



Shreveport Bonsai Society

January 7, 2006

Hi Folks:

This month's meeting:

The next meeting will be at the Barnwell Center, on Saturday January 14th at 1 pm. The study group topic this month will be preparing trees for a show. I will be leading a hopefully lively discussion.. I hope to see you all there.

Last month's meeting was terrific; kudos to Jeff and Tim for leading the discussion on wisteria. Hopefully everyone had a great time. The raffle was our most successful one yet with \$45 raised for future SBS projects. Clearly members have the greatest interest in trees. So search your benches for unwanted or neglected material for next Saturday's meeting. The new pricing for tickets is: one for \$1, 6 for \$5, or 13 for \$10.

We are coming up on the busiest time of year for bonsai: time to collect, time to repot and time to wire and style. Look for Tim Shield's tips on what to do this month below in the Vice President's column.

Also check the web site for Jeff's new bonsai journal. This is a work in progress for members. It will allow you to keep track of trees, including recording your training schedule, and keeping track of pictures of each tree. Information is provided below in the Web Master's column by Jeff White.

The big news for next month is our day with Craig Coussins, the internationally known author and bonsai artist. Craig will be with us on February 5th from 9-4 at the Barnwell Center. The doors will open at 9 with coffee, tea and doughnuts for all. Craig will be available to sign your books and meet the members. Please come and take this opportunity to Meet the Master.

From 10-12 there will be a demonstration, with Craig putting together a bald cypress forest. Jeff and I collected the trees last weekend and they look great. In the afternoon the forest will be auctioned off, with all proceeds going to the SBS. A minimum

bid will be provided to make sure we cover our expenses.

From 12-1 we will have lunch and from 1-4 Craig will be doing a workshop assisting individual with styling their own trees. **Cost of the workshop will be \$40 per individual and will be available to the first 12 people to contact me to reserve a spot.** You will need to bring your own tree and if you are planning on repotting, you will need to bring your container and soil as well. This is a unique opportunity to have Craig's international expertise help guide you in the styling of your tree.

Thanks to all who agreed to receive the newsletter electronically. Because of the enthusiastic response, please note that I have change my e-mail address to get it off the server at work. Please feel free to contact me or any of the officers if you have questions about the demo/workshop next month or any thing to do with the SBS, or even your trees. Any one else who receives this by snail mail and would prefer to receive it electronically, please just e-mail me and I will make it happen.

SBS Officers:

Bob Specian President Treasurer	227-0744 rspecian@sport.rr.com
Tim Shields Vice President	742-8014 tshiel1@msn.com
Jeff White Web Master	219-9618 jt_white@bellsouth.net

Vice President's Column

January-- The weather has been unseasonably warm so everything is going to wake early this year. Make sure all

of your trees are damp. My trees are using water like its late spring. If you haven't been watching them close it may be too late. Some may have dried too much. Keep your deciduous trees out of the sun to keep them dormant. Keep them out of the cold wind when it returns. Don't fertilize yet.

Be ready to repot soon, I have already started. It's a good time to decide on new pots for spring repotting. Maples, elms and other deciduous trees will be repotted in about 3-4 weeks, so get ready.

Tim Shields

Website:

News about <http://shreveportbonsai.org/>

Web site stats:

2372 web site hits for Dec 05. Down from 3775 for Nov but not unexpected due to the removal of the forum section. Using the search terms "Bonsai Shreveport", <http://shreveportbonsai.org/> is the number 1 listing, after paid advertisers, on Google, Yahoo, MSN Search and AltaVista. So if someone is looking for Bonsai in Shreveport they'll find our club first.

Web site modifications/improvements:

Forum removal:

I removed the forums because I learned that there are new automated methods of snooping email addresses that made our forum members vulnerable to more spam. People were reading the forums but not many were asking question or contributing. Visitors read the forums it just didn't turn out to be the 2 way exchange I had hoped for. I would like very much to offer member written articles. We have some members that are very knowledgeable and if they sat down and started writing I bet they would

be surprised to learn how much they can pass on the others. At the meetings, if you are getting advice from a more experienced member, tell them “You should write an article for the web page”.

Gallery expansion:

I had the idea to expand the gallery. Currently the gallery is a single page with full size images that take quite a while to load. If I post more pictures using this method the page will take forever to load. I want to organize pictures based on topic or date or subject providing thumbnail link instead of the actual pictures. Visitors can still view the full size picture but only if they click on the much smaller preview image. These are just ideas at this point.

Web Journal update:

Not much got done over the holidays but I’m still on track for completion some time this summer. My hope is that it will be worth the membership dues just to have access to the journal. Anybody that wants to can explore what I’ve done so far at <http://shreveportbonsai.org/journal/>. If you choose to explore it bear in mind that most links don’t work yet. You’ll still get a feel for the finished product. I’m open to any inputs or questions based on what you see so far.

Hey, this turned into an article
Jeff

Happy web surfin’
Jeff White
Web Master

Chinese Elm Forest

This is a forest I started two years ago from straight “whips” or seedlings with no branching that I purchased from our Webmaster, Jeff White.

The forest was put together in a fish eye style with 7 trees. Fish eye style exaggerates the leaning of the outer trees as they reach for sunlight that is being blocked by the center or larger trees in a group or forest in a natural setting. By wiring the trees over the last two years I have added movement to each trunk making the composition more interesting.



My attempt was to decrease the amount of movement in each tree as your eye moves toward the center of the group with each trunk movement complementing the trees closest to it. The overall design is coming together well but I will be making some very minor adjustments to the proximity of each tree to its neighbor. The spacing between the three center trees is too equal and is boring to the viewer. I plan to change the spacing ever so slightly to make the whole group more pleasing to the eye.

The branching is coming along well and will need trimming this year. The pot will be changed to give the composition more balance. With the size and style of the pot the forest looks a little top heavy or unstable. A larger pot with straight sides

would give the group a more stable feeling and add some negative space to each side. I will replace the 15" pot with an 18" which will also give the trees more room to grow this coming year.

Stay tuned for the update coming in Spring!

Tim

Raffle:

We will be having a raffle again on Saturday, so bring your trees and folding money to help support the SBS. Let's see if we can beat last month record.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:

One of the best sources for potential new members is our current members, so when your friends get excited by your trees or your enthusiasm, hand them a membership form and invite them to a meeting. The more folks we have the more exciting our meetings will be. Attached at the end of this newsletter is a copy of our information tri-fold.

Schedule for the Shreveport Bonsai Society for 2005-06.

January 14, 2006

Meeting at the Barnwell Center at 1 pm. Study group on preparation and presentation of trees for a show led by Bob Specian.

Bring a tree to work on and an item for the raffle.

February 5, 2006

Guest artist Craig Coussins (from Scotland) will be visiting at the Barnwell Center. He will be doing a demo and offering a workshop to help folks with their problem trees.

9 am: Doors open. Coffee and doughnuts. Set up of small exhibit area. Book signing by guest artist.

10 am -noon: Demonstration of a bald cypress forest styling.

12-1 pm: Lunch

1 pm: Auction of the demonstration forest.

1-4 pm: Workshop. **Space is limited, cost \$40 per person. The first 12 people to reserve their space will get to participate in the workshop.** Observation of the workshop is free.

February 11, 2006

Meeting at the Barnwell Center at 1 pm. Study group on yamadori (collected trees) and plans for a collecting trip. Study group on trident maples and a beginner's workshop with some really nice material. The workshop will be \$40 for the tree, pot, soil, wire and instruction. Bring an item for the raffle.

March 11, 2006

Meeting at the Barnwell Center at 1 pm. Workshop on junipers led by Tim Shields. Bring your own tree or see Bob Specian for material. Bring an item for the raffle.

April 8, 2006

Annual show at the Barnwell Center 9 am – 5 pm. Bring your trees and show them off. Guest artist Dana Quattlebaum (from Brussel's Nursery) will offer a morning workshop on Shimpaku junipers and an afternoon workshop on large crepe myrtles. Price to be announced. Dana gives a terrific workshop and I encourage all to participate. Each workshop limited to 10 participants. First ten registered for each workshop get the spots.

May 13, 2005

Meeting at the Barnwell Center at 1 pm. Study group on the propagation of trees: including growing from seed, growing from cuttings, grafting and air layering. Bring a tree to work on and an item for the raffle.

June 10, 2006

Meeting at the Barnwell Center at 1 pm. Study group topic to be decided. Bring a tree to work on and an item for the raffle.

June, 2006

LABS 2006 hosted by the Lake Charles Bonsai Society at McNeese State University. LCBS is planning an action packed, informal day of bonsai bringing together the bonsai clubs of Louisiana. There will be a great lineup of artists/teachers and vendors. Guy Guidry has already committed to the event. An invitational exhibit is planned with up to five bonsai from each club, vendor, or organization.

Upcoming National and International Events

April 30 - May 7, 2006:

BCI 2006 in Shunde City, Foshan, China (near Canton) at Guangdong Chencun Flower World. An international cast of featured artists (subject to change) includes Masahiko Kimura, Arishige Matsuura, Bill Valavanis, Lindsay Bebb, Solita & Chase Rosade, Brook Zhou, Hu Yunhua. I.C. Su, Zhu Quinfei, Liang Yuemei (Amy), Jin-sheng Wei, Liu Zhongming, Xie Keying, Song-en Wu, and Yang Hanlian. Cost is only \$200 prior to 1 March 2006 and \$250 thereafter. There is also a major viewing stone appreciation festival in Shanghai planned to follow this event. Watch for further details as they are released or check out the convention web site at <http://www.bci2006.com/>

May 26-28, 2006:

Rendezvous, 2006 Brussel's Bonsai Nursery, Olive Branch, Mississippi

June 15-18, 2006:

American Bonsai Society Learning Seminars, Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs, 232 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Featuring these exceptional bonsai instructors: David DeGroot - Jim Doyle - David Easterbrook - Christine Hayward - Harold Johnson - Cheryl Manning - Jerry Meislik - Frank Mihalic - Pauline Muth - Martin Schmalenberg - Kathy Shaner

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July 14-16, 2006:

LSBF 2006 at Holiday Inn, 11th
Street in Corpus Christi, TX.

October 2006:

**3rd International Stone
Appreciation Symposium** in
Harrisburg, PA.

July 10-16, 2007:

BCI 2007 at the Wyndham Condado
Plaza Hotel & Casino (only
\$125/night!) in San Juan, Puerto
Rico featuring Shinji Suzuki, Marco
Invernizzi, David Benavente, Bill
Valavanis, Arthur Skolnik, Suthin
Sukosolvisit, William Acosta, Yrene
C. Vásquez, Xenio Baron, Milagros
Rauber, Pedro J. Morales, and
Sean Smith.

BCI 2008 in Monaco.