

# RAMIFICATION

## THE NEWSLETTER OF



The Bonsai Society of Miami

### April, 2006 - President's Corner

Hello Friends and Club Members,

Here we are again, another month gone by. This month's program is an open workshop, B.Y.O.T. (bring your own tree). For those of you that need it, there will be plenty of fellow members to help you out with any questions or decisions you may have regarding your tree. It is also a good time to bring in the trees you plan on putting in the exhibit at our annual show in October. It's always a lot of fun and a good learning experience for everyone. Don't forget your tools and wire!

Last month's visiting artist was Roy Nagatoshi. Everyone, from the new members to long time friends of Roy, had a great time. Roy styled 4 trees, a Fukien tea, Ficus retusa, single Juniper, and a Juniper grouping (see photos). Thanks Roy, for another great program and congratulation to Mike Kaufman for winning the raffle tree which was the uniquely styled Juniper, nice tree!

At the March meeting, for those of you that weren't there, Al Soares did a demo and presentation on Mame and Shohin bonsai. He must have brought in at least 30-40 trees in different stages, some he did a few years ago and some he just started. He shared his knowledge on how he started many of them by cuttings and also brought in a fine display of pottery, some as old as 65 years, that he bought from masters in Japan. On behalf of the club we want to thank Al for the time and generosity that he and Jarbas have given to the Club thru the years. (A Big Thanks).

Last week, the Board had our first show meeting to discuss issues and tasks that need to be addressed and to start setting up committees to help with all aspects of our upcoming 20th Annual Show. Please, if you can, plan ahead and try to set some time aside in the next few months to help us out with either the planning stages or volunteering some of your spare time to help us out with the Show. We hope to have the best show ever.

For Tuesday's meeting, everyone please try to bring at least one tree for the display table. It helps all of us to see and show a variety of trees. It also helps visitors and new comers see what the Club is all about. The raffle table has been pretty lame lately. Use this opportunity to help clean out your unwanted supply of trees, pots, tools, other art, etc. Don't forget this is how we make money to help defray the costs of putting together good programs. The more we bring, the more we can do. If you don't have any bonsai related items to bring in, maybe you need some more, so please by raffle tickets .

\*\*\* Extra\*\*\* Free door prize for everyone that attends the meeting this month.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there,

Glenn Hilton

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\* If you receive a hardcopy of this newsletter, please be sure you have renewed your BSM membership to stay on our mailing list and continue receiving the newsletter. Thanks.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- APRIL** 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Flamingo Garden 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Event  
Includes demos by Dick Miller Sat 11am  
Ed Trout Sat 2pm  
Glen Hilton Sun 11am  
Merv Greenberg Sun 2pm  
More info & map: [www.flamingogardens.org](http://www.flamingogardens.org)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Miller: A Demonstration on Repotting Bonsai, 9 to 12am  
Palm Hammock Orchid Estate, 9995 SW 66 St. Miami, \$10.  
Will include demonstration of trimming roots on several species,  
selecting and preparing pots and discussion of "bonsai soil"  
For more info email Mary at: [bonsaihot@aol.com](mailto:bonsaihot@aol.com)
- 8<sup>TH</sup> Gold Coast Annual Auction  
9am to 1 pm, 6800 Sunset Strip, Sunrise  
For more info: [bonsaiauction@aol.com](mailto:bonsaiauction@aol.com)
- 11<sup>th</sup> BSM General Meeting 7:30 pm  
Program: B.Y.O.T. (bring your own tree)  
Raffle & Refreshments  
Location: FTBG, Corbin Bldg
- 15<sup>th</sup> Workshop at Miami Tropical Bonsai, 9 to 12am  
For more info call 305-258-0865
- 18<sup>th</sup> BSM Board Meeting 7:30 pm  
A & M Mechanical
- MAY** 9<sup>th</sup> BSM General Meeting 7:30pm  
Program: Jaboticaba Workshop with Mike Cartrett  
Tree and instruction – just \$25  
Bring your tools & wire  
(to be sure we have enough trees – sign-up at next meeting)
- 16<sup>th</sup> BSM Board Meeting 7:30 pm  
A & M Mechanical
- 20<sup>th</sup> Workshop at Miami Tropical Bonsai, 9 to 12am  
For more info call 305-258-0865
- 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> BONSAI SOCIETIES OF FLORIDA 2006 CONVENTION  
"Bonsai Bridges" Paramount Plaza Hotel, Gainesville  
Workshops, demos, exhibits, competitions, vendors,  
parties and more. *If you haven't attended a convention yet,  
just ask someone who has!*  
Make your reservations early  
For more info: [www.bonsai-bsf.com](http://www.bonsai-bsf.com)

# BSM Photo Gallery

## Roy Nagatoshi Program, March 2006



Roy just getting started on this Juniper grouping.



Creating a dead wood top that looks natural.



Roy creating an incredible twisting Juniper.



The Juniper after wiring and shaping.



The 4 trees Roy styled during his program.



The Juniper grouping after being repotted.

# Special Bonsai Subject

By Mary C. Miller

*At the last meeting of the Bonsai Society of Miami, Alcisoares displayed many of his beautiful shohin and mame bonsai. Did you notice how many were Ficus nerifolia? What a wonderful subject for not only small bonsai but bonsai of almost any size! I wonder how many of our members know who introduced this great bonsai subject? Here's the story.*

In 1965, tropical bonsai pioneer Joe Samuels was Superintendent of Parks for the City of Miami Beach. Part of his responsibility was buying landscape plants and trees. One of Joe's favorites stops was the old Fantastic Gardens Nursery (now gone). On one visit he spotted a small tree (finger thick) that looked like a strange *Ficus*. He questioned the owner who said he had imported the *Ficus* from New Guinea. . . but it was not for sale. Joe is a patient man and continued to ask about this new found prize.

After almost a year of pleading and arm twisting, Joe finally purchased the unusual fig in 1966. A friend researched the tree and identified it as *Ficus nerifolia*. As the *Ficus n.* grew, Joe envisioned a mature looking fig tree in a bonsai container. Most of what he did was experimental at the time, but Joe was determined to create a good tropical bonsai. I asked him if he intended the resulting effect or if it was by chance. Joe answered "I observed the growth pattern of figs in the landscape and planned accordingly, including aerial roots. I noticed that *Ficus* often have surface roots as far as 500 feet from the trunk. From this I found out they would grow in shallow containers." Joe always takes wisdom from trees in their natural environment.

Samuels first exhibited his *Ficus nerifolia* at the Bonsai Clubs International convention in Miami Beach in 1975. Participants from all over the world applauded it. Following the convention he had a new vision for his tree. He placed it in a larger container, and let it grow. Meanwhile he rooted cuttings "just in case anything happened to the original tree, the strain would keep going." Many hobbyists now claim to have a bonsai grown from a cutting of "Joe's tree." They probably do.

When exhibited again in 1985, the original *Ficus nerifolia* bonsai was a specimen tree. A fellow Miami bonsai enthusiast, Bruce Sutton, took one look at it and called it "The Cloud." The name stuck.

Today it would be unlikely to see a tropical bonsai exhibit and not see a relative of Joe Samuels' *Ficus*.



**Note:** *Ficus nerifolia* is also known as *F. salicifolia* and most recently *F. subulata*. In the bonsai world many of us call it 'willow leaf fig'.

## More Points of Interest

**Visiting Artist: Suthin Sukosolvisit** – June date and location, for visit to BSM, to be confirmed. More schedule information to come. For info on Royal Bonsai Garden & Suthin see: [www.royalbonsaigarden.com](http://www.royalbonsaigarden.com)

**Bonsai at the Garden, October 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>** - this is our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show!! Planning is underway, your ideas and participation are needed. Information available at next BSM General Meeting.

**The American Bonsai Society (ABS) - "Learning Seminars 2006" June 15-18, 2006 - Saratoga Springs, NY** - A Bonsai Learning Experience. A weekend long bonsai educational experience for all. Come and learn from Bonsai Teaching Masters in a classroom format designed to instruct and inspire you. - 32 bonsai learning classes offered. Each registrant will attend 4 classes, two classes will be offered each day. For info: [www.absbonsai.org/seminars/ABS2006](http://www.absbonsai.org/seminars/ABS2006)

**Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection** [www.weuerhaeuser.com/bonsai](http://www.weuerhaeuser.com/bonsai)

is calling all artists to participate in this years "Best in the U.S.". The Collection presents ongoing series of special exhibits to attract and educate the public on bonsai as an art form.

"Best in the U.S." will be a series of photographic displays that will spotlight selected bonsai images submitted by participating clubs from around the United States. Two exhibits are planned for 2006, during the months of June and October. Submission deadlines will be April 15<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>. For more competition info contact: Sue Vrana-Brogan.

**BCI – FELAB 2007, Puerto Rico** [www.bcifelab2007.com](http://www.bcifelab2007.com) - Bonsai Federation of Puerto Rico join together Latin American and Caribbean Bonsai Federation and Bonsai Clubs International to organize the great convention of 2007, **Tropical Enchantment**, July 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Condado Plaza Hotel & Casino in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Island of Enchantment.

## Workshop with Mike Cartrett on Jaboticaba

The program of our **May 9<sup>th</sup> General Meeting** is guaranteed to be both entertaining and educational. Additionally, you will be putting a jaboticaba in your collection! You certainly don't want to miss this one and only \$25.

Mike Cartrett will be providing both the pre-bonsai jaboticaba and the instruction on styling, as well as tips on the care and feeding of this unique tropical. We know Mike from his energetic participation at our auctions, his support of our annual shows as a vendor, demo artist and raffle junky; and there are the programs Mike has presented at our meetings – where he has de-mystified some of the secrets of bonsai with his direct and down to earth approach. Natives and tropicals are Mike's forte and he searches out and collects from both woodland and urban areas. His love of bonsai is evident in his teaching and we are the fortunate recipients.

### Jaboticaba - *Myrciaria cauliflora*

General Information: Jaboticaba, pronounced in five syllables just as it is spelled, is a member of the Myrtaceae (Myrtle) family and is known botanically as *Eugenia cauliflora*. ("Cauliflora" means that it flowers and bears fruit on the trunk, mature branches and exposed roots.) It is a relative of the guava and true myrtle. Its native range is from southern Brazil to southern California, southern Florida and Hawaii. (Tropical) Takes long time to begin flowering after potting as a bonsai. The bark of the Jaboticaba is very smooth, creamy tan with a pinkish tint and patches of soft gray. Its habit of peeling off in curls as the trunk and branches expand is similar to the guava and crape myrtle. It is evergreen but sheds half its leaves each spring before new growth begins. The new leaves are pinkish but change to light to medium green. They are closely packed and are narrow and tapering. It blooms several times a year during warm months. The flower has delicate white petals with stamens and comes in clusters on the trunk, large branches and exposed roots. The tree begins to bear fruit when it is ten to fifteen years old. Its edible purple berries are globular shaped, 3/4" to 1 1/2" in diameter, have a tough skin and a juicy pulp. The fruit grows directly from the hard wood of the tree and develops very quickly; from open flower to ripe fruit in about three weeks. It is good to eat fresh, in preserves or in ice cream. Available in nurseries in the warmer climates and from bonsai specialty growers.

Lighting: It thrives in partial shade but will tolerate full sun if kept well watered.

Temperature: Because it is native to a warm climate, it must be protected from freezing temperatures.

Watering: Water adequately and frequently. It will not tolerate salt.

Feeding: Acid fertilizer is best but Jaboticaba likes lots of food and will be thankful for just about anything you give it.

Pruning and wiring: Early care must be given to avoid heavy branches on the upper portion of the tree as it sets heavy wood very quickly, especially toward its top. If nursery stock is obtained with heavy upper branches, remove them and train the new growth which will appear. Wounds tend to heal quickly. Any wiring should be done loosely and early in the growing season.

Propagation: It is best propagated by air layering and by seed, but root cuttings will grow well.

Repotting: Repot only in warm weather. If the plant is healthy it is safe to remove up to two thirds of its roots. Jaboticaba prefers fertile, well drained but moisture retentive soil; azalea soil works well. The traditional brown bonsai container contrasts well with the light mottled bark and seems to highlight the new pink leaves. A soft blue green glaze is nice too with the bark and leaves.

Pests and diseases: About the only pests bothering it are aphids on the new tender pink leaves and an occasional red spider mite attack.

# *Bonsai Society of Miami*

**P.O. Box 330665**

**Miami, Fl 33233**

## ***2005-2006 Membership Application***

MEMBER'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBERS - HOME (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

WORK (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE BONSAI SOCIETY?

FRIEND \_\_\_\_ FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN \_\_\_\_ RADIO \_\_\_\_  
ADVERTISEMENT \_\_\_\_ NEWSPAPER \_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

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PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH SOME SOCIETY ACTIVITIES:

NEWSBULLETIN \_\_\_\_ REFRESHMENTS \_\_\_\_ PUBLICITY \_\_\_\_  
RAFFLE TABLE \_\_\_\_ MEETING CLEANUP \_\_\_\_ LIBRARY \_\_\_\_  
MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_ EXHIBIT PLANNING \_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_  
HOSPITALITY \_\_\_\_ EXHIBIT CONSTRUCTION \_\_\_\_

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JOIN DURING THE MONTH OF	DEC-MAR	APR-JULY	AUG-NOV
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP	\$ 30.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 10.00
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP	\$ 35.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 12.00
CORRESPONDING MEMBERSHIP	\$ 18.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 6.00
COMMERCIAL MEMBERSHIP	\$ 150.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00

NEW \_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## BSM OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

PRESIDENT	Glenn Hilton	305-796-2525	<a href="mailto:Glenn@miamitropicalbonsai.com">Glenn@miamitropicalbonsai.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT	Toby Diaz	305-323-6258	<a href="mailto:mrcdiaz@aol.com">mrcdiaz@aol.com</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT	David Karcher	305-667-9316	<a href="mailto:JRKarcher@aol.com">JRKarcher@aol.com</a>
TREASURER	Bob Hulnick	305-968-3409	checkcash96@adelphia.net
PAST PRESIDENT	Luis Rayon	305-525-2670	<a href="mailto:cpthuicho@email.msn.com">cpthuicho@email.msn.com</a>
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HOSPITALITY	Harriet Frillarte Audrey Freeman	305-252-8358 305-264-8206	
NEWSLETTER	Michael Spencer	786-242-7307	m Spencer@infionline.net
LIBRARIAN	Harriet Frillarte	305-252-8358	
ANNUAL SHOW	Toby, Glenn, & Sue		
PUBLICITY	Sue Vrana-Brogan	305-389-3243	<a href="mailto:svranb@aol.com">svranb@aol.com</a>
CLUB SALES	Myrna Diaz	305-829-5220	<a href="mailto:mrcdiaz@aol.com">mrcdiaz@aol.com</a>
AUCTION	David Karcher	305-667-9316	<a href="mailto:JRKarcher@aol.com">JRKarcher@aol.com</a>

## **BSM NEW BONSAI GEAR**

***All with embroidered logo***

***For donations at the next BSM meeting***

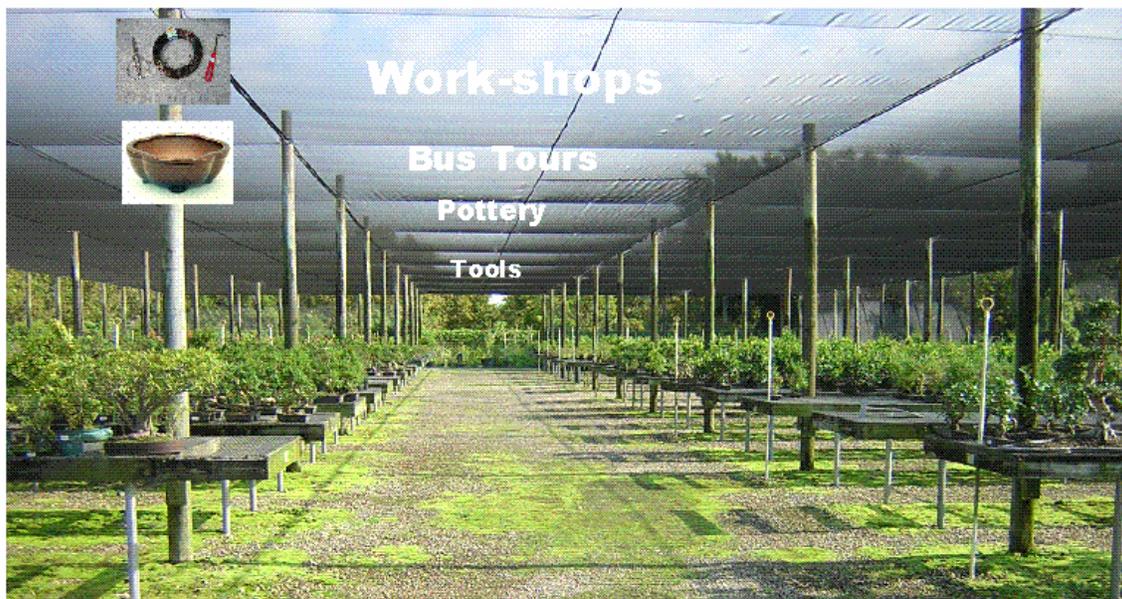
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- |                                                                        |       |                       |      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|------|
| ○ Polo Shirt                                                           | \$20  | Tool roll-6 pkt       | \$20 |
| ○ Cap                                                                  | \$15  | Tool roll/apron 10pkt | \$25 |
| ○ Work Apron                                                           | \$21  | Wire caddy            | \$35 |
| ○ Club Super Pack : Shirt, cap,<br>apron, wire Caddy, tool roll (6pkt) | \$100 | Belt tool sheath      | \$10 |
- (Special orders only)**

*Cash or checks payable to: The Bonsai Society of Miami*



# Miami Tropical Bonsai

## Bonsai Garden of Miami



Pre-Bonsai Finished Bonsai New trees, tools and pottery have arrived.



10% off for club members  
Come view some of the largest bonsai trees in the United States



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