

Sho Fu Bonsai



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Evergreen With Envy From the President

By John Petterson

Cindy and I just returned from our trip to the northwest U.S. and the Canadian Rockies.

After meeting Dave DeGroot at State Convention last year and seeing his slides of the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection, we were anxious to view the real thing.

The first thing we did after landing at SeaTac (Seattle-Tacoma) Airport was rent a car and head for the Weyerhaeuser Corporation's campus. It is a beautiful property full of pine trees, some of which are centuries old. The admission is free but for some reason they charge a fee for the adjoining rhododendron garden. The exhibit is set up so that every tree is on a pedestal of it's own and they are grouped in small areas with a wall behind them to give maximum effect for photography. The trees have been donated by bonsai masters from all over the world.

We were disappointed to see a vacant pedestal with a sign stating that Hal Mahoney's Hinoki cypress had been removed for trimming, but then saw the volunteers from the Portland, Oregon bonsai society bring it back. It looks good, Hal. The 135 trees exhibited included donations by other friends of Sho Fu: Ben Oki's Chinese Hackberry; Jim Smith's Willowleaf Fig, Portulacaria Afra, and Bougainvillea; a couple of Guy Guidry's as well as several by Dave DeGroot and five of John Naka's.

By the way, both Dave DeGroot and Guy Guidry will be at the BSF Convention in 2007.

Dave rewarded the Portland group with a critique of trees they had brought with them. Of course we jumped at their invitation to sit in – timing is everything!

Another great experience was our visit to Elandon Gardens on Puget Sound. Their brochure says that King Arthur, Charlemagne, and William the Conqueror were

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Roberto Gerpe wires the branches on the final tree.

Club Member Roberto Gerpe Demonstrates His Stuff

By Julie Trigg

Roberto Gerpe did his club proud this past meeting. Using nine *Bucida spinosa* trees (black olives donated to the club by our vice president, Erik Wigert), Roberto turned them into a really nice looking forest. (See photo display, Page 4)

Fielding questions from the audience, Roberto explained that he usually took much longer to make decisions on where and what to cut when he is doing it at home and cautioned everyone to take time to make those decisions.

He had pre-wired seven of the trees and the bonsai pot to speed up the process and proceeded to wire the two remaining trees before placing them in the oval bonsai pot.

I hope all the experienced members will remember to ask questions of the speakers so the new people will learn more. When you are new, you tend to be afraid to ask questions. So it is up to the rest of the group to ask those informational questions. Don't be afraid of sounding untutored. It really helps the newer members get more out of the demo and to understand what is going on. After all, we want to keep the new members in the club and one way of doing that is to help them learn.



Sho Fu Bonsai Society

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Deadline for each edition is the 15th of each month.

Visit Sho Fu on the Web
www.shofubonsai.com

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alive when some of the trees at the garden took root. It was six acres on a beautiful waterfront with bonsai in a very natural setting. The highlight for me were the Japanese black pines. Elandon is owned by Daniel Robinson, who was in Korea during the conflict in the early 1950's and brought back 50 black pine seeds; 49 lived. Some are in pots and some are in the ground but all are beautiful. He collected his tropicals in Florida with our very own Mary Madison. Guess he's not afraid of snakes either.

After Seattle, we took a ferry to Victoria, British Columbia, on Vancouver Island to Butchart Gardens, a 50 acre "feast for the senses". It's a gardener's paradise with an incredible Japanese garden, a formal Italian garden, a Victorian rose garden, a tropical conservatory, a sunken garden, you name it.

These were three venues everyone should see.

We then traveled through the Canadian Rockies, enjoying some cool weather and some fine dining. All in all, it was a wonderful trip but we came home with a terrible case of "evergreen envy" after seeing the trees in the Rockies.

Don't miss our September meeting. Ed Trout will be our program and he's really good and a really nice guy. There will be the usual Club workshop on Saturday at Tokonoma. This is a great time to visit with fellow members, get instruction, give pointers, and just enjoy bonsai with friends.

Julie will have shirts to try on for size at the meeting. We will take orders for logo shirts, so be sure to bring your checkbook. See you there.

Minutes: Sho Fu Bonsai Society

Minutes of the August 3 meeting. Call to order: 6:59 P.M.

Announcements

1 - Tokonoma workshops: Barb Bauman was commended for the great job she is doing mentoring the Saturday workshops at Tokonoma Nursery.

Erik asked for another volunteer to assist Barb at this weeks workshop, and Lois Bennett volunteered

2 - Publicity: There will be an article about one of our members, Joel Fedder, in tomorrow's Bradenton Herald. Erik was also interviewed for the article, and a link to the club's website will be included.

3 - September Demo: Ed Trout, who will do the demo at the September meeting, may not be able to conduct a workshop on Friday morning, due to his wife's illness. Members will be notified by email.

4 - Guests: Our guests for the evening were Pat Sabcheck, her daughter Mary Ellen Sabcheck, and Ms. Gail Mc Clure, who was from Fort Lauderdale.

Show and Tell:

Julie Trigg showed her 1" tall Jacaranda tree, "the world's smallest bonsai," and a method of anchoring a tree in a pot using a grid of small bamboo rods tied to the pot.

Program: Our member, Roberto Gerpe did a forest planting of 9 black olive trees that had been donated to the club by Erik. Roberto stressed the importance of choosing the primary, secondary, and tertiary trees for the planting. He also stated that the branches of busida spinosa are very flexible, and can be safely manipulated. When he finished, Roberto had planted all nine fairly large trees in one pot and created a beautiful forest.

Raffle: Lisa Weber won the forest Roberto had created, and Richard Dietrich won the pump sprayer.

Meeting adjourned 9:05 P.M. Respectfully submitted, Thelma Thompson, secretary.

Lost and Found

Found: A pair of jinning pliers belonging to Gerry G., in Vito tool caddy.

Found: A pair of wirecutters belonging to Vito in Vito's tool caddy. Yep, that's right. Vito had them the whole time!



All Photos this page by Lisa Weber



At the August meeting, Sho Fu members (at top) watch as Roberto (center left) demonstrates his bonsai prowess by doing a black olive, 9-tree forest. Agnes Gerpe (center right) focuses on Roberto while Lisa Weber focused in on her. Below left Louis Cashman holds "the world's smallest" bonsai, a Jacaranda, brought in by Julie Trigg in a pot she got from Judy Gore. (Editor's note: After being away for 10 days with my trees on an automatic sprinkler, the little Jacaranda didn't make it but all the other trees are fine, as well as yours Gerry). Joe Moreno (bottom right) sat back and enjoyed the whole thing.

A Special 'Thank You'

All the Sho Fu club members would like to give a special "Thank You" to senior member Barb Bauman. Barbara has single handedly conducted the club workshop each month at Tokonoma Nursery following our monthly meeting. This free workshop is usually for the new members but any member is encouraged to come and participate. The club provides free soil and bonsai wire and Barb provides encouragement along with a seasoned eye.



Photos by Agnes Gerpe

Judy Gore holds the two baby chimney sweeps she tried raising.

By Julie Trigg

When not doing bonsai or traveling to clubs representing District 5 for the State, Judy Gore recently tried her hand at raising two baby chimney sweeps that a friend had rescued.

She drove Suthin up to Sarasota for our July demo and decided to stay over in Sarasota instead of making the long drive back to Fort Meyers. After the demo I rode with her to our house and kept hearing little "cheeps" coming from the back of the car. So I said "what is that sound?" And she said, "oh I've got a sack of baby birds back there." Well, of course I thought she was joking and didn't mention it any more. When we got home, sure enough she took out a sack of baby birds! Actually there were two of them that she had inside a tall plastic container with a heating pad wrapped around the outside. She hand fed the little things every few hours!

I was saddened when I inquired about them several weeks later and found out that they hadn't made it.

Next Sho Fu Meeting Sept. 7th.

Demonstration: By Ed Trout

Program starts at 7 PM Waterside

(board meeting at 6 PM)

4540 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota

Free Club Workshop September 9th: Barb Bauman will conduct the workshop for members at Tokonoma Nursery, 6611 14th St. W. in Bradenton.

Please note: no workshop if it rains.

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