



The Louisiana Bonsai Society Newsletter

August 2022

July Monthly Meeting

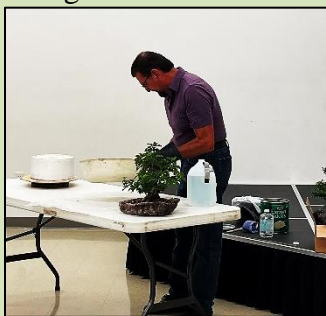
We had a terrific turnout for the July 19th meeting.



We were fortunate to have three club members as guest speakers who were willing to share some of their techniques with us.

Thank you all.

Joey D. demonstrated making a concrete bonsai pot using a 50/50 ratio of sand and cement, mixing with enough water to make a thick slurry. He then soaked



a cloth in the mixture and draped it over his pot form in the shape he desired, put a hole in the bottom and took it home to complete the process.



Here is the pot after a couple of days curing, 3 days soaking in water, and a day drying. Joey then mixed up some brown, red, and little black paint and gave it a

good, thick coat. He now has a handmade, one-of-a-kind bonsai pot that was inexpensive to make and has a wonderful rustic feel.

Next Patty T. showed us how she makes lightweight “rock” bonsai pots and mountains.



She assured us that it is a very easy and fun, but time-consuming process. She has perfected her technique through trial and error with different products and encouraged us all to try to create one.

For the mountains, she starts out by gluing pieces of Styrofoam together (hot glue) in an approximate shape and dimensions needed, lets it dry, then carves different shapes in the “rock”. She uses Mod Podge to seal the Styrofoam and paint to create a rock color she likes. She also uses expanding foam sealant (Gaps and Cracks) and casting resin for some of her beautiful creations. Add bonsai soil, a tree and surface moss and voilà, a gorgeous bonsai tree that is easier to carry.



Catherine A. gave us a follow-up on the plant rooting process from the previous month’s plantings in cans. Her cuttings have taken root and will be ready for planting in a pot. Here

she is removing the plastic bag from the can



and showing the cuttings.



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

Feeling the Need for Shade?

By Marla T.

If there was ever a need for shade cloth, it has been this summer. Our trees are on the south side of the house and get nearly all-day sun. Since we don't have a greenhouse, this is the next best thing. Some trees don't need it, but others do better with a little less sun. I wanted to share how we have ours set up. David T. installed cables with turnbuckles that run from our wood fence to the eaves of the house and added a chain between the two.



The shade cloth (from Amazon) that I chose was a 40% 10'X14' with reinforced grommets along the edges. We wove the cable through the side grommets, then added a cable hook to make a loop and attached to the turnbuckle, then tightened. Because the wind can be strong at times, we added small nylon ropes from the end grommets to the chain and tightened. These ropes can be detached, and the shade cloth slid back to the fence when desired. The trees that tolerate more sun are near the ends, more shade in the middle by the fence.

This is the second season we have used this set-up. The cloth allows adequate rain but shelters the trees from hard downpours. The shade cloth will need replacing probably next season due to deterioration from the sun and wind gusts tearing at the grommets, but shade cloth is inexpensive to purchase.



(I know it's not a bonsai, but I wanted you to see what else is enjoying the shade cloth. This is my first pitcher plant, a gift from my son, and not only is it developing lots of pitchers, but it is also blooming.)



Buying Trees at Auction

By Lowell T.

Often people go to bonsai auctions looking for a bargain (a very good reason) and the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society (GNOBS) auction is the best. I have attended the GNOBS bonsai auction several times and quite often the best bargain is the bonsai that sold for the highest price, depending on your objective and your bonsai skill level. The price they sell for may seem high, but often with a few years of skilled development they will become a priceless bonsai specimen; however, if you kill it, it will be worthless (maybe a \$500 bonsai lesson). You are trying to buy time but use good judgement.

Good bargains are also bonsai that sell for a low price that you can experiment with to develop your bonsai skills over 10-20 years of enjoyment, and then have a priceless bonsai specimen. It may take 10-20 years to determine exactly what you like.

Remember that an auction is a competitive event, so be prepared. Go early to look at the material and look at what you could do with it. You are looking to improve your bonsai collection. Decide what price range you will pay. It quickly goes from a bargain to a high-priced folly. Another fun thing is pitting your shopping skills with the other members.

Many people look at styling that has been done instead of styling potential. You are trying to buy something that will save you time in developing the style and quality of bonsai you want, so look at features that would take years to develop like the base, surface roots, trunk, taper, and main branches of the bonsai. The character that makes it look old is often created from healed scars, so take a close look at the scars to make sure they are healing and not getting worse. Scars are usually created by removing old or large branches. Sometimes they are created for artistic reasons, but make sure the scars are not jeopardizing the plant's health.

Most of the plants I have bought were pre-bonsai or nursery stock. But a couple of years ago a good friend of mine had some field-grown miniature crape myrtles that he put in bonsai pots and started developing into bonsai. He was selling them at a

much higher price than I had ever paid for a bonsai (his price was cheap, but I am just cheaper).



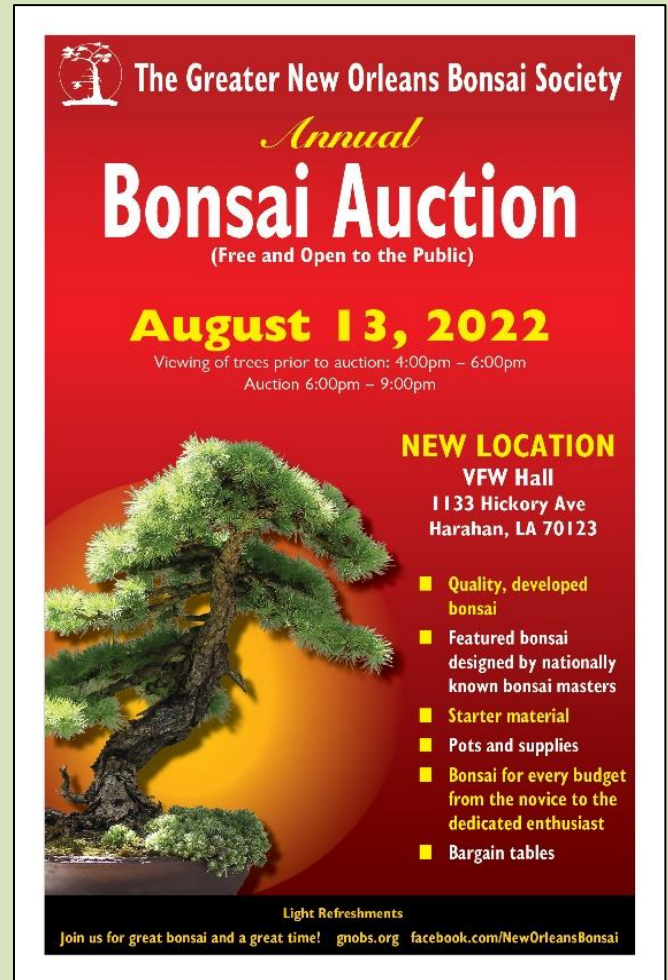
Before

Even after paying more than twice as much as I have ever paid for a pre-bonsai, it is by far the best bonsai bargain I have ever found.



After

GNOBS Auction



The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society
Annual
Bonsai Auction
(Free and Open to the Public)
August 13, 2022
Viewing of trees prior to auction: 4:00pm – 6:00pm
Auction 6:00pm – 9:00pm

NEW LOCATION
VFW Hall
1133 Hickory Ave
Harahan, LA 70123

- 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](https://www.facebook.com/NewOrleansBonsai)

The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society hosts its **Annual Bonsai Auction August 13, 2022**. Huge selection of bonsai, starter material and pots for every budget from the novice to dedicated enthusiast. FREE and open to the public. Viewing of trees prior to auction 4-6pm. Auction from 6-9pm.

NEW LOCATION - VFW Hall, 1133 Hickory Ave., Harahan, LA 70123 - Main street with plenty of parking and larger capacity!

The VFW hall has a large parking lot and overflow parking right across the street in front of the playground fence. We ask that those who are younger and physically able park across the street in front of the playground fence after unloading your donations (or if you just come without donations). That will leave the parking lot for members who are less able bodied. You will still be able to drive into the lot or driveway to load up at the end of the auction.

Last auction there were close to 250 trees auctioned as well as several tables chock full of bargain items (starter material priced at \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, and \$20) and tables of silent auction items (pots, books, supplies etc.). This year promises to be equally great.

Get your donations ready! Now is the time to go through that overcrowded bench and decide which of your trees should go to the auction for a new home. All donations contribute to the operating budget of the club. You'll need the space for the fabulous new bonsai that you just can't live without and bring home from the auction. The club accepts bonsai, pre-bonsai, nursery stock and rooted cuttings (for the bargain table), bonsai pots, books and tools and anything else bonsai related. We have some great bonsai done by visiting masters as well as some very nice material from Wigert's bonsai this year!

Volunteers will be at the hall from Noon on to accept your donations. As always - your generosity is deeply appreciated by the board and the club.

If you want the best bargains from the bargain table and time to peruse all the bonsai for auction, try to arrive close to 4pm.

Please come out, get some outstanding bargains, and have a great time in the process. For more information and to view photos from our previous auctions and photos of some of the trees available this year:

<http://gnobs.org/news-and-events/annual-bonsai-auction/>

Ceramic Pot Making

Don't forget to register and pay Lowell for the Ceramic Bonsai Pot Workshop with Amanda to be held at the monthly meeting time August 16th 7-9pm. Everyone who doesn't wish to make a pot is welcome to observe. The cost is \$55 for members and \$65 for non-members.

Coming Events

August 13 GNOBS Bonsai Auction (See insert)

August 13 BR Botanical Gardens (Independence Park)-Garden Discovery "How to turn a Plant into Medicine" presented by Dr Elizabeth Floyd of

Pennington Biomedical Research Center. **Plant Sale 8am-12pm , & BR Garden Center Plant Swap.**

August 16 LBS Monthly Meeting 7-9 pm at the BR Garden Center. **Ceramic Bonsai Pots** by Amanda P.

September 20 Shohin Workshop by Dawn Koetting, \$25 if you bring your own tree, or \$65 w/Harland boxwood included. (at regular 7 pm monthly meeting time) at the BR Garden Center.

October 5 Lone Star Bonsai Federation touring artist **Pedro Morales Workshop** for LBS. Details TBA.

October 18 LBS Monthly Meeting 7-9 pm at the BR Garden Center

November 12 &13, 2022 11am-4 pm both days LBS Bonsai Fall Show at the BR Garden Center.

November 15 LBS Monthly Meeting 7-9 pm at the BR Garden Center.

December 20, 2022, 7 pm Potluck and Gift Swap Christmas Party at the BR Garden Center

January 13, 14, & 15, 2023 Mid-Winter Workshop featuring Jennifer Price

More details to come.

Don't Forget to Pay Dues for 2022

Membership fees are due January 1 of each year, delinquent on April 1. Some of you have already paid for 2022, so if you can't remember if you are current, please call Marla 225-503-7397.

Your dues must be current to receive the member discount for workshops, club pot purchases or club tree purchases. You may pay at the next meeting or send payment to:

LBS, P.O. Box 41661, Baton Rouge, LA 70835

\$20/individual membership,\$25/family membership