



The Louisiana Bonsai Society Newsletter

July 2021

June Monthly Meeting

President Lowell Tilley and Vice-President Robert Reed led the discussion on the upcoming demonstration/workshop events in July with Pauline Muth and in September with Mike Lane and did wiring demonstrations with a yew and an elm.

We had two visitors, one of whom joined at the end of the meeting.



Robert's Yew Before Styling and Wiring



After Styling and Wiring



Shirley S. had questions for the group about her tree in training.



Catherine A. brought in her Elaeagnus she has named "Merrill" as it was originally styled by Howard M.



Lowell brought in his root-over-rock willow-leaf Ficus and discussed his plan for further developing the roots.

Our newest member, Tommy D. brought these three nice trees he has designed by watching on-line videos during Covid isolation. It also helps that he was a bonsai club member in the 80's.



Show and Tell Trees



Ray S. brought a juniper that was browning and just not thriving. It is rootbound but it is not the right time of year to repot junipers. He was advised to up-pot it into a larger, not deeper, pot, tie in well and fertilize.



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

Eastern Red Cedar Bud Pinching

Lowell T.

Below is the picture of the red cedar developed by Mr. Donny Leppala who showed me the bud pinching technique for eastern red cedar bonsai. As you can see, it works.



Each growing tip bud of an Eastern Red Cedar is producing an axon, a growth regulator (similar to a hormone) to suppress back budding so it can use the energy to grow the branch longer. But we want our bonsai to have more and shorter branches. Pinching the growing tip of the bud will stop the bud's production of axon, a growth regulator that suppresses back budding on the branch. Without the axon, the plant will use the energy to grow a new bud to start another branch instead making the branch longer, thus making more branches. If the bud is pinched before there one side branch, it may bud at the base of the branch instead of along the branch.



This picture shows which buds to pinch. You pinch the growing tip of the branch as soon as it has a side branch starting. The buds at A1 and A6 have been pinched. Buds A2, A3, A4, A5, B1, and B6 should be pinched. Don't pinch buds before a side branch starts growing such as bud B2, B3, and B5. You pinch some of the growing tips to increase the number of growing tips. I plan to do this every week or two.

July Workshop Instead of Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 20, 6:00 pm, an hour earlier than our regular meeting, we will have a "bring your own tree" workshop conducted by bonsai expert Pauline Muth. She lives in New York where she owns and operates PFM Bonsai in West Charlton, NY. <http://www.pfmbonsai.com/>. She is a retired biology school teacher who has been doing bonsai for over 50 years. She teaches and lectures all over the world, sharing her bonsai and biology knowledge to anyone who is interested.

This will be a great opportunity to bring your best bonsai to the next level. You can also choose to bring a second tree for advice. Participation will be \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members. The club will have some pre-bonsai material for sale.

Observation only will be free for members and \$5 for non-members. Since Pauline is an excellent teacher and will be doing different species at different stages of development, observation will be like attending a bonsai lecture/demo.

Each member is invited to bring a bonsai for "show and tell" and Pauline will give you some good advice.

Make Your Own Papier Mâché Bonsai Pots

Submitted by Marla T., Excerpts from ['Paper' Training Pots for Bonsai \(bonsai4me.com\)](http://bonsai4me.com)

Joey D. submitted a great article about making concrete pots last month. Catherine A. and I were discussing papier mâché pots being used in Asia and I found this variation on-line for making concrete/papier mâché pots, sometimes called papercrete. This method makes an inexpensive, amazingly sturdy, weatherproof, and lightweight pot. The recipe for making the 'mix' for the pots is very simple.

1) Gather some old newspapers, avoiding "glossy" papers from magazines.

2) Tear the paper in strips or use a paper shredder and soak them in water for a few days.



3) After they are all well soaked, take some paper and mix it into a fine mixture (as though making papier mâché).



4) Add the same amount volume of cement as the fine mixture of wet paper and add some fine polypropylene* fibers (just a finger pinch per bucket of cement; this makes the final structure stronger) and mix the fibers and cement together. * polypropylene fibers are usually used for strengthening concrete, protecting it against cracking; it has many other uses and is relatively easily available from builders' merchants or online.

5) Then mix the cement and wet paper mix together until you get a nice and even mixture (first mix one half of the cement, and then the other).



6) Add some water as needed if too dry, but the mix mustn't be too wet, because it will make problems later. The appropriate mixture is when you take some finished mix in your hand and squeeze it hard, so that water only starts to show between your fingers, but not drip.

Choose the mold you wish to use, which can be most anything as long as it is water tight. It can be an old salad bowl, all kind of buckets, take-out containers, old bonsai pots, or whatever you have handy that is a good size and shape for a bonsai container.



You can make more refined molds by shaping Styrofoam or even by using plaster molds taken from your favorite bonsai pot. You can make the pot's legs (if the original

mold doesn't have them) by simply making the pot's bottom with the piece of polystyrene in which you cut out the spaces for legs with a scalpel and glue it to the bottom of the mold.

When you have the mold ready, coat the inside with a thin layer of oil (for instance cooking oil). This will stop the pot mixture sticking to the sides of the mold itself.

Always wear gloves when using cement; the lime in cement can and will cause burns.

Put a layer of the crumbled smaller sized particles of paper mix over the whole bottom of the mold, and press the whole area into a flat, smooth mass. You can use your hands or a piece of polystyrene to help press the cement. After the bottom of the bonsai pot has been made, you can then start to build the walls of the pot.

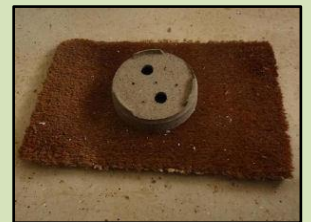


When building the walls, press the mix against the walls from various directions, so that the pieces you add blend together well. When the walls of the pot are built to the desired height, smooth the whole surface with your fingers/palms (if it is too dry, spray the mix with a little water).

Finally, make the drainage holes at the bottom of the bonsai pot and some smaller ones for the tying-in wires. For these holes, bottle caps or similar items that are the appropriate size can be used.



Remove the pot from the mold after 3 days, or when you are sure the mixture has cured properly, by turning the mold upside down and tapping on a soft surface. Allow the pot to dry for a couple more days to ensure it has hardened all the way through.



You can use a grinder wheel or sandpaper to smooth rough edges.



Then color with your own choice of cement color.



Help with Bald Cypress

Stephanie K.

I just wanted to share with you how kind it was for Lowell Tilley to stop by and help me catch up on my Bald Cypress, I've only been able to make it to the first class because I have had some health issues pop up, not related to Covid. It's all good now. Lowell also helped in the first class to carve it out, as you can see it is healing nicely. Thanks again Lowell!

See all y'all at the next class! 🙌



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

GCBF

Call Lowell for more information

July 17, 2021, GCBF Japanese Black Pine and Boxwood Workshop

LBS

July 20, 2021- Bonsai Artist **Pauline Muth**, Bring-your-own-tree Workshop 6-9 pm. BRGC open at 5 pm to bring in trees and help set-up.

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

