

SHO FU BONSAI

May 2006 - Volume 8, Issue 5

A Message From The President

By John Petterson

In the past few weeks we have had visits from Roy Nagatoshi and Jim Vanlandingham. The real value of having visiting masters is watching them do a demo and then experiencing a workshop with them. The demo gives some insight to the way they think and style a particular tree.

There are usually a few verbal gems about wiring and bending, defoliating, form, plant selection, etc. Then, you get individual attention on your own tree during a workshop. Between work on your own tree and eavesdropping on everyone else, there is a lot to be learned. We have been fortunate in the first four months of 2006 to see, learn and experience a lot.

Our Selby show is May 20 & 21. At our club meeting on May 4 Lois Bennett and Timmie Stewart will give us advice on what we need to do to get our trees and pots in show shape. I would like to challenge everyone to have at least one tree in our show this year, or at least by next year.

There are many volunteer opportunities for our Selby show, from set up early Saturday to take down late Sunday and everything in between. We will discuss the show at our next meeting and gladly accept all of the help we can get.

Barbara Bauman will lead a workshop on May 6 at Tokonoma Nursery. This is a good opportunity to get help from experienced members on styling, plant care, repotting, etc., and a great way to build confidence in your bonsai skills.

Visiting master Suthin Sokosolvisit is coming June 27 and 28. If you have a tree that has been styled by him in the past or a tree that he critiqued last year, please bring it for show and tell when he is here. He'll be doing a demo for the club at Waterside on Tuesday evening and a workshop the next morning. I'm sorry that it's mid-week, but the schedule is set by BSF as best they can.

The scratches you might notice on some members are not from cat fights or wrestling bears but from wrestling

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Photo by John

Our newest member, Kay Karioth was the lucky winner of the boxwood during our last club raffle.

Next Meeting May 4th.

Program: Lois Bennett and Timmie Stewart

will give advice on what you need to do to get your trees and pots in show shape.

Meeting starts at 7:00 PM Waterside

4540 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota

Board meeting May 4th. 6:00 PM

Club Workshop May 6th.

Barb Bauman will lead the club workshop at Tokonoma Nursery 6611 14th St. West Bradenton. The club will provide soil and wire free to members.

Minutes: Sho Fu Bonsai Society

April 6, 2006 Minute

Call to Order at 7:09 PM by President, John Petterson.

Announcements:

1 -) Dig: There will be a dig at the home of Lois Bennett on Saturday at 10 AM. Members are reminded to bring shovels, other gardening tools and gloves.

2 -) State convention Club Night: The state club board would like Sho Fu to send a member to the convention to represent the club and do a demo. The member will bring his own materials, and may have as many team members as they wish. Interested members, please let John know.

3 -) Suthin's demo: Suthin Sulkosolvisit will be visiting Sho Fu on June 27 & 28. During his last visit he critiqued some of the member's trees. Members are requested to bring the trees for a one-year-later revue.

4 -) Selby Show: John requested the members who wish to sell plants at the Selby show to raise their hands. Twelve members responded. Members wishing to exhibit number 10 or 11. The club needs to know because we will have to rent exhibit tables.

Program:

Eric introduced Jim Van Landingham who brought two trees, a Ficus Selisifolia, native to Indonesia, and a water jasmine to use in the evening's demo. Jim explained his "wheel of bonsai" principle using the most common letters in the English language R-S-T-L and E. R = roots, S = spread, T = taper, L = line, and E = everything else, the leaves and branches and triangular shape.

At the end of the demo the two styled trees and one brought to the meeting by John were raffled off — and the winners were:

John Petterson for the water jasmine -

Treva Kurtz for the Selisafolia -

and Kay Karioth for the boxwood.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM

Respectfully submitted, Thelma Thompson, secretary

A Message From the President

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eight bougainvilleas from the yard of a neighbor of Lois Bennett's. Despite all the scratches and dirt, we won and were able to extract and pot them. They are being "plant sat" by several members until they are stabilized and ready for styling. These are club trees and will be used for demos, raffles and auctions. Thank you, Lois, for setting this up for the club.

Don't forget the Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival runs from April 21 to June 11 in the Japanese and Chinese areas of the World Showcase.

Don't forget to bring stuff for the raffle table on May 4. If you don't have things to donate, bring money to buy other people's stuff. These proceeds help fund our excellent programs.

See you there. Get the word out on "Bonsai Under the Banyans."



Roy Nagatoshi looks at John Petterson's juniper above, and in the second photo down he made some major cuts. Bottom photo he instructs Jeff Crago on his tree. Photos by Cindy and John Petterson



Sho Fu Bonsai Society

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

Visit Sho Fu on the Web
www.shofubonsai.com



Top photo: Some of the members who took Jim VanLandingham's workshop. Back row: Timmie, Jean and Gloria. Front row: Lisa Jim and Julie behind the "before" shot of Julie's tree. Bottom photo shows Treva Kurtz winning the Salisifolia demo tree. All photos by John Petterson.



On the left is Julie's willowleaf ficus (salisifolia) before and the one on the right, after making the cuts as per Jim's instructions, it became a "little fat pig."

Bonsai Calendar for May - Zone 9

Weather Protection & Location

As the weather gets warmer, give protection (partial shade) to tender leafed plants, such as maples, hornbeams, elms and zelkova.

Watering

Watch for dryness, at this time there may be a need for more than once a day.

Feeding

Continue feeding about every other week as started in February or switch to once a week at 1/2 strength of package directions. Some alternate each week among Miracid, Rapidgrow, Dr. Chateliers or Miracle-Gro, etc..

Styling

New growth still needs pruning and you should check wiring, especially on tropical bonsai as they start to really grow toward the middle of May.

Repotting

The last two weeks of May, start repotting tropicals — be sure to protect from the sun and wind for one to two weeks afterwards.

Collecting

Tropicals can be collected from mid-May until about the middle of August. This enables the plant roots to become established before winter.

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.

Special Notes: The last two weeks of May and the month of June are good times for air-layering.

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

SOME TIPS ON GRAFTING

By David Terry of the Nepean Bonsai Society

When I first started Bonsai I was always very wary of removing a branch because you couldn't glue them back on again. This is, of course, true but you can grow a branch where you want one. I have read all the books but I never really thought of grafting on branches until I accidentally broke one off a Privet one day while showing someone how I intended to wire it. I tried to get new branches to grow but never had any success.

The procedure I tried was as follows.

Firstly I allowed a sucker to grow from the bottom of the Privet (this is not difficult as they send up suckers whenever you prune the top). When the sucker had grown past the point I needed the branch I bored a hole completely through the trunk with an electric drill, just big enough so that the sucker would pass through without damage.

I removed the leaves from the sucker being careful not to damage the small buds at the base of each leaf. I then carefully threaded the sucker through the hole in the trunk. I packed the in and out holes with Blue Tac to stop the cambium from drying out and tied the sucker in place with some strips of old stocking. (the stocking is stretchie and will not cut into the new branch).

Now it is just a matter of growing the sucker as much as possible. Let it grow four or five times longer than you want then cut off the end shoot. This encourages side branching which will fatten the branch faster. If you keep removing the end buds from side branches on the protruding sucker you will get more side branches and better reticulation.

You can tell when the graft has taken as the sucker will swell where it leaves the trunk and be thicker than where it enters.

This process may take several seasons and it is better to leave it too long than not long enough. Using branch cutters cut through the sucker where it enters the trunk and at ground level. The branch can now be carefully wired and shaped.

The advantages of this method of grafting are that the sucker is completely compatible and there is little relative movement between the tree and the sucker (also it works). To date I have used this method on four Privets and two Figs and have had total success. Plants must be healthy and growing vigorously. I highly recommend the method and have been able to enhance the appearance of my trees.

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