



## Monthly Meeting Recap

At the Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting, the topic was a continuation of the Andrew Robson Workshop on deciduous trees.



Discussion was led by President Lowell Tilley with input by the group on various techniques of growing and developing taper and ramification on different tree species.

## Meeting Show and Tell



Lowell discussing the history of his weeping oak.

Joey Dupre' shows his 2 lantana collected in the spring. Nice handmade concrete pots, Joey.



Kathy Perry shows her "Strangler Fig". Several types of figs (Ficus spp.), including F. microcarpa (Chinese banyan) and F. benjamina (Weeping Fig), are called "stranglers" because in tropical rainforests, trees must fight for sunlight and rainfall. In an effort to ensure its own survival, the sticky seed attaches as an epiphyte to a host tree, and sends down aerial roots to encircle the host tree's roots, cutting off its supply of food and water, which ultimately kills the host tree.



Thanks to everyone who brought trees for Show and Tell. We always learn a lot about different species of trees through these discussions.

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## Special Event Recap

Andrew Robson, up-and-coming young bonsai artist from Portland, Oregon, presented a program on deciduous trees on September 4th for the club.



Andrew offered great suggestions to members on enhancing their trees for future growth and beauty through proper trimming and fertilizing.

His philosophy on

deciduous trees is that they should be trimmed into the most natural tree form for the species without visible scarring or imperfect wound healing. He suggests that by using the clip and grow method you will get natural movement, create better ramification and fewer large wounds.

To better heal wounds, he suggests using the Japanese-made cut paste found on Jonas Dupuich's on-line site <https://store.bonsaitonight.com/> shown here. There are 4 different formulations:



Cut Paste Hi Putty

Cut Paste Liquid

Top Jin M Liquid

Cut Repair Sealer

- Cut Paste Hi is an all-purpose brown putty that remains soft after application.
- Cut Paste (liquid) is a soft version of Cut Paste Hi. It is brown with a periwinkle tint that remains relatively soft after application.
- Top Jin M is an orange liquid that dries hard. It contains Thiophanate-methyl, a nematocide with fungicidal properties. It is popular for use with azaleas and tropical varieties.
- Cut Repair Sealer, aka "Bondo" Kirikuchi-Naoru, is a green liquid that dries hard. It can heal wounds quickly but can cause thick callus to form. It is popular with flowering and fruiting varieties like Japanese flowering quince, 'Chojubai.'

The 16 attendees brought 12 trees of many different deciduous species to the workshop for Andrew's advice and critique. They were prepared to work on their trees at that time, but we simply ran out of time. They will use the advice given and bring the trees back to a later meeting to discuss how they have made changes.



Lowell Tilley discussing the Japanese Maple brought by our newest member Joel Jenkins.

Bea Randhawa displays her swamp elm tree.



Shirley Schell with Andrew

Thank you Andrew. We look forward to having you back with us for future workshops.



## From the President

Lowell Tilley

We need members to volunteer for committees for planning the Fall Show and for the Mid-Winter Workshop in January. If you have not yet served on a committee this year, please consider doing so. It takes all of us to make a great club. All board members and volunteers are asked to attend the board/committees meeting Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> at the Garden Center at 5:30 before the monthly meeting. If you want to volunteer but cannot come to the 5:30 meeting, please sign up at the monthly meeting or contact Lowell and discuss the plans.

At the monthly meeting, Oct. 15, 7:00 pm, Zack Smith will do a presentation about slip potting bonsai and other things to get your bonsai ready for the fall show in November. He can also answer questions about collecting water elms. You can check out his website at <https://bonsai-south.com/>.

We would like to schedule a trip to Forest Hill on Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>. We will go to some of the area nurseries to look for materials for our Mid-Winter Workshop and our private collections. (And for those interested, we will go to Lea's Lunch Room for their delicious pie.) There will an opportunity to sign up at the monthly meeting.

At the fall show, Nov. 9, Randy Bennett will do the 2:00 pm bonsai lecture/demo on bald cypress bonsai. He knows more about growing, developing, and caring for bonsai in our area than anyone I know. He will also do a lecture on how to develop your bonsai in the show to the next level. Jim Scarton will do the Sunday, Nov. 10, 2:00 pm bonsai lecture/demo.

Dawn Koetting will do a shohin bonsai lecture at the November 19 monthly meeting. Dawn is an expert with shohin bonsai along with many other bonsai types and styles.

The Gulf Coast Bonsai Foundation is doing a membership drive. The objective of the Gulf Coast Bonsai Foundation is to preserve legacy bonsai to pass on to the next generation by training people to develop and care for bonsai that will be shown to

the public in a bonsai exhibit garden at the Burden Museum and Gardens. We need members to take care of bonsai on exhibit and prepare other bonsai to go on exhibit. You can also attend the bonsai workshop class conducted by the best bonsai teachers in the world. November 16, we will have bonsai classes conducted by Randy Bennett who specializes in Japanese maples and bald cypress, Lawrence LeClaire who specializes in Japanese black pines and junipers, and Joe Day who specializes in broadleaf evergreens.

We hope to get enough members to enable us to solicit support from businesses and the public to hire a collection curator. This will be a very valuable asset to the whole Gulf Coast region and the bonsai clubs. Membership is \$30/year and you can send your contact info and check payable to Gulf Coast Bonsai Foundation to Robert Reed, 38298 Oakleigh Ln., Prairieville, LA 70118. I will bring pamphlets to the next meeting. Contact me for more information at: [lowelltilley@gmail.com](mailto:lowelltilley@gmail.com)

## Guess Who??

Can anyone guess who this handsome young bonsai enthusiast is? Here's a hint--this pic is from 1990 and he's currently an LBS member. (Answer is on Page 5.)



## Spotlight on Bougainvillea

<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/tree-species/bougainvillea>

The Bougainvillea is an evergreen shrub, little tree or thorny vine with little trumpet-shaped flowers



which grow in clusters of three and come with three pretty bright papery bracts, most often magenta or purple colored. There are also varieties with red, pink, orange, yellow, white or double bracts. The flowers appear in terminal or

axillary tufts from summer to autumn if the plant gets enough light and heat. Bougainvillea leaves are oval to lanceolate and are positioned in an alternate pattern. The bark is beige-grey and with age it gets furrowed and gnarly.

The species is native to South America and was named after the French seafarer and author Louis-Antoine de Bougainville (1729 - 1811), whose ship's doctor and botanist had discovered the plant in Tahiti and dedicated it to his captain in 1767. Bougainvilleas are fast growing, tolerate pruning very well and are well suited for most bonsai styles. As they are subtropical plants, they can't endure frost and need temperatures around 50° F – 59° F / 10° C – 15° C in winter.

**Position:** The bougainvillea needs full sun and high temperatures for producing flowers and for that reason it should be placed outside in a sunny place during the growing season. In autumn the tree should be taken into a cool room with sufficient light (or under grow lights) and at temperatures not below 50°F / 10° C and best not over 59° F / 15° C, which is unfortunately not easy to achieve in many houses.

**Watering:** Water the bougainvillea thoroughly when the soil gets dry, but avoid constant soil wetness which will lead to root rot, fungal problems, insect susceptibility and death. The species prefers a pH value of 6 to 6.5, so avoid using highly calcareous water.

**Feeding:** Apply solid organic fertilizer once a month or use a liquid fertilizer every week during the growing season and every two weeks in winter.

**Pruning and wiring:** Cut the shoots after flowering, leaving two leaves on each and prune twigs and branches in autumn or winter. The bougainvillea can bud from old wood after hard pruning. If you want the tree to flower, don't pinch and trim it too much in summer. Use cut paste on larger cut wounds. Those heal over slowly. Wiring is possible on young shoots and twigs but older branches are very stiff and break easily. Beware of the thorns when you are wiring bougainvilleas.

**Repotting:** Repot smaller bougainvilleas every two or three years. Larger specimens can be repotted every three to five years. A well-draining standard soil mix is fine for this species. The roots of the bougainvillea are yellow, thin and delicate. Take good care not to tear off the roots when you remove the rootball from the pot! Untangle the roots tenderly and don't use the root rake with force. Root pruning is tolerated well.

**Propagation:** The bougainvillea can be propagated from cuttings. Best results are achieved in spring and summer with semi-hardwood cuttings or root cuttings. Air-layering is also possible.

**Pests and diseases:** The bougainvillea tends to be pest resistant as long as is kept healthy and free from wet soil conditions or lack of light. Weak plants can be attacked by powdery mildew, aphids, scale, mealy bug, white fly or caterpillars. In that case use specific pesticides and try to improve the conditions for your tree. When the flowers wilt, cut them off to prevent rot.



## Just for Laughs



Last month I asked everyone to send in a caption for this comic pic. So far I have only received two responses. Please join in the fun and send me an e-mail with your most humorous caption before the next meeting. Prize

will be awarded at the October monthly meeting.

[marlajthompson@msn.com](mailto:marlajthompson@msn.com)

## Building a Bonsai Display Bench



Wouldn't you love to display your bonsai on this beautiful bench? You can build this beautiful bonsai Garden Display Bench with these step by step directions courtesy of Jerry Norbury and Bonsai Empire. Check out this webpage for DIY directions.

<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/blog/building-bench>

<https://homeguides.sfgate.com/grow-hydroponic-bonsai-trees-49029.html>

## Something Different



<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/blog/aqua-bonsai>

Several years ago Daisuke Nakajima (AQUA bonsai.com) developed a unique technique by which bonsai may be grown in water. First the



bonsai are grown with new roots suitable for hydroponic cultivation.

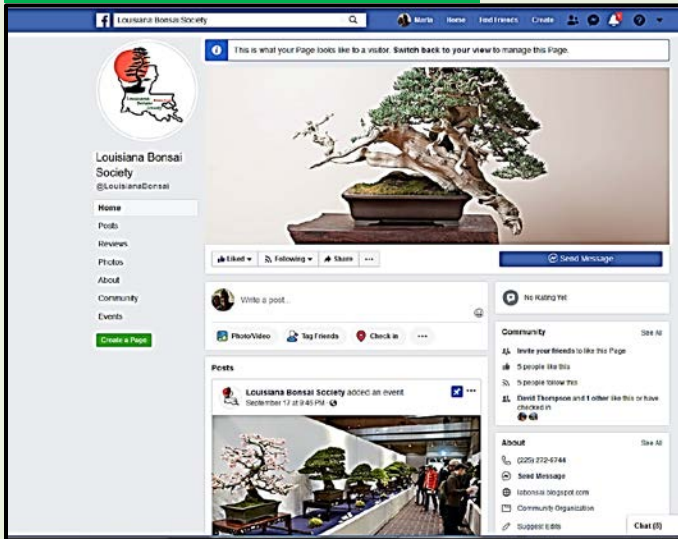
The water in which the Bonsai is placed is not normal tap water, as the tree would wither and eventually die. So certain fertilizers are added to the water, making it weakly acidic to promote growth.



There is also an interesting article on building the set-up for growing hydroponic bonsai here-

<https://homeguides.sfgate.com/grow-hydroponic-bonsai-trees-49029.html>

## LBS IS ON FACEBOOK!



Thanks to our newest LBS member, Joel Jenkins, our Facebook page is up and running. Please go to our facebook page **Louisiana Bonsai Society** and **“like”** the page and posts will show up in your newsfeed. You may even see yourself and your trees there. We will post things of interest and you can get notifications to your device if you choose.

## Answer to Page 3 Guess Who

You got it!! He is our own Zach Smith, owner of Bonsai South, 29 years ago!!.



## Coming Events

**Oct 15** 5:30 pm Board and Committees Meeting, then 7-9 pm Monthly Meeting at the Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd.

**Oct 19** 9am-12pm Saturday Bonsai Study Group at Forest Community Park, 13900 South Harrell's Ferry Road, BR

**Oct 21** 9am-12pm Monday Bonsai Study Group at Forest Community Park, 13900 South Harrell's Ferry Road, BR

**Oct 26** Road trip to Forest Hill, LA to shop for materials at the nurseries

**Nov 9 & 10** 10am-4 pm Louisiana Bonsai Society Fall Show, Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd.

**Nov 16** 8 am-5 pm Gulf Coast Foundation Bonsai Class at Waddill Wildlife Refuge, 4142 N. Flannery Rd., Baton Rouge

**Nov 19** 7-9 pm Monthly Meeting at the Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd. Dawn Koetting lecture

**Nov 23** 9am-12pm Saturday Bonsai Study Group at Forest Community Park, 13900 South Harrell's Ferry Road, BR

**Nov 25** 9am-12pm Monday Bonsai Study Group at Forest Community Park, 13900 South Harrell's Ferry Road, BR

