



July 2010

www.msgulfcoastbonsai.org

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Coming Events

July 14th, 2010 – MSGCBS monthly meeting at ***St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 12290 Depew Road in Gulfport***

July 17th, 2010 - LABS 2010 Hosted by Louisiana Bonsai Society at the Waddill Wildlife Refuge Outdoor Education Center, 4142 North Flannery Rd., Baton Rouge, LA. 8:30am to 4pm.

July 24-25th, 2010 - Southeastern Regional Bonsai Show hosted by the Nashville Bonsai Society at Cheekwood Botanical Garden, 1200 Forrest Park Dr., Nashville, TN. Featuring Guy Guidry. For details call Barbara Bogan at 615-337-4728 or email bogansbonsai@verizon.net.

August 14th, 2010 – GNOBS (Greater N.O. Bonsai Society) Annual Auction. Viewing from 4-6pm, Auction begins at 6pm at Audubon Zoo.*

*NOTE: GNOBS has a new meeting place. Their new location is Audubon Zoo, Nims Community Center, 6500 Magazine Street, New Orleans.

Meeting - July 14th

NOTE: This meeting will take place at our potentially new home and on a new day. Buck has arranged for us to have our meeting at his church, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 12290 Depew Road in Gulfport on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Byron Myrick will be our guest speaker. Byron is a native Mississippian, born/ raised in the Laurel/ Hattisburg area. He taught pottery and art for 32 years at the local community college. He's now retired from that and spends much of his time in his pottery shop at home and is a bonsai enthusiast with a nice collection of evergreen and deciduous trees. I asked him to bring a varied assortment of ceramic containers and to show us a CD on pottery. He's ready and willing.

Rick and I met him at Brussel's Rendezvous. I'm.

Patrick LaNasa

In addition to the above speaker and presentation, Patrick will show us a short (9 minute) DVD of the NC Arboretum's permanent bonsai collection and the 14th CAROLINA BONSAI EXPO that he attended last October at the Arboretum.

This year, October 9 and 10, 2010, The North Carolina Arboretum will host the 15th CAROLINA BONSAI EXPO, Asheville, NC.

Brussel's Rendezvous – May 28th - 30th

Patrick LaNasa and Rick Berrigan made the trek to Brussel's Rendezvous this year. Both of them participated in workshops, the following are photos of their endeavors.



Patrick with his Black Pine before the workshop.



Patrick with Peter Adams and his Black Pine after the workshop.



*Photo by
Patrick LaNasa*

Rick and his Dwarf Crepe Myrtle before the workshop.



*Photo by
Patrick LaNasa*

*Rick with Peter Adams and his Dwarf Crepe Myrtle
after the workshop.*



*Photo by
Patrick LaNasa*

Mark Noelanders demonstration on a Blue Alps Juniper



*Photo by
Patrick LaNasa*

Blue Alps Juniper after Marc Noelanders styling.

BOOK REVIEW

Mission of Transformation by Robert Steven

Robert Steven, an international bonsai award winning artist, was the headline bonsai master at the recently concluded Florida Bonsai Convention (May 28-31,2010). In fact, the convention theme---Soul of Bonsai---is a play on words of Robert's first book entitled Vision of My Soul. Since I participated in one of Robert's workshops, listened in on several of his demonstrations, and bought his second book, I figured, I might as well write a review for our club members.

Some internet reviewers have written negative comments about this book. Most have centered around the physical layout of the book----the bindings are rather loose, the typestyles are difficult to read, and the translation into English doesn't always make sense. A few negative comments focused on the content--Robert was rather pretentious to use Leonardo da Vinci's artistic sense of proportion and understanding of the anatomy of trees as the theme for Robert's bonsai creations.

Despite the physical shortcomings, I found the book and its contents very informative. Instead of discussing the "classical" bonsai formulas (type of

Style, placement of 1st, 2nd, 3rd branches, etc.) Robert approaches trees from the perspective of nature. Trees are either pre-mature, mature, or post-mature---that is having to go through a transformation that was caused by disease, harsh environmental conditions, or disasters (such as lightening strikes, land slides, etc.).

I found the chapter entitled "The Principles of Good Bonsai Design" very beneficial to my own thinking. In summary, Robert's principles are: balance, movement and rhythm, emphasis, simplicity, contrast, proportion, space, and unity. He provides photographs, of both bonsai and trees in nature, to prove his points.

I hope that as I mature in my own bonsai work, that I become more aware of these "Naturalistic" traits and that they become incorporated into my tree interpretations. If anyone wants to look further into Robert's different approach and aesthetic concepts, they should check out:

www.knowledgeofbonsai.org/robert_steven.

Buck Lawrence

Membership Form

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