



## November Board Meeting Minutes

The LBS Board met November 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm prior to the monthly meeting to discuss items of business and issues of the upcoming Mid-Winter Workshop. In attendance were: Lowell Tilley, Jean Merrill, Howard Merrill, Randy Howard, Ray Schell, Tom Harbourt, Robert Reed and Marla Thompson.

- The President received the Treasurer Report. Since there is an ample treasury at present, it was discussed how to best put some funds back into the club to benefit members.
  - It was proposed that the Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Christmas party be catered this year at the club's expense rather than potluck. The board approved of the idea, and Marla volunteered to obtain some quotes. More details will be sent out to members at a later date.
  - It was also discussed and approved that all members that have paid their 2020 annual dues by January 21<sup>st</sup> and attend the January meeting, will receive a tree from the club. Dues will continue at the current renewal of \$20 individual and \$25 family membership.
- The President received the Publicity Report.
  - The president was pleased to announce that the Fall Show had the largest 2 day turn-out in many years. He thanked the publicity committee for creating the Facebook page with multiple posts inviting people to the show, newspaper submissions and everyone who printed out and distributed flyers.
  - To continue to increase our presence in the bonsai community through on-line visibility, our new website
    - [louisianabonsaisociety.com](http://louisianabonsaisociety.com) is being created and managed by Marla Thompson and Joel Jenkins. Everyone will be notified when it is published on-line. Lowell will also continue to update the [labonsai.blogspot.com](http://labonsai.blogspot.com).
- The president asked the secretary to create the flyer/invitation for the Mid-Winter Workshop Jan. 17, 18, 19, 2020 and e-mail to LBS members. Registration will be open to only LBS members until **December 9<sup>th</sup>**, then will open to other clubs. David DeGroot is the featured master of the 4 workshops. There will be a supper social and lecture demo on Friday evening, lunch on Saturday and raffle of demo tree on Sunday.
- In 2020 the Board would like to have matching Club Shirts made with our logo embroidered on the front for member purchase. Quotes are being obtained and further details will be given soon.
- A copy of the original articles of incorporation was obtained from the Secretary of State office but since the Board has changed many times over the years, and a copy of the by-laws cannot be located, it was decided that the club needs to create new by-laws to be in compliance with our non-profit status. Lowell and Robert agreed to seek out the by-laws of other bonsai clubs for Board review and adaptation. When completed, they will be available for members to examine if desired.
- Speakers are needed for the upcoming year if you would like to share your knowledge with the group.
- The club will continue with door prizes at the monthly meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

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Robert Reed-Vice President [rreed19@cox.net](mailto:rreed19@cox.net) 504-494-4824  
Marla Thompson-Secretary [marlajthompson@msn.com](mailto:marlajthompson@msn.com) 225-503-7397

## 2019 Fall Bonsai Show

Despite having to compete with an important football weekend, we had a great turnout for the Fall Show with more than 200 people attending.



Thanks to Randy Bennett for his informative lecture and Bald Cypress slide show on Saturday.



A big thanks to Howard Merrill for growing the trees for sale.

We thank the Ikebana Society of Baton Rouge who displayed several lovely pieces with us this year.



Thanks to Jim Scarton for his great trimming demo on Sunday and also to Jim's helpers, Dylan Hendrickson, 8, and Savannah Hendrickson, 5. They did a wonderful job.

And thanks to everyone who brought beautiful bonsai to display. There are too many to display here. More pictures of the Fall Show can found on our Facebook page. Go to [Louisiana Bonsai Society](#) and "Like" our page.

## Monthly Meeting Recap

Dawn Koetting, treasurer of Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society and member of Louisiana Bonsai Society, presented a great slide show as guest speaker for the November 19<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting



on how to create and display shohin bonsai (<10 in.). She has won many honors with her shohin bonsai tree displays, some of which are shown here. A confirmed bonsai-holic, she admits to having over 150 trees in her collection at

her home in Thibodaux. She states that she loves her big trees but she revealed to the audience that she has learned to love shohin bonsai trees because they are much easier to lift and transport to shows.



Dawn shared these tips for success in growing shohin.

## Keys to choosing or growing a shohin sized bonsai

By Dawn Koetting

- 1) Select a species with very small leaves or where significant leaf reduction can be accomplished
  - a. Deciduous- Elms (especially Hokkaido), Japanese maples, Chickasaw Crape Myrtles
  - b. Broadleaf Evergreens- Azaleas, Harland or Kingsville Boxwood, Dwarf Yaupon
  - c. Evergreen conifers- Juniper Procumbens Nana, Japanese Black Pine
  - d. Tropicals- Ficus, Bahama Black Olive, Nea
- 2) All styles can be accomplished within the shohin size category, but if you want a style with movement, the first curve must exist or be wired into the first 2 ( +/- ) inches of the trunk. Otherwise consider formal upright, broom, or maybe literati.
- 3) Sources
  - a. Nursery stock or pre-bonsai or trees you already have; looking for trees with good bases and nebari that can be chopped very low and can be regrown ( no evergreens), or that have a low branch that has short internodes and can be wired up for the new top (Instabonsai)
  - b. Air layer- from trees in your landscape, nursery stock, trees you already have. Again, can result in Instabonsai!
  - c. Seedlings and cuttings- 1-2 year whips can be more easily wired to get that all important low movement. Plant in the ground or terracotta azalea pots and fertilize for growth, allowing a sacrifice branch for trunk development, but keeping and developing a side branch as the future tree.

Check out this article on displaying shohin. <https://www.bonsaitreegardener.net/general/display-shohin>

## Saturday Study Group

By Lowell Tilley

Howard Merrill, Lowell Tilley, and Chris Claypool met Saturday, Nov. 23, with Tom Harbourt at his house to work on bonsai club trees to prep them for the Midwinter Bonsai Workshop in January. We have six big boxwood clumps, three large junipers, two small junipers, and two crape myrtles. We trimmed some junipers and checked and trimmed roots on the boxwood clumps taken from a landscaping project that have been thinned out to promote lower growth. They are about 30 years old and will make some very good clump style bonsai. More club pre-bonsai material is being cared for by other members, and if you would like to get involved with caring for club material, contact Tom. This material is available to club members for workshops.

## Eastern Red Cedar Study Group

By Lowell Tilley

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 are forming a study group to develop some bonsai techniques to take advantage of these growth habits. We plan to meet at Julia Hawkins house and if you are interested in joining this study group, let me know so I can send you more info and set a time.

I talked to Robert Reed and we decided to look into doing study groups for members who have special interest in a particular bonsai study. If you are interested in starting another study group, let us know.

## 2019 Christmas Party

By Marla Thompson

LBS is hosting a catered Christmas Party on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30pm for club members and spouse. You must RSVP by Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> to [marlajthompson@msn.com](mailto:marlajthompson@msn.com) or 225-503-7397 in order to give a final count to the caterer. If I don't hear from you by the 9<sup>th</sup> I will be contacting you. From 6:30-7:00 we will mingle and snack. After we eat, we will have the round table gift exchange. It should be something bonsai related in the \$10-\$20 price range. It's always a lot of fun so bring something you think will create a stir and get ready to steal from your neighbor!!! We hope to see you all there.

## Gulf Coast Bonsai Foundation

By Marla Thompson

The Gulf Coast Bonsai Foundation held a continuing workshop on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at the Waddill Outdoor Education Center, Baton Rouge. There were 25 people in attendance, some of whom were observers. The three sessions were presented by Joe Day, Lawrence LeClaire and Randy Bennett.



These three are experts in the art of bonsai and present the continuing workshops to help you further develop the trees in your collection.

All proceeds benefit the GCBF in its mission to develop a world renowned bonsai exhibit and collection at the LSU Burden Museum and Gardens to attract visitors and provide them with better awareness, understanding and appreciation of legacy bonsai that can be passed down from one generation to the next. GCBF is seeking new members who would like to be a part of this endeavor. Contact Lowell Tilley for further information about GCBF, membership or the continuing classes. [lowelltilley@gmail.com](mailto:lowelltilley@gmail.com) or 225-241-2396.

## Coming Events

Dec 17, 2109 Christmas Party and gift exchange  
6:30-9pm, BR Garden Center

Jan 17, 18, 19, 2020 Mid-Winter Workshop, BR  
Garden Center

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

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

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

Jan. 21, 2020 Monthly Meeting, 7-9pm, BR Garden  
Center

Jan 25, 2020 Saturday Study Group 9 am, Forrest  
Community Park

Jan 27, 2020 Monday Study Group 9 am, Forest  
Community Park

## Online Extra

Are there 'Rules' in bonsai? Check out this quick  
and interesting article on the topic:

<https://www.evergreengardenworks.com/rules.htm>

## Just for Laughs



Only in Louisiana!!

## Something to Ponder



It took 30 years to grow the 6.5 foot (2 meter)  
branch of this Bonsai, at Kyoto Garden Ryokan  
Yachiyo.

## 2020 LBS Membership Dues

Remember to send in your dues this month  
to:

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

They are due by December 31 every year.