



Mississippi Gulf Coast Bonsai Society

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www.msgcbonsai.com

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Events

Sept. 10, 6:30 - MSGCBS Meeting, MGCCC, Long Beach, Multi Purpose Bldg. "*Approach Grafting*" by Lowell Tilley.

Oct. 8, 6:30 - MSGCBS Meeting, MGCCC, Long Beach, Multi Purpose Bldg. "*Bonsai Diseases and Insect Injury*" by Patrick LaNasa.

Nov. 12, 6:30 - MSGCBS Meeting, MGCCC, Long Beach, Multi Purpose Bldg. Program unannounced.

Nov. 15 - Louisiana Bonsai Societies annual convention at Bonsai Northshore, Covington, La.

2009 Known Events

May 2, 9-3 - Gulf Coast Regional Bonsai Exhibit, Westwood, Ft. Walton, FL

June 19-21 - Bonsai Clubs International annual convention, Botanical Garden, City park, LA

Notice-

"Am looking to change our webhost to one that provides a few more up-to-date services (i.e. supports Front Page 2003) since the one we use now does not and is causing some problems. At present, we are using DirectNIC which costs us ~ \$27yr. I am proposing a change to StartLogic which costs~ \$50 yr. and does support Front Page 2003 extensions. Would like a vote, yea or nay as to whether or not you approve. Please respond. Thanks, Lauralee "

The above notice was emailed on August 25. Hopefully by now, all members have voted one way or another. If not, please respond at your earliest to Lauralee, our president, dalady@charter.net or 985 630 2848.

Updating-

The Azalea City Bonsai Society has announced the date for their annual bonsai auction this year. Mark your calendars for **October 11**. This event has consistently made affordable bonsai material and containers available to bonsai enthusiasts since I've been bidding, about seven years now. Also a social gathering as members from the clubs in Ft. Walton, Pensacola, New Orleans, Mississippi and of course, Mobile catch up on the latest. Joe Day lists the schedule as follows- The event will be held at St. Lukes, Azalea Rd/Japonica, Mobile. Doors open at 4 PM, viewing at 5 PM and the auction starts at 6 PM.

Some confusion recently, regarding the date of the upcoming LABS annual 'convention', sometimes called the La. Day of Bonsai. This was first announced by some as November 8th. The correct date is **November 15** as I stated in our August newsletter. Heard rumors of a workshop but not sure about the details for this event. Called Guy Guidrey who is the host but was told he's not available to come to the phone. Left a message for a return call, still waiting.

Meanwhile in Mississippi, we're looking forward to Lowell Tilley from Baton Rouge to present his "Approach Grafting" lecture at our September meeting in Long Beach. Lowell has made the trek from the capitol of Louisiana to our neck of the woods at least 3 times. I especially liked his take on the live oak style presentation way back when.

Announcements-

The Twenty-Fourth Diamondhead Arts and Crafts Show will have booths outside the county club building on **September 20 and 21**. Generally the booths display paintings, various crafts and other arts. In the past a small number sell plants. Always a good turn out, some years bus service from the Diamondhead shopping center to the location is available. Fast Food will be on hand. The time is 9:30 to 5PM on both days.

The cost for setting up (your own) booth or tent (13'x13') is \$125. Program publicity and over night security is included. So, what does this have to do with our bonsai club, you ask.

Most of us in this club raise only enough bonsai that we can take care of. Well, I've been told that. Some, more ambitious grow more trees than they can handle. We're not commercial growers, but, if we grew a few extra trees this event might be a venue to lighten one's load and pay for some expenses.

Suggestion - a number of members organize a group and share the 'tent expense', grow an X number of trees and participate in the next year's Art's and Craft's Show. If this is worthy of discussion I'll have the flyer with me at the September meeting.

Diamondhead Continuing Education, starting the week of **September 28- October 4**, will have their fall adult education classes. The costs are \$40 plus instructor's fees. I volunteered to give a six week, basic bonsai course, Thursday mornings, 9-10:30. The instructor fee in my case is for materials, \$30. If any are interested in taking this, see me at the meeting for a brochure/ application.

Donna Banting (hope I've got this right), emailed the date for the BCI convention in City Park is June 19, 20 and 21. Nothing here on details- cost, program, etc. s

Fungicide and Sealers—

At our various meetings the subject of sealant applications has been discussed a number of times. Since the world market has a long list of commercial wound sealers for our trees the choices could be confusing.

It is not my intention to cover the subject of wound sealing in this newsletter. It may be more appropriate to include pruning techniques and timing. Which trees need sealing immediately (most) to trees that don't (pine) and what product is adequate and which is superior could take awhile. For a beginner's list of commercial sealants available check out the website of Dallas Bonsai, click on chemicals and you may find 14 choices. Some are called pruning paint, wound sealers, sealants. In the past I've used three types with mixed results. When using these sealers we may have one or two objectives. The most important purpose is to seal the cambium, keeping the xylem and phloem cells on the edge of the wound from drying out. This is the thin area enveloping the trunk or branch or root just beneath the bark (yes, roots have bark as well). Further into the branch or trunk is deadwood. Since the wood is dead it doesn't necessarily need a sealer. But in many cases a protectant. Possibly the best protectant for the wound (beyond the cambium) is lime-sulfur. This product kills fungi and bacteria on contact. This works great with conifers. And, when reapplied often, in most climates, will keep fungi and bacteria from reappearing. When applying lime-sulfur (full strength) remember to be careful not to drop any on exposed roots or spill over into the cambium area. The caustic preparation will burn the live tissue and further delay the healing over. As for species of trees that need immediate sealing I volunteer all breeds of azaleas to be at the top of the list followed closely by maples. Neglect on our part could cause branches, even developed primary branches to die.

I stated earlier I had mixed results with 3 types of sealer. The first I used being the paste, clay like substance, sold in jars with a 100% Japanese label. Never got around to translating the label. Rumor has it the compound contains a growth stimulant as well as a sealer. It worked great in California, no complaints from me or anyone else I knew then. However, here in our greenhouse 8B climate, moisture, humidity, rain, etc, seeps through the deadwood and remains

under the paste. Just as mold and mildew (homegrown fungi) like to form in dark, damp crevices and spaces in our bathrooms and kitchens so the same can happen under the paste on our trees. The second sealer I tried comes from a green tube. Seals well but is a bear to remove. After a week or more the sealer has a consistency of hardened silicone glue. Yes, I know it could be my technique. However, wuss that I am, I tried a third type, called TOPSIN M. Available in a tube, orange in color (ages darker and almost clear) and more fluent when applied. No rumor here on the fungicide. The ingredients are Thiophanate-methyl, poly vinyl acetate, paint and water.

An effective fungicide in a wound sealer has been a need in my backyard for some time. For the last four years I've been up against fungus on shari or other wounds on bougainvillea, azaleas and crepe myrtles. No matter what technique I used, especially on the large cuts to collected crepes and bougainvilleas black coloring reappeared in a very short time. Been using the new stuff since May with good results. Instead of just sealing the cambium area on bougainvilleas and crepes I must seal the entire wound with Topsin in this climate. It's not my intent to make shari on non-coniferous material but is sometimes necessary to make large cuts especially with collected aged material.

Last, about the fungicide ingredient in Topsin M. Since the entire label is in Japanese and my reading glasses made somewhere else I asked member George Stevens to ask his acquaintance who reads the language to translate. To eat more humble pie George tells me the ingredients are listed in English on the instruction sheet inside the box (which I had immediately discarded last May). Some bonsai enthusiasts still use Elmer's Glue and even lip balm. To each his own.

Pesticide Source

Since the CO-OP on Highway 49 closed last year we've been unable to purchase serious pesticides locally. The home improvement centers and discount stores have never carried a full line and close out what they do carry for Christmas ornaments, etc. starting as early as September of each year.

We now have a source, Coastline Farm and Garden Supply on Dedeaux Rd. in Gulfport, phone is 832 5555. The manager informs me they use most of the same chemicals suppliers as the Coop used.

Unless quoted, all text are mine, sorry no photos this issue.

Patrick LaNasa