



*Mississippi Gulf Coast
Bonsai Society*

April 2009

www.msgcbs.com

Volume eight Issue 1

President/ Program Director	Lauralee Reugger	985 630 2848	dalady@charter.net
Treasurer/ Librarian	Lou Leger	985 892 6029	laleger@charter.net
Newsletter Editor	Patrick LaNasa	228 255 8735	msgcbs@bellsouth.net
Show Chairman	Joshua Richey	228 374 3563	richeyjl@cableone.net

(Post on any friendly Fridge Door)

April 8 - MSGCBS Meeting. Program "Native Trees and Bonsai"
 April 18 - ACBS bonsai exhibit. W. Regional Library, Mobile, AL.
 April 25 - Edgewater Mall Horticultural Societies Show, Biloxi, MS. 10-6 (one day)
 May 2 - Gulf Coast Regional Bonsai Exhibit, Westwood, Ft. Walton, FL.
 May 2 - LABS Annual Meeting, Shreveport, La. www.shreveportbonsai.org
 May 13 - MSGCBS meeting and annual elections
 May 22-24 - Brussel's Rendezvous, Olive Branch, MS
 * June 11-14 - ABS Learning Seminars **Event cancelled**
 June 19-21 - BCI Convention, City Park, New Orleans, LA. www.bci2009.com

Unless noted, all photos and articles are the credit or blame of the newsletter editor, Patrick LaNasa. Send daises or daggers to msgcbs@bellsouth.net.

MSGCBS Exhibit-

Our club will display bonsai, viewing stones and accessory plants on the 25th of April from 10-6. Eight black clothed tables have been reserved by the Edgewater Mall Management for this display.

Also four tables have been set aside for our bonsai and related items sale. The public can expect to view for purpose bonsai, pre bonsai, some pots and about twenty accessory plants.

As stated earlier the purpose of the sale is to raise enough funds to purchase a digital projector. The projector will go a long ways to improving our educational programs.

By now each of us is aware of what we can donate to the plant sale. If the item considered is related to bonsai and can be spared bring it the morning of the 25th. The mall is open for set-up at 7 AM.

Thinking back to our first bonsai exhibit, spring of 2005, the membership had some heavy hitters displaying trees. Leo Fortner, Dave Chauvin and Frank Smith to name a few. All members of MSGCBS. We were short on stands and big trees.

I requested additional stands from Joe Kuhn and he came over from Mobile to help us out. There are some who make a difference in bonsai- in their club, inter-relations with other clubs and the art itself. Joe K. is one of those guys.

That experience is remembered also because in all three exhibits at the mall he is the only non-member of MSGCBS to have traveled to Biloxi to view our shows.

Hopefully we all have pots and stands ready. Preparing the tree, pot and stand is in another article.

Our show chairman, Josh Richey, will be talking to us at the meeting about particulars of the display. A tree/ stone count next Wednesday should preclude having way too much material (or, not enough). Ideally each of us should display at least one worthy item.

Gulf Coast Regional Bonsai Exhibit

Not sure if that's the accurate title. Sometimes it's called the Tri-Cities Bonsai show- named for the originators of the event- Ft. Walton, Pensacola and Mobile.

As of two years ago we were invited to participate. The past two years in Mobile ('07) and Pensacola ('08) three or more of us journeyed to those locations.

The meeting next Wednesday will be our last opportunity to coordinate some kind of carpool for this event in Ft. Walton on the second day in May.

Since this bonsai happening is free, with the best trees from four bonsai societies on display I'm hoping there will be more than three MSGCBS members participating.

Here are some details- The location in Ft. Walton is the same as the last time- Westwood Retirement., 1001 Mar Walt Drive. Little concern for the weather this time as the event is all indoors. Sodas and coffee available all day.

My last trip there ('06), as a ACBS member, I rode with the two Joes from Mobile and we had lunch at Logan's (?) or another good steak house down the street. So if you're hungry for something besides snacks no one will be watching the clock.

Plants, pots and supplies will on sale. Lynn Fabian is coordinating the event w/ the other clubs. She is requesting a tree count, which is reasonable, so X number of tables can be set up. If possible I would like to get this at our meeting next week as again our last opportunity to meet before the event. So, Wednesday we're looking for a driver count, rider count and tree count.

These two exhibits are our last 'hurrahs' for the season. Then after we're tourists in the bonsai southland seeing, judging and wishing.

If you haven't participated in a regional show suggest you take this opportunity. Meet and inter-relate with other growers- they have common interests and common problems.

Preparing for a Bonsai Exhibit

Each of us have, in some way or another, already started preparations for this or another bonsai exhibit. From the day we collected or purchased or dug up a promising prospect we have passively or aggressively, mentally or physically began the process of basic or advanced bonsai building.

Depending on a number of circumstances we made decisions regarding such basics as choosing the style, front of the tree, the three primary branch selections, the growing pot, the show pot, wiring, clip and grow and a myriad of other evaluations over time.

That period of getting our trees in shape is past for this bonsai exhibit in three weeks.

There is still ample time to bring out the best of our trees, clean our pots and stands.

Where to start? Start with the selection. After a critical overview of all your trees pick the tree(s) which is bonsai ready not your sentimental favorite. Tell the sign maker (Pres. Lauralee Reugger) the botanical and common name at our meeting on the 8th.

Most of our members are familiar with preparations for a bonsai exhibit. For those who aren't and for some (like me) who are busy with other 'stuff', here is a check list-

1. Remove the wiring. Wiring implies the tree is not yet ready for prime time. Removing the wire three weeks before the show leaves, at least, some time for the bark coloring to return to its normal color. Also a necessary step before we proceed to the next item.
2. Cleaning the tree. Over time the bark may collect algae and chemical residue from faucet water. Choose an appropriate brush, depending on the bark- conifer, azalea, maple, etc. to scrub off the grime. Some bark is as thin as the skin, some thick and cork like. The aim is to return it to the true color of the bark, which incidentally is not green.

3. Before now weeds have been removed but weed seeds have a fondness for bonsai soil surfaces and sprout at any opportunity, even during the transport from the backyard to the display area. Wouldn't it be great if bonsai matured as fast?

4. A final pinch here and there on some of the leaves or needles. In the case of Junipers we need to avoid shearing as this promotes browning of the needles behind the sheared stem.

5. Brush off the soil surface of debris. Some bonsai enthusiasts lay down a thin top dressing. Some inject moss. Be careful not to hide the nebari. It's a personal choice.

6. The pot/ container- In the case of ceramic containers they, too collect algae, moss and tap water residue. A sturdy cloth with mineral oil and pumice powder has been a big help for me. Check the bottom of the container's feet for rough spots and smooth out with an abrasive and check also just before placing on that expensive wooden stand. Sand, dirt will scratch the surface of the stand. In the case of slabs there is more bottom area to clean. Check it out at home and again before setting down the slab at the display table.

7. Remove blemishes and dust from the selected stand. Harmonize the stand with the tree. Again, pick the most suitable stand not the sentimental favorite.

8. The image of the tree and stand is satisfactory. Is well enough, enough? Or do we accessorize? A small herbaceous plant can complement a beautiful bonsai tree. Or, if gaudy or overpowering in size detract from the image we'd like to present. There are number of guidelines regarding the age old tradition of using accessory plants.

There are a number of us who have used these plants in other exhibits. If asked, questions will be answered at our next meeting.

Let's have a good show

April Program

Buck Lawrence has put together a program that promises to mature over time to a care guide that can aid each of us in selecting, managing our trees.

Buck requested we help launch his program by submitting copies of the worksheet format included in this newsletter. Here are the details from Buck-

"My program is focused on the idea of creating our own Bonsai Tree Guide for the Mississippi Gulf Coast. I have attached a worksheet to this e-mail. Hopefully, you can transfer the worksheet into our monthly newsletter. I am asking that you further request each member

to make up to ten copies of the worksheet. If each member identifies up to 10 trees that they have had personal success with, I will comprise a data bank of the successfully grown trees in our area, along with the information that makes them healthy.

*I am envisioning even getting a photograph of a "good" tree of each species to include with the guidebook. Perhaps we could even incorporate this into our webpage. The data will only be as good as the members input, so I'm hoping our April program will be supported by participation ". **Buck Lawrence.***

Workpage for Mississippi Gulf Coast Bonsai Tree Guide

- 1.) Scientific Name of tree
- 2.) Common Name of tree
- 3.) Winter temperature
- 4.) Summer temperature
- 5.) Light conditions
- 6.) Summer water schedule
- 7.) Winter water schedule
- 8.) Fertilizer schedule
- 9.) Pruning schedule
- 10.) Repotting schedule
- 11.) Your special insights

Name (s) _____
Street Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Email Address _____

Single person \$25 Family \$30

A quick note on annual dues to MSGCBS- The 2009-2010 dues are due now. Please bring cash or a check to the next meeting, April 8. The bulk of our funds come directly from membership dues. If unable to attend this meeting please send a check to the MSGCBS Treasurer, Lou Leger,

102 Big Pine Drive, Covington, La. 70433.

A message from Lauralee Reugger

4th Annual Bonsai Show

On Saturday, April 25th, we will be having our 4th Annual Bonsai Show at Edgewater Mall in Biloxi under the umbrella of Edgewater Mall Horticultural Societies Show. I would like to encourage all of our members to participate regardless of the degree of expertise. By exhibiting a tree you gain experience in preparing a tree for show. You learn what needs to be done for each tree to be at it's peak at the right time and what is needed to display that tree for its optimum impression. For those who do plan to take part, please be ready, at our meeting on Wednesday, to give us an idea of how many trees and what variety you will be bringing. Whether one is a novice or an expert, we all have some knowledge or experience to share. This is a club show and we need to all participate to make it a club event. *Lauralee Reugger*

Due / Elections

For those members who haven't paid their dues, this is the month to do it. Renew your membership for the year and continue getting the newsletter. Anyone whose dues have not been paid by April 30th will no longer be eligible for the newsletter.

May is election month. As Patrick noted in our last newsletter, our organization is 7 years old. Of those 7 years, Patrick and I have been swapping the presidency back and forth. Patrick was president for a total of 4 years, and I for 3 years. In addition to that, Patrick has held other positions such as contact person for many years as well as show chairman in addition to writing the newsletter. I have also been vice president, treasurer and newsletter writer as well as web master. Lou has been librarian for several years, as well as vice president and treasurer. Don't you folks think it would be nice to get some new blood in there ? We do ! This is not just our club, it is your club, and as such you should each be willing to share in the running of it. Consider doing your share and take on one of the office positions available. Come to the May meeting. Volunteer, nominate, vote ! *Lauralee Reugger*

Someone (escapes me who) once said - we, the people, usually get the government we deserve. I could sit by this keyboard for hours and couldn't add to that. *Patrick LaNasa*