



The Louisiana Bonsai Society Newsletter

May 2023

April Monthly Meeting

We had a large turnout and lots of fun at the monthly meeting's free workshop during which Lowell discussed "bud pinching" versus trimming. Everyone brought a tree from their collection to work on.

From the President

Lowell T

On April 29, I set up a table at the Hammond Arts in Bloom festival where I sold a few raffle tickets and passed out bonsai information. Thanks to Randall LeJeune for his help. The table next to ours was selling driftwood and I bought some driftwood to use for the phoenix graft bonsai workshop we had on the list from last year.

The Louisiana Bonsai Society (LBS) will have a booth (table) at the Plant Societies Jamboree on Saturday, May 13, 9:00 to 1:00, 12655 South Harrell's Ferry Rd., Baton Rouge.

We will be selling chances to win a pre-bonsai plant with a bonsai workshop session at the Midwinter Bonsai Workshop Conference, January 19-21. The drawing will be on Saturday, November 4, at the Annual Fall Bonsai Show.

We will also display a few bonsai, work on bonsai, and hand out information about LBS. If you can come and help, please let me know. I really appreciate your help and it will be an interesting event with lots of different kinds of plants for sale.

Using the driftwood I got at the Arts in Bloom Festival, we will do a phoenix graft bonsai workshop at the next meeting, Tuesday, May 16, Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd, Baton Rouge. The cost will be \$25 (Tree included) to participate and free to observe. You can pay at the door.

A member donated some bonsai books along with some club pots that we will offer at silent auction on the exchange table which will be set-up from 6:30-7:30 pm at the meeting. Also bring bonsai for show and tell.

Thanks for all your help and hope to see you there.

Thanks also to Wyler Murray who pruned, bud pinched and fertilized the club trident maples to prepare them for the workshop next February.

Pics from Members

Catherine A. I wanted to share a pic of my blooming *Adenium obesum* (desert rose) that is providing me so much joy on this dreary day! She is teaching me a lot as I am learning to care for her.



Really beautiful, Catherine.

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The Louisiana Bonsai Society (LBS) is a non-profit organization of people interested in the art of bonsai.

Repotting Your Desert Rose

Have the roots of your desert rose infiltrated through their container or has its thick swollen stem (caudex) overcrowded the container? If 'yes,' it is definitely a good indicator that you should repot.

It is recommended that you repot your desert rose in a slightly bigger pot every year or two until it reaches your desired size, as overall growth slows down once the plant becomes pot bound.

The general rule of thumb is to repot desert rose during its period of active growth in the warm season – springtime, specifically, is most ideal. By doing so, the roots will have a full season of root growth ahead to expand and fill their new accommodations.

Thick-walled, bowl-shaped containers are suggested since these style pots not only provide room for the roots to fan out but have a shallowness about them which allows soil to dry more quickly. You may use any type of pot such as clay, ceramic, or plastic; however, clay pots may be a consideration, as they absorb excess moisture from the soil, reducing the potential for root rot. Use bonsai soil or a potting mix formulated for cacti or succulents mixed with equal parts perlite or sand to ensure the soil is well-draining.

When repotting desert rose plants, make sure the soil is dry before gently removing it from its pot. Removal may prove easier if you prop the container on its side and try wiggling the plant free with a firm hold on the base of the plant. If the container is malleable, such as plastic, try gently squeezing the sides of the container as this will also help coax the plant free. Then, while holding the plant by its base, invest some time removing the old soil from around and in-between the roots. Prune away any unhealthy roots you uncover and treat the cuts with a fungicide. Now it's time to situate the plant in its new quarters.

With a desert rose, the goal is to have an exposed engorged caudex above the soil line, as that is really the plant's signature trademark. The caudex is a thick, swollen area of the stem near soil level. The process to encourage an above-ground, bulbous

caudex is referred to as "lifting." However, it is not recommended to start lifting and exposing the caudex until your plant is at least three years old. If your plant is of the right age, then you will want to situate the plant, so it sits an inch or 2 higher above the soil line than it did previously. If you are exposing the caudex, please be aware that the newly exposed part is susceptible to sunburn, so you will want to gradually introduce the plant to direct sunlight over a several week timeframe. Get your plant into position in its new pot and then backfill it with soil, spreading out the roots as you go. Do not water the plant for a week or so after repotting to ensure that any damaged roots have had time to properly heal and then gradually resume your regular watering regimen.

Mike Lane Shohin Classes

Marla T

We have quite a few club trees that members may want to consider purchasing for the upcoming shohin workshop. Thanks to the different members of the club who have been caring for them. Talk to Lowell if you need a tree. Also start thinking about which trees in your collection you will be using and check out the local nurseries for single-trunk trees with low branches. You will need to bring at least a dozen trees so Mike can help you choose good ones to use and start to create your shohin trees for display.

This is the list of participants that have paid so far.

Saturdays	Sundays
Stephanie K	Tommy K
Byron C	Linh N
Dawn K	Wylar M
Annette W	Cindy D
Joel J	Jeff D
Peggy H	Randy H
Guil M	Shirley S
Marla T	Ray S

Those who have expressed an interest but have not yet paid the registration fee are:

Saturday slots	Sunday slots
Kathy C	Tom C
Jorge M	Susan N
Hank D	Lowell T
(OPEN SLOT)	(OPEN SLOT)

Please let me know if you are no longer interested. Fee of \$340 will need to be paid by June 1 or the slot will be offered to others. If anyone would like to sign up for the 2 current open slots or to be on the waitlist in anticipation of getting a slot, please send me an e-mail to: marlajthompson@msn.com

All classes will be held at the Baton Rouge Garden Center. Dates for the Shohin Workshop Are:

<u>Saturday Class</u>	<u>Sunday Class</u>
June 24, 2023	June 25, 2023
September 2, 2023	September 3, 2023
December 16, 2023	December 17, 2023
March 23, 2024	March 24, 2024

If something comes up that you cannot attend the date you are scheduled for, you have the choice to call participants in the other class to see if they can switch days. Both classes will be full, so you can't show up to class on the wrong date. I have attached a member phone/email list to this email. If all else fails, call Marla or Lowell.

Membership dues can be mailed to PO Box 41661, Baton Rouge, LA 70835. \$20 individual or \$25 family. You may also pay by cash, Venmo or Zelle.

Happy May!!!

Coming Events

May 13, 2023, Plant Societies Jamboree
Saturday, 9 am-1pm, 12655 South Harrell's Ferry Rd, Baton Rouge.

May 16, 2023, Monthly Meeting 6:30-9 pm, BR Garden Center. Phoenix graft workshop, Pay at the door-\$25 (tree included) to participate, free to observe. Silent auction from 6:30-7:30 pm.

June 20, 2023, Monthly Meeting 7-9 pm, BR Garden Center

June 24, 25, 2023, Mike Lane Shohin Education Series Class #1 of 4, 9am-4pm, BR Garden Center.

July 18, 2023, Monthly Meeting 7-9 pm, BR Garden Center.

August 15, 2023, Monthly Meeting 7-9 pm, BR Garden Center.

September 2, 3, 2023, Mike Lane Shohin Workshop #2/4 9am-4 pm, Baton Rouge Garden Center,

September 19, 2023, Monthly Meeting 7-9 pm, BR Garden Center.

October 18, 19, 2023, LSBF Traveling Artist Jim Doyle Lecture/Demo and Workshop, Baton Rouge Garden Center. More information to be announced at a later date.

November 21, 2023, Monthly Meeting 7-9 pm, BR Garden Center.

December 19, 2023, Potluck Holiday Party, 6-9 pm, Baton Rouge Garden Center. More information to be announced at a later date.