

# **Bonsai!** ...at Pasimanan

**Florida Mid-Winter Conference**

## **The Landscape in Miniature**

**January 29-30, 2011**

**An in depth overview of the art of the container landscape, & the traditions of: penjing, peng t'sai, bonkei, bonsai, saikei, thiêu cảnh, cay cảnh, hon non bo, trough gardens, microenvironments and formal tokonoma display**

**And historical perspectives including slides and discussion of the brilliant Micro-environments by Leon Snyder, and the precedent setting work by Saburo Kato.**

**with demonstrations and workshops of some of the various traditions, by:**

**Mike Rogers**

**Rodney Clemons**

**Steve Pilacik**

**Clif Pottberg**

**Marian Borchers and Linda Pottberg**

**Dave Collom**

By many accounts the creation of miniature landscapes predated the work on the individual tree as an art form.

In some ways it is the higher art, for it is at once more complex and artistically challenging, and more capable of complete creation, much as the ancient literati painted their exquisite sumi paintings.



*Poetic Feelings Beneath Pines*



*Arriving home by moonlight*

Or consider the fun in being able to understand and recreate the complex landscapes of the Hudson River School of painters in three dimensions...



*Mountain Sunrise Catskill* by Thomas Cole

or the masterpieces of the great landscape artist Winslow Homer.



*Adirondack Lake* by Winslow Homer

There is so much to study and make use of in this fascinating form of the art of the miniature. During this weekend you will be introduced to or learn more about:

The history of the many landscape traditions and some of the innovators and great artists in the landscape form: Kato, Kawamoto, Snyder

The various spiritual traditions which underlie the cultural traditions of the miniature

The use of rocks; the use of multiple plants, both visually and horticulturally; the use of the container; the design of the display; more ways to form and maintain steep soil gradients

New processes of making your own containers

A new and improved soil mix: lighter, cheaper, and more aerated

Plant species that can be used together and the use of different plants for many purposes: mood, distance, focus, etc.

The aspects of art that are most useful in your own creations, and that lie at the heart of visual art, including some concepts little studied, even in the mainstream art world: abstraction, deliberate distortion, the experience of distance, leading the eye's direction and speed, focus, unifying the design composition, and so on.

We strive, at these conferences, to achieve a new approach to teaching the arts involved, and are constantly innovating. For example, we have picked your presenters to achieve a team approach. Although each is well known for talent in one or more area of the bonsai world, they were not picked for being specialists in any particular aspect of the arts. Rather, they are also generalists, each with decades of experience and talented in many aspects of the miniature. This is the second meeting we have all worked together as a team.

Their willingness to participate everywhere, solve problems, and ability to get along with students made for a supremely pleasant and intense learning experience at the last conference and we are sure it will again.

## THE PROGRAM LEADERS

\* **Steve Pilacik** began studying bonsai in 1975, and has taught bonsai since 1981. While living in Philadelphia he began his well-known nursery, Matsu-Momiji, a full-service bonsai nursery and teaching establishment, which he continued through his move to North Carolina. He has also published a book "The Japanese Black Pine" which covers one of his specialties.

\***Mike Rogers** has been in bonsai for 42 years, lives in DeLand, Florida, and travels extensively throughout Florida and beyond teaching, and is considered by many to be one of the top stylists and teachers in Florida. His nursery name is Mike Rogers Bonsai.

\***Rodney Clemons** lives with his wife Charlie near Atlanta where they have a bonsai establishment. He has been in bonsai for about forty years and has traveled extensively around the country teaching in a variety of venues. He joined us as an "old-timer" at our last conference, and now joins as a headliner.

\***Marian Borchers** has been in bonsai since 1970 when she started The Bonsai Garden in Tampa Florida and toured extensively. In the early 80s she moved to Pasco County where she now continues her career under the name of The Cottage Bonsai.

\***Clif Pottberg** started in bonsai in 1966 and began a bonsai nursery and teaching in 1971. In 1981 he moved to Florida and changed his nursery name to The Ranch Nursery and RN Products, manufacturing a complete line of bonsai products as well. Then, in 2004, having moved a little north, began again under the present name of Bonsai! at Pasimanan.

\***Dave Collom** studied bonsai for many years and was active in the Pennsylvania Bonsai Society. He has continued his active interest since moving to Florida. He is presently the Vice President and programmer of the Hukyu Bonsai Society

\***Linda Pottberg** began her interest in bonsai in 1976 at the age of 16, studied with many of the fine teachers of the time and became involved with the Potomac Bonsai Association, and worked as an officer in its clubs and developed and wrote for its publications. Her interest in bonsai display began long ago as well, studying extensively with E. Felton Jones and others.

## **SCHEDULE**

### **Friday**

#### **PM**

1. Registration
2. Visit Pasimanan; picking material

### **Saturday**

#### **AM**

Completing registration (8:20-8:50; then beginning at 9am:

1. The History of the Various Traditions of Miniature Landscapes
2. Rocks and How to Use Them
3. Trees and How to Use them
4. Understory Plants, Artifacts/decorations and How to Use Them

### **Saturday**

#### **PM**

5. How to Make Rocks, Slabs and Pots for the Landscape
6. Multiple simultaneous demonstrations - all afternoon
  - Steve Pilacik -- a multislab mounded grove
  - Mike Rogers -- a mountain forest raft
  - Rodney Clemons -- an island vignette
  - Dave Collom -- hon non bo type of landscape at Guilin China

### **Saturday - Late PM -- after dinner**

One of the favorite: Round table with all of the presenters:

Mike Rogers, Linda Pottberg, Clif Pottberg, Steve Pilacik, Rodney Clemons, Marian Borchers, Dave Collum (This discussion will include not only the changes we have watched in bonsai, but also the changes throughout history, and changes which seem likely to come).

### **Sunday**

#### **AM**

1. The Art of the Art and Painting Traditions – Clif Pottberg
2. The Art of Formal Tokonoma Display – Marian Borchers/Linda Pottberg
3. Preparation of a large, panoramic landscape displayed in slides – Clif, Dave, Marian, Linda, others

## **Sunday: AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS**

### **Workshops to create your own landscape**

*(Attendance at any of the workshops is included in the cost of the weekend. You are also welcome to just observe. There will be costs for materials depending on your choice of plant material, rocks and container. )*

**Various options are available: Two workshop package options (or create your own custom landscape with separately purchase/or your own materials from home):**

**Excellent plants (trees, understory and shrubbery), rocks, saikei trays and slabs (marble, concrete or ceramic) will be available for you to use in the creation of your landscape. For examples of trees, there will be available: tansu cryptomeria (made famous by Toshio Kawamoto), root-spread Japanese loose-flowered hornbeams, shimpaku juniper, small trident maples, and many other as well as a variety of understory and secondary plants.**

**You must contact us for us to determine what to bring: size and type of container and materials. You may bring some or all your own materials.**

- 1) 12" (\$35) choices of: container slab or tray/pot) 3 trees, understory plants/rock(s),**
- 2) 18" (\$50) choices of: container, 5 trees, understory plants rocks will be \$50;**
- 3) OR Create a Custom Landscape with your own material and/or purchased materials from our vendors or fieldtrip to Bonsai at Pasiminan nursery (Fri or Sat).**

**For any questions, or additional information, call: Clif Pottberg (352)424-6000  
or e-mail: [info@pasiminan.com](mailto:info@pasiminan.com)**

### **HOTEL INFORMATION:**

**Quality Inn & Suites and Conference Center  
Just off I-75 Exit #301 Brooksville (approx 35 miles north of Tampa)  
30307 Cortez Blvd, Brooksville, FL 34602  
(352) 796-9481**

**Ask for Bonsai Rates: \$69 1<sup>st</sup> floor/\$65 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

# The Landscape in Miniature

REGISTRATION FORM – Jan 29, 30, 2011

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE(S): \_\_\_\_\_

e-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

COST: \$75 (or \$65 EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS JAN 10, 2011) \_\_\_\_\_

WORKSHOP FEES INCLUDED IN COST

WORKSHOP MATERIALS (AT ADDITIONAL COST):

12" LANDSCAPE/SAIKEI PACKAGE (variety of material) MATERIALS FEE      \$35

18" LANDSCAPE/SAIKEI MATERIALS FEE (variety of material)      \$50

OR CUSTOM: bring your own/purchase your own materials  
(available via vendors or field trips to Bonsai at Pasimanan  
10 minutes from hotel).

MEALS: (HOT BREAKFAST FREE FOR HOTEL REGISTRANTS)

LUNCH: SAT or SUN (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 8.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Lunch Both days \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$16.00 \_\_\_\_\_

DINNER:                    # ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$16.00 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Clif Pottberg    PHONE: 352-424-6000

SEND TO: 18700 Lake Iola Road, Dade City, FL 33523