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BONSAI CLIPPER

Newsletter of the Bonsai of Southwest Florida

Online Newsletter, Issue 8

August, 2008

The August 16, 2008, meeting will be held at 9:00 AM at the new location at 6281 Metro Plantation Road (off Metro Parkway between Daniels Parkway and Colonial Boulevard).

We are doing three things at this month's meeting:

1. The August meeting is a continuation of July. We will continue to work on our trees to use in the exhibit. Those who brought trees last month should bring them back to check the progress of your work. If you did not bring a tree last month, be sure to bring it this time. We want everyone to participate in our November show. This is your opportunity to have expert help from Ernie with your tree. If you need help with repotting or wiring, bring your supplies, and we will provide the help.
2. Bring your accent plants to swap or sell.
3. POT SWAP: Don't bring broken or junk pots. This is a chance to sell to swap a good pot that you cannot use for one that you can use. Who knows, you may find the

perfect pot. Make sure the pots are clean and mark them with a price. If you see a pot you can use (especially for your show tree), see if you can swap one of yours or buy the pot. This only works if everyone participates. So get busy and make this fun and exciting.

EVERYONE bring a tree to work on, accent plant(s), and pots to sell or swap. Make it a good time in our new place.

MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Here it is early August, and we are all looking forward to our new meeting place. We need to think for a moment of the old meeting place that we are leaving. They have been nothing but accommodating, helpful, supportive, and eager to please. Our Annual Show will still be there; if by chance you should talk with any of the church personnel, let them know how much we have appreciated those efforts. As is so often, it all comes down to money. Our new “digs” will take some getting used to. I may drive up McGregor before I realize that I need to be on Metro. Moving, organizing, and setting up will get done before the regular meeting on the 16th. Doug Sutor, Jim Bremer, James Michael and I have a moving day planned.

At our regular meeting, we talked about hiring some “young” help to take down and clean up after our Annual Show. It sounds like additional help would be welcome. At this point, Robin Choiniski has called and put two names on that list. I'm looking for more. Plans for the Annual Show are coming along nicely; it takes a lot of organizing, planning, and, thanks to Dorothy, that's getting done. (We should have a purposed budget ready for this month's meeting.)

A lot of trees moved closer to being ready for the show, too. It really would be great if every member showed at least one tree. Showing a tree just isn't enough, work the show, contribute to the raffle--that's clear profit to the Club--help us advertise, sell your starter trees, buy that really good tree, be a greeter, work security, the list goes on and on. One last thought, check your raffle-tree tickets. If there is no one claiming the Mike Hagedorn tree, we will redraw for a winner.

Prez Jim

MINUTES OF THE BSSWF MONTHLY MEETING

July 19, 2008

Location: Saint John the Apostle Church

Present: See Attendance Roster (29 members attended)

President Jim Gehring called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. The reading of the Minutes from June 21 was waived and approved as presented on the Club web site. Jim announced that Michael Hagedorn's demo tree would be raffled today. Jim thanked Bonnie Zeff for assuming newsletter duties. Sandra Bishop reported that at the beginning of the year, there was \$9,742.33 in the Club treasury, and there is presently \$7,586.03.

The new meeting place will cost \$50 per month. The August meeting will be at the new place, 6281 Metro Plantation Road, and Jim passed out maps to this location. *Martha Goff moved that the Club invite Ben Oki to do a demo when he is in Florida, Ernie seconded the motion, and it passed with two in opposition.* If approved by the membership at the August meeting, Club dues will be \$45 for a single membership, \$55 for a household of two members, and \$10 per additional household member. After July 1, dues will be \$22.50 and \$5 per additional household member. Jim asked if anyone knew young men who could help with the heavy lifting at the end of the Annual Show. Sara Vera and Robin Choinski may know of people to do this job. *Jim Bremer moved that the Club offer four people up to \$20 per person for the work, Ernie seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.* Gail Gehring offered to be in charge of the 50/50 raffle. Cel Luke will not be present at the next meeting, and Doug Sutor volunteered to fix coffee and provide food for that meeting. Dorothy Schmitz passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers for the Annual Show. Setup will be on November 13, the show is on November 14 and 15, and breakdown will be on the afternoon of the 15th. Martha passed out forms that members can use to secure ads and/or sponsorships from businesses or individuals. She also passed out Exhibit Tree entry forms, which should be returned by the October meeting. Jim read a letter from BSF President Louise Leister, in which she announced that Erik Wigert had resigned as Second Vice President of BSF, and that Charlie Michelson would be assuming this position. Every two years, three members for the BSF Nominating Committee are needed. *Jim nominated Dorothy Schmitz to be a member of this committee, Ernie Fernandez seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.* The drawing for the Michael Hagedorn tree was made. The winning ticket number is: 887866. The winner was not present, so those who have bought chances should check their ticket numbers. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Bodnar, Secretary, BSSWF

ACCENT PLANTS FOR BONSAI DISPLAY

According to John Naka's book, *Bonsai Techniques II*:

The addition of complimentary plants to a display adds more of nature to the composition. Wherever there is a tree growing, there is grass, flowers and even stones nearby.

The accent plant could be a common weed, grass, wild flower or something simple that will give the feeling of nature. It may be used to help give the feeling of a certain season.

He says that many hybrid plants are too formal and reminds us that one would never use anything artificial.

He gives many picture examples of accent plants and if one looks carefully, you can learn a lot about the type of bases or stands that one should also use with them. If a hybrid plant is "too formal" then a highly lacquered, ornately carved stand would be also; many of his accent plants are bamboo mats.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

McCue Granite and Marble will cut suiseki rocks for bonsai and suiseki collectors. They are located at 2925 Warehouse Road in Fort Myers (tele. # 337-9984). Warehouse Road is a small street that runs West off Metro Parkway between Hansen and Winkler—the area of Metro that is two lanes before widening to four lanes just North of Winkler. The manager, Joe Zammit, is familiar with bonsai and said we could let bonsai and suiseki collectors know this service is available. I do not know what their fees would be.

Anne Miller

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