



The Louisiana Bonsai Society Newsletter

June 2021

May Monthly Meeting

The May meeting was held on May 18th -discussion was led by President Lowell Tilley on tropical and flowering bonsai. He reviewed trimming, bud pinching, pruning and root care.

From the President

Lowell Tilley

I would like to welcome all the new members and invite them to contact me if they have any questions, suggestions or need any assistance with their bonsai. Of course, this invitation is always open to all members. Our bonsai club objective is to help every member to enjoy the hobby of bonsai.

I plan to schedule some trips to the local nurseries soon to look through their stock to find good pre-bonsai stock for the club, so let me know if you are interested in going with me.

We have some great workshops coming in the next few months. Instead of our regular meeting in July, we will have a workshop conducted by bonsai expert Pauline Muth (pronounced Mew). She lives in New York and has been doing bonsai for over 50 years. And in September, Mike Lane will once again be with us for a BYOT workshop. I will post more information on the details as soon as they are finalized. This will give all the members opportunities to develop good bonsai collections. You should be getting some good plant material you want to use. The club owns some workshop quality pre-bonsai that members are taking care of that is for sale at cost to members. I will be working on a plan to help everyone to make the most out of these workshops.

In January 2022, we will have our annual Midwinter Bonsai Workshops. Since we were unable to have

this program in Jan.'21, bonsai expert David DeGroot says he is looking forward to coming back to Louisiana again (travel restrictions permitting).

We are asking for volunteers to serve as program committee members to help plan more hands-on learning experiences like these for next year. I also would like for us to plan some road trips this year to look at trees, gardens, and parks. Let me know if you are interested in helping plan a trip.

Thanks to the bonsai club members who met at Forest Park and potted most of the cuttings Howard Merrill had rooted. We had fun getting them ready for sale as small pre-bonsai for the next bonsai show. Thanks to the different members who are caring for them. I purchased a few bigger plants from Clegg's Nursery for development in to larger pre-bonsai sale trees. We will schedule another workshop to develop them into pre-bonsai for sale in the future.

Kim Naquin and I attended the Bonsai Societies of Florida (BSF) convention in Orlando, FL, Memorial Day weekend where we observed many bonsai workshops and lecture/demos. I will show some pictures at the next meeting and pass on some bonsai techniques we observed. I highly recommend joining some of the regional bonsai organizations like BSF and national bonsai organizations such as American Bonsai Society (ABS). The cost is minimal, and you gain access to newsletters, blogs, and reduced costs to events. I am making plans to go to the ABS convention at Olive Branch, MS, near Brussel's Bonsai Memorial Day weekend 2022.

Another source for learning bonsai and a good place to buy bonsai plants, tools, and materials is Underhill Bonsai, Folsom, LA. You should go online, <https://underhillbonsai.com> and sign up for their newsletter and some bonsai workshops.

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

Make Your Own Bonsai Pots

Joey Dupré

Everyone knows that bonsai pots can get expensive. I've discovered a way to cut that cost **DRAMATICALLY**. You can make a pot almost any shape or size for less than \$1.00. It takes a little experimentation and an hour or two watching Youtube videos, but it's pretty simple.



For this freeform pot, I just spread about 1/2" to 3/4" of concrete (2 parts sand and 1 part Portland cement) on a piece of plastic sheeting. Next, I took some sand and lifted the sides of the pot randomly by pushing sand under the plastic sheeting at different points around the pot.

Make a couple of drain holes and a few anchoring holes and just let it dry for a day.



When it's dry, submerge it in a container of water for about a week to cure and it's ready to go. I've made a half dozen or so of various shapes in the last week. Probably saved a couple hundred dollars over normal bonsai pots.



Julia's Back in The News!!

Submitted by Robert Reed

Our own running superstar, Julia Hawkins, rose to fame after competing in the Louisiana Senior Olympics, and was first interviewed by Runner's World magazine in March 2017 for the article [Meet Julia Hawkins, the 101-Year-Old Who Has Recently Taken up Competitive Running | Runner's World \(runnersworld.com\)](#). She was again featured in July 2017 with [101-Year-Old Champion After Race: "I Missed My Nap for This" | Runner's World \(runnersworld.com\)](#) and again in Nov. 2017 with [How to Start Running at Age 100 | Runner's World \(runnersworld.com\)](#)



She is once again featured in Runner's World magazine 2021 Issue 3 - How To Run Your Whole Life, "Run Strong Forever; Why Running is Still Awesome After 100".



In addition to these articles, she has been featured in several other magazines with stories not only about her running skills but her tips for a long, healthy, adventure-filled life. We should all be just half as enthusiastic and energetic as you, Julia. Your bonsai club admires you and wishes you the best always.

Spotlight on Jacaranda

Submitted by Marla Thompson

I lived in California for several years and one of the trees that I loved there were the beautiful jacaranda trees that bloomed purple in the spring.



They were magical to me with their gorgeous blooms and fern-like compound leaves. I have always wanted to grow one, but since it is a sub-tropical, the climate zone here is

not ideal. I found very little written information online about growing jacaranda as bonsai. I even asked Jonas Dupuich if he could tell me how to proceed, but he could not.

I purchased a tree online 3 years ago (a very tiny 6 inch size with the trunk about the size of a toothpick), planted it in a tub and let it grow wild, without trimming it. It grew quickly, becoming 10 feet tall in a year. Thinking I would make a bonsai, I trunk chopped it but sadly it developed root rot and died.

This year I am trying again. I purchased the same size tree, planted it in a tub with Miracle Gro and it is taking off! This time I plan to keep it trimmed as it is putting on new leaves to increase



leaves and ramification.

You may have seen this picture on-line of the huge jacaranda bonsai in full bloom. Mine may never look like this, but I am holding out hope that it will thrive and will become a nice bonsai specimen someday.



specimen someday.

I recently found this info on Bonsai Empire and thought I would share.

<https://www.bonsaiempire.com>

The Jacaranda mimosifolia is a subtropical tree native to south-central South America that is very popular as an ornamental tree because of its beautiful and long-lasting blue flowers and pretty compound

leaves. It is a semi-evergreen that can become about 50' (15m) tall and 40' (12m) wide. It also grows in the southern states of the USA, in Mediterranean countries, South Africa and Australia. The Jacaranda has compound, fern-like leaves and beautiful blue or purple flowers which are up to 2" long and grouped in large panicles. They appear in spring and early summer, and last for up to two months. The large woody seed pods contain numerous winged seeds. The Jacaranda's bark is thin, greyish brown and becomes scaly when the tree matures. The twigs are slender and slightly zigzag. Depending on the temperatures and amount of light, the tree can keep its leaves during the winter or drop them. In most cases the leaves fall before the flowers open. The Jacaranda is sometimes also referred to as the Brazilian rosewood, or blue jacaranda.



This tree needs a lot of light, and the temperatures should not fall under 15° C / 59° F. Especially when they are planted in a bonsai pot, Jacaranda trees must be protected from lower temperatures. If it is kept inside the house all year, it will be difficult to reduce the leaf size. Don't place it above a heating device. In winter, when there is not enough light, the tree can drop all the leaves, but new ones will grow in spring. When temps are steadily in the 60s, the blue Jacaranda can be placed outside in a sunny spot or in semi-shade. Keep the root ball slightly moist. If it dries out, the leaves shrink, turn brown and fall off. If it is overwatered, the leaves turn yellow and fall off. Use liquid fertilizer during the growth period every week, in winter once every two weeks. Jacarandas grow strongly. Shorten the new shoots to one or two leaf pairs when four or five have grown. Strong pruning is done best in spring. The largest leaves can be cut off at any time during the growing season. Wiring is possible but the wires should be removed after three months at the latest. Wire young shoots when they begin to lignify. Repot the Jacaranda every second year in spring and use a well-draining soil mix. The Jacaranda tree can be propagated from seeds and softwood cuttings. Scale sometimes attacks the Jacaranda. Use a specific insecticide that contains oil in that case.

The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society
Annual
Bonsai Auction
 (Free and Open to the Public)
August 14, 2021
 Viewing of trees prior to auction: 4:00pm – 6:00pm
 Auction 6:00pm – 9:00pm
 Marine Corps League Hall
 2708 Delaware St, Kenner LA 70062
 (near Williams Blvd & Veterans Blvd)

- Quality, developed bonsai
- Featured bonsai designed by nationally known bonsai masters
- Starter material
- Pots and supplies
- Bonsai for every budget from the novice to the dedicated enthusiast
- Bargain tables

Light Refreshments
 Join us for great bonsai and a great time! gnobs.org facebook.com/NewOrleansBonsai

Save these future special event dates!

GCBF

Call Lowell for more information
June 5 GCBF for Bald Cypress and Japanese Maple
June 19 GCBF for Japanese Black Pine and Boxwood

LBS

June 15, 2021-LBS Monthly Meeting, 7-9 pm, BR Garden Center

July 20, 2021- Bonsai Artist **Pauline Muth**, Bring-your-own-tree Workshop 5-9 pm

August 14, 2021-GNOBS Bonsai Auction-see flyer

September 29, 2021- Artist **Mike Lane**, sponsored by Lone Star Bonsai Federation,-Bring your own tree workshop, Baton Rouge Garden Center

November 13, 14, 2021-LBS Fall Show, Baton Rouge Garden Center

January 21, 22, 23, 2022-MidWinter Workshop w/ David DeGroot

Try out these Bonsai Podcasts

Bonsai Mirai: Asymmetry

bonsaimirai.com/node/858

Bonsai Wire by Jonas Dupuich, Michael

Hagedorn and Andrew Robson

buzzsprout.com/1276571

Bonsai Network Podcast w/Bjorn L

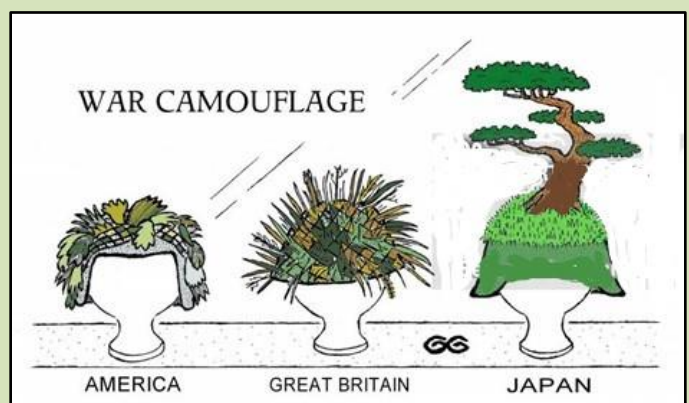
Bjorholm

soundcloud.com/user-813024188

Bonsai Growers Academy by Rob Gregory

<https://anchor.fm/rob-gregory>

Just for Laughs



Happy June Everybody!!