

Happy New Year



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Calendar of Events

January 13 - MSGCBS meeting, MSGCCC, Long Beach, 6:30 PM

January 18 – Basic Bonsai Course, six weeks, Monday evenings- for details see Newsletter Editor

January 22nd - Ben Oki Presentation, The Garden Center, Mobile, AL

February 26-28 – Patio and Garden Show, MS Gulf Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, Biloxi.

March 20 – Day of Bonsai, St. Lukes Meeting Hall, Mobile, AL.

Ben Oki Workshop

This annual workshop, hosted by ACBS, will be at the customary location, The Garden Center on Ziegler and Forest Hill Drive on January 22nd. The doors open at 6PM.

The cost for attending is a mere \$3.00. Cost of submitting a tree is the same as last year, \$20.00 and considering the talent and years of experience of the visiting Bonsai Master, Ben Oki, these fees could possibly be the foremost bargain on the entire Gulf Coast. Come early, bring a camera/ notebook and record the magic.

MSGCBS Meeting – January 13

Buck Lawrence will conduct the monthly program. Scheduled will be the delayed “Rock/Tree Attachment” presentation.

We can expect a number of announcements on January 13th regarding club programs and events for the upcoming spring. If you’re planning to be busy with bonsai for the next several months strongly suggest you make this meeting and learn what will be planned, what we can expect to see and experience.

Resources Month

Bonsai growers around the globe necessarily purchase, trade or acquire by other means all the equipment, tools and soils needed to support the varied needs of their bonsai trees.

Established, advanced bonsai growers, either through rare superior intelligence or years of hard won experience have on hand all or mostly all that is required to maintain their collections.

For the rest of us we wait until the last minute. Not that the cupboard is bare. As an example, we have pots. Some of us have lots of pots. Nearly all in our ever growing pot collection are the wrong size, color or shape for our immediate needs. Sometimes we get lucky. More often the needed container should be oval than rectangular, two or three inches wider, longer or deeper or less so.

Around the end of last spring we may have had an excess of prepared soil. No need to worry about next potting season. But then we went and successfully out bid others at the local auctions, maybe took in a convention or two. And now as the repotting season is almost on top of us we expect to purchase all the needed soil ingredients, same price, same retailers with the shining optimism of a child on Christmas morn.

Here we are again in January checking the inventory- pots, soil ingredients, wire and whatnot. Chances are something will be harder to find and yes, if available, will cost more.

At least we can congratulate ourselves we're smarter than those other bonsai enthusiasts who wait until February or even March to get going.

And to insure we don't fall into that trap again next year some authority somewhere could declare January as Bonsai Resources Month. A annual reminder. We could start gathering weapons of mass plantings as soon as we put

away the Christmas lights. An official kick off time each year. Why not?

January is already Clown Month, Diet Month, Bath Safety Month, Fiber Focus month, Tea Month, Radio Month, Soup Month and Prune Breakfast Month. Why not a Bonsai Resources Month?

Until some official organization (Congress stopped this practice in 1995) makes this observance 'official' we can encourage ourselves, if not with bumper stickers or campaign buttons, at least with a book marker or red penciled notation on our new wall calendar.

Hopefully your bonsai inventory list of needs is shorter this year than last. Prices are higher and some 'stuff' is harder to find.

Retailers-

Following is a list of bonsai nurseries and other suppliers to help with your search.

Turface All Sports/MVP-

John Deere Landscapes, 11148 Cloverland Av.
Baton Rouge, La. (225) 293 6400

Bark, Mulch

Beatline Nursery, 7091 Beatline Rd, Long Beach.
Most nurseries and Home Improvement Centers

Fungicides, Insecticides

Dixieland Home, Farm Supply, 212330 Hwy 603
(228) 255 4790 (10 miles N of I-10)

Coastline Farm and Garden Supply

11548 Dedeaux Rd, Gulfport (228) 832 5555

Wire, pots, other supplies

Dallas Bonsai Co. www.dallasbonsai.com

Or, call (800) 982 1223 after 1PM.

Bonsai Monk www.bonsaimonk.com

Or, call ((800) 778 7687.

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Patrick La Nasa