

SHO FU BONSAI

June 2004 - Volume 6, Issue 6



Photo by Julie Trigg

Mary Madison really "packed them in" with her two demonstrations at Selby Gardens. David thinks we set a record on signing up new members at this year's show.

From the President

Well, we can all relax and get busy on our tropics now that our Selby show is over. And what a show it was. Good work everyone! Lots of new members and lots of enthusiasm.

Mary Madison's demos were packed. Thank you Mary for two excellent demos. Her beautiful buttonwood demo tree was won by Martha Goff of Fort Myers and the Casuarina Equisetifolia was won by our own, and beloved Vito! Who else? Way to go Martha and Vito! Barbara Bauman also did the club proud with her Bougainvillea demonstration on Sunday morning. Thank you Barbara!

David Ebinger gave us all a most enjoyable evening with his "Bonsai 101" demonstration using a juniper that he purchased on our trip to Jim Smith's place. He donated the finished product to the club to be raffled off that night and it was won by Phil Hummer. Congratulations Phil! We picked up 8 new members that night!

This past month was a jam-packed month for Sho Fu Bonsai and we hope to keep up the level of enthusiasm.

On the 16th of May a "whole bunch" of us went to see Vito's collection. It was a fun and educational road trip. Vito and his wife were very gracious.

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Bonsai Convention on the 28th

The following reminder is from Ronn Miller, Publicity Chairman for this year's state convention:

"Just a short note to remind everyone of the Bonsai Societies of Florida 32nd Annual Convention that will be held in Cape Canaveral at the Radisson Resort, 8701 Astronaut Blvd. "Bonsai for Tomorrow" will feature demonstrations and workshops with the following masters: Dave De Groot, Gary Marchal, Ben Oki, Mike Cartrett, Rob Kempinski, Mary Madison, Mike Rogers, Jim Smith, Ed Trout, and Jim VanLandingham. Workshop material for this year promises to be outstanding.

There will be auctions, raffles, indoor and outdoor exhibits, and a large bazaar area. Additionally, there are many other activities close to the resort including, Kennedy Space Center, beaches, cruises and much more. Detailed information can be found at the website: <http://www.bonsaisocietyofbrevard.org>.

Don't miss this one! Also Timmie and I will be representing the club on Friday night by doing a large forest planting of collected, Casuarina Equisetifolia (Australian Pines) on a hand-made slab.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

May 6, 2004 Call to order: 7:30 PM

Secretary's report: Accepted as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer not present

Vice President's report:

1. Miriam Berringer will conduct the program at the June meeting.

2. There will be a trip to Jupiter Bonsai in June with the Fort Meyers club.

Membership:

1. New members were introduced and welcomed.

2. Membership lists were passed around and everyone was asked to please check the master list for any new additions or corrections.

3. Louise will compile the new information into a current members list.

Raffle: Members were asked to get in touch with Lisa if they have any items to donate to the raffle. David donated the tree he used for this evening's demo to the raffle, and it was won by Phil Hummel.

Hospitality: Jeanne Schneeberger is the new hospitality chairman. Members are asked to give all cookie donations for future meetings to her.

Old Business: Selby Show:

1. Julie thanked Dave and Carrie Ebinger for a great show at Selby Gardens.

2. Carrie presented the final figures for the show. There was a \$982.00 profit.

3. Members were polled as to their interest in presenting a second bonsai show this fall at the Sarasota Garden Club facility, and as to how many people would be willing to work at the show. There was sufficient interest to warrant further discussion of this project.

4. The burlap table covers we have used for our show are not in good condition, and so Timmie Stewart had investigated the fabric used by the Fort Meyers group. The fabric is called Osnaberg, is a neutral shade of beige, easily washable, and costs \$24.00 a bolt. Moved and seconded that the club purchase four bolts to use for new table covers for the shows.

5. The secretary will send a note to Selby Gardens to thank them for their assistance in mounting our show. A check for their share of the profits will be included with the note.

New Business:

1. The Saturday workshop will be held at Julie's house this month because Tokonoma nursery is having some construction work done and will not be available. Timmie will be the senior member in charge.

2. The trip to Vito's will be on May 16th. The group will meet in the parking lot at MacDonald's at 9:00AM .

3. Julie thanked Lisa for printing extra copies of the newsletter so that there were extra to pass out at the show, and all the new members could have one.

4. Peter Trigg was thanked for allowing the club to borrow his Tori gate to use in the exhibit area at the show.

Program:

David presented his program of "Bonsai 101 – beginning bonsai" so that the new members could see the process of creating a bonsai.

Adjourned at 9:00PM

Respectfully submitted Thelma Thompson, secretary



Photo by Julie Trigg

Timmie meets Queen Isabella, the ruler of Joe Moreno's household. And what a beautiful little ruler she is!

From the President

Continued from page 1

I think we can all learn something from each other and while I'm on that topic I would like to say that our core members are a great bunch of helpful and understanding people. Diversity is what makes for a more interesting world. If we all did bonsai that looks just alike it would get to be pretty boring.

The Fort Myers Club has invited us to go along on another bus trip. On June 5th they are going to Jupiter Bonsai. The cost will be \$20 and it will be an all-day trip.

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Next Meeting June 3rd

Program: by Miriam Berninger

You're invited to take part in the June program. The session will deal with the care of species other than Bald Cypress, Bougainvillea, Buttonwood and the Ficuses. Miriam will talk about her Cherokee Bean and invites you to bring in a tree and be a part of this discussion that promises to be lively.

Meeting starts at 7:30p.m. at Waterside

4540 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota

Board meeting June 2nd. 6:30

Workshop at Tokonoma June 5th. 10-1PM

Bonsai Calendar for June - Zone 9

■ Weather Protection & Location

For tender leafed plants, the morning sun is best.

■ 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 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.

■ 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 and foliage spray - follow label.

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

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Officers

President: Julie Trigg **Vice President:** Walter Hamm

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Librarian: Phil Hummel

Raffle: Lisa Webber

Membership: Louise Cashman

Hospitality: Jean Schneeberger

If you'd like to contribute to our newsletter, please contact Julie Trigg at: julie.trigg@verizon.net

Mixing Your Own Bonsai Soil

I know some of us have been looking for the components that make for a great bonsai soil.

I used to be able to obtain turkey grit and Turface in Pennsylvania but down here have only been able to find Pigeon grit which contains a large amount of shells which will mess up the ph factor in the soil.

Some of us bought Turface from Jim Smith and so far the closest outlet for that I can find is Clearwater. Haven't made a trip up there yet — still searching — more later.

I have been following a chain of interest on the Internet on bonsai soil and thought I would pass along relevant info. Some of the people were suggesting Oil-Dri which is a product that you can buy at local auto supply places. It's a clay product used in garages to dry up oil spills.



Here are some notes from the internet group:

"I won't recommend Oil-Dri after trying it this spring for the first time. I have noticed on some trees that didn't make the repot, (it couldn't have been my fault), that the Oil-Dri was already breaking down. Some had started turning to dust and some were breaking down into fine size particles. In a word, junk. I'll never use it again. One clay-type particle I am experimenting with is an aquatic gardening substrate called Flourite. It is a harder clay than Profile (another clay soil conditioner), also heavier. The kicker is that the plant actually feeds off the clay particles. The roots, when touching the particle, receive iron and trace elements. In aquaria, I have verified the substantial growth improvement of Flourite over sand and even Profile, which is very good. I had extra last spring and put it in with a ficus benjamina. I then watched it outgrow everything else and was very healthy. I have recently started some more controlled experiments. Will share them when I have some results."

— Brian, Tucson, AZ Sunset Zone 12



What does CEC mean?

"I was looking for a textbook definition, but it stands for 'cation exchange coefficient' and refers to the ability of a soil or soil component to hold and release moisture and nutrients over time.

"In other words a high CEC would mean that a high percentage of your fertilizer salts in solution would be trapped by the soil particles (Turface) and released as the plant needs it.

"A low CEC means your fertilizer just runs through the soil and out the bottom of the pot. (Even hard particles of fertilizer must dissolve in water before the plant can use them. In many cases they must also change their chemical nature. One argument against so called natural fertilizers such as manure is that it must break down into its chemical parts before plants can use it. Of course this is also an argument for, since these fertilizers feed for longer periods.) — Billy on the Florida Space Coast

Tree of the Month

Bougainvillea

By Walter Hamm

Did you know Bougainvillea is a tropical plant? It is a tropical native to South America.

There are two basic Bougainvillea species. One has a shiny, pointed leaf and purple bracts. The other has a rounded, dull leaf with red bracts or one of the other exotic colors. It is suited for all styles except upright, broom and literati and is usually a medium to extra-large size bonsai.

Bougainvilleas like well draining soil and a constant supply of fertilizer. Slow release fertilizers like Osmocote and Nutricote are highly recommended. They grow very fast to compensate for the predation by worms and other insects. Full sun is best but morning sun with afternoon shade is acceptable.

Proper watering is important. To promote flowering, keep it slightly on the dry side. If you water too often, all you get is lush green growth and no flowers.

Propagation is easy, by either air layering branches or cuttings. Propagation by cuttings should be attempted in the warmer months. Simply place a cutting in a pot with well draining soil place outside in the morning sun and water daily. Bougainvilleas are not pest resistant, with a host of worms and insects that like to chew on the foliage.

The wood is very soft and jins are not recommended. Any exposed wood should be treated with lime sulfur and/or wood hardener.

The above information was assembled from Mike Cartrett.



Vito's Bogie

MEMBERS CORNER

■ It is with sadness that we announce the death of our member Angie Barbara. She will surely be missed.

■ Doug is doing better and may be home in a couple of weeks! We miss you Doug!

■ Jerry drove to Vito's house so he is obviously better. It was great seeing you Jerry!

Welcome New members!

Gary Caliboso, Earl Eckman, Murdoch Hancock, Heidi & Mark Micale, Faye & Wes Miller, Jeanne Neff, Dennis Oyer, Colette Penn, Kathleen & Jeff Reffett, Penny & Doug Rist, Maria & Pablo Rojas, and Boudy Winchester!!

We are very pleased to have you and welcome to our very active club. Feel free to call any of our members if you need help or bring anything to the meetings that you would like to share whether they be problems you may be having with a tree or successes you may have had.

From the president continued from page 2

Call or email me ASAP if you are interested in going (355-9186 or email: julie.trigg@verizon.net), so I can let them know how many to expect. Than k you Fort Myers!

See you all on the Space Coast! I hope.

Julie Trigg

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