

RAMIFICATION

THE NEWSLETTER OF



The Bonsai Society of Miami

July, 2006 - President's Corner

Hello Friends and Club Members,

Last month we had two exciting programs. The first was Erik Wigert, from Wigert's Bonsai Nursery, doing a demo on Bougainvillea. Erik is one of the new up and coming artists in Florida and did a fantastic job. He started out by critiquing the trees that our members brought in. He took his time and went over every tree and gave ideas on how each could be further developed. Then Erik began to talk about the Bougainvillea that he brought in for the demo. It was a very beautiful, full, and colorful tree. He began to remove branches that the tree really didn't need so we could get an idea on where to go with the tree. He asked the group for their thoughts. He could have done an informal upright or a semi-cascade, the group all said semi-cascade. He began cutting off more branches and explaining why every step of the way. When the tree was done he root pruned it and potted it up into a mica pot. The finished product was very nice and on it's way to being a great bonsai tree. The tree was raffled off and we want to congratulate Peter Griffiths for winning the tree.

On behalf of the club we all want to thank Erik for taking time out of his busy schedule and coming over and doing the program for the club, Thank You. Also, we want to congratulate Erik for a second place finish at the Joshua Roth New Talent Bonsai Competition in New York last month.

For our second program, we had one of our favorites, Suthin Sukosolvisit from Royal Bonsai Garden in Stoughton, Mass. It turned out to be a very interesting night. When we first got to FBG, the power was out. So, we began to move tables outside and use what daylight was left. Though it was a little humid outside, we all managed. There were eight students in the workshop and all had different species of trees. Suthin began by talking about each tree one at a time and showing us what to do with them. He showed us what branches to take off and then had us wire each and every branch left on the trees. Just about the time it was getting dark enough where we couldn't see to wire the lights came back on. We all moved every thing inside to continue the program.

As we continued to wire, Suthin came by and directed us on where to go and shape our trees. Then the lights went out again. So we all called it for the night. But from Bob's Crepe Myrtle to Myrna's Ilex it's just incredible how all the trees came out. We all want to thank Suthin for his expertise and bonsai skills and look forward to having him again next year, Thanks Suthin.

This month's program will feature one of our favorite local bonsai artists, Ed Trout. Ed has been doing Bonsai for many years and has a great skill for doing weeping and all other styles of trees. He loves the art and has great passion for it. Ed has won many awards for his work. In fact, he won Best of Show at last year's State Bonsai convention. He also won Best in Show at our BSM Bonsai Show last October. You can see some of Ed's trees in various Bonsai magazines and books as well as displayed at Disney's Epcot. Let's all be there and give Ed a very warm welcome. He will be doing a demo on one of our natives, Green Buttonwood (*Conocarpus Erectus*).

I want to thank everyone for bringing in items for the raffle table last month and please do the same this month. It goes a long way in bringing us great programs. Also, please buy raffle tickets you never know what you may take home, like Peter did last month. Looking forward to another great month of Bonsai.

See you there,

Glenn Hilton

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

- 7th **Sushi & Summer Walks At the Morikami 5:30 – 8:30 pm**
The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, Delray Beach
- 11th **BSM General Meeting 7:30pm**
Program: Ed Trout – Buttonwood
Refreshments & Raffle
- 15th **Workshop at Miami Tropical Bonsai, 9 to 12am**
For more info call 305-258-0865
- 18th **BSM Board Meeting 7:30pm**
A & M Mechanical

AUGUST

- 5th **Bamboo Workshop**
Fruit & Spice Park, 305-247-5727
- 8th **BSM General Meeting 7:30pm**
Program: Jim Van Landingham – Tropicals
Refreshments & Raffle
- 12th **Bon Festival at Morikami 5 - 9pm**
The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, Delray Beach
- 15th **BSM Board Meeting 7:30pm**
A & M Mechanical
- 18TH **Sushi & Summer Walks At the Morikami 5:30 – 8:30 pm**
The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, Delray Beach
- 19th **Workshop at Miami Tropical Bonsai, 9 to 12am**
For more info call 305-258-0865

OCTOBER

- 12 -13 **Show & exhibit set-up**
- 13 eve **Preview Party**
- 14 – 15 **Bonsai at the Garden, 20th Anniversary**

...More Points of Interest

BSF website: www.bonsai-bsf.com (Bonsai Societies of Florida)

This is a handy web site. Looking for your newsletter or want to see what's going on at other Florida clubs – current newsletters from member clubs are promptly posted here! You can find issues of Florida Bonsai Magazine in color, there are also some useful links and helpful educational material. Check it out and bookmark it.

Bonsai at the Garden new revised date **October 14th & 15th**

This is our 20th Anniversary show!! Planning is underway, your ideas and participation are needed. More information available at the next BSM General Meeting.

Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection 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 15th and August 15th. For more competition info contact: Sue Vrana-Brogan.

BCI – FELAB 2007, Puerto Rico 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 11th to 15th, 2007 at the Condado Plaza Hotel & Casino in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Island of Enchantment.

The Art of Bonsai Project www.artofbonsai.org

An internet study group for advanced bonsai artists and enthusiasts &/or online magazine for the curious. Great presentation. Check it out!!

Inspiration!

Submitted by Mary Miller

From time to time I receive newsletters from clubs I have visited. One I always read is from Evansville, Indiana. The editor, Dave Bogan, always has good bonsai tips. This month's issue included an article by George Beuhler of the Louisville club. I read it twice and swore at that time I would never complain about my weeds again. If you consider weeds, heat or wire-too-tight major problems, please read the following:

I just returned from the 2006 ABS Learning Seminar in Saratoga Springs, NY. A brief synopsis starts on page 7 of this newsletter. One of the events that occurs at the ABS conventions is a new talent workshop. At this event, new people to the hobby have the opportunity to show their skills at turning raw material into a bonsai. There are experienced judges who pick the winner, and the attendees get to express their choices in the Peoples' Choice Voting. The winner gets a ticket to Japan where he can visit the various bonsai nurseries or to arrange to study under a master. The contest is sponsored by the Joshua Roth Tool Company who has for years donated the grand prize. The second place prize is a professional tool set also donated by the Roth Tool Company.

The rules are quite simple. The contestants have about 8 hours to create their tree. They must do it with no help from others. There were a total of 10 entrants this year. Actually there were only 9 officially entered, but it is the tenth person that I want to discuss here. I have watched many people work on trees and have seen results that were fantastic. I have also seen a result that I personally thought was strange (to be polite!). However, as we all know, beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

I was not able to get a picture of any of the starting material, but was told the Mugo pines which were used were very raw. When I entered the room where the contestants were working, there was the usual knot of people around each artist. As I toured the room, spending a few minutes watching each person work their magic, I noticed an exceptionally large number of people around one tree. When I got to this area, I noticed something unusual - there were two young men working on one tree. As stated earlier, the rules state that the tree must be done solely by one person. I also saw that the ABS coordinator was standing there watching as the two men were working. I inched my way in closer to see what was going on, and I was astonished.

Sitting in front of the tree was a young man (I will call Ron) in a wheel chair, who I later found was a quadriplegic. Attached to his wheel chair was a large plastic drawing board; and, on that board, he was drawing a sketch, using a pencil in his mouth. As I worked closer, I could see that he was sketching the tree that the two men were working on. However, as I looked at the sketch, I could see that it wasn't a sketch of the current tree but a sketch of a more refined tree.

Through the years, I have seen a number of people make drawings of their trees, so I really didn't think much about it. That is, I didn't think about it until I saw him drop the pencil from his mouth and give instructions to the two stylists, instructing them on how HE wanted them to bend and trim a branch. Ron, although not able to do the actual trimming, wiring, and bending was styling the tree through the hands of two others. I also found out that one of the stylists was Ron's nurse who had no bonsai training prior to attending to Ron. The second stylist was Ron's brother who was introduced to bonsai by Ron and once again had no prior experience in bonsai.

I was amazed! Here sat a man, whose active life was cut short by a sports accident, doing bonsai much better than others who could actually do the work. Ron's doctors don't normally allow him out of his house for long lengths of time since sitting in the wheel chair for extended periods causes circulation problems for him. Ron was able to 'convince' his doctors that he HAD to attend this contest since it would be the last convention of this type in his area for a long time. Later in the day, it was obvious that Ron was suffering from being in his chair for so long, but he was not about to give up until his tree was done. Unbelievable!

I spent more time watching this young man than I should have, but I just couldn't pull myself away. He would give an instruction, wait for it to be done, then ask for the tree to be rotated to view the results. If he didn't like the result, he would give more instructions until he got the result he wanted. It was obvious that Ron, his nurse, and his brother had found a way to work in complete harmony. I heard Ron's brother tell Ron that he thought raising a limb slightly would make it look better, and after some consideration by Ron, the instruction was given to raise the limb. This continued throughout the day until the tree was done. It was apparent that the long day had taken a lot out of Ron. However, I could see, as one of Ron's helpers turned the tree and he looked over it, that he was happy with the results. He knew from the start that he would not be eligible for a prize, but he continued on even at the risk of doing more damage to his body. That is commitment to the bonsai hobby.

I heard later that Ron has a fantastic bonsai collection at his home, each styled by his helpers under his instructions. He works on his trees every day that he is physically able. When I had the opportunity, I congratulated Ron and told him how proud everyone was of his job. He smiled at me and said it was just OK. What do you think this young man could do if he had the full use of his limbs? I just wish I had this kind of talent. **PS: This article will be reprinted in a future issue of American Bonsai Society magazine, with photographs.**

Bonsai at the Garden 2006 Update

As you can see there are a few committees that still need a leader, these are not tough jobs, In addition to those few leaders, we also need people to staff all these committees. So, what would you like to do? Where would you like to pitch-in? If you have any questions about what's involved just ask someone who helped out last year.

Revised show dates are October 14th & 15th.

The following is a list of the show committees established to date. Please look over this list, contact the committee chairperson and “step up to the plate” – volunteer to help out. These are not committees of just one person. We need lots of help from the membership to put on this great event. It's our 20th year!!

Show Coordination	Glenn Hilton
Club Sales	Myrna Rios-Diaz
Demo Artists	Ed Trout
Demo Coordinator	
Education Exhibit	Mike Spencer & Mike Kaufman
Exhibit: design & installation	Sue V-B & Randy Brooks
Judges	
Monitors	
Poster & Program	Mike Sullivan, Sue V-B
Preview Party	Myrna Rios-Diaz
Program Ads & Trophies	Toby Diaz, Bob Hulnick
Publicity	Sue Vrana-Brogan
Raffles	Carol McKinney
Signage	Sue Vrana-Brogan
Vendors	Bob Benaim

BSM OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

PRESIDENT	Glenn Hilton	305-796-2525	Glenn@miamitropicalbonsai.com
1 st VICE PRESIDENT	Toby Diaz	305-323-6258	mrcdiaz@aol.com
2 nd VICE PRESIDENT	-open-		
TREASURER	Bob Hulnick	305-968-3409	checkcash96@adelphia.net
PAST PRESIDENT	Luis Rayon	305-525-2670	cpthuicho@email.msn.com
SECRETARY	-open-		
MEMBERSHIP	Bob Benaim	305-302-2036	bobbenaim@bellsouth.net
HOSPITALITY	Harriet Frillarte Audrey Freeman	305-252-8358 305-264-8206	
NEWSLETTER	Michael Spencer	786-242-7307	m Spencer@infionline.net
LIBRARIAN	-open-		
ANNUAL SHOW	Toby, Glenn, & Sue		
PUBLICITY	Sue Vrana-Brogan	305-389-3243	svranb@aol.com
CLUB SALES	Myrna Diaz	305-829-5220	mrcdiaz@aol.com
AUCTION	-open-		

** Please note, we are looking for volunteers to fill 2 positions, Second Vice-President and Secretary. You can see the responsibilities on the BSM website www.bonsaisocietyofmiami.org. We will also have a copy at the next meeting.

BSM NEW BONSAI GEAR

All with embroidered logo

For donations at the next BSM meeting

o Polo Shirt	\$20	Tool roll-6 pkt	\$20
o Cap	\$15	Tool roll/apron 10pkt	\$25
o Work Apron	\$21	Wire caddy	\$35
o Club Super Pack : Shirt, cap, apron, wire Caddy, tool roll (6pkt)	\$100	Belt tool sheath	\$10

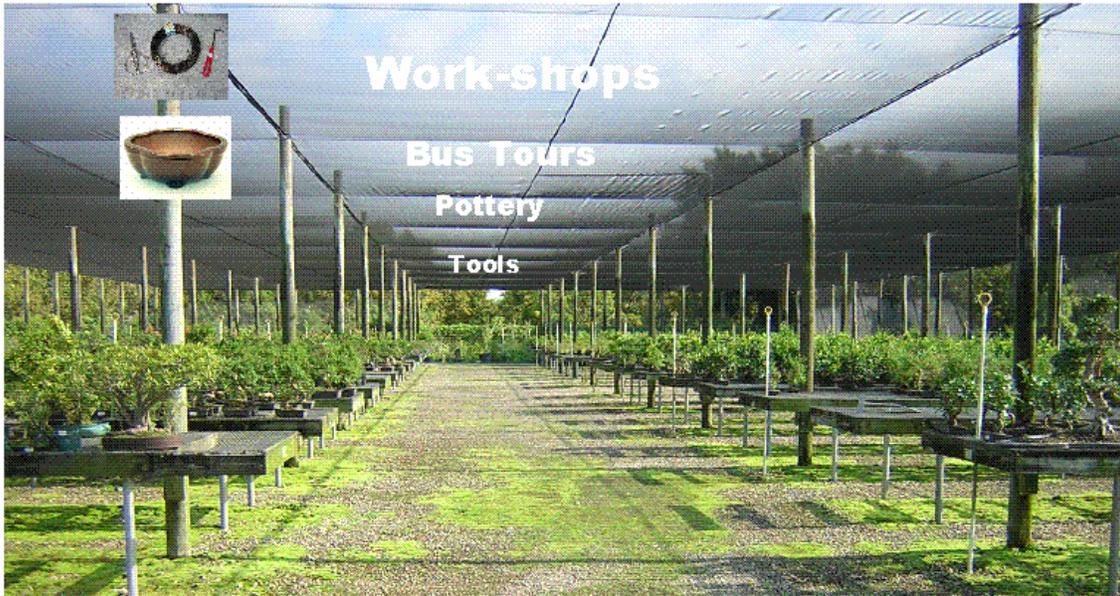
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