



# Alabama Bonsai Society Newsletter September 2011 Edition



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[AlabamaBonsaiSociety.org](http://AlabamaBonsaiSociety.org)

Alabama Bonsai Society

September 2011

## President's Notes for September

Thank you for your feedback RE: ideas for the programs at meetings. We will be starting several things at this September meeting. We will have a Swap and Shop at most meetings. So bring trees, pots, tools, etc. that you would like to get rid of. Please label each object with the Price and your name. You will be responsible for collecting any money for your sales. The club will not take a commission on any sales.

Members who would like suggestions RE: their trees should bring them for the first hour of the meeting, especially if you cannot make it to the Saturday workshops. The best way to learn bonsai is by working on your own trees under the guidance of a mentor. If you want to learn about bonsai then bring your trees to the Saturday workshops at the potting shed or to the meetings. New members in particular should bring several of their trees to every workshop.

If you have grown trees in the ground to develop them and now have a tree in a pot, please bring them for the evening show that will be about ground developed bonsai. Brian has arranged for an interesting meeting regarding growing trees in the ground. Jim McLane will give an over view and Leo will discuss preparing the ground soil for planting bonsai.

We are also introducing a "critique" program that will be part of most meetings. Members will be asked to bring trees for group discussion regarding the good and bad aspects of a specific tree. We feel that an open discussion about what makes a good bonsai will be helpful to everyone.

If any one has ideas of where the club might go to dig up trees for bonsai I would appreciate the information. We will try to set up a collection trip for some weekend this fall.

It is nearing the end of growing season and Lowes and

Home Depot typically start cutting the prices for the small junipers and other trees in gallon pots at their stores. Getting several of these provides good learning material about bonsai design. For several years I purchased about 20 of these and worked on designing shohin bonsai. The material is limiting for good bonsai but it is amazing what you can learn about design that will be helpful to you. Hey, it's all about working on your trees.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

*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****September 12th Meeting**

**Saturday Workshop Sep-  
tember 17th starting at  
8am**

**September Meeting—September 13th**

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

**7:00-7:10** President's announcements and recap of our group discussion from August

**7:10-7:15** Show and Tell: Bring a bonsai that you've grown in the ground and share the results!

**7:15-7:30** Tree Critique: Group discussion—Growing trees in the ground to become bonsai, presented by Leo Wagner, followed by Jim McLane.

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**Saturday Workshop—September 17th**

There will be a regular workshop Saturday, September 17 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.

## September Care Calendar

The home-stretch...

September is here! The heat of summer may be giving way to football weather and the dogwoods are hinting that fall is approaching. Bonsai trees have made it through the hottest days and are in the home-stretch. What are we doing with our trees now? Here is a list:

1. Continue feeding if you're using organic fertilizers into the middle of the month; it takes a few weeks to realize the benefits of organic fertilizers and you want trees to be strong for that last growth spurt. Start looking for a low-nitrogen fertilizer with higher Potassium and Potash numbers for use in October-November.
2. Watch watering very closely, it gets tricky now. Cooler nights slow evaporation, and hardened-off leaves transpire less. In August, watering was automatic—do it daily. In September, trees benefit from a slowed wet-dry cycle. Drier weather and increased sunlight will improve fall color.
3. Watch the sunlight your trees get. As the sun starts to travel lower in our sky, trees that were once under the shade of overhead trees may suddenly be exposed to very direct rays of hot sunlight.

4. Continue to look for pests and fungal diseases. Overnight humidity begins to increase this month, which increases risk of unwanted pests and diseases. Slugs are active and are drawn to organic fertilizers.

5. Removing yellowing needles from pine trees. White pines tend to shed old growth before black pines.

6. Start to remove fallen leaves from the soil surface to prevent fungal problems. Check wires and remove those that have begun to be imbedded in the bark.

Photo From [www.bonsaiwest.com](http://www.bonsaiwest.com)



Brian Van Fleet

# September 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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