



*Help us name our newsletter! Your suggestions are welcome at our next meeting.*

**A monthly newsletter for those who enjoy bonsai**

**Issue 8/2007**

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# President's Corner

Tools, anyone? Our July meeting was a good learning and working experience for everyone. After the raffle, which helped the club raise some money, Charlie discussed the use of many unique tools that can be used effectively in bonsai. Tools like concave cutters and knob cutters can be invaluable. Shears, wire cutters, root cutters, and loppers can be purchased at a local hardware store and work fine. When buying bonsai tools, I have found that it pays to pay the price for really good ones. They stay sharp and last longer than lesser priced tools.

Everyone went home with something to style into a bonsai or just to practice with.

Erik Wigert will be our guest master at our September meeting and will bring pots, soil, a good selection of tools, and wire. In addition, he will have some pre-bonsai trees for sale.

Roy Nagatoshi will be conducting a workshop for us on September 11. We will pick him up at TIA at 9:35 and get back to Lakeland as soon as we can. I am guessing we'll be able to start around 11:00 am and will last three hours. It will be limited to twelve people, who will be selected by a raffle-style drawing at our meeting this Thursday. If selected, you must pay the \$30.00 then. Make checks payable to Bonsai Society of Lakeland. If you don't get to participate in the workshop, you are still welcome to attend and be a silent observer.

The Port Charlotte club has invited us to join them at a workshop at Jim Smith's Dura-Stone Nursery in Vero Beach on Sunday, September 30 at 11:00. Bring your own lunch and something to drink. Jim Smith and Jim Vanlandingham will lead the workshop; bring your own tree or purchase something from their stock. They have the most incredible bunch of tropical bonsai-able material I have ever seen.

After the workshop and lunch, everyone is invited to Jim Smith's home to see his private collection. This is a special

opportunity that Cindy and I have had the pleasure of doing a couple of times, and we really look forward to going back. It is the best exhibit of tropical bonsai anywhere. There is no cost for attending, but they do want a head count in advance, so check your calendar and we'll take a preliminary count Thursday.

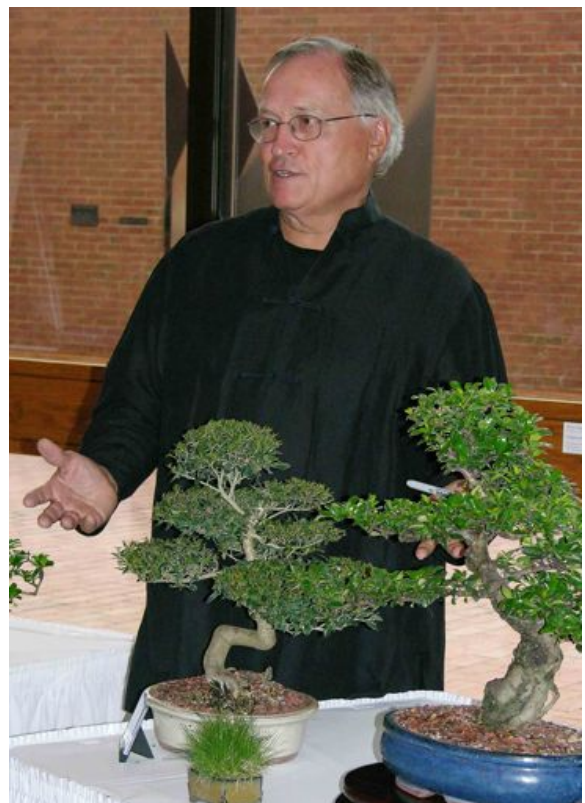
Ed Trout, who was our scheduled program for this month, had to cancel, but Robert Yarbrough, who is our District 5 trustee as well as president of Hukyu Bonsai Society of Tampa, has come to our rescue. Robert will present a program on pines. See you there.

Keep snippin'  
John



# Dressed for success

*John presented a bonsai program August 10th at the Polk Museum of Art and judging from the pictures it was a great event. Thanks for representing the Bonsai Societies of Lakeland John and Cindy!*



# Roy Nagatoshi to visit the BSL

We're please to welcome Roy on September 11. This will be the highlight of our year! Don't forget that the selection for attendees will take place at our next meeting and payment is due at the meeting. Please note that there is only space for 12 participants but any member can attend as a silent observer at no charge.

From Roy's biography :

I was born in the United States, but spent my early years in Japan - through junior high school - and returned in 1957.

My first encounter with bonsai was in 1959, working side-by-side with my father, Shigeru, learning the techniques of making bonsai. I watched him work with many different kinds of trees, pruning, wiring, shaping and potting. I was homesick, and the bonsai reminded me of the trees in the mountains, hills and shorelines of Japan. I thoroughly fell in love with bonsai. My education in bonsai also included attending classes under John Naka.

In 1965, with the encouragement of Mr. Iura, my fathers' bonsai master, my parents opened the Fuji Bonsai Nursery in Sylmar, California, where my father and I conduct bonsai classes.



In 1975, I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Ornamental Horticulture from the Cal Poly University in Pomona, California. Also in 1975, I received my State Landscape Contractors' License, and started a landscape contracting business.

In 1976, I gave my first lecture/demonstration to a local bonsai club. Since then, I have toured and conducted workshops and lecture/demonstrations in numerous states in the continental United States.

I was credited for creating bonsai for a major motion picture, Karate Kid III, in 1990, and was also involved in a bonsai educational video professionally produced by Puget Sound Bonsai Association, with funding provided by Weyerhaeuser Company of Tacoma, Washington.



## A B O U T T H E B S L

### Officers and Board Members

**John Petterson — President**

**Charlie Swedberg — Vice President**

**Christy Herringshaw — Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Chairman**

**George Herringshaw — Board Member**

**John DiTomo — Board Member**

**Brent Burris — Board Member**

## WWW stuff dot com

### Some interesting sites to visit this month

It's the information superhighway. Truck on down and check these sites:

This month I would like to feature forums that focus on bonsai. For those of you that are new to online forums think of them as bulletin boards where you can post questions (or answer questions) on all aspects of bonsai.

One of my favorite forums is <http://www.bonsainut.com/>. It has a rather small member base but seems to be most active in things that interest me. The members are for the most part very knowledgeable and helpful. Three members of the Bonsai Society of Lakeland are active there!

My second favorite forum is <http://www.bonsaitalk.com/>. It's a rather large site that has been around for quite some time and therefore has more information that you may ever need. At times this site can become rather political about bonsai but it's rather harmless stuff that can be ignored. Again - three members of our Society are members here.

Two other sites that I like to check in on periodically are <http://www.knowledgeofbonsai.org/> and <http://www.artofbonsai.org/>. Both of these sites seem to be a little more elite and less chatty but are great resources for information and inspiration.

I encourage you to check out these forums. You do not need to join or become a member to use them but joining costs nothing and allows you to post questions.

*Happy surfing!*

## BSL June guidelines for bonsai care

**Wiring:** Check often during growing season. When you rewire, wrap in the opposite direction.

**Watering:** All plants should be watched carefully. Due to heat, sun, and wind, two or three waterings per day may be necessary depending on the pot size.



**Feeding:** Follow direction on the label. 20-20-20 weekly during growing season works well on almost everything.

**Styling:** continue pruning to maintain shape. They can get away from you now!

**Repotting:** Tropicals only

**Collecting:** All tropicals can be collected; especially buttonwoods

**Pests:** Watch for trouble and use pesticide as directed or soapy water.

## Bonsai opinions

Opinions are a dime a dozen so this one is worth less than a penny!

We're nameless after 3 issues.

I'm sure everyone has ideas for at least one name for our newsletter. Come on, don't be shy. Feel free to email them to me at [graydonalan@earthlink.net](mailto:graydonalan@earthlink.net) and I will be happy to add them to a list anonymously if you would like. I think it would be fantastic to have a member suggested and club voted name in place before our November meeting.

I have received a couple of suggestions, thank you to those who have submitted ideas.

Those are my thoughts,

Charlie



## Meetings

**Meetings** are held the third Thursday of each month at the First United Methodist Church, located at 72 Lake Morton Drive in Room D1. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM and conclude around 9:00 PM.

Feel free to bring a show and tell item to every meeting. Share new or old trees, new pots, tools or anything bonsai related.

**Member bonsai workshops** are the second Saturday after the meeting from 10:00 AM until the last person leaves and are located at Cee Jay Nursery, 4225 Lake Hancock Road. Bring a tree to work on or simply show up to help other members.

**Advanced Study Group** formation is being considered. Interested members who have the time to attend monthly meetings and want to increase their knowledge and techniques in all bonsai related subjects should contact John Petterson to discuss this opportunity.

## New Members

Judith Richter is our recent new member.

Thanks to all of the new members that have joined. We appreciate your membership and help in making the BSL bigger and better. We look forward to helping you grow and sharing your bonsai experiences. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help.



## Events

**August 16** - ~~BSL meeting featuring a demonstration by Ed Trout with a ficus.~~ This event has been canceled as per Ed's request. We hope to have him try again soon! In Ed's place Robert Yarbrough has agreed to present a program on pines - thanks for filling in at the last moment Robert!

**September 20** - BSL meeting featuring a demonstration by Erik Wigert with something tropical no doubt.

**October 18** - BSL meeting featuring a dueling demonstration by Ernie Fernandez and Dorothy Schmitz. That's two artists on one night folks so be sure to be here for this one.

**November 15** - BSL meeting featuring our second annual member auction. Be sure to be here for this one and bring cash...