

SHO FU BONSAI

March 2006 - Volume 8, Issue 3

From the President FANTASTIC FEBRUARY

By John Petterson

This year is going to be very exciting and February is looking like one of the busiest months. We started out with an entertaining and informative demonstration by Pedro Morales of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Pedro specializes in tropical material, especially ficus. He started with a power point presentation on the different types of ficus and the growing characteristics of each. He also explained the difference between Taiwan ficus (no aerial roots) and everybody else's (aerial roots).

The demo was on a fairly large ficus with some aerial roots. Pedro turned it into a skeleton (see photos page 4) that will bud out and become a beautiful "cloud" with a large trunk and aerial roots.

Vito is back! He won the raffle for the tree.

New members Lisa Wade and Mike McLaughlin brought a very overgrown ficus from Selby Gardens (see photos page 4). It had actually overgrown two pots simultaneously. One was embedded in the other with roots climbing all over everything and virtually hiding the smaller pot. Choosing not to deal with the potting problems, Pedro got busy with some really bold cutting. It's now a fraction of it's original size. We look forward to seeing it bud out. Can't wait to hear the feedback from their co-workers at Selby.



*Matson workshop. Front row: Ted Matson, Gloria Champer, Timmie Stewart
Back row: Gerry Genn, John Petterson, Julie Trigg and Vito Morrongiello
Missing are Wallace Letchworth, Jeff Gallagher & Cindy Petterson. Photo by
Cindy Petterson.*

Next Meeting March 2nd.

Program: Toby Diaz and Lui Rayon

Outstanding artists from Miami. Lui is well-known for his carving work on buttonwoods and cypress. Toby is an excellent bonsai artist, paying close attention to detail and fine wiring techniques.

**Meeting starts at 7:00 PM Waterside
4540 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota**

Board meeting March 2nd. 6:00 PM

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Minutes of Monthly Meeting

February 2, 2006

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

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

Treasurer's report: Accepted as read.

New Business:

1 - Workshops:

A. - The scheduled workshop for February 11 has been cancelled. But future workshops will continue to be held at Tokonoma Nursery.

B. - Ted Matson workshop fee will be \$25.00. It will be held at Julie's home on Monday, February 20, at 9 AM. Bring your own tree.

2 - Master Demo:

The Ted Matson demo will be held at the Waterside main hall on Sunday evening, February 19, at 7 PM.

Old Business:

1 - Convention: All trees for the convention must be submitted by the end of February.

2 - Asian Festival: Set-up will be 8 - 10 AM on February 25. So Fu will get 15% of the sale price. Selby will not get a commission during this event.

A - Plants to be in bonsai pots – no nursery pots.

B - Members may sell 10 - 15 trees each.

C - All trees will be labeled with standard label tags listing the plants name and its' price on one side, and the owner's name on the other.

D - Members may exhibit 2 trees, but must assist in staffing the exhibit if selling trees.

Program: Erik introduced Pedro Morales and invited everyone to the Festival on Pine Island. Pedro invited everyone to the convention in Puerto Rico in 2007.

The demo tree for the evening was a Philippine ficus, a species with over 1000 members. These trees must be defoliated to create more branches and smaller leaves. These trees are ideal for bonsai. The second tree used was a very old tree which had been brought for show-and-tell. Pedro cut it back severely.

Raffle:

Vito Did It Again! He won Pedro's demo tree.

Show-and-tell:

Julie brought a tree which illustrated the principle of the sacrifice branch, Timmie brought the tree she had won in the Hal Mahoney demo, and Miriam brought a small rain tree she had air layered.

Respectfully submitted. Timmie Stewart, acting secretary.



And the lucky winner of Ted Matson's Juniper demo was Willie Webber. Actually he got two trees, because there is a beautiful little shohin juniper to the left of the main one. Photo by John Petterson.



Vito takes a final look at his Black Pine before making the cut at Matson's workshop. Photo by John Petterson.

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In case anyone feels like collecting bonsai, February is the last good month for many species. I helped dig up fifteen large podocarpus recently and I sure hope they live. It was way too much work to lose even one. They all have a base diameter from 2" to 6" and could be really special in a year or two.

We had two major events this month. Visiting master Ted Matson did a demo on Sunday, February 19, 7:00 pm at Waterside and then had a "bring your own tree" work-

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Sho Fu Bonsai Society

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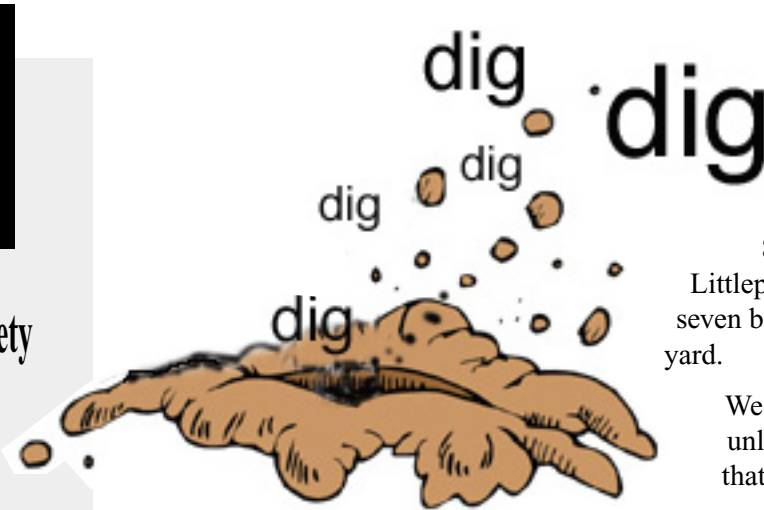
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Officers

President: John Petterson
Vice President: Erik Wigert
Secretary: Thelma Thompson
Treasurer: Cindy Petterson
Past President: Joe Moreno
Director: Timmie Stewart
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Director: Phil Hummel
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Hospitality: Gloria Champer
Membership: Steffony Wells
Club Photographer: Barb Bauman
Historian: TBA
Raffle: Lisa Webber
Newsletter: Julie Trigg
Printing: Classic Printing
Webmaster: Steven J. Ackerman
Librarian: TBA

If you'd like to contribute to our newsletter, please contact Julie Trigg at:
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Visit Sho Fu on the Web
www.shofubonsai.com



at Lois' House

By Lois Bennett

Come one come all! April 8th 10:00 AM to 1728 Littlepointe Circle and we will dig up seven bougainvilleas in my neighbor's yard.

We will furnish the digging tools unless you own a sawsall then bring that.

Bring tools to trim limbs and style trees.

John Petterson has the nursery pots and the club will furnish soil.

The club will make money on these trees by selling them at Selby, possibly using them as demo trees and auctioning them. Lunch will be served. Let's have some fun!

Lois Bennett 922-4869

Map to Lois's house below.



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shop on Monday morning at 9:00 am at Julie Trigg's.

The Selby Asian Festival is on Saturday, February 25 and Sunday, February 26. We will have bonsai demonstrations every hour as well as displays and bonsai for sale. Volunteers are needed; please call Julie Trigg at 941-355-9186 to sign up.

Don't forget to bring items for the raffle table at our March 2 club meeting. See you there.

Bonsai Calendar for March - Zone 9

■ Weather Protection & Location

If the temperature is staying above 50, tropicals can be moved from winter protection.

■ Watering

Trees will probably need to be watered more often, especially on windy days.

■ Feeding

As the buds begin to swell, start feeding lightly with a balanced, relatively higher nitrogen fertilizer about every two weeks (1/2 strength 10-10-10). It is a good idea to rotate between organic fertilizer — full strength — and inorganic fertilizer at 1/2 strength. Jim Smith says “I don’t fertilize at all from December through January. Then I start with a 20-20-20 in mid-to-late February.

■ Styling

Routine. Keep after the new growth.

■ Repotting

It is getting late (unless an emergency) for deciduous and conifers. Do not transplant if there is any tender growth, even on conifers.

■ Pest control

The same as February, but watch for caterpillars. Spray two weeks after seeing white fly swarm. Use appropriate insecticide and follow instructions. Repeat in 10 days except for spider mites, then spray every three days for at least nine days.

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

Continued from Page 2: Morales’ demo



Pedro works on Ficus. The after photo on right is the finished product. Photos by Barb Bauman



Lisa Wade and Mike McLaughlin brought this very overgrown ficus. Pedro Morales made some bold cuts and it is now a fraction of its original size. Photos by Barb Bauman

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