

WELCOME TO
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NEW ORLEANS
★ ★ ★
WELCOME TO

ALL JAZZED UP

AN ABS LEARNING SEMINAR EVENT

PRESENTED BY UNDERHILL BONSAI



ALL JAZZED UP



**2027 ABS Learning Seminars
New Orleans, LA**

**Wyndham New Orleans Airport & Conference Center
2829 Williams Blvd, Kenner, LA 70062**

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Brought to you by the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society, the American Bonsai Society, the Lone Star Bonsai Federation, and Underhill Bonsai



**AMERICAN
BONSAI
SOCIETY**
— EST. 1967 —



WELCOME TO ALL JAZZED UP!

Welcome from the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society



On behalf of the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society, I want to welcome you to “The Big Easy.” GNOBS is both pleased and proud to host the American Bonsai Society’s 2027 Learning Seminar here in the Crescent City, the birthplace of Jazz. Our members have been planning this event for years and promise to make this conference one that you will not soon forget.

Top-tier artists will be offering informative learning seminars on a wide range of topics. Our club began selecting workshop material over three years ago for the demonstrations and workshops so that our featured artists can provide you with a first-class experience.

The Wyndham New Orleans Airport & Conference Center has been selected as the site for this memorable event. Located just minutes from Louis Armstrong International Airport, the hotel is near outstanding restaurants featuring local cuisine, the Treasure Chest Casino, and is just 20 minutes from the French Quarter and all it has to offer.

I want to express my deep appreciation to the American Bonsai Society for allowing us the honor of being your host. We hope that you will join us. We promise you great artists, great vendors, great workshops, and most certainly a great time with great friends.

And so, on behalf of the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society, I look forward to seeing you in March. And as we say in New Orleans, “Laissez les bons temps rouler!” (Let the good times roll!)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Bennett".

Randy Bennett - Convention Chair, Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

Welcome from the American Bonsai Society



Welcome to All Jazzed Up. I lived in Houston, Texas, for many years, just a half-day drive from New Orleans, and visited often for work and fun. As a Red Cross volunteer, I spent weeks here helping in shelters and with disaster recovery, most recently during Hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020. I love this city and am proud and grateful to bring the ABS Learning Seminars here.

Surrounded by Louisiana’s culture and the bayous of the Gulf Coast, we think this will be the event of the year. We’re excited to have worked with the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society to create something truly special. The artists, materials, talks, and venue are excellent, and we’ve planned a program with something for everyone. Whether you’re new, have some experience, or are ready for a Master Class, you’ll find your place at All Jazzed Up.

We want to give a special thank you to our sponsors, especially our Presenting Sponsor, Underhill Bonsai. Their generous support, along with our discounted venue packages and free airport shuttle, has helped us keep All Jazzed Up affordable and accessible for everyone. We also thank the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society for hosting the event with us. Their hard work and enthusiasm made this event possible.

This brochure has everything you need for All Jazzed Up, including maps, artist bios, and a full schedule of workshops, seminars, and demonstrations. We’re excited to feature inspiring artists—some familiar, some new, and all very talented. We hope you’ll join us at the 2027 Learning Seminars in New Orleans.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Barboza".

Scott Barboza - Convention Chair, American Bonsai Society

TICKETS

ABS Learning Seminars are designed to be flexible, so everyone can join in a way that works for them. You can take part for the whole weekend or just come for a single day.

FULL REGISTRATION (MEMBER OR NON-MEMBER)	- Attend any seminar throughout the weekend. - Observe any workshop throughout the weekend without participating. - Register separately for workshops, tours, and other ticketed activities. Includes all three evening events.
SINGLE-DAY REGISTRATION	- Includes all registration benefits for the day purchased. Does not include any evening events. - Evening event tickets may be purchased separately.
ACCOMPANYING GUEST	- For a family member or non-participating companion of a full-event registrant. - Attend any seminar throughout the weekend. Cannot participate in workshops or tours. Includes all three evening events.

Add-ons:

EVENING EVENT TICKETS	- Available to single-day registrants and vendors. - Purchase any combination of the three evening events. Full-registration and accompanying-guest tickets already include all three evening events: Thursday Reception & Opening Ceremony, Friday Night LIVE!, Saturday Banquet, Auction & Awards Ceremony.
WORKSHOPS & TOURS	Available to single-day and full registrants.

DISCOUNTS

We offer discounts to help make the event more accessible. These discounts thank society members for their loyalty, support our volunteers, and reward those who plan ahead.

MEMBERSHIP	Any member of the American Bonsai Society may register at the member rate. If you are not an ABS member, buy your ticket at the Non-Member Rate and enjoy ABS membership benefits for a full year!
EARLY-BIRD DISCOUNT	Register early and save!
VOLUNTEER	Help us and we'll help you! It takes a lot of hands to put these on. If you volunteer, we'll give you a discount on your attendance. (\$50 for up to 3 shifts, \$75 for 4 or more shifts)

REGISTRATION PRICES

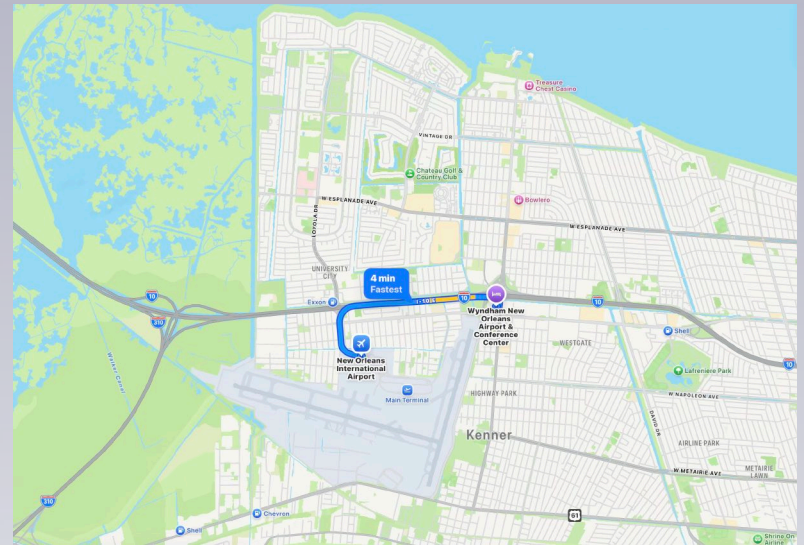
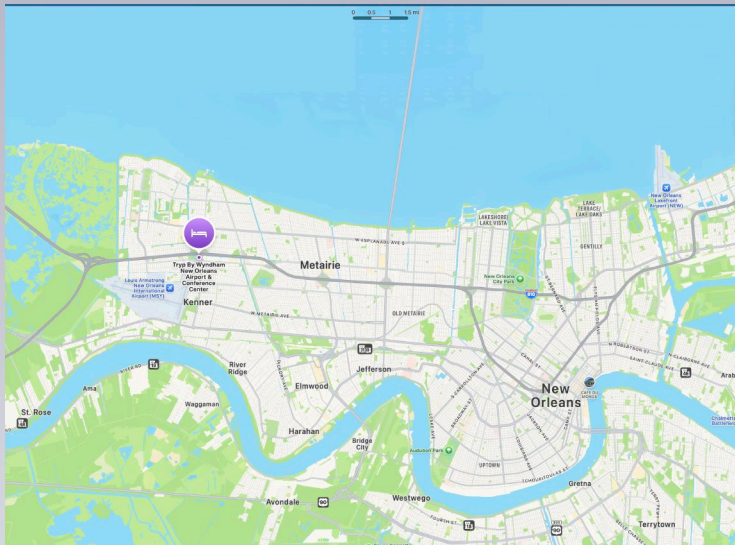
Tickets	
Early Bird Member Registration	\$225
Early Bird Non-Member Registration	\$275
Member Registration	\$275
Non-Member Registration	\$325
Single Day	\$100
Accompanying Guest	\$170

Add-Ons	
Evening Events	
Thursday Night Reception	\$45
Friday Night LIVE!	\$80
Bqt., Auction & Awards Cerem.	\$65
Workshops & Tours	See Event
Seminars	Free

VENUE & FACILITY MAPS

We're happy to welcome you to the [Wyndham New Orleans Airport & Conference Center](#). Just three miles from Louis Armstrong International Airport, the hotel makes arriving and departing easy, especially with our free shuttle running all day and night. While you're here, you'll have access to free high-speed WiFi, and we've arranged special discounted room rates to make your visit more comfortable and affordable. When you arrive at the airport, just call **504-467-5611** to request the shuttle.

It's easy to get downtown or to the lively French Quarter from the convention center. You can take a ride share or grab a taxi for a short drive into the city center. When you reach the French Quarter, you'll find historic buildings, famous restaurants, and great jazz clubs. If you have time, visit the Garden District for its mansions and oak-lined streets.



- Getting from the airport to the hotel couldn't be easier. Once you're at the airport, you are just a short, five-minute drive from All Jazzed Up!
- All convention events will be held at the Wyndham New Orleans Airport & Conference Center, except Friday Night LIVE! and the Banquet, Auction & Awards Ceremony which will be held at the nearby DoubleTree Hotel. Discounted rooms are available for attendees. Please register early to secure your room and enjoy the convenience of staying at the convention hotel.
- Your safety is our top priority. It might be tempting to walk to some of the nearby shops and restaurants, but **please do not attempt to cross Veterans Memorial Blvd or Williams Blvd on foot**. There are no crosswalks and the traffic can be very heavy.

MEETING & EVENT SPACES



Seminars will be in Meeting Rooms 2 & 4 (MR2 & MR4). Meeting Room 4 is located on the second floor directly above Meeting Room 3 and can be accessed by the elevator by Meeting Room 3.

Workshops will be held in Meeting Rooms 1 & 3 and Salons 5 & 6. Check the complete schedule for details!

The **Exhibit** will be in the Pre-Function Area

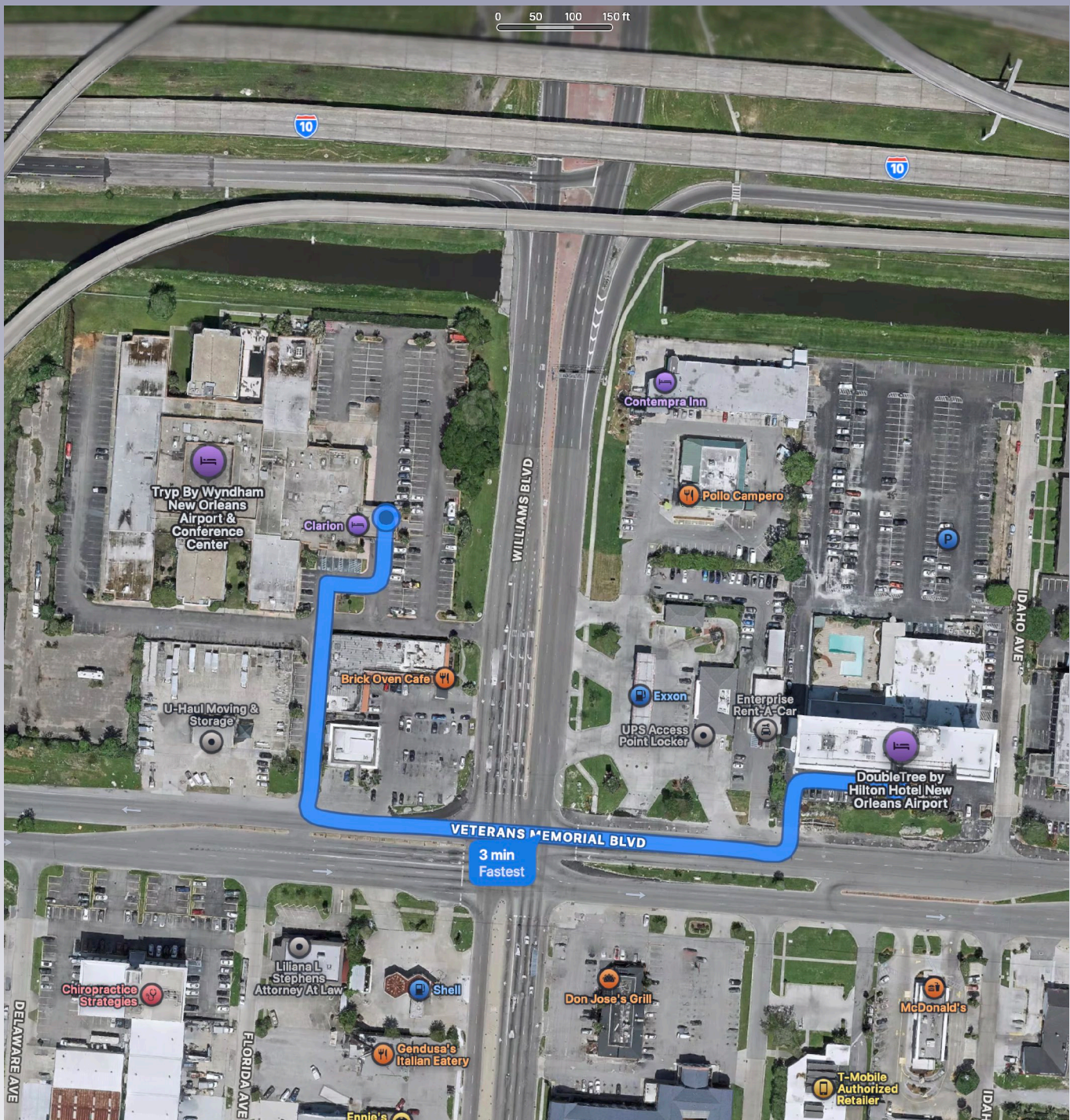
Vendors will be in Salons 1-4

Reception & Opening Ceremony will be in Salons 5-6

Friday Night LIVE! and the **Banquet , Auction & Awards Ceremony** will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel, about 1/4 mile from the Wyndham. Although it is close, Williams Blvd is not safe for pedestrians as there are no crosswalks and traffic can be very heavy. Please take one of the free shuttles to make the trip to the restaurant and back.

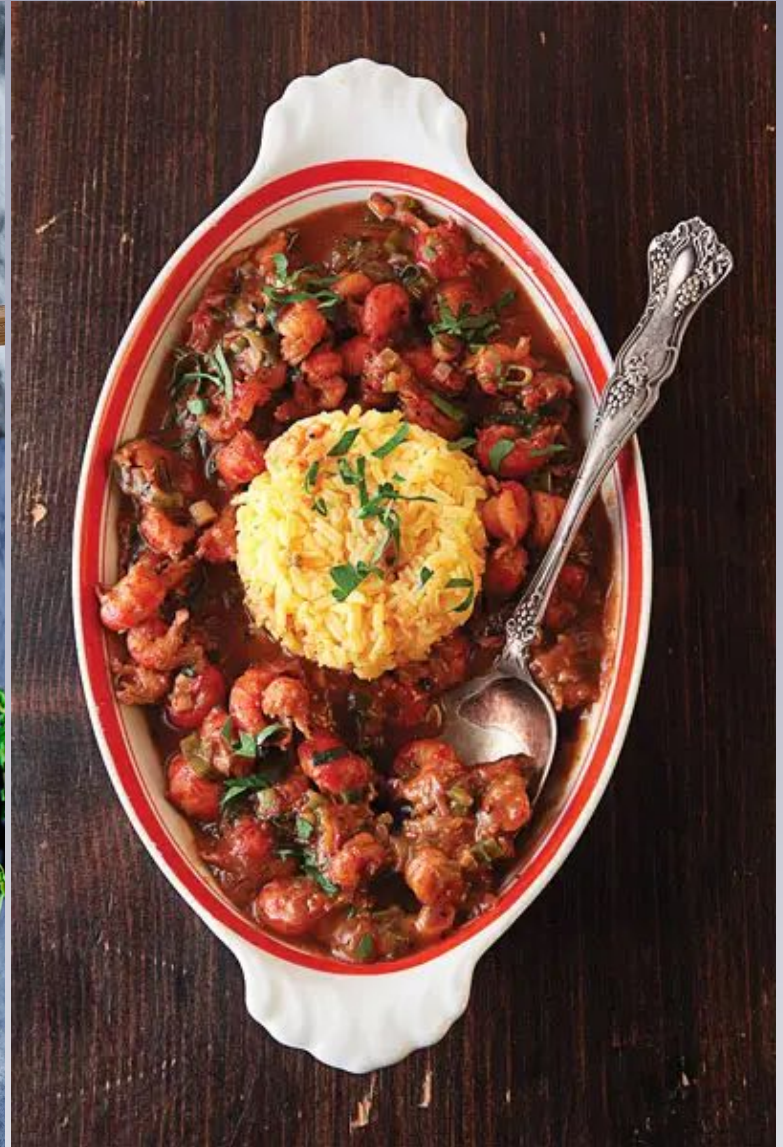
CATERED MEALS

Because of space limitations at the Wyndham, meals during Friday Night LIVE! and the Banquet, Auction & Awards Ceremony will be served at the nearby DoubleTree Hotel. Although this hotel is only 1/4 mile away, **PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO WALK**. There are no crosswalks, and traffic can be heavy. Williams Blvd. cannot be safely crossed on foot. You may drive a personal vehicle, or shuttles will be available to take you to the DoubleTree and back after dinner. If you have special transportation needs or mobility limitations that may affect shuttle use, please inform the organizers. They will make every effort to accommodate you.



A TASTE OF THE CRESCENT CITY!

We are bringing the soul of New Orleans straight to your plate with three catered meals featuring the local cuisine that are included with your full registration package. We're turning up the flavor starting Thursday night with heavy hors d'oeuvres and live jazz during the reception & opening ceremony, followed by a full, authentic Louisiana-style feast during the Friday Night LIVE! Demonstrations. We'll wrap up the weekend with another incredible regional meal and some zydeco music during the Banquet, Auction & Awards Ceremony. This is far more food than our standard conventions offer, giving you an unforgettable culinary experience and incredible added value to the already low cost of your registration!



ACCOMMODATIONS



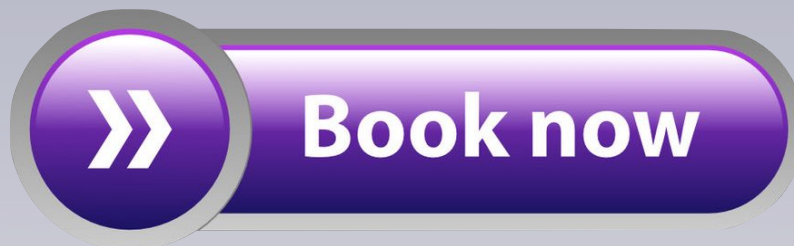
To make your reservation at the special group rate, call:

Wyndham New Orleans Airport & Conference Center
2829 Williams Blvd
Kenner, Louisiana 70062
504-467-5611

When reserving, request the **American Bonsai Society Rate** to receive the discounted group price of \$139 for the convention.

Alternatively, you may book online using the link below. The group rate discount code will be applied automatically.

Please book your room before the hotel's cutoff date of January 11th, 2027. The group rate is guaranteed until this date. Afterward, the rate will be subject to room availability.



FULL EVENT SCHEDULE

Thu, Mar 11, 2027		Event	Presenter	Location
	9 AM - 5 PM	Joshua Roth New Talent Competition	J. Ruth	Room 1
	“	Exhibit Setup		Pre-Function Area
	“	Vendor Setup		Salons 1-4
T	9:30 AM - 1 PM	Tour of the Lac des Allemands Swamp	R. Bennett	Wyndham Lobby
	11 AM - 5 PM	Registration Open		Wyndham Lobby
	1 PM - 3 PM	ABS Board Meeting		Board Room
	5 PM - 7 PM	Vendors Open		Salons 1-4
	7 PM - 9 PM	Reception & Opening Ceremony - Hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar		Salons 5-6
Fri, Mar 12, 2027		Event	Presenter	Location
	8 AM - 5 PM	Registration Open		Wyndham Lobby
	9 AM - 5 PM	Vendors Open		Salons 1-4
	“	Exhibit Open		Pre-Function Area
WS	9 AM - 12 PM	Field Grown Trident Maple	S. Sukosolvisit	Room 1
WS	“	Field Grown Bald Cypress	R. Bennett	Salon 5
WS	“	Dwarf Jade	P. Morales	Room 3
WS	“	Foemina Juniper	M. Stemberger	Salon 6
S	9 AM - 10:30 AM	The Dance of the Tree: Fndg. Nat. Mvmt. in Bonsai Design	J. Price	Room 2
S	“	Brilliant Bougies and the Art of Tropical Bonsai	B. Snellgrove	Room 4
S	10:30 AM - 12 PM	From Vision to Vessel: The 10 Stages of Bonsai	J. Day	Room 2
C	“	Exhibit Critique	J. Price	Pre-Function Area
	12 PM - 2 PM	Lunch (on your own)		
WS	1 PM - 5 PM	Specimen Zelkova (Special 4-Hour Session)	S. Sukosolvisit	Room 1
WS	2 PM - 5 PM	Red Maple	J. Price	Salon 5
WS	“	Kaori Hime Tea Olive	P. Morales	Room 3
WS	“	Pocomoke Crepe Myrtle	D. Koetting	Salon 6
S	2 PM - 3:30 PM	Sculpting the Silhouette	M. Stemberger	Room 2
S	“	A Virtual Tour of Chinese Bonsai	H. Chuah	Room 4
S	3:30 PM - 5 PM	Discover the Elegant Japanese Botanical Art of Kusamono!	M. LeBlanc	Room 2
C	“	Exhibit Critique	M. Stemberger	Pre-Function Area
D	6:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Friday Night LIVE! - Demonstrations, Louisiana cuisine & a cash bar		DoubleTree Hotel
*** T = tour, WS = Workshop, S = Seminar, C = Critique, D = Demo				

FULL EVENT SCHEDULE (Cont'd)

Sat, Mar 13, 2027		Event	Presenter	Location
	8 AM - 5 PM	Registration Open		Wyndham Lobby
	9 AM - 5 PM	Exhibit Open		Pre-Function Area
	"	Vendors Open		Salons 1-4
WS	9 AM - 12 PM	BYOT with Suthin	S. Sukosolvisit	Room 1
WS	"	Chinese Elm	J. Price	Salon 5
WS	"	Slab Pot Construction with Byron	B. Myrick	Room 3
WS	"	Private Demo: Yamadori Ashe Juniper	M. Stemberger	Salon 6
S	9 AM - 10:30 AM	Artificial Rocks for Bonsai Landscapes	P. Morales	Room 2
S	"	Repotting - There's More To It Than You Think	D. Koetting	Room 4
S	10:30 AM - 12 PM	Choosing & Displaying Scrolls	K. Majeske	Room 2
C	"	Exhibit Critique	P. Morales	Pre-Function Area
	12 PM - 2 PM	Lunch (on your own)		
WS	1 PM - 5 PM	Specimen Podocarpus (Special 4-hour Session)	J. Price	Salon 5
WS	2 PM - 5 PM	Collected Water Elm	E. Pardue	Room 1
WS	"	Brazilian Rain Tree	P. Morales	Room 3
WS	"	BYOT with Mauro	M. Stemberger	Salon 6
S	2 PM - 3:30 PM	Japanese Black Pine 101	S. Sukosolvisit	Room 4
S	2 PM - 5 PM	Mastering the Fundamentals of Bonsai Wiring	K. Harkaway	Room 2
S	3:30 PM - 5 PM	While You Were Sleeping: A Dorm. Season Primer	Scott Barboza	Room 4
C	"	Exhibit Critique	S. Sukosolvisit	Pre-Function Area
	6:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Banquet, Auction & Awards Ceremony		DoubleTree Hotel
Sun, Mar 14, 2027		Event	Presenter	Location
	9 AM - 12 PM	Exhibit Open		Pre-Function Area
	"	Vendors Open		Salons 1-4
	11 AM	Checkout Time		Wyndham Lobby
*** T = tour, WS = Workshop, S = Seminar, C = Critique, D = Demo				

THURSDAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

	Workshops	Exhibit	Vendors	Registration	Tours***
9:00-10:00	Joshua Roth New Talent Competition J. RUTH ROOM 1	SETUP	SETUP		Tour of the Lac des Allemands Swamp 9:30AM -1:00PM RANDY BENNETT WYNDHAM LOBBY
10:00-11:00					
11:00-12:00					
12:00-1:00				REGISTRATION OPEN	
1:00-2:00					
2:00-3:00					
3:00-4:00					
4:00-5:00					
5:00-6:00					
6:00-7:00			VENDORS OPEN!		
7:00-8:00	RECEPTION & OPENING CEREMONY*** FULL REGISTRATION AND RECEPTION TICKET HOLDERS. VENDORS WELCOME! Wyndham Hotel, Salon 5&6				
8:00-9:00					
9:00-10:00					
	***TICKETED EVENT				

FRIDAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

	WORKSHOPS***				SEMINARS		CRITIQUES
9:00-10:00	Field-Grown Trident Maples S. SUKOSOLVISIT ROOM 1	Field-Grown Bald Cypress R. BENNETT SALON 5	Dwarf Jade P. MORALES ROOM 3	Foemina Juniper M. STEMBERGER SALON 6	The Dance of the Tree: Fndg. Nat. Mvmt. in Bonsai Design J. PRICE ROOM 2	Brilliant Bougies and the Art of Tropical Bonsai B. SNELLGROVE ROOM 4	
10:00-11:00					From Vision to Vessel: The 10 Stages of Bonsai JOE DAY ROOM 2		Exhibit Critique J. PRICE PREFUNCTION AREA
11:00-12:00							
12:00-1:00		Lunch					
1:00-2:00	Specimen Zelkova (Special 4-Hour Session) S. SUKOSOLVISIT ROOM 1	Field-Grown Red Maples J. PRICE SALON 5	Kaori Hime Tea Olive P. MORALES ROOM 3	Pocomoke Crepe Myrtle D. KOETTING SALON 6	Sculpting the Silhouette: Branch & Apex Techniques M. STEMBERGER ROOM 2	A Virtual Tour of Chinese Bonsai HOE CHUAH ROOM 4	
3:00-4:00					Disc. the Elegant Japanese Bot. Art of Kusamono! M. LEBLANC ROOM 2		Exhibit Critique M. STEMBERGER PREFUNCTION AREA
4:00-5:00							
5:00-6:00							
6:00-7:00		Shuttle Service					
		FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!***					
7:00-8:00		6:30PM - 9:30PM					
8:00-9:00		FEATURING: SUTHIN SUKOSOLVISIT, MAURO STEMBERGER, JENNIFER PRICE, PEDRO MORALES FULL REGISTRATION AND FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE! TICKET HOLDERS					
		DoubleTree Hotel, Banquet Room					
9:00-10:00							
		Shuttle Service					

***TICKETED EVENT

SATURDAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

	WORKSHOPS***				SEMINARS		CRITIQUES
9:00-10:00	BYOT with Suthin S. SUKOSOLVISIT ROOM 1	Chinese Elm J. PRICE SALON 5	Slab Pot Construction with Byron B. MYRICK ROOM 3	Private Demo: Sculpting the Southwest M. STEMBERGER SALON 6	Artificial Rocks for Bonsai Landscape P. MORALES ROOM 2	Repotting - There's More To It Than You Think D. KOETTING ROOM 4	
10:00-11:00					Choosing & Displaying Scrolls K. MAJESKE ROOM 2		Exhibit Critique P. MORALES PREFUNCTION AREA
11:00-12:00						Lunch	
12:00-1:00							
1:00-2:00							
2:00-3:00	Collected Water Elm E. PARDUE ROOM 1	Specimen Podocarpus (Special 4-hour Session) J. PRICE SALON 5	Brazilian Rain Tree P. MORALES ROOM 3	BYOT with Mauro M. STEMBERGER SALON 6	Mastering the Fundamentals of Bonsai Wiring K. HARKAWAY ROOM 2	Japanese Black Pine 101 S. SUKOSOLVISIT ROOM 4	
3:00-4:00						While You Were Sleeping: A Dormant Season Primer S. BARBOZA ROOM 4	Exhibit Critique S. SUKOSOLVISIT PREFUNCTION AREA
4:00-5:00							
5:00-6:00							
6:00-7:00	Shuttle Service	BANQUET & AWARDS CEREMONY***					
7:00-8:00		6:30PM - 9:30PM					
8:00-9:00		FULL REGISTRATION AND BANQUET TICKET HOLDERS					
9:00-10:00		DoubleTree Hotel, Banquet Room					
		Shuttle Service					

***TICKETED EVENT

SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

Our Seminars feature expert speakers who lead discussions on a wide range of topics. All registered attendees can join for free, but seats are limited and given out in the order people arrive. Come early to secure your spot.

The Dance of the Tree: Finding Natural Movement in Bonsai Design Jennifer Price - Room 2	16
Brilliant Bougies and the Art of Tropical Bonsai Boyd Snellgrove - Room 4	16
From Vision to Vessel: The 10 Stages of Bonsai Joe Day - Room 2	16
Sculpting the Silhouette: Branch & Apex Techniques Mauro Stemberger - Room 2	17
A Virtual Tour of Chinese Bonsai Hoe Chuah - Room 4	17
Discover the Elegant Japanese Botanical Art of Kusamono! Melissa LeBlanc - Room 2	17
Building Artificial Rocks for Bonsai Landscapes Pedro Morales - Room 2	18
Repotting - There's More To It Than You Think Dawn Koetting - Room 4	18
Choosing & Displaying Scrolls Based on Masculine and Feminine Energy Kristy Majeske - Room 2	18
Japanese Black Pine 101 Suthin Sukosolvisit - Room 4	19
Mastering the Fundamentals of Bonsai Wiring Karen Harkaway - Room 2	19
While You Were Sleeping: A Dormant Season Primer Scott Barboza - Room 4	19

The Dance of the Tree: Finding Natural Movement in Bonsai Design

Jennifer Price - Room 2

FRIDAY 9AM-10:30AM

Bonsai is usually taught with strict rules and geometric proportions, but nature does not always follow those patterns. In this seminar, international artist Jennifer Price shares a natural approach to bonsai design. She draws on her experience as a professional ballerina to explore line, balance, and movement. You will learn how to move beyond rigid styles and pay attention to the tree itself, working with its natural movement to create a living sculpture that feels expressive, lively, and free.



Brilliant Bougies and the Art of Tropical Bonsai

Boyd Snellgrove - Room 4

FRIDAY 9AM-10:30AM

Bougainvillea is a favorite at shows, bringing a stunning burst of color to any bonsai collection. Although rewarding to grow, this tropical plant has unique horticultural requirements that can be tricky to meet. This intensive seminar demystifies bougainvillea, covering how to start new plants, what they need to grow, and how to shape and style them as bonsai. You will pick up key tips on watering, fertilizing, and dealing with pests to keep your plants healthy. To bring these concepts to life, this session features a PowerPoint presentation showcasing many of Boyd's celebrated "Bougies" through their development, with detailed progression photos. Whether you want to improve your care routine or work on your design skills, this seminar has something for you.



From Vision to Vessel: The 10 Stages of Bonsai

Joe Day - Room 2

FRIDAY 10:30AM-12PM

Every great bonsai starts with a simple idea. Turning that idea into a living masterpiece takes patience and a clear plan.

In this lecture, you will learn about a helpful tool based on the 10 main stages of bonsai development. Knowing which stage your bonsai is in helps guide your care. Everything from fertilizing and pruning to choosing soil and potting depends on the tree's current stage.

When you know your bonsai's stage, you can make better choices about what to do next. This helps you work more efficiently and see better results. By learning to do the right things at the right time, you will grow a mature bonsai in the most satisfying way.



Sculpting the Silhouette: Branch & Apex Techniques

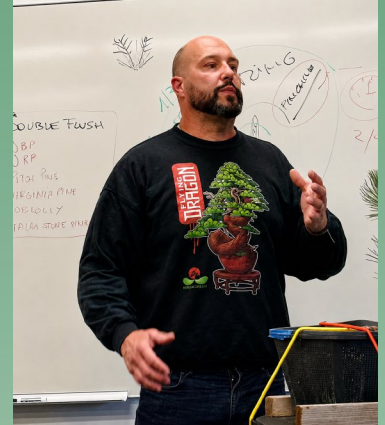
Mauro Stemberger - Room 2

FRIDAY 2PM-3:30PM

Building and shaping branches and foliage pads is central to bonsai art. Along with the trunk line, these features define the tree's character and energy.

In this session, Mauro will show how to create foliage pads that add depth and harmony. He will also discuss strategies and techniques for building a strong apex that will give your bonsai a striking focal point.

He will guide you through the differences in shaping foliage pads and apices between conifer and deciduous trees, so you can leave with a clear idea of how to improve your bonsai skills.



A Virtual Tour of Chinese Bonsai

Hoe Chuah - Room 4

FRIDAY 2PM-3:30PM

When we think of bonsai, we often turn our attention to Japan. But, the art originated in China, and there is a rich tradition of cultivating miniature trees and numerous regional styles that has evolved across Asia, creating a rich tapestry of living art. Join Houston-area artist and National Champion Dr. Hoe Chuah for this bonsai travelogue and take a virtual walkabout of some of the most beautiful and provocative penjing gardens in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.



Discover the Elegant Japanese Botanical Art of Kusamono!

Melissa LeBlanc - Room 2

FRIDAY 3:30PM-5PM

This seminar includes a lecture with slides and a live demonstration. Together, we will look at how wild grasses, wildflowers, and native plants are arranged to create living, ever-changing miniature landscapes. Kusamono, which means "grass thing" in Japanese, is a unique art form. Over time, it has grown from being a standalone piece to also serving as an accent plant for bonsai, called "shitakusa". During the presentation, you will learn about different styles, design ideas, seasonal display tips, and how to care for both kusamono and shitakusa. We will focus on how to pair accent plants with specific bonsai trees for a unified look. You will also find out about the best placement for shitakusa next to bonsai, how many plant species to use, height guidelines, where to place each plant, and how to achieve a pleasing design. This seminar is great for bonsai lovers, gardeners, or anyone interested in Japanese plant art.



Building Artificial Rocks for Bonsai Landscapes

Pedro Morales - Room 2

SATURDAY 9AM-10:30AM

Join renowned Puerto Rican bonsai artist Pedro Morales as he reveals methods for building stunning, large-scale artificial rock landscapes. In this visually rich seminar, Pedro will share his step-by-step process for building realistic mountains and stones using polyurethane, fiber, cement, and grout. Throughout his detailed photographic journey, attendees will see the entire creation unfold, from the initial carving and shaping to the final texturing and finishing touches. Whether you're looking to create a dramatic penjing display or enhance your bonsai compositions with convincing rocky outcrops, this session offers helpful guidance on mastering the construction of artificial landscapes for bonsai.



Repotting - There's More To It Than You Think

Dawn Koetting - Room 4

SATURDAY 9AM-10:30AM

Repotting our trees is one of the most important things we do. Because we don't usually repot every year, it matters even more when we do. Instead of rushing through the process and simply changing the soil, use a checklist to ensure your bonsai gets the best possible care. Explore the essentials of a successful repot—from selecting the perfect pot size and style to mastering secure wiring, troubleshooting root issues, correcting the potting angle, and showcasing the base. Join us to fine-tune your technique and keep your trees looking and growing their best!



Choosing & Displaying Scrolls Based on Masculine and Feminine Energy

Kristy Majeske - Room 2

SATURDAY 10:30AM-12 PM

Bonsai display is more than just arranging objects; it is about creating a feeling. In this presentation, Kristy Majeske looks at how masculine and feminine energies show up in Japanese hanging scrolls and how these qualities can make a bonsai display more visually and emotionally powerful.

Using examples from traditional scroll paintings, symbolism, and bonsai aesthetics, participants will see how line, movement, subject, composition, and mood all add to a display's message. The class will look at the symbols in scrolls and discuss how these can match a tree's personality and character.

By learning about these artistic relationships, bonsai enthusiasts can go beyond basic seasonal pairings and start making displays that share a stronger sense of harmony, story, and emotional connection.



Japanese Black Pine 101

Suthin Sukosolvisit - Room 4

SATURDAY 2PM-3:30PM

Suthin Sukosolvisit, known for growing some of the country's best award-winning Japanese Black Pines (*Pinus thunbergii*), will lead a hands-on masterclass on this classic bonsai tree. In this seminar, Suthin will explain the key techniques for growing and caring for healthy, strong black pines. You will learn about the full yearly care routine, including basic styling, careful pruning, wiring, and the detailed process of needle reduction. The session also covers important care tips, such as the best ways to fertilize, regular maintenance, and how to prevent pests and diseases. Whether you are working with an older tree or starting with a young one, this seminar gives you a chance to learn directly from a true expert.



Mastering the Fundamentals of Bonsai Wiring

Karen Harkaway - Room 2

SATURDAY 2PM-5PM

Not really certain how to correctly wire? Feel no shame! Wiring is an essential, foundational skill that is very often not well mastered by beginners and intermediate hobbyists alike. This interactive workshop offers an excellent, judgment-free opportunity to practice your technique and build real confidence. Under expert guidance, you will learn the core mechanics of applying aluminum wire safely and effectively to achieve beautiful branch placement. Practice branches and aluminum wire will be fully provided, though participants are also welcome to bring a tree from home to work on if preferred. Whether you are looking to learn the basics from scratch or refine your existing skills, this hands-on session is the perfect place to elevate your bonsai practice.

Required Materials: Wiring tools (Optional: You may bring your own tree to wire)



While You Were Sleeping: A Dormant Season Primer

Scott Barboza - Room 4

SATURDAY 3:30PM-5PM

If you reduce pests and control diseases during the dormant season, you will face far fewer problems in the spring. This leads to healthier trees and less need for harmful pesticides and fungicides during the growing season - a good thing - and a far lower impact on the beneficial insects we'd like to encourage in our garden. In this discussion, Dr. Barboza will explain what dormant season spraying is and how he uses it to prevent issues in his own collection during spring.



TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

Tours are guided field trips away from the exhibition. Learn from the people who make Louisiana such a special place for bonsai.

Tour of the Lac des Allemands Swamp

Randy Bennett - Wyndham Lobby

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Tour of the Lac des Allemands Swamp

Randy Bennett - Wyndham Lobby

THURSDAY 9:30AM-1PM

Join us as we explore the Lac des Allemands Swamp by airboat and see what makes Louisiana unique for bonsai lovers. We'll travel through the swamp, cross the marsh, and head into the cypress forest on a high-performance, U.S. Coast Guard-approved airboat. You might spot hawks, herons, egrets, alligators, and sometimes even bald eagles along the way. Randy Bennett, who literally "wrote the book" on growing bald cypress trees as bonsai, will be with us to share tips on collecting, natural growth patterns, developing knees, and other interesting facts about this amazing native species.

The tour begins at a family-run business about 30 minutes southwest of the hotel. We'll take you to a peaceful fishing village where life moves at a slower pace. Your guides are U.S. Coast Guard captains who grew up on the bayou and have spent their lives fishing for alligators, crabs, and shrimp. They know the marsh's ecology inside and out.

We'll leave the hotel at 9:30 am and return around 1:00 pm, traveling together on a 15-passenger van. There will be plenty of time to clean up and share your adventure at the reception!



What to know before you go	Safety restrictions
You're welcome to bring snacks and drinks, as long as they're kept in a container.	Expectant mothers who are more than 8 months pregnant cannot join the tour.
Feel free to bring a small cooler with you. Please put your empty containers back in your cooler or hand them to the captain for disposal.	Children under 2 years old are not allowed on the tour. We're not able to allow pets on the tour.
Please do not bring glass containers or bottles on the boats.	If you have a mild injury, please let our staff know. We'll do our best to plan the tour to avoid bumpy conditions and help you get on and off the boat safely.
Keep all items secured in the boat, since loose items can get caught in the propeller and cause damage.	Passengers with sensitive spinal or severe musculoskeletal injuries who cannot safely hold on, support their own body weight, or tolerate minor bumps should not join the tour unless they have a means to prevent further injury, such as an assistive device or support from others in their group.

Registration:
Required Materials:
14 spots available

\$90 (TRANSPORTATION INCLUDED)
Sunscreen, water, packed lunch (if desired)

DEMONSTRATION DESCRIPTIONS

Friday Night LIVE! Four artists. Four trees. One unforgettable evening of bonsai artistry.

Join **Suthin Sukosolvisit, Jennifer Price, Pedro Morales, and Mauro Stemberger** as they take the stage together for a dynamic, interactive demonstration that brings four distinct perspectives and techniques to life.

A Trident maple, Shimpaku juniper, Water Elm, and Foemina juniper will be styled simultaneously, offering a rare opportunity to watch four artists work side by side on four very different trees. See how species, style, technique, and individual artistic vision come together in real time.

Open to all registered guests and Friday Night LIVE! ticket holders.

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FNL! - Swamp to Stage: Jennifer Transforms a Water Elm Jennifer Price - DoubleTree Ballroom	23
FNL! - Broadleaves and Bright Lights: Pedro Tackles a Trident Pedro Morales - DoubleTree Ballroom	24
FNL! - Bold Designs and Dramatic Transformations Mauro Stemberger - DoubleTree Ballroom	24

FNL! - Classic Lines and a Modern Master: Suthin Live!

Suthin Sukosolvisit - DoubleTree Ballroom

FRIDAY 6:30PM-9:30PM

Shimpaku juniper is celebrated throughout the bonsai world for its tight, vibrant green foliage and incredible design versatility. This spectacular specimen features a beautifully twisted trunk with wonderful movement from the base, supporting a dense, expansive canopy. There is abundant healthy growth here, offering a wealth of creative possibilities.

We are excited to welcome the well-known Suthin Sukosolvisit to our main Friday night event, “Friday Night LIVE!” Suthin is recognized for his skill and clear teaching style. During this demonstration, he will share his main design ideas, focusing on how to use the tree’s natural shape. Instead of focusing on heavy deadwood, he will show how to carefully choose branches and create strong, elegant foliage pads that give the tree a classic, mature look.

If you want to improve your wiring skills or learn how to layer a canopy the right way, watching Suthin work on this tree is a great way to start your weekend. The finished tree will be up for sale at the live auction and awards ceremony on Saturday night. This is your chance to bring home a special part of the convention.



FNL! - Swamp to Stage: Jennifer Transforms a Water Elm

Jennifer Price - DoubleTree Ballroom

FRIDAY 6:30PM-9:30PM

The native water elm (*Planera aquatica*) grows well in wetlands and swamps, and bonsai artists value it for its textured bark and strong, resilient growth. This yamadori specimen, with its rugged character and natural lines, offers Jennifer an exciting opportunity for a dramatic, creative styling.

Jennifer will share her artistic approach and design choices as she studies the tree and develops its design. Watch as she uses advanced techniques to bring out the tree’s natural character and create a bold, naturalistic bonsai.

Along with all the Friday Night LIVE! demonstration trees, Jennifer’s finished water elm will be auctioned at the Saturday Banquet, Auction & Awards Ceremony, giving you the opportunity to bid on a unique native bonsai and take home a piece of Friday Night LIVE!



FNL! - Broadleaves and Bright Lights: Pedro Tackles a Trident

Pedro Morales - DoubleTree Ballroom

FRIDAY 6:30PM-9:30PM

The trident maple (*Acer buergerianum*) is a standout for bonsai enthusiasts, with strong, flared roots, rapid growth, and vibrant seasonal color. This nursery-grown tree has a great trunk shape and sturdy branches, making it ready for an impressive transformation.

We're excited to complete our "Friday Night LIVE!" lineup with the internationally recognized bonsai master Pedro Morales. Alongside Suthin and Mauro, Pedro will share his years of experience and energetic teaching style as he works on this beautiful deciduous tree. You'll get to see him assess the tree's structure, choose the main branches, and carefully shape and wire it into a refined form.

Trident maples need a very different design approach than conifers, so Pedro's demonstration will be a great contrast to the evening's work with junipers. Watch how a master shapes a classic deciduous tree under the lights. Pedro's finished trident maple will be auctioned live on Saturday night, giving you a chance to own a piece by a world-famous artist.



FNL! - Bold Designs and Dramatic Transformations

Mauro Stemberger - DoubleTree Ballroom

FRIDAY 6:30PM-9:30PM

Gear up for an evening of artistry as Mauro Stemberger takes the stage for "Friday Night LIVE!." For this demonstration, Mauro will tackle a foemina juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* 'Foemina'), a species noted for its needle-like foliage and styling potential.

This demonstration tree is impressive, with a thick, weathered trunk and natural deadwood features near the base. Its large, wild, dense foliage makes it the perfect subject for Mauro's energetic, architectural approach. Watch live as Mauro makes bold choices, bends branches, and shapes the deadwood to create a strong, world-class look from this remarkable tree. If you want to see a powerful tree transformed by experienced hands, you won't want to miss this demonstration.



WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Our **Workshops** are held in small groups and led by experienced artists. Most registrations include a tree, but please check each workshop description for specific details. Bring your tools, wire, and turntable if you want one.

At **"BRING YOUR OWN TREE" (BYOT) Workshops**, you can bring your own tree and get styling tips and help from an expert.

Private Demos are a private "demonstration-in-the-round". If you have ever struggled to see or hear at bigger events, our limited seating is the perfect solution. Experience the art, up-close and personal.

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Field-Grown Trident Maples

Suthin Sukosolvisit - Room 1

FRIDAY 9AM-12PM

Trident maple (*Acer buergerianum*) is a top choice among deciduous bonsai species, known for its fast growth, quick healing, and beautiful fall colors. The trees for this workshop have been carefully grown in the field and have thick trunks, a wide base (nebari), and lots of healthy leaves ready for shaping. They are ideal for practicing trunk chops, building main branches, and creating classic broom or informal upright styles. The workshop will be led by Suthin Sukosolvisit, a master with worldwide recognition for his skill with shohin and deciduous bonsai. Suthin will teach his proven methods for working with trident maples, including how to make bold structural decisions, choose the right nodes, and use advanced pruning to create fine branching and small leaves. (The photo shows a tree from the workshop group.)

Registration: \$300 (TREE INCLUDED)
Required Materials: Tools, wire, turntable (optional)
8 spots available



Field-Grown Bald Cypress

Randy Bennett - Salon 5

FRIDAY 9AM-12PM

The bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) is a North American conifer valued in bonsai for its fast growth, soft feathery leaves, and ability to form large, fluted trunks with wide bases. It grows in swamps and has its own design style, changing from a cone shape when young to a flat-topped look as it matures. The trees in this workshop have straight trunks with natural taper and full canopies, making them ideal for bold first styling. The workshop is led by Randy Bennett, who has over 50 years of experience and wrote 'Bonsai Design: Bald Cypresses', a detailed guide focused on this species. Randy will share his knowledge to help you understand the bald cypress growth patterns, make important branch decisions, shape the top, and care for these trees. (The photo shows trees from the workshop group.)

Watch the [Randy Bennett Bald Cypress Lecture](#) to see his approach to styling and his deep knowledge of native Louisiana trees.

Registration: \$250 (TREE INCLUDED)
Required Materials: Tools, wire
8 spots available



Dwarf Jade

Pedro Morales - Room 3

FRIDAY 9AM-12PM

The dwarf jade (*Portulacaria afra*), also called elephant bush, is a tough, beautiful succulent and a favorite in tropical bonsai. Its shiny green leaves, thick water-storing trunks, and fast growth help artists create a mature look much faster than with other plants. The workshop specimens are lush and well-grown, with dense canopies, thick trunks, and many branches. No matter what styling direction you take, these trees will be something you will be proud to have on your bench. Pedro Morales, a well-known expert and leader in tropical bonsai, will lead this workshop. He will use his years of experience to teach you how to style succulent bonsai, including tips on pruning, shaping branches, and caring for these hardy plants so they thrive year-round. (The photo shows trees from the workshop group.)



Registration: \$150 (TREE INCLUDED)
Required Materials: Tools, wire
8 spots available

Foemina Juniper

Mauro Stemberger - Salon 6

FRIDAY 9AM-12PM

The foemina juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* 'Foemina') is prized in the bonsai community for its needle-like foliage, fast growth, and ability to develop refined pads. It suits strong, upright shapes or dramatic forest displays, unlike trailing types. The trees used in this workshop are healthy and full, with dense, layered branches and a central leader. These trees are ready for styling. Mauro Stemberger, respected for his energetic teaching and bold designs, will lead the workshop. He will show you how to work with this responsive species, covering advanced branch selection, wiring, and techniques for creating striking deadwood to reveal a classic bonsai look. (The photo shows a tree from the workshop group.)



Registration: \$175 (TREE INCLUDED)
Required Materials: Tools, wire
8 spots available

Specimen Zelkova (Special 4-Hour Session)

Suthin Sukosolvisit - Room 1

FRIDAY 1PM-5PM

Japanese zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*) is a fantastic choice to showcase deciduous bonsai. With an elegant broom shape, sawtooth leaves, and autumn colors ranging from golden yellow to burgundy, these trees make a striking impression. Our specimens are large and field-grown, with thick trunks, mature bark, and strong root bases that are rarely found in regular nursery stock. Because these trees offer so much potential, we have extended this workshop to 4 hours to give you plenty of time to work on your design. Leading the session is Suthin Sukosolvisit, a master with many awards and a reputation for his skill in creating wonderful deciduous bonsai. Suthin will walk you through choosing the trunk line, pruning major branches, and wiring the structure. By the end, you'll have a beautiful, high-quality tree to be proud of. (The photo shows trees from the workshop group.)

Registration: \$300 (TREE INCLUDED)
Required Materials: Tools, wire, turntable (recommended)
8 spots available



Field-Grown Red Maples

Jennifer Price - Salon 5

FRIDAY 2PM-5PM

The red maple (*Acer rubrum*) is a favorite native tree for creating impressive deciduous bonsai, with striking seasonal colors. The trees for this workshop have been carefully grown in the field, so they have thick trunks, strong taper, and well-developed radial roots (nebari) that would take many years to develop in a pot. Red maples respond well to pruning, producing fine branching and a stunning show of red leaves in autumn. Jennifer Price, an internationally recognized bonsai artist known for her expressive and natural style, will lead the workshop. She will show you how to turn field-grown trees into refined bonsai, offering advice on key structural decisions, bold styling, and the care needed to promote smaller leaves and stronger branch growth. The photo shows a tree from this workshop group.

Registration: \$200 (TREE INCLUDED)
Required Materials: Tools & Wire
8 spots available



Kaori Hime Tea Olive

Pedro Morales - Room 3

FRIDAY 2PM-5PM

Osmanthus heterophyllus 'Kaori Hime', or Kaori Hime tea olive, is a dwarf evergreen from Japan, gaining popularity for fine-scale bonsai. It has tiny, sharply detailed, holly-shaped leaves similar to tropical Singapore Holly, but stands out for its toughness, handling cold down to -5°F. In late fall and winter, it puts on a show with lots of small, white flowers that fill the air with a strong, sweet scent. Its young branches are very flexible, it backbuds well on old wood, and its new spring growth has a touch of burgundy. All of this makes it a great and rewarding choice for bonsai styling.

These 3-gallon workshop trees have been grown and pruned twice over the past two years, resulting in dense, multi-branched interiors and strong trunks. The workshop will be led by Pedro Morales, an internationally recognized bonsai expert. He will teach techniques for working with this evergreen, including how to choose branches, wire densely, and style the tree to highlight its compact shape and mature look. The photo shows trees from the workshop group.



Registration: \$150 (TREE INCLUDED)

Required Materials: Tools & Wire

8 spots available

Pocomoke Crepe Myrtle

Dawn Koetting - Salon 6

FRIDAY 2PM-5PM

For a bonsai with compact seasonal color, the Pocomoke crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica* 'Pocomoke') is a great choice. Developed by the U.S. National Arboretum, this dwarf variety is known for its small, deep green leaves, colorful peeling bark, and bright pink to rose-red summer flowers. Unlike regular crepe myrtles, Pocomoke stays naturally compact and dense, making it perfect for small- to medium-sized bonsai. The trees for this workshop have twisty trunk bases and lots of branches, ready to be shaped. Dawn Koetting, a respected artist with a talent for styling deciduous and flowering trees, will lead the session. She will show you how to prune and wire your tree to highlight its trunk and help it bloom at its best. (The photo shows a tree from the workshop group.)



Registration: \$250 (TREE INCLUDED)

Required Materials: Tools, wire

8 spots available

Bring-Your-Own Tree

Suthin Sukosolvisit - Room 1

SATURDAY 9AM-12PM

Take your personal collection to the next level in this exclusive workshop with award-winning bonsai master Suthin Sukosolvisit. Bring a prized tree from your home bench that has hit a styling plateau, or bring raw material you just scouted from the convention vendor room, and Suthin will help you unlock its hidden potential. Renowned for his brilliant artistic vision, technical precision, and ability to see a masterpiece in any piece of stock, Suthin will work one-on-one with you to map out a clear, long-term design strategy. You will spend the session pruning, wiring, and refining your tree under his direct, master-level guidance.

Registration: \$150 (TREE NOT INCLUDED)
Required Materials: Tools & wire
8 spots available



Chinese Elm

Jennifer Price - Salon 5

SATURDAY 9AM-12PM

Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) is prized in bonsai for its small leaves, fine branching, and rapid growth. The selected trees for this workshop stand out with dramatic, low-trunk movement and deeply textured bark, giving them an aged look while remaining a manageable size. With plenty of healthy branches, they are ideal for practicing pruning, wiring, and shaping a refined canopy. Jennifer Price, a well-known artist, will lead the workshop and share her artistic approach to bonsai design. She will show you how to see beyond the foliage and find each tree's natural, graceful line, teaching you to balance strong structure with delicate branch details. By the end, you'll have a unique, fast-growing bonsai that will quickly show the results of your work. (The photo shows a tree from the workshop group.)

Registration: \$125 (TREE INCLUDED)
Required Materials: Tools & wire
8 spots available



Slab Pot Construction with Byron

Byron Myrick - Room 3

SATURDAY 9AM-12PM

A great bonsai deserves a container that highlights its character. In this hands-on workshop, ceramic artist Byron Myrick will show you the basics of building elegant slab pots. Instead of using a pottery wheel, Byron uses a clear, template-based method and offers several design templates with different wall shapes to suit your style. During the session, you'll shape and refine your pot, then pick from Byron's custom glaze samples to finish it. Afterward, Byron will take your pot to his studio for careful firing and glazing. He'll ship your finished, gallery-quality pot to your door a couple of weeks later.

Registration: **\$225 (MATERIAL INCLUDED)**
Required Materials: **None - everything will be provided**
10 spots available



PRIVATE DEMO! - Sculpting the Southwest

Mauro Stemberger - Salon 6

SATURDAY 9AM-12PM

The Ashe juniper (*Juniperus ashei*) has fine foliage, eye-catching deadwood, and rough, weathered bark. Bonsai enthusiasts appreciate this tough native tree from the American Southwest. It is a great choice for creating a rugged, ancient-looking bonsai.

We are offering a private, interactive “demonstration-in-the-round” with world-renowned bonsai master Mauro Stemberger. With just 20 seats, everyone will get a close, front-row view of his work.

Mauro is known for his energetic style and hands-on teaching. He will work on this impressive juniper in a setting where you can interact with him directly. You can ask questions, discuss design ideas, and see advanced bonsai techniques up close.

This unique educational event is expected to sell out fast. After the session, Mauro's finished bonsai will be auctioned during our live auction on Saturday night. Watch the demo, learn new techniques, share in Mauro's artistic vision, and you might even take the tree home.

Registration: **\$150**
20 spots available



Collected Water Elm

Evan Pardue - Room 1

SATURDAY 2PM-5PM

The water elm (*Planera aquatica*) is a native relative of true elms, popular among bonsai enthusiasts for its early-developing, mature bark. It grows well in wet conditions and has long, serrated leaves and flexible branches, making it easy and enjoyable to shape. The trees used in this workshop have strong trunks, good taper, and plenty of branches to help you create a realistic riverbank look. Evan Pardue, an artist with deep experience in native and wetland species, will lead the workshop. He will teach you his techniques for working with Water Elm, including how to choose and wire branches and how to care for the tree to encourage fast growth and striking bark. (The photo shows trees from the workshop group.)



Registration: \$250 (TREE INCLUDED)
Required Materials: Tools & wire
8 spots available

Specimen Podocarpus (Special 4-hour Session)

Jennifer Price - Salon 5

SATURDAY 1PM-5PM

Bonsai artists value *Podocarpus macrophyllus*, or Buddhist Pine, for its dark green, strap-like leaves and graceful, layered shape. These trees have been carefully grown in a nursery for years, developing thick trunks, mature bark, and strong branches that give you a great starting point for styling. Because these trees are large and have so much potential, we've made this special workshop four hours long, so you get an extra hour of hands-on design time. Acclaimed artist Jennifer Price, known for her artistic eye, will guide you as you choose branches, create depth, and wire your tree into a polished shape. This is a rare chance to work with high-quality material and expert guidance, and to take home a striking conifer bonsai. (The photo shows the actual trees available in the workshop group).



Registration: \$350 (TREE INCLUDED)
Required Materials: Tools, wire, turntable (highly recommended)

8 spots available

Brazilian Rain Tree

Pedro Morales - Room 3

SATURDAY 2PM-5PM

The Brazilian Rain Tree (*Chloroleucon tortum*) is a striking tropical species often used in bonsai. Its delicate leaves fold up at night or when it rains. The tree naturally grows with twists, has deeply grooved trunks, and smooth grey bark that gives it an aged look. The trees in this workshop have great movement, strong roots, and a solid branch structure, ready for further shaping. You will learn from Pedro Morales, an international expert in tropical bonsai. With years of experience and a clear teaching style, Pedro will show you how to prune, wire, and care for your rain tree so it stays healthy and looks its best. By the end, you'll have a lively tropical bonsai to add to your collection. (The photo shows trees from the workshop group.)



Registration: \$125 (TREE INCLUDED)
Required Materials: Tools & wire
8 spots available

Bring-Your-Own Tree

Mauro Stemberger - Salon 6

SATURDAY 2PM-5PM

Bring your most challenging material, your favorite specimen, or a fresh find from the convention marketplace to style with international bonsai sensation Mauro Stemberger. Famous worldwide for his dramatic, highly expressive styling and dynamic use of wire, Mauro is a master at creating powerful, naturalistic silhouettes. In this interactive session, Mauro will evaluate your tree's unique strengths, help you overcome structural hurdles, and push your design boundaries. Under his high-energy, expert tutelage, you will transform your material and master advanced techniques you can take home to the rest of your bench.

Registration: \$150 (TREE NOT INCLUDED)
Required Materials: Tools & wire
8 spots available



JOSHUA ROTH NEW TALENT CONTEST

This annual competition highlights the skills and ambitions of newer bonsai enthusiasts in North America. If you plan to attend “All Jazzed Up” in New Orleans and are new to bonsai, this is the event for you. Consider entering the Joshua Roth New Talent Contest and styling a tree provided at the event. Our professional artists will judge the entries, and top participants will receive prizes from Joshua Roth. We sincerely thank our sponsor, Joshua Roth, for their generous prize donations, ongoing support for this event, and for sharing our mission of support for the next generation of bonsai artists.

To enter, you must live in North America, have ten years or less of bonsai experience, have styled at least three trees yourself, and be registered for All Jazzed Up in New Orleans. On contest day, you will spend one day designing a mystery tree assigned to you, which could be any species or size. You can find all the eligibility requirements and contest rules on the convention website.

Judging & Prizes

Three selected bonsai artists will judge the finished trees. The contestant with the highest score will win. The results will be officially announced at the Banquet, Auction & Awards Ceremony, where these prizes will be given out:

-  1st Place: A \$1,000 gift certificate, good for any Joshua Roth tools.
-  2nd Place: A \$500 gift certificate.
-  3rd Place: A \$250 gift certificate.

 Applications Now Being Accepted!

This is a great opportunity to show your skills, learn from experts, and win new tools. If you want to participate, please fill out the online application form on the official convention website to reserve your spot.



COMMEMORATIVE ALBUM



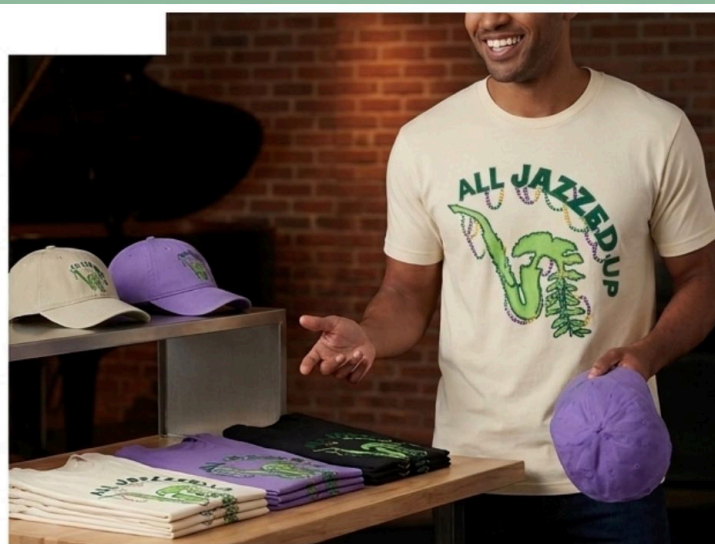
The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society is excited to offer all full-event and single-day registrants of the ABS 2027 Learning Seminar the opportunity to purchase a full-color, hardback commemorative album of the event. Professional photographer Jessica Broom will capture each exhibit entry, as well as moments from workshops, lectures, and demonstrations by Jennifer Price, Mauro Stemberger, Pedro Morales, and Suthin Sukosolvisit. The album will also feature the awards banquet and many other activities from the 2027 event. You can get this album only by pre-ordering when you register.

Price: \$75 (Pre-order only)

GEAR!

Take the Rhythm Home with You!

Want to remember the high notes of this year's seminar long after you head home? Secure your official All Jazzed Up! apparel and souvenirs by pre-ordering your merchandise during registration! Pre-ordering guarantees your preferred sizes and styles so you don't miss out on our exclusive 2027 New Orleans convention gear. While a limited number of items will be available for purchase at the show, they go fast—don't wait until the final encore to get your favorite look!



Find all the information related to ordering your All Jazzed Up! merchandise on the registration site. Make your selections as you register! If you change your mind later, follow the link in the confirmation email to add to or change your merchandise order.

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Scott Barboza

Dr. Scott Barboza was introduced to bonsai in 1990 while living in California. This art form combined his interests in hiking, the outdoors, and gardening, sparking a lasting passion. He began with introductory classes at the Sacramento Bonsai Society and later pursued advanced study in Seattle through workshops at Elandan Garden, Mt. Si Bonsai, and Weyerhaeuser's Pacific Rim Bonsai Exhibit. After relocating to Houston in the late 1990s, Scott joined the Houston Bonsai Society and studied for many years with Boonyarat Manakitivipart. He has held several leadership roles in Houston, including Vice President, and has lectured, taught workshops, and organized conventions and exhibitions. Scott currently serves as Secretary and Convention Chair for the American Bonsai Society.

Scott's trees have received awards at local, state, and regional competitions. He has exhibited at the Bay Island Bonsai Exhibition in San Francisco and the U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester. He is currently building his home and garden in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia.



Randy Bennett

Randy is a retired middle school principal from Metairie, Louisiana. He studied education and visual arts before becoming a teacher. He began practicing bonsai in 1971 and joined the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society in 1980, where he has held many different roles over the years.

He learned from Vaughn Banting and also studied with John Naka, David DeGroot, Ben Oki, Warren Hill, and Dennis Makishima. He is now studying with Mauro Stemberger. In 1982, he opened Bennett's Bonsai Nursery, which ran until 2005. During that time, he began teaching, writing articles on bonsai, managing private collections, and leading study groups. Hurricane Katrina in 2005 destroyed his entire bonsai collection, but he started collecting and rebuilding soon after. He still writes articles and teaches bonsai, leading study groups in several states and giving lectures, demonstrations, and workshops for clubs and organizations.

He enjoys working on all types of trees, but he is especially passionate about many deciduous species. He wrote the book *Bonsai Design: Bald Cypress* and dedicated it to his mentor, Vaughn Banting.



Hoe Chuah

Dr. Hoe Chuah became interested in bonsai after visiting the Montreal Botanical Garden's Penjing and Bonsai Collections in 1990. Largely self-taught, he learned from books and videos. He made over 20 business trips to Japan, Korea, China, and Taiwan, where he attended national and international shows, visited bonsai nurseries and gardens, and learned from several professionals; many became friends. Since he could read Chinese and some Japanese, he bought many bonsai books during his travels and continued to improve his skills. After retiring, he completed Pedro Morales's three-year Tropical Bonsai School.

Hoe has won several awards. His Tiger Bark Ficus received awards among the Twenty-Five Exceptional Bonsai at the 7th World Bonsai Friendship Federation Convention and as the Best Tropical Bonsai at the 5th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition. He also won several awards at the Lone Star Bonsai Federation conventions, including Best of Show, Best Conifer, Best Evergreen, and Best Deciduous.

He works on both Lingnan Clip-and-Grow Penjing and Japanese-style bonsai, from mame to large trees. In 2006, he co-founded the Houston Chinese Bonsai Society and is its current President. Hoe is also the Second Vice-President of the Houston Bonsai Society.



Joe Day

Joe Day became interested in bonsai when he was a child after reading about it in science and news magazines. He and his wife, Xuan, transformed their backyard in Mobile, Alabama into a large bonsai garden and display space. With their two children, the family has spent over fifty years caring for their collection, which now features trees that are 30 to 50 years old.

Joe became a well-known bonsai teacher and expert in the Deep South by teaching himself, learning from mistakes, and reading books from around the world. For more than forty years, he has taught bonsai societies in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana. He has also written many articles and appeared in the media. Joe says that while online resources offer great design ideas, learning from local mentors is key to helping native and landscape trees thrive in the Gulf Coast climate.



Karen Harkaway

Dr. Karen Harkaway is a practicing dermatologist who started learning bonsai about 15 years ago with Chase Rosade. She has since studied with teachers like Colin Lewis, Ryan Neil, Mauro Stemberger, and Hugo Zamora Luna. Karen has served as Vice President of the American Bonsai Society from 2010 to 2014 and again from 2018 to 2022. She was President from 2014 to 2018 and returned to the role in January 2023. As an enthusiastic bonsai student, she has shown her work at every U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition except the first. Karen has received the President's Award at the 2012 Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies Festival, as well as the Executive Committee's Award and the People's Choice Award at the same event in 2013. She also won the John Y. Naka Award, hobbyist division, in 2013. In 2018, she received the Travel Award for best tree and companion display at the Sixth U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition, and in 2023, she won the North American Award for Finest Native American Tree at the Eighth U.S. National Exhibition. Karen is passionate about bonsai and enjoys sharing her love for the art. As a student of Mauro Stemberger, she is well qualified to teach bonsai wiring.



Dawn Koetting

Dawn Koetting, a retired veterinarian, has loved bonsai since she was a child. What began as just one of her many artistic hobbies soon turned into a true passion.

Dawn has been part of the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society for many years and attended Brussels Bonsai Rendezvous for over two decades. Lately, she has taken workshops with Ryan Neil, Bjorn Bjornholm, and Walter Pall. She has also built lasting connections with Kathy Shaner, Pedro Morales, Mike Lane, and Jennifer Price. Right now, she is taking part in Mauro Stemberger's three-year "Bonsai Dream" program.

Since 2016, Dawn has shown her trees at every U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, NY, starting with her Sea Hibiscus. She has earned three Best in Show awards at Lone Star Bonsai Federation conventions, most recently in 2025, and received the American Bonsai Society John Y. Naka Award in 2019 for her Bald Cypress flat top.



Melissa LeBlanc

Melissa LeBlanc has spent more than 20 years working with bonsai and also enjoys creating pressed flower art. Her love for both led her naturally to Kusamono arrangements, where she combines her skills to make beautiful plant displays.

She learned from Sooncheng Cheah and improved her techniques in workshops. Now, she creates Shitakusa arrangements for Underhill Bonsai's annual C'est Bonsai event, adding elegant companion plants to the show trees.

Melissa is an active member of the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society and has served on its board for many years.



Kristy Majeske

Kristy Majeske focuses on Japanese hanging scrolls and how they fit into bonsai displays. As a writer, educator, and dedicated student of Asian art, she helps bonsai enthusiasts learn about the artistic, symbolic, and seasonal connections between trees, scrolls, and other display elements. Kristy writes for the American Bonsai Society Journal, covering topics like display aesthetics, symbolism, artistic expression, and the cultural traditions behind bonsai. In her presentations, she offers practical advice along with historical and artistic background, helping people see bonsai as a complete visual art.



Pedro Morales

Pedro J. Morales is a top expert in tropical bonsai. He has shared his knowledge as a demonstrator, lecturer, and exhibitor across Europe, Asia, Australia, and the Americas. His work has earned international recognition, with eight of his trees selected for the World Bonsai Contest and a second-runner-up finish in 2005. In January 2015, one of his miniature bonsai compositions won first prize at the well-known Gafu-Ten exhibition in Japan.

Pedro has helped unite the global bonsai community. He has spoken at four World Bonsai Friendship Federation (WBFF) conventions and led the 2009 WBFF Convention in Puerto Rico. He was President of the Latin American Bonsai Federation (FELAB) and is now President of the Puerto Rico Bonsai Federation (FEBOPRI). In these roles, he has hosted major international events, including the 2007 BCI/FELAB and 2014 International Bonsai conventions.



Byron Myrick

Byron Myrick is a ceramic artist, teacher, and bonsai enthusiast whose dedication to fine craft guides how he designs containers. He earned a Master's in Art Education from the University of Southern Mississippi and taught art for 34 years at Jones County Junior College, where he encouraged students to explore their creativity. Today, he works from his studio in Moselle, Mississippi, blending traditional ceramic methods with his own modern ideas to create functional sculptures.

Byron first became interested in bonsai as a hobby, which soon inspired him to make special vessels for these trees. His style is mainly traditional, respecting the long history of classic bonsai pottery. Each handmade container has its own character, shaped by his careful attention to movement, lines, and how the tree will look in the future.

Byron is involved in the regional arts community as a Fellow of the Mississippi Craftsmen's Guild, a member of the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art Collections Committee, and as Director and former President of the Mississippi Art Colony.



Evan Pardue

Evan's interest in bonsai came at a young age. He recalls exploring the large property he grew up on in southern Louisiana and seeing old-growth woodlands where wise old trees dwell, telling a story. The existential ideas that a well-designed bonsai can express fueled Evan's interest in the art form.

Many of Evan's influences lie in the heavy wooded pine forests, the haunting marshlands where bald cypress reign as old kings, and in the folk art of Southern Louisiana. Being able to immerse himself in the local culture and practice the art of bonsai has further enriched his life.

Evan has a background in art and has been involved with bonsai for 10 years. He loves teaching and working alongside others to help guide their hands in further expressing themselves through the art. Evan likes to bring key principles to the table when talking about bonsai, such as the golden mean, horizon lines, and perspective.



Jennifer Price

Jennifer Price found her passion for bonsai after she retired from her career as a professional ballerina. She is inspired by the lines and shapes in bonsai and enjoys working with a tree's natural movement. Jennifer developed her style alongside her longtime friend Jim Doyle and artists like Mauro Stemberger, Chase Rosade, and Will Baddeley. She is now studying with Michael Hagedorn.

In 2015, Jennifer became an apprentice to Walter Pall and still works closely with him, often traveling together to teach and assist. She has taught in the United States, Germany, South Africa, Australia, Sweden, and Croatia, and has represented America twice in Shanghai, China.



John Ruth

John thinks that his interest in bonsai was germinated by seeing the collection at Longwood Gardens outside of Philadelphia. He soon realized that there was no place to walk through the house without stepping on his "trees". An early goal was to recreate the trees from his backyard. Years later, he has a pretty nice sweet gum. He has never seen a tupelo bonsai, and he has been threatened with legal action should he ever set his hands on another cryptomeria.

He now has mostly native species, with some traditional material and a few tropicals. He enjoys interacting with, and learning from, the bonsai community. He is an otolaryngologist and triathlete.



Boyd Snellgrove

Boyd grew up in South Louisiana and discovered bonsai soon after college. After earning a degree in Radiology, he moved back to his hometown of New Iberia, Louisiana, where he has lived for nearly 30 years. He then began studying bonsai seriously, spending his free time learning and practicing. Boyd has learned from top artists and built an impressive bonsai collection. Because New Iberia is in USDA climate zone 9, his collection includes many tropical species. Although he knows a lot about many types of bonsai, his favorite to work with is bougainvillea.



Mauro Stemberger

Mauro Stemberger has been a certified Bonsai Clubs International (BCI) Instructor since 2008 and is recognized throughout the global bonsai community.

Since 2012, Mauro has traveled around the world as a leading bonsai master. He is known for his unique styling and energetic, clear teaching style. He has led workshops and demonstrations for clubs and associations on seven continents, helping shape the modern bonsai movement.

Mauro's reputation has grown through his appearances as a main guest at major bonsai exhibitions such as The Trophy in Belgium, the European Bonsai Association (EBA) convention, and the Federation of Latin American Bonsai (FELAB) convention. He has also been featured at regional events like the Golden State Bonsai Federation in California, the U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, and Black Scissors events in China and Indonesia.



Suthin Sukosolvisit

Suthin is known as one of the world's top bonsai artists. He has received four National Awards for "Finest Bonsai Masterpiece" and three best in class awards at the U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition, more than any other bonsai artist.

Suthin started working with bonsai more than 45 years ago in his family's garden in Thailand. Today, he is known for his skill with proportion, refinement, and detail. While he has deep knowledge of tropical species, in the U.S. he is best known for his work with Junipers, Japanese black pine, Japanese maples, and root-over-rock styles. He is especially recognized for his outstanding shohin bonsai.

Suthin teaches bonsai workshops across the United States and is known for his clear teaching style, generosity, and enthusiasm. He also manages and cares for many private bonsai collections.

