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## **Events**

*December 6 - Christmas Party and dig at the home of Lauralee and Lou, Covington, La.  
 December 25 - Christmas Day*

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***Happy New Year !***

*January 14 - MSGCBS regular meeting*  
*January 17 - Bonsai Workshop, La. Bonsai Society of Baton Rouge.*  
*February 4 - Ben Oki Workshop at ACBS, Mobile, AL., BSF master's Tour.*  
*February 27, 28 - MS. Nursery and Landscaping Asso. Patio and Garden Show, Biloxi*  
*March 1 - " " " " " "*  
*March 14 - ACBS "Day of Bonsai", St. Lukes School, Mobile, AL.*  
*March 19-23 - Bonsai Societies of Florida Convention, Orlando, FL. [www.bsf-bonsai.com](http://www.bsf-bonsai.com)*  
*April 18 ACBS Annual Bonsai Exhibit, West Regional Library, Mobile, AL*  
*May 2 - Gulf Coast Regional Bonsai Exhibit, Westwood, Ft. Walton, FL.*  
*June 11-14 - ABS Learning Seminars, Boise Idaho [ABS@pfmbonsai.com](mailto:ABS@pfmbonsai.com)*  
*June 19-21 - BCI Annual Convention, City Park, New Orleans, La.*

Unless noted all photos and articles are the credit or blame of the newsletter editor, Patrick LaNasa.  
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## ***It Happened Last Month-***

### ***A Bonsai Workshop from Vero Beach, Florida-***

The coordinating efforts of Lee Vanderpool of Ft. Walton, FL. resulted in a successful Tri-State tour of renown bonsai artist, Jim Vanlandingham of Jim Smith's Dura-Stone Bonsai Company in Vero Beach, Florida. Tour stops included Ft. Walton, Pensacola, Mobile and our Long Beach, Mississippi. A busy schedule. Bonsai enthusiasts came to this workshop from as far away as Baton Rouge and St. Bernard Parish, La. for guidance on bonsai design and concepts.

Nearly all attendees brought trees for critiquing, design pruning and in a couple of cases front- back changes. A natural teacher, Jim had 100% attention, 100% of the time. One member remarked, in his experience, "this was the best event ever hosted by MSGCBS".

Here's hoping this tour will repeat in 2009.



**Jim VanLandingham and Lowell Tilley working on a Japanese yew. Behind them on the whiteboard are Jim's guidelines and approach to designing a great bonsai- *Roots, Spread, Taper, Line, Triangle (scalene) and Branches.***



**Buck Lawrence looks on as Jim studies one of his recurring themes, the importance of branch placement.**

In three months this bonsai club will observe its seventh anniversary. Compared to most of the established and seasoned Bonsai Societies on the Gulf Coast this organization has much to learn and much to organize. We recognize the former need by choosing pertinent programs, programs on the beginner and intermediate levels. When affordable we've also invited Bonsai Masters and Advanced Artists such as Ben Oki, Roy Nagatoshi, Ron Martin, Randy Bennett, Ted Matson, Joe Day, Guy Guidrey and now Jim VanLandingham. On the theme of organization, though, we're using hand tools almost exclusively in the twenty-first century.

We are involved with the annual Coast Coliseum Patio/ Garden Shows and the Edgewater Horticultural Shows. One club activity attracts members and the other an opportunity to display our best bonsai trees as well as a minor fund raiser. The only other success that comes to mind is the annual Christmas party. We need more club activities, not only to grow, but survive as an organization devoted to bonsai. A design contest? Backyard tours? Group tours? Bonsai digs? A study group? What would you suggest? Your input has value. Express your ideas at the meetings. And, just as important, we'll need to participate in these activities.

## ***It Happened Last Month – Part II***

### ***Fusion Grafting***

On November 12, two days after Jim Vanlandingham's visit, the club, in lieu of a business meeting, invited Lowell Tilley for a presentation on grafting. This being the third time Lowell has been on this club's stage.

Some of us have tried grafting- approach or needle methods to improve branch placement. The jury is still out on our successes with this particular work (I know, we're kind to ourselves).

So when Lowell suggested a different method for a completely different reason - enlarging a trunk, adding taper and creating nebari all in one swoop by grafting we were interested.

This method or system incorporates a number of saplings of the same species to be attached and held in place until fusion of the trunks is matured - saplings and the target trunk.

Lowell also covered needle grafting and growth patterns of trees that affect the grafting process.

Thanks Lowell. Two trips from Baton Rouge in two days, we appreciate it.

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The available whiteboard and three dimensional graphics of finished and works in progress helped us understand Lowell's approach to *Fusion Grafting*.



Two examples of Lowell's work



Photo by Larry Paul

***Also in November*** - The Basic Bonsai Techniques class of Diamondhead Continuing Education finished up its six week course. Although open to the public at large only Diamondhead residents participated. L-R George Stevens (MSGCBS newest member), Marilyn Blier, Audrey Gallagher, Penelope Bullock, Audrey Cantrelle, Kathy Paul and instructor Patrick LaNasa