



BONSAI SOCIETY OF LAKELAND

Sept/Oct
2010

A The President's Bench...

Paul is taking a much deserved break, so allow me as your newsletter editor to write on the front page. First, a shameless plug: My grand-daughter, Marie Louise, was born on September 11! her daddy said "Marie saw the world for the first time at 430 pm Sept 11 2010. We now have something good and right to remember about this date. Seven pounds eight ounces 20 inches and healthy. There is nothing more we could ask for." maybe a full night's sleep!!!!



Back to business..... I know, this newsletter is late in coming, but hopefully we are all back on track now. We have had several great months of meetings: Suthin, Dorothy Schmitz, Gosh, BYOT. And, we have another great event coming up: the annual multi-club auction at Clif's Bonsai At Pasiminan. Due to the auction, and the holidays, we have no further meetings scheduled for this year.

At the October meeting, officers for next year were elected:



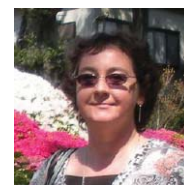
Paul Cacioppo has graciously agreed to return as President again next year.. Hooray!!



Judy Holihan will be our Vice President in 2011. Thanks Judy!



Carolyn Wilson takes on the role of secretary next year. Great for us, thanks!



Esther Searfoss will remain our treasurer in 2011. Thanks Esther

Officers and Board Members, 2010

Paul Cacioppo, President.....	Pcacioppo@yahoo.com
Brent Burris, Vice President.....	Bburris.mai@verizon.net
Esther Searfoss, Treasurer.....	esearfos@admin.usf.edu
Christy Herringshaw, Secretary...	Christyherringshaw@hotmail.com
John Petterson, Past President.....	Pettersonjohn@aol.com
Cindy Petterson, Board.....	Pettersonjohn@aol.com
George Herringshaw, Board.....	Christyherringshaw@hotmail.com
Gail Parilla, Board.....	gbpzzz@msn.com
Charlie Swedberg, Advisor to board.....	g_swedberg@mac.com

Meetings

Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the First United Methodist Church, Room D-3, located at 72 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland. Meetings begin at 7pm and conclude around 9pm.

Raffles, with material provided by the members, will be held every other meeting starting Feb 2010. Trees demo'd by the presenters will (for the most part) be raffled.

Bonsai workshops are the second Saturday after the meeting, if scheduled, from 10am until ? They are located at Cee Jay Nursery, 4225 Lake Hancock Road, Lakeland.

Upcoming Events

There will be no regular meeting in November

November 10th at 7pm..... ShoFu Bonsai Society's Annual Auction, see a copy of the flyer at the end of this newsletter

November 20..... Multi-club auction at Clif Pottberg's Bonsai At Pasimanan, Dade City, FL

There will be no regular meeting in December

A good way to find local bonsai activities is to visit the websites of bonsai clubs and vendors in our area. You can find the websites of all the florida clubs at

www.bonsai-bsf.com



The Newsletter

This is YOUR newsletter! We hope to publish it bi-monthly. Please help us out by contributing: favorite articles (we will obtain author's permission), websites, tips and tricks, local vendors, jokes, member news, events, just about anything that can be published!! Also, we still don't have a name for the newsletter. Please be a part of this by giving your contributions, compliments, criticisms, Whatever!

Gail Parilla gbpzzz@msn.com

Esther Searfoss esearfos@admin.usf.edu



Fall
Is
Here, finally!

Hurricane season is nearly over, the days are getting shorter and the nightly temperatures are very comfortable! However, it has been very dry, and the National Weather Service is predicting a "La Nina" winter, which is warm(er) and dry. Enjoy getting outside

There was a suggestion from John that at our regular monthly meetings all of us bring a tree or two of your own to each meeting. I agree this will add a new aspect to our meetings. The trees would only be for viewing and general conversation either before or after the meeting. It would give us a chance to see other's trees and to get some general observations on our own. Bring trees in training, trees in suffering, trees in confusion, trees in glory....I think it is a good idea. --Paul

This issue's article....

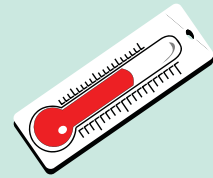


...is by Vance Wood and comes to us from the MABA website, courtesy of Louisville Bonsai Society. It discusses the importance of not only developing the art of designing a tree, but hand in hand the challenge of keeping that tree alive.... Healthy and vigorous.

"What good is a bonsai artist if his completed work does not survive?" you can hang art (say, a painting) on the wall and occasionally dust it, but bonsai is a LIVING art, with needs that must be met every day!

**DON'T FORGET THAT
YOUR ANNUAL DUES
ARE "DUE" BY
DECEMBER !!!!
CONTACT ESTHER TO
GET IT DONE.....**

SEASONAL CARE



	October/November	December
Water	The weather is cooling off a bit, so we must re-think our watering techniques. As some of our trees are entering their dormant period, they transpire very little moisture through their leaves. Reduce watering on your deciduous trees.	As some of your trees enter dormancy, place them all in the same area to remind you to water less. Remember, your tropicals don't go dormant, but they do slow down a bit as the stress of the heat fades.
Fertilizer	There are those who recommend using low nitrogen fertilizers during the winter months. This, they say, is to prevent pushing out new growth that won't have time to harden off before the colder temps arrive.	This is Florida--your trees are still growing (at different rates). Feed your trees to keep them healthy, they will survive the cold better than starving ones. Some folks swear by Dyna-Gro's Pro-Tekt, a product said to help the trees during stress by building strong cell walls.
Pests And diseases	Use a wound sealer, especially on deciduous trees and conifers, to help protect from pests and diseases, because there is slower callous formation on the pruning cuts during the winter	Mites are a problem in dry weather, especially on junipers
Potting And Repotting	Cooler temps and lower humidity means less evaporation from your pots. Watch for root rot. Your tropicals should be re-potted by now. If not, they do better if repotted when the night-time temperatures are above 50.	Get ready to repot conifers and deciduous trees. Scout out any trees you want to collect this winter (alligators and snakes are sluggish in the cold!)
Other stuff	Be aware that the sun is at different angles, you may need to move your bench. Always turn your trees often. You could move some of your summer sensitive trees back out from the shade.	Clean your benches of fallen leaves and debris to discourage pests and diseases. Take cuttings of Junipers. Watch the weather, and have a plan for your cold-sensitive trees. Ask Santa for a nice new bonsai book!

AUGUST'S MEETING, SUTHIN !!



Suthin was impressed with the demo material,
from Cliff Pottberg's nursery



Beautiful movement and taper, some difficult decisions
had to be made



Copper wire is preferred on conifers



Wow, an amazing transformation



Brent, the happy winner of the raffle!



The future.....

SEPTEMBER'S MEETING, DOROTHY SCHMITZ



We were very fortunate to have Dorothy Schmitz at our meeting. She did a demo on a buttonwood that turned out so well, the club decided not to raffle it off, but to have Dorothy return next year to continue its styling. The tree is being cared for by John Petterson until then.



Gosh!



October's meeting



October was a "bring your own tree" meeting. A great turn-out of many different trees and lots of good solid advice, tips and techniques. See below for a survivor of the contest that was run several years ago where portulacaria cuttings were given out, and brought back after a year or so's growth. Great challenge... check out Bob's cascade! We encourage everyone to bring in at least one tree each meeting for discussion..... a great way for all of us to learn and share.



Bob's PORTULACARIA CONTEST ENTRY, AMAZING GROWTH! And, AFTER A FEW WELL PLACED CUTS....



GEORGE THINKS THE black olive TREE (BUCIDA SPINOSA) SHOULD BE SHORTENED TO "RIGHT THERE"



A VERY healthy JUNIPER LEADS TO DISCUSSIONS ABOUT TAPER



JOHN'S WANTING TO CHOP HIS bald cypress



BRENT'S "SWEET" SWEET GUM



CHRISTY LOVES SERISSAS



BEAUTIFUL SHOHIN GARDENIA



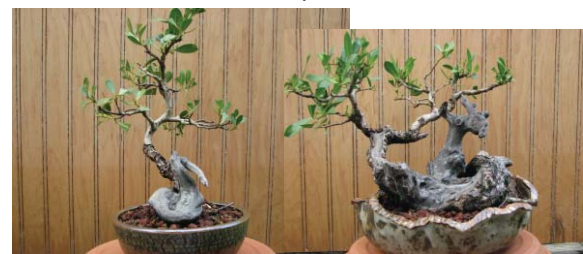
BRENT'S MASSIVE NEBARI FICUS NERIFOLIA, WAS ORIGINALLY GROWN BY HIS FATHER. IN NEED OF A RE-STYLE AFTER TAKING A HIT LAST WINTER



GEORGE'S AWESOME BUTTONWOOD...will HE SELL IT AT THE AUCTION?



HANK BROUGHT HIS SHIMPAKU WITH THE BRANCHES ALREADY NUMBERED FOR CRITIQUE!



SOME OF GAIL'S MAMES



INTERNET SURFING

Thought I would list my favorites:

FORUMS:

www.bonsainut.com

www.forums.bonsaisite.com

www.bonsaistudygroup.com

www.ibonsaiclub.com

www.bonsaitreeforums.com

SITES:

www.dlnursery.com

www.orlandobonsai.com

www.bonsai-nbf.org

www.gulfstreambonsai.org

www.bonsaimary.com

www.ofbonsai.com

BLOGS:

www.bonsaibark.com

Also, if you go to www.youtube.com and put "bonsai" in the search area, there are thousands of videos to watch, some great, some good and some so bad that they are

funny!

BONSAI UNDER THE OAKS Multi-club auction Bonsai at Pasimanan November 20th

Be sure to contact Cindy Petterson if you plan to auction or sell. You are allowed up to five trees for the auction. No limit on what you can buy! The seller splits the sale price, 80% to the seller and 20% to the seller's club (after expenses). So, this is a great fundraiser for our club.

And, don't forget that John's beautiful seagrape tree will be representing our club in the "people's choice award", another way our club could win some bucks.

Last year was an incredible event: the weather was perfect, the quality of the trees was superb, and the prices couldn't be beat. What a wonderful way to spend a bonsai day!

Several changes to our by-laws were voted on and passed at the October meeting:

....the club may award a youth membership for a member 18 years of age and younger. They would only be required to pay the part of the dues that goes to the BSF

.....officers will be elected in October

.....dues are payable by December 1

.....Amounts in excess of \$250 require board approval

.....Dropped the hospitality and workshop committee

The Art of Killing Trees

by Vance Wood

This was found this on the MABA web site. It is used with permission of the author, and the

Greater Louisville Bonsai Society - ED

Anyone who has trees, specifically bonsai trees, is aware of the quasi-personal relationship you develop with them. Bonsai are different than other cultivated plants in that cultivated plants, indoor and outdoor, are generally cared for only with the plant's health in mind. The grower is concerned, mostly, with keeping it alive, healthy, blooming, and only nominally with its shape.

Not so with bonsai. Although in bonsai the grower is concerned about the health and well being of the tree, the grower can be driven by, if not obsessed with, the shape as well. In fact, it is the shape that defines bonsai as a work of art. The challenge is to get to that point, defined as art, and have a healthy and vigorous tree at the same time. Once arriving there, the challenge is to keep the tree beautiful, an ongoing, never ending active participation in every aspect of growth.

Consequently the growers of bonsai tend to be a little more concerned about their plants than someone who might own an African Violet would be. There is, after all, a sizable investment in time, perhaps years, and effort put into each one of them. The death of a bonsai may mean that the end result of years of work has been to provide fuel for the fire. And, of course, on some level there is the loss of a friend. In my opinion, it is not possible for someone with the artistic sensitivity to work on a tree for perhaps twenty years and, in losing it, feel, "Oh well, it was just a tree."

On the other end of the spectrum, there are those that seem to justify their callus approach to bonsai as a process of killing trees, some sort of sacrament necessary to learning bonsai. Understanding that a pot is an unnatural environment for a tree to live in, the death of a tree is not a hard goal to achieve. The idea in bonsai is not to go there.

Those of us who find ourselves in the role of teachers would rather be involved in the artistic aspects of bonsai, being bored with the mundane things like water and soil. But we forget the elementary aspects of Earth, Wind, Fire, and Water. If the bonsai grower does not understand these essentials or possess the knowledge to apply them, then they will never make a bonsai that lives or purchase a bonsai that doesn't die. Because of our "want it now" philosophy, many of the bonsai purchased perish because of lack of knowledge. The same can be said of those trees we attempt to make into bonsai ourselves. Good intentions are not always enough.

Because the process of learning bonsai is different in the West than it is in Japan, where it may be a family business or through an apprentice arrangement, we in the West tend to learn bonsai by doing bonsai, whether we know what we are doing or not. The Consequence is the killing of trees. Most enthusiasts in the

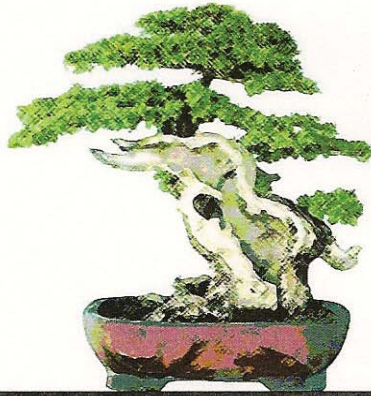
West are not willing to take the three years to learn about soil, exposure to the elements, how to water and the basics of pruning limbs and roots. We jump right in the middle of a complex subject and try to do it all at once.

We manage to kill trees either through ignorance or neglect, not because we enjoy it. To kill a tree is to fail, and no one enjoys failures, especially their own. However; if we can't profit from someone else's failure, we are doomed to learn through our own. Hopefully we take the time, at some point, to determine the cause of failure and not to repeat the process.

Lastly there is the cutting edge of bonsai where advancements in the art and technique take place. This can cause the demise of a tree or two. When one considers that the greatest innovator in the art today, Masahiko Kimura, spent eleven years in apprenticeship before he set out on his own. And in reading things written about him, it becomes obvious that everything he does is examined under a microscope by an army of critics looking for a reason to condemn his work. It is safe to assume that his failure rate is very low. If it were not so, I am certain we would have heard innuendos concerning how many trees he kills in order to accomplish one of his amazing projects. The only reason he can do what he does is because he has a complete mastery; knowledge and technique, of what it takes to keep a tree alive.

Of course the master is concerned with art, he has to be, because bonsai is ultimately an art. Bonsai at this level is like architecture. What good is an architect as an artist, when his beautiful designs are not structurally sound enough to stand under their own weight? The answer is obvious; he is incompetent. The same is true of bonsai. What good is a bonsai artist if his completed work does not survive?

Someone who works on the level of Kimura cannot afford one failure, let alone many. So it follows that for him to proceed with his art in boldness, he must, of necessity, be totally confident in his ability to keep a tree alive. Without that confidence it would be impossible for him to accomplish the things he dares to do. Is there some sort of magic in what he does? He is, after all, called the magician. Is there a trick or some incantations in his work? If anything, it is that he has taken the time to do what many will not: That is to understand Earth, Wind, Fire and Water, and how a tree grows. There is nothing mystical, metaphysical or magical about Kimura, he is a total master of horticulture. His artistry tends to make us forget that point.



ShoFu Bonsai Society's

Annual Auction

It's a fun time for all and a great way to add to your collection whether you're a beginner or a seasoned collector!

John Petterson will be our lively auctioneer again this year!

Bonsai, Pre-bonsai, Pots, etc.

So come one...come all!

Wednesday

November 10, 2010

7:00 pm

In the Great Room at Selby Gardens

811 South Palm Ave. • Sarasota, FL 34236