



Monthly Meeting Recap

President Lowell Tilley led the presentation on the care of bonsai crape myrtles for the August 20th monthly meeting. He stressed that one of the



greatest problems with growing quality crape myrtles is the damage caused by disease and pest infestation. While foliar sprays work to kill surface pests, the use of a systemic

product provides long lasting control, even in new growth. The products come in liquid and granular.

Some of these systemic products discussed were **Fertilome 2-N-1 Systemic** which provides insect and disease control for six weeks; and **Bayer 3-in-1 Tree and Shrub** which controls insects and disease for 6 weeks and also contains a fertilizer (6-9-6) for strong roots, shoots and blooms.



Member Tom Harbourt displays the liquid Fertilome 2-N-1 Systemic.

Lowell also discussed that while crape myrtles are generally hardy in wintertime, it is important to keep the roots from freezing by covering the pot with mulch, such as fine pine bark and/or sphagnum moss.

Meeting Show and Tell

Thanks to all members who brought crape myrtles and other bonsai from their collections for the Show and Tell discussion led by Lowell Tilley.



Special Event September 4

There will be a special deciduous bonsai lecture demo/workshop featuring Andrew Robson on Sept. 4th from 6-9 pm at the Baton Rouge Garden Center.

Andrew is a talented young bonsai artist who, after graduating from Yale University, became a full-time apprentice in June 2016 to Michael Hagedorn in Portland, Oregon. In addition to his apprentice duties, Andrew serves as the director of the [Portland Bonsai Village](#) and on the board of the [American Bonsai Society](#).



He is also founding a bonsai school, garden, and nursery in Portland, Oregon named RAKUYO (a Japanese word that translates to “deciduous, fallen leaves”). Visit his website at:

<https://www.rakuyobonsai.com>.

As always, this program is to help everyone improve their bonsai collection and learn new bonsai techniques. Participants will bring one or more of their deciduous bonsai to be discussed and worked on in a lecture/demo setting where all the observers can see and learn the techniques. As Andrew critiques the tree, the bonsai owner may choose to have him perform the work at that time or use the advice given to complete the work themselves. Registration will start at 6:00 pm and the program will start at 6:30. The cost is \$5 (Free for LBS members) for registration and \$10 for each bonsai to be worked on. The more you participate the more you will learn. To help us setup the seating arrangement, please RSVP to Lowell Tilley 225-241-2396 or e-mail lowelltilley@gmail.com.

From The President

Lowell Tilley

I talked to one of my former bonsai students today who attended Underhill Bonsai "Third Thursday Bonsai Classes" and a Saturday bonsai workshop last week. She said they had a full house and a very good program. She was very pleased and planning to go back. Underhill Bonsai is a very good resource for bonsai hobbyists and we encourage participation.

I would like to thank Ray Schell, Randy Howard, Robert Reed, Marla Thompson, and Howard and Jean Merrill for attending the board/publicity committee meeting on August 20th. Items discussed:

- The best ways to reach the public to invite them to attend monthly meetings and special events in order to increase membership of the club and foster an interest in bonsai.
 - Developing a Facebook Page. Marla agreed to work on this item.
 - More visible signage. Planning to display monthly meeting signs near the botanical gardens and in front of the Garden Center from the Friday before the meeting to Tuesday. Looking into having several signs made. Lowell is working on this.
 - Developing a website. Marla is checking into costs.
 - Continue placing newspaper articles for every meeting and event. The

publicity committee is doing a great job at this.

- A public service announcement on local community channel.
- A question was posed regarding the feasibility of a tree critique at the Fall Show. We could possibly get Randy Bennett. Also it was mentioned whether the Ikebana Society might want to participate in the Fall Show. Lowell is looking into both.
- Discussion on which visiting bonsai artist will be featured at the Mid-Winter Workshop.

The Board is always open to suggestions for membership recruitment and retention, topics they would like covered in the meetings, and additional interesting activities for the club. Please discuss any ideas with Lowell or Robert.

I traveled to Lafayette August 7th to attend the monthly meeting of the Bonsai Society of Acadiana and present Boyd Snellgrove with the Vaughn Banting Award for design excellence with his winning Water Jasmine entry at the Louisiana Day of Bonsai held in Baton Rouge on July 20th.



Bring on the Funny!



What do you think this fella is saying to the other? E-mail me your funniest caption. The winner will receive a liquid bottle of systemic insecticide. All entries will be published in the next newsletter.

Send entries to marlajthompson@msn.com.

A Tale of 2 Elms

by Kathy Perry

Winged Elm #1—"volunteer" in dead crape myrtle for 2 years. In one-gallon pot (Nov. 2018)



#1 Repotted and trimmed (Jan. 2019 Workshop)



Winged Elm #2 —unwanted tree pulled from neighbor's side of fence (okay, I cut the chain link but knew I was replacing anyway). With sunning lizard (Jan. 2019)



#2 New Leaves March 2019



Both trees leafing out May 2019



Water Comparison

by Marla Thompson

After reading the article about water, I decided to use my pool test strips to do water comparisons on my tap water (Ward 2 Water District), the outdoor filtered water I use for plants, and rainwater.

First, the tap water—Very low/0 hardness, Very low/0 total and free chlorine, neutral pH of around 7.0, Low alkalinity around 80.



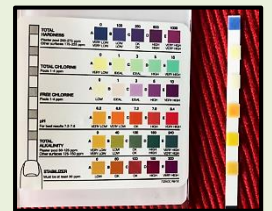
The carbon water filter I always use for plants came from Amazon \$15-20. Removes 98% of Total and Free Chlorine and heavy metals. Lasts for 8,000 gallons.



Result of the water using the outdoor filter—Not much different than the tap water in all the tests, only slightly lower pH and alkalinity.



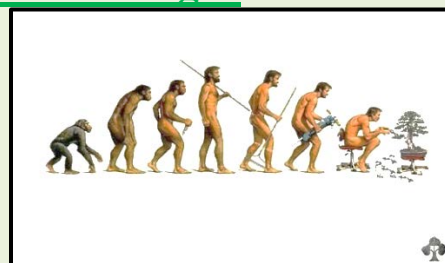
The rain water—Very low/0 hardness, Very low/0 total and free chlorine, Very low/6.0 pH, Very low/0 Alkalinity.



My conclusion is that:

- #1. We have pretty decent water in Denham Springs;
- #2. I may not need the outdoor filter (but I'll keep using it to remove any trace chlorine and heavy metals);
- #3. Rain water is the best--I want to get a rain barrel. 😊

Just for Laughs

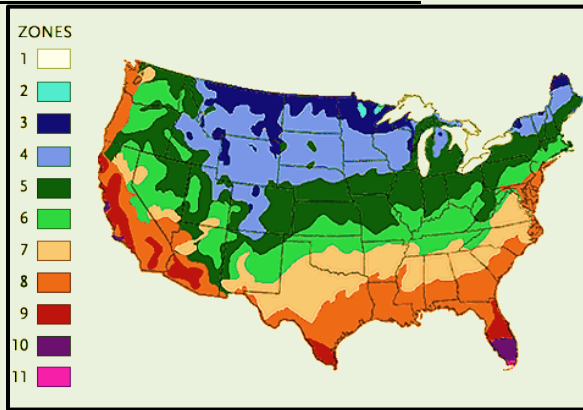


Changing Plant Hardiness Zones

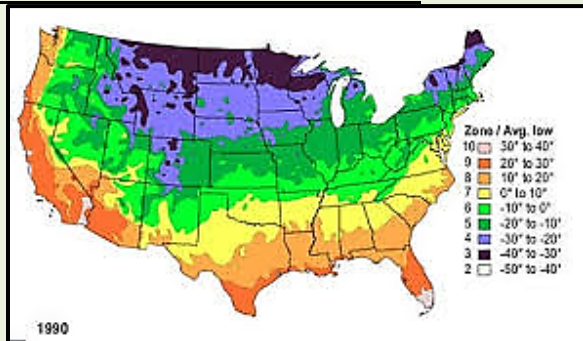
-Compiled and submitted by Marla Thompson

Have you ever thought about how the growing zones have changed in our country and our area? The following article is a comparison through the past and the projected future of these zones.

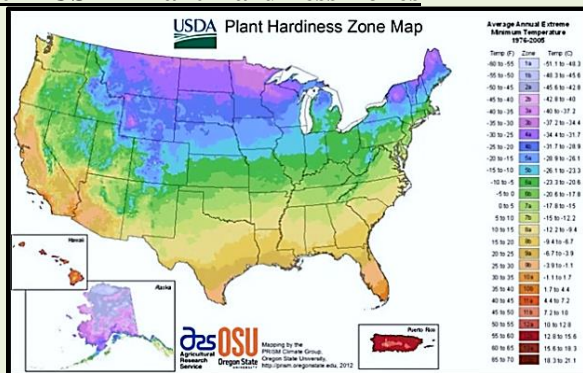
1960 USDA Plant Hardiness Zones



1990 USDA Plant Hardiness Zones



2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zones

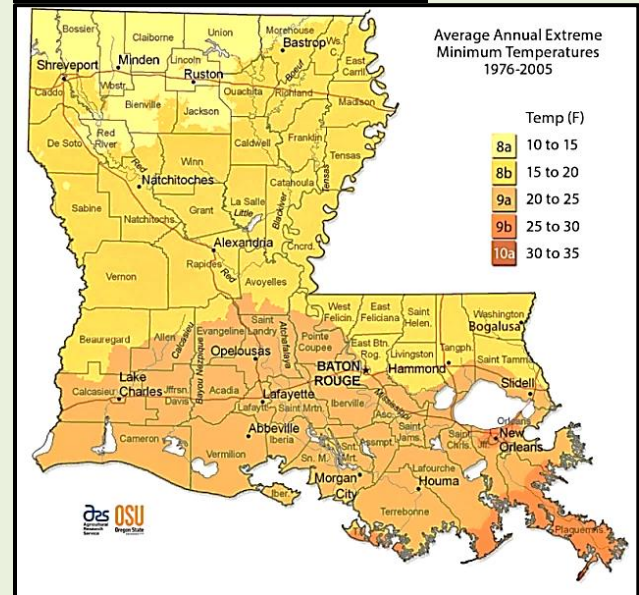


<https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>

While the 1960 map shows Louisiana as entirely in USDA hardiness zone 8, the 1990 map had Louisiana located in zone 8 with zone 9 along the

coast. We are still located in these hardiness zones, but with several noticeable changes.

2012 USDA Louisiana Zone Map



<http://www.lsuagcenter.com>

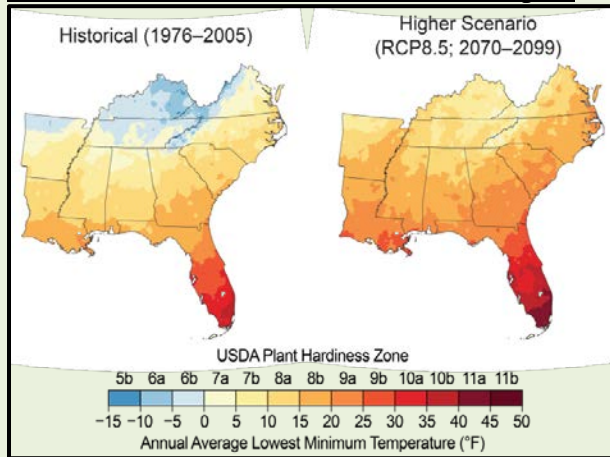
The current map, updated in 2012 and subdivided into “a” and “b” for each zone, is generally one 5-degree Fahrenheit half-zone warmer than the previous map throughout much of the United States.

Hardiness zone 9a extends more northerly up I-49 from the Lafayette area, and all of the metropolitan areas of Baton Rouge, Lafayette and Lake Charles are in hardiness zone 9a. The current map also shows a warmer New Orleans area, which is now in zone 9b and surrounded by zone 9a. Zone 9b is the warmest zone in the state and includes the coastal regions of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes.

Citrus are growing more reliably in areas of Louisiana where many home gardeners did not grow citrus before due to the possibility of cold damage. Tropical plants are also overwintering in more northern areas in the state.

So, what does all this mean? Many weather observers have been saying that the climate is warming. This projection of our warmer future climate has been predicted by experts in the Fourth National Climate Assessment Report.

Fourth National Climate Assessment Report



Increasing winter temperatures are expected to result in a northward shift of the plant hardiness zones. These maps show the mean projected changes in the plant hardiness zones, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), by the late 21st century (2070–2099). Note that large changes are projected across the region, but especially in Kentucky, Tennessee, and northern Arkansas. <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/19/>

Interesting food for thought. How do you think the historical and future warming trends has or will affect the bonsai community? Perhaps eventually the tropicals won't have to be brought into the house anymore!!



Logo

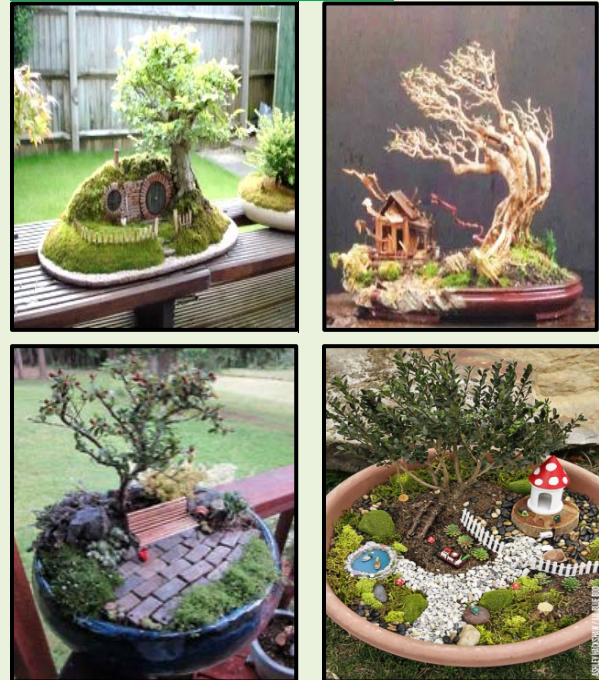


By popular vote, this logo was chosen as the official club logo for use on publications, signs, etc. We are going to have meeting signs made and check on club shirts.

New Members

Give a warm welcome to our new club members **Joel Jenkins** and **Catherine Altazan** who joined in August. Please let any club member know if you need help with bonsai care.

Fairy Garden Bonsai



<https://www.lilblueboo.com/2017/04/fairy-garden-ideas-how-to-make-a-bonsai-tree-fairy-garden.html>

Coming Events

Sept 4 6-9 pm Andrew Robson demo/lecture, workshop, Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd.

Sept 17 7-9 pm Monthly Meeting at the Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd.

Sept 21 8am-12pm Bonsai Study Group at Forest Community Park, 13900 South Harrell's Ferry Road, BR

Oct 15 7-9 pm Monthly Meeting at the Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd.

Oct 19 8am-12pm Bonsai Study Group at Forest Community Park, 13900 South Harrell's Ferry Road, BR

Nov 9 & 10 Time TBA Louisiana Bonsai Society Fall Show, Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd.

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