



# BONSAI NEWS

March 2017

## GREATER LOUISVILLE BONSAI SOCIETY

Ross Clark, editor

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### OFFICERS' CORNER

Our big events this month will be the two workshops with bonsai master Rodney Clemons (see p. 6), on March 18. **Bob Williams at 2204 Northfield Drive, Louisville, is hosting the workshops at his home. The morning workshop will run from 9am to 1pm**, is limited to 10 participants, and the subject is boxwood, any style, any size. **The afternoon workshop will run from 1:30 to 6pm**, is limited to 8 participants, any species that you bring, any style, any size. The cost of each workshop, payable to GLBS, is \$65 per workshop. However, if you take both morning and afternoon workshops, the cost of the afternoon workshop is discounted to \$50. That means, if you take both workshops, the total cost of both workshops to you is \$135. If you take only the afternoon workshop, the fee is \$65. An all-day observer's fee for these workshops is \$10. If not sent beforehand, workshop fees will be collected on site. However, if you want to guarantee yourself a place in workshops, advance registration is highly advised.

**If you would like a boxwood or other type of tree for a workshop**, a GLBS group will be going to Pineview Nursery in Leitchfield on Saturday, March 11; that's a week before the workshops. If you'd like to join us, we will be leaving Okalona Fence Co. at 9am. You can contact me by phone or email (listed on next page).

**Ruth Mougey** is donating a tree to our club, and we are going to trim and repot her other trees so she can sell them. Ruth has been taking care of our club show stands. Chris Bowman has volunteered to assume the care of these stands.

**Steve Hammel** has come up with a club tee shirt design. We will be ordering 25 of these for sale to our members. The price will be reasonable. Steve showed us white on black designs; if you have other recommendations for Steve, please let him know. (Get his e-mail address from Lee Squires; contact info on next page.)

**Special thanks** to all club members currently helping out, especially Ruth, Steve, Chris, Tommy and Lee. My personal thanks to Ross for this newsletter.

Our annual **Yew Dell Show** will be April 28, 29, and 30. This is our one big show for the year. Let's start preparing to make it a very Special Event!

*Earl Ekman, President*

**NEW POLICY; PLEASE NOTE:** (This is a repeat of the announcement published in the February and March 2017 GLBS newsletters.)

At the GLBS business meeting on Jan. 21, the GLBS membership adopted a **policy to encourage (but not require) members to bring one bonsai-related item to each meeting of the Society to offer for sale or silent auction**. If items do change hands, 10% of the sale or auction price will be due to GLBS before the meeting is over. The hope is that this will stimulate interest in the meetings, facilitate the exchange of bonsai materials, allow vendors to show a sample of what they offer, and provide a little income for GLBS.

The policy is not intended to provide a venue for vendors to display numerous items. Keep in mind that advertising in this newsletter is **free** to members, and several items can be advertised in the same ad. The policy does not extend to workshops or special sales events, which are not considered to be regular meetings of the Society.

## **2017 OFFICERS of the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society**

President Earl Ekman [earl.ekman@gmail.com](mailto:earl.ekman@gmail.com) 502-376-1584  
Vice President Lee Squires [bonsaiman@twc.com](mailto:bonsaiman@twc.com) 502-551-5985  
Treasurer Mike Pfeffer [mike.pfeffer@ge.com](mailto:mike.pfeffer@ge.com) 502-500-9866 12503 Kirkham Rd., Louisville KY 40299

## **Other board members (elected at the business meeting during the 2016 holiday party):**

Dick Blayne, Chris Bowman, George Buehler, Steve Hammel, Tom McCurry, Marian Taylor, Bob Williams

*The Editor thanks everyone who helps this newsletter succeed and welcomes ideas, suggestions and articles. Please address newsletter items to ross.clark@eku.edu. The deadline for the April 2017 issue of this newsletter is Saturday, March 25.*

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## **2017 MEETINGS OF THE GREATER LOUISVILLE BONSAI SOCIETY**

*(all meetings in Louisville, Eastern time, unless otherwise indicated)*

**Saturday, Mar. 18 is the date for our day of masters Bring Your Own Tree workshops with Rodney Clemons.** (click on Rodney's name for a bio). Rodney works with a very wide variety of bonsai material, and is especially well known for his boxwood compositions. The **morning workshop is bring your own boxwood** (any style, any size), from 9 am to 1 pm. The morning workshop is **limited to 10 people**. Rodney's **afternoon (1:30 to 6 pm) workshop is bring your own tree, any species, any size**. The afternoon workshop is limited to 8 registrants. These workshops will be hosted by Bob Williams at 2204 Northfield Drive, Louisville, who by all reports, has a capacious basement.

The cost of the workshops with Rodney is \$65 for each workshop. However, if you take both workshops, the afternoon workshop is discounted to \$50, so if you register for both workshops, the total cost will be \$115. The observers' fee is \$10 for all day. To check on workshop space availability, register and pay fees, please contact **Mike Pfeffer, Treasurer** (contact info above on this page). You're advised to register early, since these workshops are limited in size.

I [Earl Ekman] would like to thank Bob for hosting these workshops. It is a lot of work for him, so let's all jump in and help him any way we can. I'm really looking forward to these meetings; it should be a lot of fun.

A group of members will be visiting Pineview Nursery in Leitchfield, Kentucky on Saturday, March 11. Pineview has hundreds of boxwoods of different species and sizes, and we will be picking up stock for the workshop. If you have something specific in mind, please let us know and we can pick it up for you, boxwood or some other species. Or, you could come along with us (contact, Earl Ekman).

**APRIL 28-30, Friday through Sunday, at Yew Dell Botanical Garden, Crestwood, KY**

**OUR ONLY FORMAL BONSAI SHOW OF THE YEAR. Please plan to show a tree and help with set-up and take-down.** More details will be forthcoming.

**MAY 13, Saturday, time, place and our GLBS instructors, tba**

Introductory workshop. Are you, or do you know, someone who is inexperienced or interested in bonsai?

Then, make a move! Everyone should do bonsai, shouldn't they?

**JUNE 10, Saturday, at Berea Bonsai Studio and Nursery**

GLBS member and proprietor Tim Weckman will be our host as we enjoy seeing a tremendous variety of bonsai material, at many stages of development. Driving time is about 1.5 hrs; plan to carpool if you wish.

**JULY 15, Saturday, schedule tba.** Gardens tour hosted by GLBS members Tommy McCurry and Bob Williams.

**AUGUST — no meeting scheduled**

**SEPTEMBER 16, Saturday, details tba**

Workshop on "twisted mame junipers". Instructor: GLBS member Cliff Tye.

**OCTOBER 19, Thursday, at Bon Air Library.** Building of bonsai show stands. Sharpen your tools!

**NOVEMBER 8, Wednesday, at Bon Air Library,** time tba. Important business meeting. We will vote on our revised constitution and by-laws and plan 2018 meetings and events.

**DECEMBER 2, Saturday, time and place tba.** Annual holiday party.

*Additional details will be published in this newsletter as they become available.*

## SOME 2017 SIGNIFICANT BONSAI EVENTS, EASTERN NORTH AMERICA (listed by date)

**Follow the links!**

*Additional events and details will be posted in this newsletter as details become available*

**Brussels Preview Sale, Saturday Mar. 4**, 8:30 am to 5 pm., Olive Branch, MS—20% off: “excludes quarantined specimen trees”

**Atlanta Bonsai Society Spring Show**, Mar. 17-18, Day Hall, Atlanta Botanical Garden (Sat. 9-5; Sun. 9-3)

**Midwest Bonsai Society Spring Show**, May 20-21; Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL (+ a larger show in August)

**Brussels Bonsai Rendezvous/Convention**, May 25-28. <http://www.brusselsbonsai.com>

**American Bonsai Society Convention, May 25-29, Orlando, Florida: 50 years of Moving Bonsai Forward**

This major event offers an amazing array of events and learning opportunities. Please go to <http://www.absbonsai.org>. Register as soon as you can for this event! If you have subtropical or tropical bonsai plants, this probably will be the most valuable event on the subject you could attend for many years to come.

**U.S. National Shohin Bonsai Exhibition**, June 23-25, North Carolina Research Campus, Kannapolis, NC

A full-spectrum event, sponsored by Steven Zeisel, Director of the NCRC; coordinated by William Valavanis.

**Mid-America Bonsai Alliance Convention**, July 7-8, Clarion Waterfront Hotel, Indianapolis

This event undoubtedly will be **the top bonsai event in our immediate area this year**. The highlighted artist will be Matt Reel, who will be joined by 9 additional [!] noteworthy artists. When your editor checked this site in early January, 16 vendors were listed, covering all aspects of bonsai. Our society is a member of MABA, and as many of us as possible should attend. This should be considered **a “must do” event for people who are relatively new to bonsai**. Caution: if you attend this event, the bonsai bug will bite deeper!

**Mid-Appalachian Bonsai Kai Show**, September (no exact date yet) ; Gray Fossil Site, near Johnson City, TN

**Carolina Bonsai Expo**, Oct. 13-15, North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville

**Winter Silhouette Bonsai Exhibition**, Dec. 2-3, North Carolina Research Campus, Kannapolis, NC

**Triangle [NC] Bonsai Society Shows:**

Mar. 30-Apr. 2, NC Museum of Art, Raleigh

July 5-10, Sarah B. Duke Gardens, Durham

Oct. 13-15, North Carolina State Fair, Raleigh

**2018 American Bonsai Society Convention**, April 19-22, Collinsville, IL (suburban St. Louis)



*Healthy spring mycorrhizae, Japanese black pine. Notice that the undermulch of eastern white pine needles is being consumed by the fungus.*

## HISTORY OF THE GREATER LOUISVILLE BONSAI SOCIETY:

### Part One of A Multi-Part Series

By Lee Squires & Others (this part by Lee)

Ross Clark mentioned to me last year that it would be a good idea to create a history of the GLBS, chronicled as best as the members could, to pass down to future club members. I agreed with him on that suggestion, since I am one of the only early members of the club still maintaining an active membership from 1972. There are past members still above ground, so to speak, who lost interest in bonsai or the club for various reasons. Myself, Tommy McCurry, Earl Ekman, Kenny Popp and Earl Cormney have the most knowledge about past club events and activities from long ago. So, between us five lads we will do our best to recall some of those events and attempt to entertain and amaze you all for the next several months or years depending on how good our memories are. There are written records scattered around in several club members' possession and we will try to uncover those records as we go along through this journey. We plan to have a historical article in each newsletter until we exhaust what we can piece together in this historical puzzle.

The **Louisville Area Bonsai Club (LABC)** began its humble start when the by-laws were voted on and approved by a small number of members on **December 7, 1971**. Oddly, this date is the day that the Japanese had attacked on Pearl Harbor some 30 years before. Ironically, we began cherishing a hobby promoted by the Japanese for many centuries. I've never really thought about that before. The original officers in the LABC were President, Russell Proctor, Vice-President Don Smith, Secretary Lucy VanLeunen and Treasurer Mary Baker. Mr. Proctor, a widower, was President of the great Belknap Hardware in Louisville. He received a Japanese White Pine bonsai as a gift in 1971 and had no clue how to take care of it. So, he contacted a cadre of his lady friends who were ardent garden club members. They sort of knew what to do with the tree but actually had little experience with outdoor bonsai. (What, you can't keep this pine on a coffee table all the time?) Mr. Proctor became a very good and close friend of mine for many years. He is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery. Don Smith was slightly older than I but he had a good grasp on horticultural practices and led the club in the early years in the right direction horticulturally. Don was a daylily breeder for many years and now is involved with peony breeding in southern Indiana. Lucy was a great "garden clubber" and Mary Baker was the wife of John Baker, who was a salesman with Belknap Hardware.

I was working at Evergreens Inc. as a landscape designer and salesman from 1969-1974, when I was hired by Cave Hill Cemetery. Evergreens Inc. was a nursery at the intersection of Hubbard's Lane and Westport Road, where the Kroger shopping center is located now. We had numerous club meetings on that property while and after I was working there. We could make a mess and not get scolded by the owner. I became interested in bonsai as I designed Japanese gardens for clients, but had no idea how to get started in the hobby. Mr. Proctor came in to the nursery one day to buy some plants and we started talking about bonsai. He told me about the club, so I joined soon after our conversation. Now, with Don and myself, we had two members that knew what to do horticulturally with a bonsai tree, both indoor and outdoor trees.

The club kept the name LABC from 1971 until April 16, 1987, when the by-laws were amended and the name was changed to the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society by the great and well organized President, Bud Stout. Also, the dues were made \$20.00 per year (up from \$10.00) with no initiation fee (\$5.00 in 1971). Other details included: Meetings were to be held in 11 months of the year, except in August; officers' terms were two years; outgoing checks need not be signed by another member; and the Secretary & Treasurer offices shall be combined into one office. These were good amendments.

*To be continued.....*

*Blast from the past: Vaughn Banting's famous group of Drummond maples; now in the U.S. National Collection. Vaughn was a prime mover in bonsai in the New Orleans region.*



## A METHOD OF RECORD-KEEPING FOR BONSAI

by Ross Clark

I have quite a few trees, but few of them are truly worthy of the term *bonsai*. The majority range from trees with good possibilities down to rooted cuttings less than a year old. They are all important to me, no matter what their esthetic or monetary value. I don't want to lose track of them, but it is easy to do, since I move them around frequently, especially to take advantage of variable sun exposure regimes and when stashing them into winter quarters. Consequently, to assist my aging brain and treat my trees more kindly, I've devised a tracking system.

My little system is set up as a Word® Table document. For me, this format is much less cumbersome than an Excel® spreadsheet. You can be the judge. The table is divided into three main sections: (1) well-developed trees; (2) trees in early development; and (3) stock plants (possible wannabees someday). The column headers are posted on the first page, and the columns run to the end of the entire table. Rows can easily be added or deleted. In addition, at the top of p. 1 of the table, there are codes for cold hardiness, general age categories, suitability for exhibiting, and whether the tree is a North American native or not.

**The two following sample pages are from a recent year's record. The first photo is page 1 of the table (more advanced plants), and the following photo is part of the table containing records of some stock plants.** A revised version of the table is printed once a year in midwinter, and kept in a looseleaf notebook. Through the subsequent year, I make notes on individual plants which are incorporated into a revised table at the end of the year. (Those that die, are tossed out, are sold or given away, are crossed out.) You can plainly see what shape the list gets into by the end of the year. (If these sample pages are not clear to you, you can enlarge them.) I find that keeping this table and updating it annually helps me remember the history of a plant, the successful things and mistakes I made with it, when it blooms, when is a good defoliation time, how long it's been since repotting, and other useful stuff. The estimated values are based on what similar plants are selling for, usually based on what I see on the web and at the facilities or in catalogs of professional vendors.



**PERSONAL BONSAI COLLECTION**  
Ross C. Clark  
last updated: March 20, 2016

**Notes:** show quality \$  
20 or more yrs old + 50 or more ++  
native taxon = red font  
survived outdoor winter 2014-15, minus 25F degrees C

**TREES IN ADVANCED TRAINING**

	species	acquisition age & date	acquisition price	retail value	history of tree
+ S C	<i>Acer buergerianum</i> trident maple grove, 15 trees <i>GROVE</i>	May 2006 est. age 10 yrs	\$200	\$ <del>750</del> 750	Grove created by RC 5/06 in workshop w/ Brussel Martin. Repotted in same tray, 3/08; defoliated & replanted into blue oval 8 June 09. Defoliated May 9/2010 and in 2011. Not defoliated from 2012 through 2016. Replanted into same \$140 blue oval 14 Mar. 2015. <i>I once almost died over winter 15-16</i>
C	<i>Acer buergerianum</i> root over rock	Mar. 2011 5 yrs old	\$75	\$265 incl pot	Composed by RC in workshop w/ Warren Hill. Pruned top back severely in fall 2011. Lifted, pruned roots & reburied rock Mar. 2012. Ditto, late Mar. 2013. Repotted into brown rect. late Mar. 013. Defoliated 4 June 2013. Severely pruned by rabbit July 2013. Partially unburied rock & replanted in #66 gray rectangle, 1 Apr. 2014. Minor root pruning, covered exposed roots w/ sphagnum, 31 Mar. 2015; left sphagnum on roots for the season. <i>Raised rock a bit more + pruned top severely in fall 2015.</i>
+ C S	<i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Kiyo Hime' informal, on its own roots <i>REPO</i>	Mar 2008 est. age 15 yrs from a cutting	\$449 + \$124 shipping, incl. pot = \$573	\$ <del>800</del> 800	Bought f/ Hollow Creek Bonsai. Repotted into pale blue oval 3/09; repotted in gray (\$45, used) oval in early 3/2011. Severe drying episode in late Oct 2012 (high temp + high wind for 2 days) led to some crown dieback in spring 2013; mostly recovered in spr 2013. Repotted into white oval 23 Apr 2014. <i>Top severely damaged in fall 2015.</i>
S C	<i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Kiyo Hime' 5-tree grove <i>GROVE</i>	composed early Mar 2012; 5 yrs old then	cuttings rooted by RC	\$ <del>750</del> 750	Mother tree for these cuttings is the tree immediately above. Presently in white (\$155) oval. Exhibited in Nashville show 2014 and Yew Dell show 2015.
+ C	<i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Sharts Pigmy' <i>REPO</i>	late May 09 est age 15 yrs	\$160	\$ <del>300</del> 300	Bought f/ Brussels in 7-gal. nursery pot; had bad case of powdery mildew when acquired, but superb nebari. Repotted 04/10. Very healthy in 2010, but pruned off all limbs in winter 2010-2011, because branch structure wasn't good. Basic formal upright structure began to emerge in 2013. Both this tree and the following were damaged by rabbit & pepper spray in late July, but no permanent damage resulted. Nice growth in 2014 + 2015.

First page of the bonsai inventory, which includes some of the more advanced trees. Many of the handwritten notes will be incorporated annually into the revised file, which will be printed out once a year and housed in a three-ring notebook.

Cherry copper leaf

2 yr. old cuttings

C	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Feb 2013	3 @ \$20.10	@ \$7	f/ Valavanis; presently in 5" round plastic pots
C	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Mar 2016	20 @ \$4	\$80	f/ Valavanis; still bare root. Community potted 1 Apr. 2016
C	<i>Forestiera pubescens</i> (= <i>neomexicana</i> ) rooted cutting	Mar. 2008 2 yrs	\$8	\$20 + pot	f/ High Country Gardens
X	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> (REPOT)	Apr 2015 age 2	-----	\$100	Collected in Red River Gorge w/ AEC; had 2 lvs when collected rooted into small green oval 1 Apr. 2016. Rapid growth + 1 branch 2016
C	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> (REPOT)	Oct 2015 5 yrs old	-----	\$100	Collected in Pulaski Co., KY, xeric woods above Rockcastle River, w/ TJW. Rooted Mar 2016
C	<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	May 2015 age 5	\$15	\$25	Bought f/ Yew Dell; severely pruned back in late fall 2015 potted in 14-in tan ceramic pot 16 Apr 2016 (pot = n/a)
C	<i>Picea jezoensis</i> 'JD's Dwarf'	Aug 2014 age 4	gift TJW	\$8.75	Bud grafted stock. Grafted in 2010, possibly onto <i>Pseudotsuga</i> rootstock? Grew nicely in 2015. Graft union too obvious. 19 May 2016
C	<i>Pinus flexilis</i>	Oct 2014 age 4	@ \$5	6 @ \$15	In 4 plastic pots; susceptible to needlecast. Inch completely defoliated 10 Apr 2016
C	<i>Pinus parviflora</i> (REPOT)	tiny 2-year seedlings in 2015	2 @ \$4	\$8.00	f/ Julian Adams at NC Arboretum bonsai expo little guys grow well in 2016
C	<i>Pinus parviflora</i> acquired as seedling in 4" pot	Late May 2009 est age = 4	\$12	\$45	Bought f/ Brussels in 4" pot. Added active mycorrhizae from RRG in Oct 2010. Added active mycorrhizae in spr 2014. Initial styling for informal by Rodney Clemons in summer 2015.
C	<i>Pinus parviflora</i> acquired as seedling in 4" pot	Late May 2009 est age = 4	\$12	\$45	Bought f/ Brussels in 4" pot. Added active mycorrhizae from RRG in Oct 2010. Added active mycorrhizae in spr 2014. Initial styling for raft style by Rodney Clemons in summer 2015. Repotted into deeper container 10 Aug 2016.
C	<i>Pinus parviflora</i> (REPOT) Unk dwarf seedling-very short needles (-'Kokonee'?)	Oct 2013 4 yrs	\$30	\$45	f/ Matt Ouwinga; bought at his nursery in Oct. 2013. Extremely small needles. Repotted in brown oval mid Apr 2014 + nice new growth
C	<i>Pinus strobus</i> (REPOT)	3 yrs old in Jan 2013	-----	-----	Collected by RC in RRG
C	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Dec 2015, 5 yrs old	won in GLBS holiday raffle	\$100	Long thin, rosy trunk. Put 360 deg. Bend in it, Mar. 2016. <del>Repaired 19 May 2016</del> Candles didn't elongate until early May.
C	<i>Pinus thunbergii</i>	Feb. 2011 2 yrs	\$10	\$35	f/ Valavanis. Very nice back budding, but susceptible to needle cast. <del>win 5/16</del> Candles pruned 3 Aug 2015. All <del>needles removed 23 Apr 2016</del>
C	<i>Pseudocydonia sinensis</i> Chinese quince (REPOT)	Mar 2013 3-yr cutting	\$12	\$40	f/ Warren Hill. Last pruned and repotted July 2015.
C	<i>Pseudolarix amabilis</i> (REPOT)	Dec 2013 5 yrs	-----	\$50 NFS	Won in raffle during GLBS holiday party. Is seedling from very large tree in Cave Hill Cemetery. Repotted into plastic rectangle. Is growing well.
	<i>Prunus mume</i> (REPOT)	June 2014 2 yrs	-----	-----	Gifted. Potted into 4" tan oval 3 June 2016
	<i>Ilex crenata</i> (REPOT)	May 2016 2 yrs	\$40	\$40	bought f/ BC Bonsai at Meijer Gardens ADS show Provenance = upper Midwest. Repotted 7 Oct 2016

[continued from previous page]

A page from the Stock Plants section of the inventory.

Rodney Clemons, the visiting bonsai master for our March 18 workshops, at work on a nice Japanese Black Pine.



"There is no such thing as a perfect [bonsai] tree."  
—Toshio Saburomaru

## SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

Ready or not, here it comes! Or more accurately, here it is!



Hybrid magnolia in our yard, one day from peak bloom, 3 weeks early



White pine seedling, germinating in an azalea pot



'Catherine Elizabeth' dwarf Japanese white pine, still in a mulch bed, with buds already elongating.

Young Kiyo Hime maple, with buds almost open; already repotted

*All of these photos were taken on February 23, 2017.*

We suspected this might happen . . . Significant early winter cold spells plus late winter exceptional warmth is propelling us into a significantly early spring. **It is already repotting time.** With Temperate species, remember after you repot to keep the soil temperature above freezing at all times to allow roots to regenerate. If roots injured from repotting are not allowed to remain active and grow, they may rot. Young **unexpanded** leaves of opening buds can withstand temperatures below freezing, but if twigs have begun to elongate, they are susceptible to frost. As new foliage emerges, **watch for signs of fungi and root rot** (wilted or discolored new foliage).

**Here it is!** — the season where the sap rises in all plant people: Spring! The annual season of renewal, new possibilities, new opportunities. **Let's Go For It**, Bonsai Friends! First trident maple buds completely opened here on Feb. 24! The season of new chlorophyll has begun! —ed.

## ADVERTISING (free for members)

To encourage advertisers to review and update their ads, we require advertisers to contact the newsletter editor at least once per year to request that an ad be continued or modified. All ads for specific trees should be accompanied by photos no more than six months old.

GLBS is a Proud Supporter of:

# ABS

## The American Bonsai Society

For More Information Contact  
[abs@insightbb.com](mailto:abs@insightbb.com) or visit  
their web site  
[absbonsai.org/](http://absbonsai.org/)

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