



*Mississippi Gulf Coast
Bonsai Society*

March 2008

www.msgulfcoastbonsai.org

Volume Seven Issue 1

Board Officers

President/newsletter editor	Patrick LaNasa	228 255 8735	msgcbs@bellsouth.net
Vice President	Mitch Thomas	985 960 2933	HylanderOB1@aol.com
Treasurer/Webmaster	Lauralee Reugger	985 630 2848	dalady@charter.net
Librarian	Lou Leger	985 892 6029	laleger@charter.net

March 12	MSGCBS Meeting and Guy Guidrey Workshop, Diamondhead, MS.
March 15	ACBS "Day of Bonsai", St. Lukes Church Hall, Mobile, AL.
April 5	Edgewater Mall Horticultural Society Show, Biloxi, MS
April 9	MSGCBS Meeting and annual elections, Long Beach, MS.
April 19	ACBS Bonsai Show, Regional Library, Mobile, AL.
April 26	Tri-Cities Bonsai Show, Pensacola, FL.
May 23-25	Brussel's Rendezvous, Olive Branch, MS.
June 19-22	ABS National Convention Learning Seminars, San Antonio, TX.

Coming Up

The **Guy Guidrey workshop**, March 12, starts at 6:30 in the Diamondhead Community Center. Those intending to bring a tree(s) please bring wire and tools as neither will be provided for this event. Unlike some workshops this will be a hands on experience. Guy will guide, suggest, support and you'll do the work. Tree Fee is \$20, viewers \$3.

The Community Center is easy to find. From the I-10 exit 16 go north about a quarter mile. The round public building is straight ahead.

A few days later a number of us will be attending the annual **"Day of Bonsai"** in Mobile. This year there will be presentations and lectures in the morn and a "Dwarf" Live Oak workshop in the afternoon. Vendors usually set up outside the main entrance. Doors open at 8. I find the easiest way there is I-10 to I-65, turn off at the first exit (US90 W) to Azalea Rd, and turn right. Less than a mile away is

Japonica (traffic light). Behind St. Lukes church is the parking area and hall. The date is Saturday, March 15th.

On April 5th our small club will be part of the **Gulf Coast Horticultural Societies Show**. This will be held at the Edgewater Mall in Biloxi (10-5). This is the third time we'll be strutting our stuff in the mall. Also, we'll be having a tree sale as a fund raiser. The owners will decide on the price of the trees, treasurer will tag and the club will receive 50% of each sale. There are 3 tables set aside for this, so tree owners are asked to display no more than 10 of their items at any one time. Members can call me anytime if there are questions about the bonsai show or sale.

The MSGCBS club meeting on April 9, at 6:30 and will be at MGCCC in Long Beach.

Addresses-

Dia. Community Center- 5300 Diamondhead Circle, Diamondhead
 St. Lukes Church, 1050 Azalea Rd, Mobile
 MGC Community College, Ed. Multi-Purpose Bldg., Espy and 'B' Sts.,
 Long Beach

The Garden and Patio Show at the Coast Coliseum in Biloxi was the first of the year, the second and third G&P shows will be held in Hattiesburg and Jackson, each a week apart. This is a time honored strategy of the Mississippi Nursery and Landscaping Association that compensates for the climate and weather changes up and down the state. It also allows for exposure to new potential customers at the brink of spring in each locale. Spring sales by nurseries, both retail and wholesale being the bread and butter of the industry.

The three day event draws a nice crowd. Interest in plants from Redwoods to Black Susans peek in spring. Some of the association members use more than one booth to display their products, services or live plants. It's a logistical challenge to the managers as well as the folks carting the materials, some as far away as north of Jackson. On Thursday, the night before the event, one unloading flatbed semi had piles of snow and ice on it.

My extended body mini van came in handy as it was filled nearly to the roof with plants, stands, display boards, tables and a garden cart. Buck Lawrence volunteered to help me set up the afternoon before the show started. It's always surprising how much can fit into a 10x10 booth. On different days our club members were on hand to answer questions about the display and the art of bonsai. Some wanted more information about our club and bonsai in general and eagerly answered questions on the sign up sheets. A sample of our newsletter and details of the upcoming calendar of events were either mailed or emailed out by the following weekend.

Most asked the familiar question we've heard before " *how old is that one?*". Surprise is easily read from their faces when we give the speculative answers or the occasional accurate ages of the trees. Always a pleasure to see the unintended and welcomed compliment to us when they presume the tree, forest or landscape is much older.

Another common presumption heard was all or most of our members are experts, masters and advanced bonsai artists and are seeking more experts, etc. in the club. That we wouldn't have much interest or time for silly questions, feeble attempts at art or maintenance of bonsai. Some were assured by our answers and some weren't. Some were mildly curious, some walked by without noticing the booth, the members or trees. At times the daily 9-10 hours seemed longer than they really were.

Was it worth it? You tell me. Some 47 persons asked for more information by writing their names and addresses on a sign in sheet. Experience from our past involvements in the Garden and Patio Show would indicate to all a resounding *yes*. We've received more new members from this event than all other sources combined-

Newspaper and television publicity, bonsai exhibitions at the mall and word of mouth. You bet we'll be back next year with a different display, different presentation or lecture and probably some new members joining our booth.

This year the backbone of our small club was evident by the enthusiasm and encouraging attitude of members like Buck Lawrence, Bob Goodman, Lauralee Reugger, and Lou Leger, Mitch Thomas and new member Joshua Richey. These qualities come across easily to the inquiring and curious public. Thanks again guys.

On the subject of new members we have two new bonsai enthusiasts, Dr. Jim Coveyhouse and Dorothea J. Paradies who just joined our MSGC Bonsai Society. Looking forward to sharing whatever information, resources of the club and its member's bonsai experience with the both of you.



Photo by Joshua Richey
L-R Lauralee Reugger, Patrick LaNasa and Lou Leger



L-R Mitch Thomas and Buck Lawrence

Edgewater Horticultural Societies Show

- Saturday, April 5th

This show is almost upon us. This will be the last newsletter you'll see before we get together at the Mall. It's great to know where you stand and what's to be expected of you when timing and cooperation are especially important. Some of us will be in early (7 AM) to set up and organize the tables, erect the backboards and place the bonsai and related material. All those with trees for display or plants for sale need to be in by 8 AM. We'll use the Beach Blvd. Mall entrance for unloading and loading. Our set up will be nearest that entrance close to the carousel. All other members are encouraged to be there by 9AM. The mall officially opens at 10AM, however, shop clerks, mall walkers and people off the street stop by and asks questions before that. All of us with trees, stands, etc. could use some help unloading. If any of you can come in earlier lend a hand it would be appreciated.



L-R Keith Eleutrius, Mitch Thomas and Bob Goodman

Three guys working on a bonsai hopeful at the '07 Horticultural show.

Woody Plant Disease Control

Over time control of diseases of bonsai, both field and pot grown will probably include before and after actions.

Before the disease has an opportunity to attack plant tissue is **prevention**. After the fact, after the disease is evident is **application**. Sometimes called "control" for convenience. However, in truth, the control is temporary and/ or partial.

Prevention is cost effective. Application of pesticides is costly. Many are by-products of the oil industry and nearly all modern fungicides are the result of years of expensive research and lengthy trials.

(Any who grow a lot of bonsai or for any length of time may eventually use a fungicide)

This short article will concern itself with *prevention*, "control" needs more space.

There are a number of preventative steps that can save the life of a bonsai, or benchful or field of the woody hopefuls. These steps include? Work ethics, records and persistence.

Positive Practices for Disease Prevention-

Exercise plant vigor through proper fertilizing and watering- Proper fertilization of plants includes seasonal application of the three primary nutrients- nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. The secondary nutrients are just as important but in smaller proportions- calcium, magnesium, sulfur. Micronutrients are iron, zinc, manganese, copper, nickel, molybdenum and cobalt. (Note: when a container of fertilizer states *Complete Fertilizer* it has all 3 major nutrients- Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium. If the container states it's a *Balanced Fertilizer* it has all major and all micronutrients). Unlike plants growing in the ground where roots have a larger area to consume nutrients our trees in pots have stricter limitations. Follow the label but fertilize and record. The tree roots absorb these dissolved fertilizers with the aid of water. Organic or inorganic, powder or granular, water is the conveyer. Proper watering disperses fertilizer to the feeder roots area. Fertilizer in the right place and time will prevent many diseases by vigorous growth.

Timely Transplanting and Pruning- Diseases can result easily from the accumulative effects of transplanting too early or too late in the appropriate season for temperate or tropical trees. Pruning past the vigorous growing season, pruning more than 30% of the foliage, defoliating a weakened tree all add up to a weak tree.

Soil Selection - preventing root rot starts with selecting a porous soil mix, a soil with organic and inorganic material. In this part of the country inorganic materials available are turface, lava rock, hadite. Avoid garden soil, top soil, cat litter and fine sand. Bark is preferred in this part of the country as an organic component over peat moss because of the almost constant high humidity and the frequent rains.

Sanitation - The two most overlooked areas of sanitation practices are tools and pots. We need to immerse our containers and slabs in a disinfectant, i.e. 10% bleach solution and dip or wipe our tools with alcohol or Lysol.

Stress - there is an inherent stress in aged trees as compared with younger trees. This stress is increased with trees in shallow containers. If these trees could think and feel they'd be concerned when we don't come around with water, fertilizer, don't repot when roots are strangling the tree or move our stock when seasonal shade or winter freezes demand it. Worry, even, when we go on a trip and leave a neighbor to look after them.

Any of these neglects, these practices, will contribute to the weakness of the tree. It is the weak tree that attracts fungus and bacteria that may be lying relatively harmless in or on top of your soil.

This article is intended not only for the new bonsai grower but those of us who have sadly experienced the lost of one or more of our trees from one or more of the above principles and practices. We can prevent many plant diseases through awareness and consistent care. Records are a good assist but knowing why your tree died and accepting the responsibility will help your other trees thrive.

Patrick LaNasa

This is the last newsletter issue for 2007 MSGCBS Members

Mississippi Gulf Coast Bonsai Society

Membership Application Form

Send this page to the treasurer with your dues for the April 2008- April 2009 year.

Make checks payable to Treasurer Lauralee Reugger,

102 Big Pine Drive, Covington, La., 70433.

Individual membership \$25 (*circle choice*) Family membership \$30 (*circle choice*)

Name(S) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

The officers and all MSGCBS members thank you for your participation