you have recently moved to a pot from growing them in the ground.

Mentors will be available to assist you with your trees.

October Care Calendar

Fall is here! This is a great time to work on evergreen trees; particularly junipers and 5-needle pines. Remove yellowing needles from pines, and crispy leaves from deciduous trees. Keep a close eye on exposure to sunlight as the sun continues to move south in the sky; as warm pots can dry out quickly.

Tree functions change significantly toward the latter part of October. In fall, photosynthesis slows down, deciduous trees "wall-off" the leaves at the petiole, and as a result leaves begin to turn colors, and the trees prepare themselves for winter by continually moving accumulated energy stores down into the roots. As this happens, deciduous trees become less and less active on top, until winter is here and it becomes safe to work on the top by wiring and light pruning.

Roots will remain active for the next several weeks, so proper watering is important. The stronger they are going into winter, the stronger they'll emerge in the spring. Remember, healthy growth is the canvass for our art.

Continue feeding through October, using feeds with higher Phosphorus and Potassium. These are the 2nd and 3rd values on fertilizer labels. For example: N-P-K values of 2-8-4, where Nitrogen is 2% by weight of total content, Phosphorus is 8% by weight of total content, and Potassium is 4% by weight of total content. Phosphorus is associated with blooms and root growth. Potassium is associated with root growth and disease resistance.

Cool nights and higher humidity can lead to fungal problems. Watch the soil surface, backside of trunks, and understory leaves and take action if any fungal problems are identified.



Watch forecasts carefully and bring tropical trees inside when nights are below 40-45 degrees F. Hardy trees need to experience the dips in temperatures to properly prepare them for winter. Begin to determine how trees will be stored away for winter when the time comes. Optimal winter storage will be in an area protected from wind, protected from direct sunlight, and protected from big swings in temperatures. More on this next month, for now, enjoy the colors and cool weather!

-Brian Van Fleet
www.nebaribonsai.com

October 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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