

Sho Fu Bonsai

July 2005

Volume 7 Issue 7

August features Ernie Fernandez

From the President

Hello Sho Fu members. We had another great meeting this month. The guest speaker was Mr. Jim VanLandingham from Vero Beach. Jim is a student of Jim Smith and has an easy to understand way of teaching Bonsai. The first portion of the meeting was a demonstration of a Ficus Nerifolia. The tree was cut down to nearly nothing and will be a great tree in the years to come. The lucky winner of the raffle was Marti Waterman. The Friday workshop was held at Julie Trigg's home. Thank you Jim for visiting us and helping us understand Bonsai a little more.

John Petterson came up with another great program for the August 4th meeting. Ernie Fernandez will be the guest artist. John requested we bring in one or two trees that will be critiqued by Ernie. We will setup an additional table for those that would like to work on their trees after the critique. Please be ready with your trees and your tools. We will start at 7:00pm sharp.

We will also have another great weekend workshop. Board member Lois

Bennett will be hosting a backyard dig and member workshop at her house on August 7th at 4:00pm - 7:30pm. She has an Ilex Shilling with a nice sized base that will be dug out, potted, and styled. Main course and sodas will be provided. Please bring an appetizer or dessert and your own "happy" beverages. Also, bring some trees to work on and your tools. RSVP with Lois Bennett.

The next club meeting will be on August 4th at 7:00pm and the board meeting will be at 6:00pm. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Joe A. Moreno



Ficus Before



Ficus After

Next Meeting
August 4th @ 7:00pm
at
Waterside Retirement Estates
Board Meeting @ 6:00pm

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

July 7, 2005 Call to Order: 7:07PM

Announcements:

1- No Workshop: There will be no workshop this Saturday. Instead it will be held on July 16th.

2-Show and Tell: There will be a show-and-tell period at the next meeting. Members should bring their trees.

3-Name Tags: Carrie Ebinger has the name tags for our new members.

4-Bald Cypress for sale: Member Bill Minser has a bald cypress for sale. The tree has an eight inch diameter trunk, and Mr. Minser is asking \$50.00 for the tree.

5-Bonsai Masters workshop: Jim Van Landingham's workshop will be held at the Trigg's home on Friday, July 8th.

Old Business:

1-BSF Convention: Julie Trigg reported that if BSF makes a profit on the convention, which was sparsely attended, the club may receive some funds from BSF, since the proceeds of the convention are split between the members, with BSF receiving half, and the clubs receiving funding proportionate to the amount of work each club did at the convention.

2-BSF Convention Schedule: The convention next year will be hosted by the Gainesville, FL club, and will be held in Gainesville on May 26th - 29th, 2005. Mary Miller and Joe Day will be there. The traveling masters will be Jim Van Landingham, Jim Smith, Ernie Fernandez, and Alan Carver.

Award Presentation: President Joe Moreno presented the "**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**" award to David Ebinger for his contribution to the Sho Fu Bonsai Society. The award was presented to David at the BSF luncheon, but David was not able to attend the luncheon. Julie also thanked David, Carrie, Vito, and Peter for their help at the convention.

Program: Guest speaker, Jim Van Landingham, spoke of how he learned about bonsai from Jim Smith, about his personal history with the Bonsai Society of Florida, and thanked Julie for her work on the convention. He then passed out a handout about his "Wheel of Bonsai", based on the most frequently used letters in the English language, **R-S-T-L-N-E**. These letters represent the qualities for which we should look when choosing a plant for bonsai. The tree chosen for the program was a "Tiger Bark Tree" - a Ficus Retusa Kingman, which Mr. Van Landingham styled discussing the principles in the handout.

Raffle:

The styled tree, which was raffled off, was won by Ms. Martha Waterman, a new member.

Guest:

Twelve year old Nick Gibbs, who belongs to a Tallahassee bonsai club, brought a tree which he had obtained from a friend who found it on a trash heap, and which Nick nurtured until it was healthy enough to be styled by Ben Oki! Mr. Van Landingham assisted Nick in making a few changes in the angle of the limbs.

Respectfully submitted,
Thelma Thompson, secretary

Sho Fu Bonsai Society

of

Sarasota, Florida

8416 Sylvan Wood Dr.

Sarasota, FL 34240

Phone: (941) 360-2270

E-Mail

info@shofubonsai.com

Officers

President: Joe Moreno

Vice President: John Petterson

Secretary: Thelma Thompson

Treasurer: Cindy Petterson

Past President: Julie Trigg

Director: Lois Bennett

Director: Timmie Stewart

Director: Al Meronek

Membership: Louise Cashman

Hospitality: Jean Schneeberger

Historian: David Ebinger

Newsletter: Steffony Wells

Raffle: Lisa Weber

Webmaster: Steven J. Ackerman

Librarian: Phil Hummel

If you'd like to contribute to our newsletter, please contact Steffony Wells at: steffony@comcast.net

Visit Sho Fu on the Web at:

www.shofubonsai.com



Bonsai Calendar for August - Zone 9

✓ Weather Protection & Location

As the weather gets warmer, give protection (partial shade) to tender leafed plants.

✓ Watering

All plants should be watched carefully. They may have to be watered more than once a day. Heavy rains may cause erosion of the bonsai soil and it will need to be replaced immediately so the sun will not dry out exposed roots.

✓ Feeding

Continue feeding program – either diluted once a week or every other week feeding.

✓ Styling

Continue pruning for shape.

✓ Repotting

Tropicals only for June, July and the middle of August.

✓ Collecting

All tropicals. GOOD time for buttonwoods.

Special Notes: Air-layering can be done. Defoliating can be done in June (except Japanese Maple). **NOTE:** The plant must be well established and healthy. Leaf prune two weeks after fertilizing. If air roots show on ficus, place where moisture can be contained around area of the roots. If buttonwood has leaf spot, use Benomyl as a soil drench and foliage spray – follow label.

Compiled by Marian Borchers & Marian Rousseau of the Hukyu Bonsai Society of Tampa.



R - Roots, are the first thing to consider. Roots take the longest time to develop, so they get attention first. Roots should come from the trunk like the spokes on a wagon wheel, with none of them crossing.

S - Spread, of the trunk at the soil line is very important in giving the tree an old look. The better the spread, the older the tree looks.

T - Taper, is the comparison of the trunk diameter at the bottom to the diameter at the top. The taper should be consistent from bottom to top with no boring segments and the taper should take place in a very short distance. Remember that the bonsai can only be so tall.

L - Line, is the general direction the tree takes going from the soil line to the top of the tree. All of the branches need to be in harmony with the line of the tree.

N - Need a triangle. Triangles are easy to look at and are esthetically pleasing. So the green portion of the bonsai needs to be presented in a triangular fashion.

E - Even need branches. Branch placement is very important to the design of the bonsai. Need “huggie” branches at the bottom of the tree and the top needs to bow at you. The branching starts 1/3 of the way up the tree and attach to the trunk in a spiraling fashion from the bottom of the tree to the top.

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Sarasota, FL 34240