

SHO FU BONSAI

September 2004 - Volume 6, Issue 9

WE'LL MISS YOU DOUG



Doug weeding his Black Olive, slab forest in 2003.

Photo by Julie Trigg

As most of you know, Doug Chapin passed away recently. The family held a private ceremony to scatter his ashes in the same location as those of his late wife, Marla and then another small family ceremony back in Tennessee.

Doug, known to us all as “Dr. Doug” was such an integral part of Sho Fu that things just won’t be the same without him. He loved this bonsai club and showed it in so many ways. When you read this, his daughter Boudy will be back in Tennessee and she wants all of you to know how very much she and her father appreciated all of you. She intends to continue studying the art of bonsai and hopes to get back down to see all of us again soon.

In addition to losing Dr. Doug, this has been a tough month for many of you.

Hurricane Charley left us worried for six days about Vito and Jerry Oseland. For those of you who don’t get email, you should know that both Vito’s and Jerry’s families are safe and sound. Hopefully we’ll see them both on the 2nd of September.

In the next two months we need new officers for the club. So if this is something you feel you would like to volunteer for, please give your name to Lisa Weber, who is in charge of a nominating committee. You can see her at the meeting (selling raffle tickets) or email her at: classicprinting@comcast.net. We will have our election in November just before our auction.

I know there are many of you out there that want our growing club to survive and prosper. So why not give a year of your time to your club? And while I’m on that thought I would like to personally thank everyone that has been so helpful this

Next Meeting Sept. 2nd

Program: Mary Miller

Triangularis Demo

Meeting starts at 7:30PM Waterside

4540 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota

Board meeting Sept. 2nd 6:30:PM

Mary Miller Workshops:

Friday, Sept. 3rd. “Ficus Nerifolia” \$35.

9AM—12:30PM

Saturday Sept. 4th. 9AM—12:30PM

“Bring Your Own Tree Workshop” \$10

Please bring your tools, turntable etc.

Club will provide drinks and munchies

Both workshops will be at:

4014 Bay Shore Rd.

Sarasota 355-9186

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Left: *New member, Doris Davis (center) has Thelma Thompson and Phil Hummel captivated with a bonsai tale before the August meeting began.*

Bonsai Advice From a Master

At least in the northern hemisphere, fall is on its way - though with our 90+ degree temps it seems hard to imagine down here in the south.

Too often, Fall means a sudden increase in nasty insects -- from chewing insects like caterpillars, and especially the sucking insects such as the various stink bugs (Hemiptera), lace bugs (Homoptera) aphids, white fly, and scale. Spider mites may be a problem on conifers. They're in a feeding frenzy as they get ready to lay eggs, hibernate, or whatever else they do to insure that their genes survive over the winter.

A pyrethrin spray will take care of most of these beasties. The benefit of pyrethrin is that it is very lethal to insects, but short lived. If you prefer non-toxic sprays, horticultural oil will get (suffocate) many of them. A soap spray (repeated weekly for a while) will get others, and BT will get the caterpillars. A blast of water is probably enough for the spider mites. You really don't need anything stronger.

Fall also means leaves are getting old. Black and brown spots on leaves -- especially on members of the Rose family (cherries, apricot, pear, hawthorn, etc.), on various maples, sweetgum, hophornbeam, quince, and many others -- are normal at this time of year. Sprays are NOT called for. If it really bothers you, remove the old leaf, but it's a bit late for complete defoliation so be careful.

And note that even "evergreens" get old, spotted, and yellowed leaves (or needles) at this time of year. Ditto "tropicals."

As fall advances, trees shut themselves down. They'll need less water, so overwatering gets to be a distinct possibility as some of your trees go dormant while others go merrily on their way.

Keep your eyes open. You may want to rearrange your tables so the trees that need more water aren't sitting next to trees that need less at this time of year.

A more thorough seasonal care article can be found in our website at: <http://internetbonsai.org> then go to the "Knowledge Base."

Jim Lewis - jklewis@nettally.com - Tallahassee

Sho Fu Bonsai Society Minutes

Called to order: 7:30 PM Secretary's Report: Accepted as published.

Treasurer's Report: Accepted as read. Vice President's Report: There will be a members' workshop on Sunday, August 8, 2004 at Tokonoma Nursery.

Old Business: The club has received a letter of thanks for our contribution from the Morikami Museum.

New Business: 1) - There will be a crape myrtle sale on Saturday, August 7, 2004 at the Sarasota Fair Grounds.

2) - The Friday, September 3 workshop with Mary Miller will use willow leaf ficus. The tree/workshop fee will be \$35.00 per participant. The Saturday bring-your-own-tree workshop fee will be \$10.00.

3) - A compendium of articles by Mary Miller was circulated among the meeting participants.

4) - There will be an open house on September 25th at Erik Wigert's Mango Grove and Nursery in Bokerelia, Florida. (Editor's note: Cancelled due to hurricane).

Members: Doctor Doug is periodically off of the ventilator, but is unable to have visitors.

Program: Ernie Fernandez presented a demonstration of root-over-rock planting using a rock he had found in a fresh water stream, and a willow-leaf ficus. He also gave us the recipe for "Bonsai Muck" -- 1/3 sphagnum moss, 1/3 peat moss, and 1/3 organic clay. This is used to provide a growing medium for the roots as they extend downward over the rock, and helps the roots to initially adhere to the rock.

Raffle: At the conclusion of the demonstration, the finished planting was raffled off, and won by Carol Mayer who had purchased one ticket in that raffle! Two other articles were later raffled off and the first, "The Art of Bonsai Design" was won by Carol also! The second was a small Buddha planter which was won by - who else?- Vito!

Adjourned 9:10 PM Respectfully submitted, Thelma Thompson, secretary



Photos by Julie Trigg



The Winning Ticket

Surprise, surprise. Carol Mayer holds the winning ticket! Everyone wanted to add Ernie's "root over rock" masterpiece (left) to their collection but Carol was the lucky one this month. Congratulations Carol!

Ernie Fernandez Wows Club

Erníe Fernandez wowed us all at our last meeting by planting a *Ficus Nerifolia* (Willowleaf) "root over rock" demonstration.

Explaining that he epoxied two stones together to get the most unusual shape (above) he proceeded to pound leaded weights that had been threaded with wire into pre-drilled holes. These were used to tie the tree roots to the rock.

He had fewer long roots than he would have liked because, as he explained, he anchors the roots over the rock and would normally have them go down under the rock to the soil but in this case most of the roots were too short. So he improvised by using more muck. He carefully pushed the muck into the holes around the bottom third of the prepared stone and spread out the roots and anchored with the wires. He then proceeded to put more muck and moss all over the bottom of the stone to cover the roots and make an area for new roots to grow to reach the bottom soil. He explained that in about six months the owner could remove a couple inches of the moss and soil from the top, thereby exposing the roots. Continue to do this until you are down to the bottom of the stone every few months. If you look, and your

roots haven't taken yet, then place the muck and moss back on and give it more time, he advised. He also advised the new owner to keep it in the shade for six weeks before moving it out into the sun.

Ernie stripped off all the foliage because he had so few roots and felt that this would be better for the tree developing new roots.

Thank you Ernie for a very interesting demonstration. More photos on page 4.

Tribute to Dr. Doug

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past year. We have a wonderful, fun club, so let's do all we can to keep it that way. Give Lisa a call.

Internationally known bonsai master, Mary Miller will be here on the 2nd of September. We still have a couple of slots open for the Friday workshop. Saturday's is filled but you can come and observe free. Our hospitality chairman, Jean Schneeberger is planning to have drinks & goodies to munch on during the weekend of bonsai fun.



Photo by Heidi Micale

Above: *Walter Hamm helps new member Kathleen Reffett style her bonsai at the August workshop at Tokonoma Nursery. More photos can be seen on our website that were taken by Larry Rogers.*

At right: *Arnold Adams admires the bonsai tree on his birthday cake. Arnold has had 90 of these. When his son asked him what his secret was to a long life, Arnold responded "just remember to keep breathing." Daughter Jan and her sister planned a fun and delicious celebration for their father this past Sunday. Lois Bennett (bottom right) was caught chowing down on a slice of watermelon and I ate three desserts. Despite recent shoulder surgery, Carrie Ebinger came to wish Arnold happy birthday.*

Happy Birthday Arnold!



Photos by Julie Trigg



Ernie Fernandez begins the demo at left, while wife and son observe.

Photos by Julie Trigg