



October 2008

Volume 7 Issue 8

Events

- October 2 - First day of a 6 week Basic Bonsai course, 9AM, Bldg 4444, Diamondhead
Call me for details 228 255 8735
- October 8 - MSGCBS meeting, 6:30, MGCCC, Long Beach. Program "Winterization of Bonsai".
- October 11- ACBS (Mobile) annual bonsai/bonsai related material, 6PM, St. Lukes School
Viewing at 5PM. Donations eagerly accepted
- October 25 - Bonsai Backyard Tour (Mobile), Joe Kuhn and Joe Day's houses, 10 AM
- November - 1st week, tentative demo/ workshop by Jim VanLandingham. Location unannounced
- November 8 - LABS "Day of Bonsai", 10AM, Bonsai Northshore, Covington, La. (**New Date**)
See www.bonsainorthshore.com for info
- November 12 - MSGCBS meeting, 6:30, MGCCC, Long Beach, "Approach Grafting" by Lowell Tilley
- November 27 - Thanksgiving Day
- December 10 - MSGCBS meeting, 6:30, MGCCC, Long Beach.
- December 25 - Christmas Day

New Year Highlights

- March 14 - ACBS "Day of Bonsai", St. Lukes School, Mobile, AL
- March 19-23 - Florida State Convention, Orlando, Florida. See www.bsf-bonsai.com for info.
- May 2 - Gulf Coast Regional Bonsai Exhibit, Westwood, Ft. Walton, Florida
- June 19 -21 Bonsai Clubs International Annual Convention, Botanical Garden, City Park, New Orleans, La.



What we got cookin

This small bonsai club, in an attempt to stand up, walk and grow in this digital 21st century, will take another positive step in that direction. Members at our September meeting enthusiastically agreed to raise funds specifically for a digital projector. Raise needed funds by selling pre-bonsai and bonsai related materials at two functions in '09. The annual horticultural show in Biloxi (April event) and a new venture for us, the Arts and Craft show in Diamondhead (September event).

Why a digital projector? To educate, to inspire, add interest and to replace the era of educational slide programs and overhead projectors which have had their day. This is somewhat akin to steamships replacing sailing ships. We owe immense gratitude to the world wide explorers, admirals, adventurers and merchant captains who used these wooden vessels- discovering new lands, defending our countries and transporting settlers and cargo. The steamship made those ventures in galleons, naval cutters and schooners obsolete.

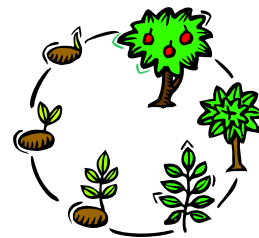
The digital projector made the slide projector obsolete. The almost limitless ability to edit content, to add/ remove text, its size, color, style, and insert photos, charts, graphs with ease and speed sold me. Instead of a box or two of carousel slides to lug around and/or other heavy equipment we'd have a small CD disc. The other part of this required technology is a laptop computer. Yes, another spendy investment. We can forestall this expense by members volunteering to bring their own. At present, there are at least three Members willing to bring in their laptop for a program. Lauralee brought her laptop, as did George Stevens and Joshua Richey for our September meeting in order for the Members to see a Power Point program of "Diseases and Insects on Bonsai Trees". We're indebted to Joshua as he supplied his own digital projector for this occasion.

Arrival of a club projector may be months away, but, it's not too early to start developing programs for bonsai education and interest.

If your computer word processor is using OFFICE then chances are you have Power Point included. Regardless of what word processor, WORD PERFECT, etc. the POWER POINT Viewer can be downloaded from Microsoft. Com at no charge. This is for viewing only. As club programs are developed and/or some exchange agreement with other clubs materializes, this could become a "Self Study" at home course. With enough visuals and printed guides to each topic for Members, interest, education and a handy reference for bonsai history, design and maintenance readily available, would likely produce better bonsai enthusiasts. But how?

One way that might work is to add the POWER POINT program CD's and printed guides to the club library. The Member would check out the materials (as the library books) and return them the following month.

There may be better approaches. You may have one or two. That's what meetings are for. In the meantime *Tip o'Hat* to the Members present who approved this project last month. pl



The Next Growing Season

Sure, it's only October and months away from the new bonsai growing season. We have plenty of leisure time to gather soil ingredients, pots and make preparations for our bonsai collections. Months and months. I sang that song as late as February one year. That was the year my only source for lava rock evaporated. That source being a nursery in Mobile. In truth it didn't exactly evaporate. However, the doors were closed, the business shut down and any lava rock supply in Mobile was non-existent. Ouch!

Coastal Mississippi, New Orleans and the Northshore haven't carried lava rock as yet.

Some of the Mobile bonsai club Members had already switched to Turface. Some accepted it as a substitute and some pined (excuse the pun)for lava.

Turface, as most of us know, is an inorganic substitute for the lava rock. It has proven available, affordable and suitable. Unlike a similar appearing product, cat litter or oil/ garage absorbent, Turface is a high fired clay. The product is used extensively at sports fields, golf courses, landscaping and seeding operations. It is very absorbent and has a breakdown ratio of 3.5% over 20 years.

In July of '05 at the Florida state bonsai convention it was THE inorganic component in soil mixes for the two workshops I participated in.

More than two years would pass before I found a new location for lava rock. This time in Pensacola (that and other addresses appear at the end of the article).

So now, my general soil mix is 25% lava, 25% Turface and 50% pine. Talk of other mixes will wait for another article.

As for preparing for the next growing season I'm there. Ingredients on hand + extra. What pots I'll need I expect to pick up a container or two at the October 11 Mobile auction. So, Mother Nature, I've seen your '08 hurricanes, bring on the spring.

Sources

Pine bark - Beatline Nursery
7091 Beatline Rd
Long Beach, MS
228 863 1119

Turface (Pro Line)- John Deere Landscapes
4123 Govt. Blvd
Mobile, AL
251 666 5222

Lava rock - Farm and Nursery Mart
7460 Pine Forest Rd
Pensacola, FL
850 944 5700

Least expensive pot source (legal stuff)
Dallas Bonsai Garden
(Fred Meyer)
972 487 0130

www.dallasbonsai.com

Last note on Turface - Particle size of this product is consistent to the type- **MVP** being the coarsest and **Pro Line** being the smaller of the two. pl



Bonsai beyond the borders

Alabama –

Oct. 11 Annual ACBS bonsai auction at St. Lukes, Azalea and Japonica Sts., Mobile. Viewing at 5PM, auction at 6PM. This is a fund raiser for the Azalea City Bonsai Society.

- October 25- Same Folks, backyard tours of the bonsai collections of Joe Kuhn and Joe Day. Tour starts 10AM at Joe K.'s place, 7480 Brockton Ln, Mobile. Next, Joe D's place, 960 Wesley Av.

Louisiana -

Nov. 8 LABS "Day of Bonsai 2008", Covington. The event is located at the Bonsai Northshore site, 13760 Hwy 190, 10AM-6PM. Cost is \$12 per person. Bonsai demonstrations from morning to afternoon by 3 local bonsai artists. Also a contest for the Vaughn Banting award, hourly raffles and peoples choice competition. Then there is the food thing- Roast and red gravy served over pasta, french bread, salad and fruit and desserts, soft drinks, beer and wine. All inclusive. What diet? There are more details. See www.bonsainorthshore.com pl

Famous Last words - Voltaire gave us "I do not believe in what you say but I will defend to my death your right to say it". Years later overheard on his deathbed while looking at a lamp that flared at his bedside, "The flames already?"



Photo credit George Stevens

Simpson Stopper- One of the bonsai trees you'll see if you take the 'backyard tour' of Joe Day's place on Saturday, October 25.

Normally a small tree of 20-30', this member of the Myrtle family, *Myrcianthes fragrans*, has peeling bark, small aromatic leaves as well as flowers and fruit that attract birds, bees and butterflies. The shape, style, size and care of this particular tree attracts bonsai enthusiasts. pl



Simpson Stopper fruit, photo from the internet

Winterization (topic for October Meeting)

Winterization will be the topic of discussion at the October 8th meeting. Winter, or some semblance of what we call winter, is not that far off. While there is no rush to begin moving plants about, we ought to be making plans and thinking about our strategy for when that time does come about. Do you have a large collection of bonsai or a small one? Which trees need to be protected? Do you have a dedicated place like a greenhouse with adequate space to provide protection for your trees from the cold? Or, will you be adapting an other-use space (screen porch, garage, alcove) to house your trees? Besides repositioning your trees, what other factors do you need to consider? Do you fertilize or not fertilize? Should you provide artificial light? How about air circulation, a heat source, or humidification? Can you do some repotting? And that wire that is still on your tree, should you remove it? These are some of the things we need to start planning for now. Give this some thought, and bring your ideas and or questions to the meeting. All of us has something to contribute whether we realize it or not. Lauralee Reugger

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