



A Note from the President

Lowell Tilley

I hope all our bonsai club members are having a wonderful Holiday Season. The Louisiana Bonsai Society has had a very good year, thanks to the way club members have helped with meetings, shows, workshops, etc. There has been a good exchange of information and bonsai techniques.

Our new Facebook page, website and newspaper submissions have increased our visibility in the community thanks to the publicity committee (Joel, Marla, Randy and Ray).

Special thanks to Howard and others who supplied starter bonsai for sale at our shows, Jean who has kept our finances straight, Tom H. for helping manage our club trees, David T. who refinished bonsai stands for show displays, Marla for organizing the Christmas Party, and a very special thanks for the monthly Newsletter. Each member of our club brings something special and unique and I am grateful to have every one of you in the club.

We still have openings in the Mid-winter Bonsai Workshops. They will fill up fast once the other clubs get the word. If anyone needs help with getting material for the workshop, please let me know.

Board Meeting Scheduled

The Board will meet on January 4th, 2020 at 10 a.m. at the home of Lowell Tilley. All board members, and everyone who signed up for the mid-winter workshop committee or wants to help should come to the meeting. We will need as many as possible to assist with this 3-day event.

We also need a current list of the club trees that members have been caring for. We will need these trees available for the workshop. Please contact Tom H. to let him know which trees you have so he can report to the Board.

225-978-3921 or tjharbourt@gmail.com

2020 LBS Membership Dues

Remember to send in your dues to:

LBS
P.O. Box 41661
Baton Rouge, LA 70835-1661

They are due by December 31 every year. You may pay them at the Mid-Winter Workshop so you will not be charged non-member rates for the workshops or observation.

Something to Ponder

Having a bonsai in your home is not only a pleasure for the eyes. They also symbolize virtues like independence, greatness of spirit, health, longevity, dignity and wisdom, which is why it is the perfect gift to wish someone a prosperous and long life, happiness and long-lasting friendships.

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Monthly Meeting Recap

Marla Thompson

The December 17th monthly meeting was our annual Christmas Party. Thank you to all who made the party a very fun event.



Mingling, drinks and appetizers



And to top it off, we had several kinds of wine, hot cider, coffee, appetizers and delicious desserts brought by members. I'm sure no one went home hungry!



The party was catered this year by Specialty Catering at Kristenwood, who really did a



good job with the food. We were served garden salad, shrimp pasta, broccoli rice casserole, baked chicken, mixed vegetables, french bread, and fruit kabobs. Since we had several

members as no shows, we had plenty of food left over which was distributed as take home by the crowd.



After dinner and dessert, we played a bonsai gift swap game where there was a lot of



We had a lovely decorated Christmas tree and we even had a Charlie Brown Tree.

Good Grief!

“stealing” going on! But it was all in good fun!! We hope everyone had a good time.



Let's do it again next year!

Eastern Red Cedar Study Group

Lowell Tilley/ Photos by Stephanie Knoth

Some club members have some eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) in their bonsai



collection and there are some special

techniques for them. Their growth habits are different from other junipers, so

we formed a study group to develop some bonsai techniques to take advantage of these growth habits.

The Eastern Red Cedar study group's first meeting was Monday, Dec. 9, at the home of Julia Hawkins. In attendance were Chris Claypool, Michael and Carolyn Cavanaugh, Stephanie Knoth, Patty and John Thibodeaux, Sid Gray, Lowell Tilley, Julia Hawkins and one or two who I didn't write their name down. There were four cedars



ranging from plants just starting to be developed to trees that have been in pots for more than thirty years brought to the study group meeting.

Julia Hawkins' bonsai was the oldest

and in need of re-potting, so we re-potted it. We didn't do any extensive trimming since it had just been re-potted. Lowell Tilley's old red cedar top was cut out to lower the height to be more appropriate for the diameter of the trunk, and to encourage lower growth. The Eastern red cedar is very top dominant. This is not the best time of the year to prune and trim red cedars since

they are more sensitive to cold than other junipers. It seems to be very important to open up the interior to get light. They seem to need more light to grow a full thick foliage than other junipers. It is very important to all junipers that they are watered well in South Louisiana.

Patty Thibodeaux and Carolyn Cavanaugh brought younger red cedars which we just

cut back to stimulate back budding. You should prune and trim most bonsai to encourage

new growth

lower and closer to the trunk. I think clip and grow will work better on red cedars than other junipers. A problem with designing



red cedars is that it is hard to find old ones growing in nature, but there are old ones in landscapes. We will meet again in a month or two to study the new growth

and decide what to wire, prune, and/or trim. Michael Cavanaugh is interested in starting a hackberry study group. Hackberry, elms, and hornbeams all have some similar features and growth habits, so they can all be done in one study group.

A Note from Stephanie

Between all the valuable information on Red Cedar, and the wonderful hospitality from Julia Hawkins, it was a delightful and very successful study group.

The Gulf Coast Bonsai Foundation

Lowell Tilley

The Gulf Coast Bonsai Foundation is sponsoring a series of bald cypress bonsai development classes/workshop conducted by Randy Bennett. It will be three classes per year for a total of three years. He will use some large nursery bald cypress that you will cut down to fit into cedar growing boxes for development. The cost will be \$325 which will include all materials, instruction booklet, and nine hands-on workshops to be held in Baton Rouge. There will be some small additional costs for food, facility costs, and, etc. and the classes will start the end of January 2020. At the end of classes, you can expect to have a bald cypress bonsai suitable for a large bonsai pot.

Randy is a bonsai expert who has decades of experience teaching bonsai. I don't think you can find anyone in the world better qualified to teach these classes. Email me if you would like additional information, or you can enroll by sending a check for \$325 (payable to Randy Bennett) to Lowell Tilley, 520 Laurie Lynn Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70819. Enrollment will be limited and must be mailed by Jan. 15, 2020. I know this is short notice, but it shouldn't take long to decide on a deal this good.



The classes must begin before the Bald Cypress trees start to bud out. If we miss this deadline, we will have to wait until winter next year.

Guess Who?



Does anyone know this handsome young bonsai artist? Here is a clue. This picture was taken many years ago (about 1983) when he was a member of GNOBS. He is now an internationally acclaimed bonsai master and author and will be the featured artist at the mid-winter workshop. Okay, too easy. We are once again very lucky to have **David DeGroot** from Seattle, WA, with us Jan. 17, 18, & 19, 2020 for the Mid-Winter Workshop. There are still slots available but are going fast. Contact Lowell for availability and send in your registration form and fee. Remember your slot is not guaranteed until the registration is received by Lowell.

If unable to participate in the class, don't forget that as an LBS member, you may observe any or all the workshops as a silent observer for no cost. There is much to be learned from a bonsai master as he advises on tree development.

Spotlight on Campeche Tree

Condensed from www.wigert'sbonsai.com

Haematoxylum Campechianum



Haematoxylum means bloodwood, referring to the dark red heartwood, campechianum refers to the coastal city of Campeche on the Yucatan Peninsula, an important source of the valuable heartwood.

Common Names: Bloodwood Tree, Campeche, Campechier, Campechy Wood, Logwood, Logwood Casha, Palo Campeche, Palo De Tinta, Palo Negro, Spiny Tree, Tinta.

In areas of Puerto Rico the campeche grows almost as a weed. Large thorny thickets grow along roadsides. Campeche is also distributed throughout the Caribbean, India, Madagascar and it is even listed as being naturally found in California, Hawaii, and Florida! Campeche is a fast-growing ornamental tree that can reach up to 50 feet in height, and up to 5 feet in diameter! The pinnate leaves consist of several pairs of reverse heart-shaped leaflets. The leaves can vary in color and in size from 0.4 inches to 4 inches depending on environmental factors

such as sunlight, substrate, and available nutrients. Showy yellow fragrant flowers appear throughout the year. The tree trunk and branches are thorned and become more gnarled with age, lending to its attractive appearance. The wood of the tree is heavy and extremely hard and dense. Freshly cut wood will readily sink in water.

Campeche is a valuable dyewood; it is said to be ready for felling when about 8 years old. The wood, deprived of its bark and sapwood, is sent the market in the form of large blocks and billets. It is very hard and dense, and exteriorly has a dark brownish-red color. The wood was introduced into Europe as a dyeing substance soon after the discovery of America. Campeche is used for dyeing woolen goods, in which it produces shades of blue, from a light lavender to a dense blue-black. It is one of the few dye sources that can be stored in its natural state for long periods of time. The wood can dry out, yet still retain its potency.

Campeche also has other interesting uses. In herbal medicine systems in Mexico and Brazil it is employed as a natural remedy for anemia, dysentery and diarrhea, menstrual disorders, intestinal parasites, tuberculosis, and externally as an astringent disinfectant for wounds and skin ulcers.

As a bonsai it recovers very quickly from initial collecting. The trees will back bud well on old wood and can be trunk-cut to various heights and it leaf out again quickly. The branches respond well to wiring and usually set their position with just one application, though larger branches may require repeated attempts. The wood is quite hard, similar in fact to Buttonwood, and will hold up well after carving. While

carving you may notice the wood is a nice orange or red color. This will fade with time, and you may apply lime sulfur then to bleach the wood. In some cases, the dye will seep down the tree staining the bark. The thorns can be removed, and you will need only deal with the thorns on emerging growth. The new growth tends to have a nice coppery red hue, which greens up as the shoots harden off. If temperature drops below the mid 30's campeche will drop its leaves but will sprout again when it warms. If the temperature is forecasted low for more than just one night its safest to protect the plant. They seem to respond favorably to a soil mix of lava rock, pine bark, and surface –putting out an abundance of new roots quickly. Campeche grows well from cuttings and will gain girth quite quickly if put into a large container.



This nice Campeche was displayed at the 2019 Fall Show by Robert Reed, LBS Vice President.

2020 Coming Events

Jan. 17, 18, 19 Mid-Winter Workshop, BR Garden Center

Fri. 17th Workshop 1-5 pm \$30 (LBS \$25), Lecture/Demo Friday 5-7 pm (supper social \$12)

Sat. 18th Workshop 9-2 pm \$45 (LBS \$40) (lunch\$12)
Workshop 2:30-6:30 pm \$40 (LBS \$35)

Sun. 19th Workshop 9-12 pm \$30 (LBS \$25)

Jan 20 10 am Meet at the Burden Museum and Gardens, 4560 Essen Lane, BR for a tour of the GCBF bonsai collection with David DeGroot

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

Due to the Mid-winter workshop, there will be no Saturday or Monday Study Groups in January. They will resume in February.

Just for Laughs

