

RAMIFICATION

THE NEWSLETTER OF



The Bonsai Society of Miami

September, 2006 - President's Corner

Hello Friends and Club Members,

Time sure is going by fast! The last time I talked about our up-coming show we had about 2-1/2 months until Showtime. Now by the time you get this month's newsletter there will only be a month left to make all the final preparations and finish the work that needs to be done. Please, everyone get together with the Show Committee Chairpersons and help them out in anyway you can. There will be sign up sheets at this month's BSM General meeting. Remember we aren't asking you to give us all of your time, just a little of it goes a long way in helping us to put on a great Show. And don't forget you will have free admission to the Garden for the Show and all volunteers will get raffle tickets.

Also, please get your forms for Bonsai Supporters and Advertising into Bob Benaim. You can bring them to this Tuesday's meeting. You don't want to miss the Friday night preview; it's the only chance to see the trees under the lights at night.

Last month's program with our guest speaker Jim Van Landingham was a big hit. Jim had a unique way of explaining how he was going to style the Ficus Retusa (Tiger Bark) that he brought from Jim Smith's Nursery in Vero Beach. Jim had lots of answers for the questions presented to him by the members. The tree started out about 24" tall and when he was thru it finished out at about 12" tall (see enclosed pictures). On behalf of the Club we want to thank Jim for coming down and putting on this program. The finished tree was put on the raffle table and was won by lucky Bob Hulnick, Congratulations.

Just so you know, this tree and many other trees from this past year's Programs will be featured at our upcoming BSM Show in the Education Room. So any of you that won and took these trees home, we would like to borrow them for the Show, I promise you will get them back.

This month's program will be our last B.Y.O.T (bring your own tree) open workshop for the year. So bring in a tree, or a couple of your trees. There will be plenty room and lots of help to get your tree into shape, so be there or be square. Let's all have some fun!! Also, try to bring in a tree for the display table and share with us your tree and how it's coming along or bring a tree that you plan on putting on exhibit at the Show to get some advice if needed. While you are at it, also try to bring a friend or guest to our next meeting, it's a good time to let them see how we work on our trees. And let's not forget about the Raffle table, bring in those Bonsai items that you no longer need, hopefully someone can put them to use.

Until then, have a great week.

Glenn Hilton

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 12th **BSM General Meeting 7:30pm**
B.Y.O.T. (Bring Your Own Tree)
Refreshments & Raffle
- 15th **Sushi & Summer Walks at the Morikami 5:30 – 8:30pm**
The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, Delray Beach
- 16th **Workshop at Miami Tropical Bonsai, 9 to 12am**
For more info call 305-258-0865
- 19th **BSM Board Meeting 7:30pm**
Location: TBD

OCTOBER

- 10th **BSM General Meeting 7:30pm**
Program: "Bonsai Personalities"
Refreshments & Raffle
- 12th/13th **Bonsai at the Garden, Show & Exhibit set-up**
13th eve **Bonsai at the Garden, Invitational Preview Party 7pm**
14th/15th **Bonsai at the Garden 2006, 20th Anniversary 9:30am-4:30pm**
- 17th **BSM Board Meeting 7:30pm**
Location: TBD
- 21st **Workshop at Miami Tropical Bonsai, 9 to 12am**
For more info call 305-258-0865

NOVEMBER

- 10th/11th **Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida, Annual Show and Sale**
St. John the Apostle Church, 3049 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers, Fl.
- 14TH **BSM General Meeting 7:30pm**
Program: Toby Diaz & Glenn Hilton on Styling
Annual Election of club officers
Refreshments & Raffle
- 18th **Workshop at Miami Tropical Bonsai, 9 to 12am**
For more info call 305-258-0865
- 21st **BSM Board Meeting 7:30pm**
Location: TBD

DECEMBER

- 12TH **BSM Auction**
- 16th **Workshop at Miami Tropical Bonsai, 9 to 12am**
For more info call 305-258-0865

...More Points of Interest

The Bonsai Society of Miami Annual Auction

Tuesday December 12th this is an exciting evening and a great opportunity to pass along some of your “former prize possessions” and obtain some new gems.

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 2006 October 14th & 15th

This is our 20th Anniversary show!! Everyone needs to participate.
More information available at the next BSM General Meeting.

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!!

Toronto Bonsai Society www.torontobonsai.org

The newsletter of one of our northern neighbors with an interesting slide show showing grafting on an Australian Pine

Bonsai Clubs International (BCI) www.bonsai-bci.com

Our club is a member of BCI by being a member of Bonsai Societies of Florida.
A great web site with lots of information, be sure to check out “Species Guide”

BSM Bonsai at the Garden 2006 Update

Set-up: Thurs & Fri October 12/13

Show: Sat & Sun October 14/15

- * Our show is just around the corner, all committees need assistance.
- * Sign up to help at our next general meeting, Sept 12th.
- * All show volunteers will be on the “Garden List” for admittance to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

BSM - August 2006 Photo Gallery



The Ficus retusa before any work has begun.



Jim discussing various aspects of this tree.



About midway through the demo.



The Ficus after all the cutting was complete.



Here is the same tree about a month later after being repotted.



Member trees from the Display Table.

*Thanks to Bob Hulnick for the photos.

Watering Bonsai... some things to consider

By: Victor 'The Sprout' Mills

It's August/September and it's hot! While training and growing Bonsai, we use fast draining soils and growing mediums that dry out rather quickly. The last article I read suggested we water, water, and water, and to try to give your Bonsai a little less sun. Then fertilize more often because with all that watering you're going to wash out a lot of the nutrients from the soil. I'd like to mention a few more things to consider.

We had an odd winter with cold fronts coming our way very late in the season. Depending on the size of your collection, its now Aug/Sept and you may have tropical trees that still need root work or repotting. We all waited anxiously for the evening temperature to consistently stay above 72 degrees, but this year it really took a while. So we kept an eye out on our "test" tree, normally the first one to display visible signs of drying out, to indicate when we should water.

There are a number of factors that control how quickly a tree shows signs of lacking sufficient water. Most of us are aware that trees that are root bound and in need of repotting will dry out quicker than those with fewer roots and a higher soil content. Food and water are basic essentials for our trees. They are very important in order to maintain optimal health, growth and resistance to disease and pests. It is equally important to ensure water actually reaches the roots; not just some, but all the roots.

Consider a few things that either make a difference in the quantity and frequency of watering needs, or are factors that either directly or indirectly may be a cause of a tree showing signs of needing water.

1. The quantity of foliage on a tree makes a difference. A tree with more leaves may require more water than one with less foliage.
2. The size of the pot makes a difference. The pot size controls the soil to root ratio as much as the quantity of roots in the soil. Smaller pots will dry out quicker than larger ones.
3. When you water makes a difference. Watering before the day heats up lets a tree soak up needed moisture. Watering while the heat is intense and the tree is in basic moisture preservation lock down will wet the soil, but the tree will not drink much, if at all. Most of us also have to water again late in the afternoon.
4. Your watering technique makes a difference. Most of us have read we should water until it drains through the bottom of the pot well. We've learned that the more roots a tree has, the quicker it drains through and dries out. You also may have read that you should water the top soil, then go back to that tree to water again a bit heavier the second time, and then a third watering to really soak it and let it drain through.

Most of us feel we have grown to know our individual trees well enough to readily identify when they need water and repotting or root work. For the most part, we're correct. However, it's not always the case. There's another point I feel is worth mentioning regarding soil moisture absorption and water content we either have not yet learned or just forgot about.

I've been training a particular tree for a number of years. Recently it was drying out rather quickly each day, so I set aside time to repot it. I did the usual trimming of some foliage off the top to keep the tree in balance once I trim the roots. When I removed it from the pot and started cleaning the old soil from the roots, I discovered that right under the root ball was very dry. It was so dry it had turned the soil into a powder. I figured it must have been about three months since that area of soil was last moist, because that was the last time I soaked the whole tree, pot and all, in a container of

water and fertilizer. The signs were that of a tree in a pot overgrown with roots and in need of repotting.

The moisture content of the soil is very important. It's important starting with when you place the tree in a pot and never stops being important from that point forward. For optimal root condition, water only when the tree needs it, but make sure to get water into all the soil when you do.

My Bonsai teacher showed me a very helpful tip for repotting trees. Check the moisture content of the soil you are using. Add water and mix it in before you use it, if the soil needs it. The tree will settle in easier and the soil will absorb water more completely than if you use very dry soil when repotting trees. Using dry soil while repotting, even with intentions of soaking it in a container when you're done, allows the tree to float or destabilize with the movement of the soil caused by the air content in rising out of the water. If you've secured the tree in place with wire, the soil around it will sometimes float up in dry clumps, making a mess, wasting soil, or causing the tree to shift from the position you placed it in.

As a test case, fill an empty Bosai pot with the soil you prefer to use. Water it like you were watering in a tree you just repotted. Water it some more until you're satisfied you've really soaked all the soil completely. Then dig up the soil looking for any soil that remained dry. I was very surprised with the results of this test. It changed my watering techniques.

Water has a way of following the path of least resistance to the drain holes in the bottom of the pot. Water can be flooding out of the holes and there could still be very dry soil in the pot. Since the pots you're watering have trees in them with root balls, the water encounters less resistance traveling straight down under the force of gravity than to go sideways or up under the root ball. We try to compensate by filling the pot with water at a faster rate than it can drain, thinking that will ensure all the soil will absorb water. Sometimes it takes more than that, or at the very least, there's a more effective and sure way.

Factor into your watering schedule a time to place the pot in a container of water until all bubbles stop rising out of the soil. We all know to do this, but we may not all be doing it as often as we should. My opinion for my trees is that once a month should suffice.

I fertilize with a rotation of liquid fertilizers about once a week, slowing down during the cooler months. When I'm real busy I may only fertilize twice a month. Now I make sure that at least once a month the pots and trees are placed in a container of water and fertilizer until all bubbles stop surfacing. I do this to all trees that will fit in the large container I use. Change the water often to avoid transfer of pests or disease. Its the best way I know to ensure all the soil in a pot has absorbed all the water it can and that subsequent traditional watering will be complete.

We have an outstanding advantage due to our location here in South Florida. It would be a shame to live in an area where we have the equivalent of three growing seasons each year, only to waste this valuable advantage from a lack of time, knowledge, technique, or willingness to address things in a timely manner. Sure, our trees will do OK, stay alive and even grow some, but what a waste of valuable time. Creating the illusion of age is slowed a great deal as well as the ramification we're after.

Keep in mind just how critical it is that you ensure all of the roots of your trees have the opportunity to take in food and water, the basic essentials for health and growth.

The Sprout

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

(Special orders only)

Cash or checks payable to: The Bonsai Society of Miami

BSM OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

PRESIDENT	Glenn Hilton	305-796-2525	Glenn@miamitropicalbonsai.com
1 st VICE PRESIDENT	Toby Diaz	305-323-6258	mrediaz@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
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HOSPITALITY	Harriet Frillarte Audrey Freeman	305-252-8358 305-264-8206	
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LIBRARIAN	-open-		
ANNUAL SHOW	Toby, Glenn, & Sue		
PUBLICITY	Sue Vrana-Brogan	305-389-3243	svranb@aol.com
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AUCTION	-open-		

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

Bonsai Society of Miami
17850 S.W. 280 Street
Redland, Fl 33031-3321

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 _____



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