



Alabama Bonsai Society



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AlabamaBonsaiSociety.org

Alabama Bonsai Society

May 2010

Presidents Notes for May

Spring has burst loose and look at the beauty of our world. Our winter was harsh and we are having one of the best displays of leafing out and flowers I have seen in years. My bonsai are looking excellent and appear healthier than I have seen them in some time. I, like everyone else have lost plants, but I hope none of your good bonsai met this end. Now is the time to turn up your efforts and do the necessary tasks that will enhance your bonsai. The last two programs at our meetings should provide information that can assist you in the process of producing an excellent bonsai. Now speaking of excellent bonsai, our show is nearing and I request that each of you provide one tree to the show display. Please complete the entry information before the next meeting and get it to James Baker or Marty Bostick. The reason for this request is to allow them time to make the display cards for your trees in the show. Remember this is our society's Bonsai Show; Not any one person, everyone is requested to participate. When you are asked by Brian or Marge to help please step up and help.

I wish to thank all the volunteers that assisted at the BBG Spring plant sale, everyone worked hard but a special thanks to Jane and Charlotte for their efforts. The BBG has posted a \$250,000.00 profit that supports the Gardens. Another important fact is our Bonsai society provided 224 volunteer

hours this month that can be used in seeking grants by the gardens.

I am requesting your input on the programs using the Audio/Video equipment. How do you see this working better? If you wish to present a program, let Jack Pierce know so he can schedule your program. The best way to learn is to teach, because in the preparation for the program you also are exposed to new knowledge that you can now share with us. The more we share our knowledge the better our bonsai become. I am challenging each of you to provide a program for our society.

The workshop with Joe Day was well received by those who choose to participate. The best thing to come out of the workshop was the potential excellent bonsai that will be developed by our members. I am of the opinion that the workshops should be self sustaining. In the future when you sign up for a workshop be prepared to pay for the workshop at that time. The workshops are financed from the funds received from attendees. We depend on the received attendee funds to cover all the cost in having a workshop. I would like to add that Patty Melton, who usually has a stump after a workshop, had a well designed forest of shimpaku after her workshop. I hope more of our members will participate in the future. This is the board provided service for our members, but if we can not get

enough participants, then the entire club bears the cost for the workshop. When we have another workshop show your pride in our society and please participate.

The Rendezvous at Brussels' is coming up, I hope everyone has considered going to this event. I have planned to attend this year and I hope you have to.

Please bring a tree in development phase to the Bonsai meeting and be prepared to discuss what steps you plan to make in order to get the tree to the next level. This process helps everyone better understand our art form and if you are making a miss-step, the members can help you to get back on track. This is an excellent opportunity to share your knowledge about Bonsai. I enjoy hearing different approaches to a problem. I hope you will enjoy this information to.

See you at the meeting,

Oscar

ABS Officers

Oscar Ethridge
President

Jack Pierce
Vice President

Belinda Waldo
Treasurer

Charlotte Ethridge
Recording Secretary

Marty Bostick
Corresponding Sec.

Directors:

Brian Van Fleet
2009 – 2012

Sandra Haynes
2009 – 2011

Bill Gabert
2008 - 2010

Upcoming Events

Monthly Meeting
May 10th

Annual Spring Show
May 15th—16th

**Rendezvous At Brussels
Bonsai Nursery**
May 28th—30th

May Program Agenda

6:00-6:50 Bring trees for consulting with mentors.

6:50-7:00 President's announcements....Oscar . NOTE START TIME IS MOVED UP

7:00-7:10 Preparation and assignments for the spring show...Bryan

7:10-7:20 Evening tree show

7:20 Main Program :

In extension of Bryan's presentation on ramification from the last meeting there will be 3- 20 minute presentations on seasonally appropriate procedures for Bonsai. The presentations will include a demonstration of procedures utilized to pinch, prune and defoliate specific trees that require these procedures at this time of the year. Live video and Power Point slides should magnify the details so that everyone can see the details. Bonsai is about what we do, daily, weekly, etc. to maintain and develop our trees and this should allow you to learn these procedures in detail. Developing ramification is one of the most important skills in creating good bonsai.

Jim McLane: Trident maples

Oscar Etheridge: Azaleas

Jack Pierce: Shimpaku

Jack

Reminder on Preparation of Trees For Spring Show

The following schedule may help you to prepare your trees for the show:

EVENT TIMING

35 days before show **28** days before show: Prepare for pre-show fertilizing. Fertilize. Perform fine wiring and detailed grooming. Prepare another supply of fertilizer. Fertilize. "Pot" accent pieces. Prepare another batch of fertilizer.

21 days before SHOW: Fertilize. Prepare another batch of fertilizer.

14 days before show: Fertilize.

7 - 2 days before show **1** day before show: Perform final detailed grooming Water thoroughly. Clean pots and stands.

PRE-SHOW FERTILIZATION. For your entries that need improvement in color, plan to feed them on a weekly basis for four weeks prior to the show, using the following information and the above tabulated data, Thirty-five days before the show, put two tablespoons of blood meal in a quart container and add one pint of water. Seal the container and shake vigorously daily for seven days. Twenty eight days before the show, strain the liquid. Add water to the strained liquid to make a gallon of the mix and fertilize your entries. Repeat this process weekly until show time. This process should make your trees look very lush and green and will not harm your moss . To improve moss, use one tablespoon of fish emulsion fertilizer to a gal lon of water and spray the moss thoroughly at 28 days and again at 21 days prior to show.

No May Workshop Due To Annual Spring Show

Our normally scheduled May workshop that would follow our Monday meeting will not be held due to our Annual Spring Show on May 15th—16th.

ABS Website News and Developments

As most of you are aware, our club website has undergone a major “facelift”. As a result, content that you may have previously bookmarked is most likely found in different places now.

As part of the ongoing evolution of our website, one of the main goals is to begin building a useful Knowledgebase of reference material from our experience Bonsai enthusiasts and Mentors in our club. Unlike before, now our website is completely indexed at all times and searchable.

Some of the additional areas that I have added recently are a complete cross-reference chart of Botanical Name -> Common Name of trees. If you search on any of the tree names by either, you should be able to find it in the reference. It also has a corresponding link in the “Areas of Interest” menu.

Other areas to note are the “Bonsai Videos” section. I have begun gathering videos from multiple internet sources that demonstrate and highlight the art of Bonsai. Lindsey Farr of Australia, for one, has produced the “World Of Bonsai” series online for the past three years. All of his content is available under the “Articles” menu under “Bonsai Videos/World of Bonsai”.

Also, Blogs or “Internet Web Logs” similar to journals or diary’s if you are not familiar with them, have also been added for other Bonsai enthusiasts and some of our own club members, such as Brian Van Fleet. As these individuals write new content and publish it to the internet, we are able to automatically receive and review it for syndication on our website as well. This will hopefully build a substantial amount of related knowledge for this Art Form over time.

Another addition that I am working on currently, is a “FAQ” or Frequently Asked Questions are of our website that others can ask questions and they can be answered publicly for others to benefit from. This will allow category-specific questions to displayed as part of our endeavor to build a knowledgebase.

Any information that you think would be of benefit on our website, please feel free to use the “Contact Us” link at the top of the website to submit your information. Your suggestions will be reviewed and possibly added for the benefit of others.

Lastly, something exciting to note, is the popularity and growth of our website on the Internet. We receive ques-

tions, comments and referring links from other Bonsai enthusiasts all over the world and it is growing daily. Our club is able to reach others such as yourselves on a much larger scale.

We have experienced a **71%** growth in website traffic since the month of March.

Spring Registration Form is also available on the website for your convenience.

It is located under the “Media” section on the right-hand side of the screen.

May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Monthly Meeting	11	12	13	14	15 Spring Show
16 Spring Show	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Brussels Rendez- vous	29 Brussels Rendez- vous
30 Brussels Rendez- vous	31					

We're on the web at:
alabamabonsaisociety.org