



The Louisiana Bonsai Society Newsletter

January 2021

December Monthly Meeting

Thanks to all who participated in the monthly meeting/Christmas get-together on December 15th at the BR Garden Center. Several gift prizes were awarded to different members.

- Winner for the best holiday decorated tree was Kathy P. for her tiny scene featuring a lemon cypress.
- Best Charlie Brown holiday decorated tree was Marla T. for her pitifully sparse rosemary tree with a few ornaments.
- Of the group of junipers given to members last Jan. 2020, Lowell's tree was voted the best styled tree.

Taking home door prizes were Jeff P., Catherine A., Robert R., Lowell T., Jean and Howard M.

Hopefully, next year we will once again be able to have our usual big party with lots of friends, a potluck dinner and gift exchange!!



Until then, stay safe, get vaccinated and wear your mask!!!

From the President

I hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful holiday season and staying healthy. (I sure hope chocolate is good for your health). 2020 has been a challenging year; an opportunity to learn more technology to communicate remotely. I really appreciate members who have helped us learn more ways to communicate.

We are looking forward to the time when the social distancing requirements will be relaxed in 2021 and we can go back to doing workshops and going to conventions, however I think it will be good to continue posting our pictures and bonsai information to our Louisiana Bonsai Society (LBS) group on Google Groups. I have posted some techniques I used to improve my bonsai this year. Hope that was helpful to other members. I hope to share some of my techniques for improving surface roots, bonsai nebari, trunk and branch taper, branch ramification, and other features that make bonsai look older this coming year. I would also like to encourage more members to post more pictures of their bonsai on LBS group for other members to see. We can learn a lot from each other. If you have any problems with posting on Google Groups or any questions or suggestion, please let me know, 225-241-2396 or lowelltilley@gmail.com.

I also hope to continue the Saturday bonsai study group and expand our tree-specific study groups.

Our planning committee has planned another Bonsai Midwinter event that will prove to be very good even without hands-on workshops. We hope to see you there!

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Mid-Winter Bonsai Seminar

Since our plans for the annual Mid-Winter workshop have had to be changed, the LBS Board of Directors and Planning Committee have elected to hold a safer gathering this year in the form of a weekend Mid-Winter Bonsai Seminar, **January 15, 16, and 17**. The line-up of lecturers will be top-notch and sure to capture everyone's attention. An e-mail was recently sent to members for printing and posting in areas near your home to help promote attendance. Let me know if you need it sent to you again or in a different format. I included a copy of the flyer just in case you didn't see it.

Masks and social distancing will still be required. Food will not be provided by the club, but we are trying to line up some local food trucks for Friday evening, and Saturday noon so that food may be consumed outdoors between sessions. Please make plans to utilize the food trucks if they do set up, so that it is worth their time to come out to Independence Park for our event.



Mid-Winter Bonsai Weekend Seminar Featuring 4 Professional Bonsai Artists Jan. 15, 16, 17, 2021 (Fri-Sat-Sun) Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd., BR

Each Lecture/Demo on Fri. and Sat. free for current LBS members, \$10 for non-members. 2021 Membership fee, payable at the door, is \$20/individual, \$25/family per year to join.

- Fri. 15 Admission 1:30 pm, Lecture/Demo 2-5 pm, Evan Pardue
Admission 5:30 pm, Lecture/Demo 6-9 pm, Dana Quattlebaum
- Sat. 16 Admission 8 am, Lecture/Demo 9 am-12pm, Dawn Koetting
Admission 12:30 pm, Lecture Demo 1-4 pm, Randy Bennett
- Sun. 17 Tree Critique (for members' trees only) 9am-12 pm with Randy Bennett and Dana Quattlebaum
Demo tree Raffle 12 pm

Tree Critique- To improve further development/refinement, members may bring 1-2 bonsai trees from your collection for suggestions by a professional bonsai artist at no charge.

Vendors- Will be on site with pre-bonsai, bonsai, soil, pots, tools, slabs, etc.

Bonsai Display- Participants are welcome to bring a limited number of bonsai to display just for fun.

Raffles- Demo trees from Friday and Saturday will be raffled at Sunday noon. You do not have to be present to win. Tickets are priced at \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20.

Let Louisiana Bonsai Society show you how to enjoy this fascinating hobby!

Bonsai Club meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm, BR Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd. Visitors and new members are welcome. For more information, contact Lowell Tilley, 225-241-2396 or lowelltilley@gmail.com.

We are fortunate to have some exceptionally talented bonsai artists in our guest artist line-up; Dawn Koetting, Evan Pardue, Randy Bennett, and Dana Quattlebaum.

Vendors will include:

- On Friday, Saturday and Sunday--Underhill Bonsai from Folsom, Quattlebaum's Bonsai Nursery from Heber Springs, Arkansas
- Saturday only--Bill's Bonsai from Metairie, and Byron Myrick Pottery

Please make plans to attend as many sessions as possible. What an incredible opportunity to increase your bonsai knowledge! And remember that if your member dues are paid for 2021, you will not be charged for the seminar. Dues may be paid at the door.

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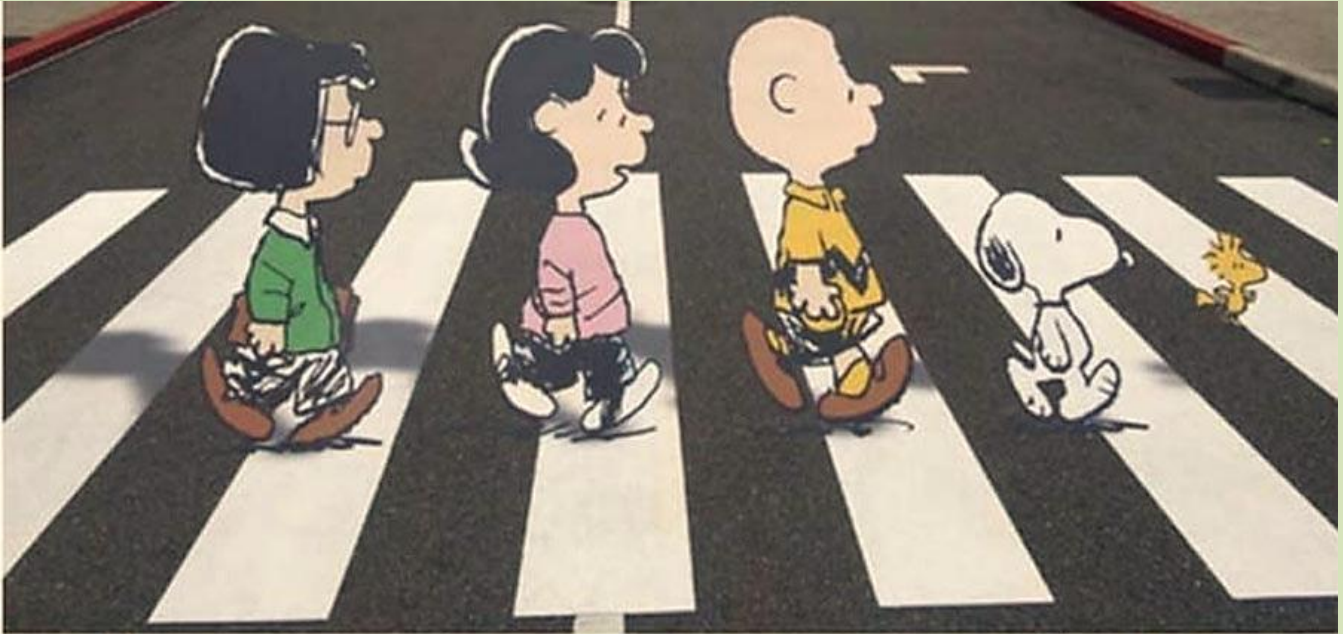
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Why and How to Determine the Front of Your Bonsai

Lowell T.

There are two things you need to learn to make bonsai an art: 1) the rules of artistic illusions and impressions, and 2) botany to know how to control growth of the plant to create those illusions and impressions. Most optical illusions must be viewed from one location to create the illusion as the pictures below illustrates. The first photo is the front view, the second is from the side.



Comic Strip Peanuts Characters Crossing Street



Utility Box Painted by artist to look transparent



Rock arch that looks twisted – The small base is closer than the large base, but it looks further away because it is smaller.

One of the reasons you locate the front of a bonsai is so you can use the optical illusions to develop your bonsai. When using a camera to capture an optical illusion, the picture must be taken from the exact position and in the correct light. But when looking at bonsai, our eyes and brain can aid us in the illusion, for example, the taper in the bonsai trunk will be seen to indicate height; like when we look up at a tall tree from the base, it looks like the trunk has taper. You want your bonsai to look good from all directions, but there is a viewing point which will show the features you want to convey to the viewer. If you don't understand and observe how optical illusions work, they can work against you. I read a biography of Norman Rockwell and he couldn't draw anything without a model, sketch, or picture. He always made sketches that he kept in a sketch book to refer to, employed models, wardrobes of clothes, hats, toys, etc. for props, and later in his career he hired professional photographers to take pictures to use when making paintings. He had to see it to paint it. The same is true with bonsai. That is why it is important to collect many pictures of bonsai and go to bonsai shows. It is also important to take pictures of trees in nature, which will make it much easier to develop a bonsai similar to ones you have seen.

Don't Forget to Redeem your Free LBS Membership Fee for 2021

Because we have not been able to host any workshops this year, the LBS Board has voted to give a free LBS 2021 Individual or Family Membership (Whatever you usually sign up for) to any member paying for an on-line or Zoom class presented by a bonsai nursery or website. Just present a printed receipt for the completed class to Jean.

**Check out this offering from
Bonsaify.com on Repotting-- for
Only \$20**

Live Online Seminar -Bonsai
Repotting for Beginners


<https://www.bonsaify.com/collections/workshops>

Or this from Bonsai Empire

Bonsai Empire
7h · 🌐

One of our online course teachers, Bjorn Bjorholm, now offers a live subscription on his website. Want to take your bonsai skills up a notch in 2021? Sign up for Bonsai-U Membership and get access to an ever-growing library of bonsai tutorials, as well as the opportunity to ask bonsai instructor Bjorn L Bjorholm questions in regular live Q&A sessions.

Sign up at <https://bjornbjorholm.com/bonsai-u-membership/>



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Time to Pay Dues!!

2021 Membership Fees are due annually on or before December 31. They may be paid in person at the meeting or mailed to Jean at:

LBS, P.O. Box 41661, Baton Rouge, LA 70835. \$20 for individual or \$25 for a family.

2021 Coming Events

Jan.15, 16, 17- Mid-Winter Seminar, BR Garden Center

Jan 19- LBS Monthly Meeting, BR Garden Center

Jan 23- Saturday Study Group, Forest Community Park

Feb 16- LBS Monthly Meeting, BR Garden Center



Happy New Year Everyone!!!

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