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Calendar of Events-

June 10 MSGCBS Meeting - MGCCC, Long Beach, MS. Program - Tree Critique
June 19-21 BCI International Convention, N.O. Botanical Garden, City Park, N.O., La.
Oct. 10-11 14th Annual Carolina Bonsai Exposition, Asheville, N.C.

New Officers

The May meeting produced some new names for the scheduled annual elections. Mitch Thomas for President, Buck Lawrence for Program Director and Joshua Richey for Treasurer. All approved by the membership.

The positions of Newsletter Editor (now an elected position), Show Chairman and Librarian remain the same.

In its seven year history this is the first time MSGCBS did not have Lauralee Reugger or Patrick LaNasa as President or Program Director.

New leaders, in any organization, bring new leadership and ideas, fresh starts and goals.

Let's get behind these officers and help the club grow and prosper.

As an example a motion was made and seconded to purchase a digital projector. The motion passed and Joshua Richey, the new Treasurer and sitting expert on this equipment will seek, within the approved budget, the best this club will afford.

This ambitious project has been in the works for about a year. The club has had a taste of the appeal of a digital projector from a demo by Joe Kuhn from Mobile and our own Josh Richey. Here's hoping we'll have a photo of our projector in next month's issue.

The Gall of it

There's gall and then there's gall.

Gall- Impudent; Impertinent; Bold.

Gall- Abnormal growth on twigs, acorns, roots and leaves of oaks, stimulated by the reaction between plant hormones and growth regulating chemicals produced by some insects or mites (often a tiny wasp).

Azalea Gall- A tumor like growth on azalea leaves caused by a fungus. The growths are white to greenish white. Usually young tender leaves in a cool, wet spring are most vulnerable to this disease. If not handpicked and destroyed, if discarded to the ground or ignored the spores will spread to other azaleas next spring.

What to do?

For bonsai (non commercial) growers with a dozen or less trees picking by hand and destroying the galls is effective and economical. Some prefer using scissors and gloves. Afterwards, suggest sterilizing any tools or equipment. To prevent a repeat of gall infections next year pick up any fallen leaves beneath the azalea (s).

If chemicals are preferred Captan or Bayleton sprayed 10-14 days apart is recommended until new growth ends. Reference- Mississippi State University Extension. In addition, Oregon State University suggests Mancozeb. We have three choices of fungicides.



MSUCARES photo



Oregon State University photo

Bonsai Clubs International Convention

June 19-21 are the inclusive dates for this world class exhibition, workshops and demonstrations event. Some of the featured bonsai artists are Peter Chan from Great Britain, Tedy Boy from Indonesia, Guy Guidrey from Louisiana, Willie Benz from Germany, Glenis and Lindsay Bebb from Australia, I.C. Su from Taiwan, Sandro Segneri from Italy and Nacho Marin from Venezuela.

The location is the Botanical Gardens, City Park in New Orleans. The 1500 acre park, now more than 150 years old has a rose garden, Japanese Garden, Carousel Amusement park, Sculpture Garden and the New Orleans Museum of Art.

At this late date not sure what workshops are still open. Guy Guidrey will work on a large Bald Cypress, Ed Trout on a Japanese Yew, Nacho Marin on a multi-trunk Bottlebrush. Sandro Segneri on a large Juniper. Willie Benz will critique viewing stones. More artists involved than mentioned here.

In the Penjing workshop participants will use five trees, 2 different species, special soil (?), mosses and a stone slab. Of all the workshops offered here this one intrigues me the most.

If you're interested in registering you can do this by phone or print the form from the internet, www.bonsai-bci.com

Carolina Bonsai Exposition

How about going to a bonsai event that offers free admission? Established annual bonsai conventions and conferences charge an entry fee often in the hundreds of dollars. The Bonsai Exhibition Garden in the North Carolina Arboretum displays many trees from the Southern Appalachian Mountains. The middle of October promises to be ideal for Fall color watching in western North Carolina. I think the timing of this bonsai event in Asheville is not accidental.

Bonsai clubs from six states usually participate in the bonsai show. There will be bonsai trees for sale, workshops, and free demonstrations. For more information suggest visiting www.ncarboretum.org or call 1 828 665 2492.

Evaporation, Summer and Roots

Temperature prediction for Diamondhead today is in the mid-80's. It is easy to predict the average temperature will be in the 90's soon and, without the recent cool(er) mornings. Unrelenting 90's through September. That's 90 degrees in the shade. Not in the sun where most of our bonsai are positioned most of the time.

We'll need to protect our bonsai trees in shallow containers from this seasonal stress.

The stress is not directly on the tree above the soil line but the roots beneath it. The moisture in the soil will evaporate faster as the temperature climbs.

Some growers place bark on the soil surface and brush it off when the thermometer reading is more reasonable.

Some place sphagnum moss on the soil surface. Either method acts as a barrier between the sun's rays and the soil surface.

Some move their trees to areas with more shade per day. Not complete shade as this well intentioned practice invites trouble down the line as the branches grow elongated and weak.

Knowing the micro climates in your growing area, where temperatures increase and decrease with the winds, reflected heat from structures and natural shade is helpful in all seasons.

This year I've added a new assist. Sphagnum moss in sheets. Packages of this product can be found on the indoor plant care shelves in Lowe's. The thickness of the sheet moss varies due to Mother Nature and the collecting expertise. As temperatures rise I'm adding it to maples and azaleas.

Another assist for all of us is careful attention to watering. Knowing our collection - recent transplants, tropical vs. temperate species. Each with different watering needs. Replacing the evaporated water, the transpired water when the tree demands it is basic bonsai maintenance. So, how often do we water? The answer is a long list of ifs, ands and buts.

When asked what my watering schedule is I answer "***as needed***".

Note: Except as marked, credit or blame for all text and photos are the responsibility of the Newsletter Editor.

Patrick LaNasa

Membership Application Form

Name (s) -----

Street Address -----

City/ Zip -----

Home Phone-----

EMAIL Address -----

Make checks payable to Treasurer Joshua Richey, 1657 Sunset Blvd, Biloxi, MS 39531-3423 (228 374 3563) Individual membership \$25, Family \$30.