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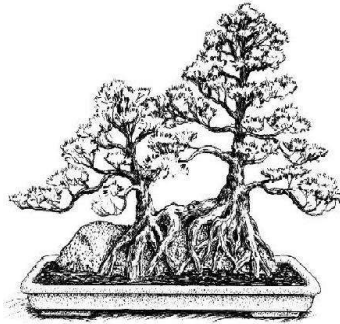
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# Bonsai Clipper

*Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida*

*Online Newsletter, Issue 2 February 2009*



## February Activity – FREE FIELD TRIP

### ATTENTION CLUB MEMBERS

There will be no regular club meeting on February 21, instead we have scheduled a FREE FIELD TRIP to Cliff Pottberg's in Dade City, FL. Acting on Erik Wigert's suggestion we have scheduled this trip, because we as a club have never been there before. I called to get some information that I could pass on to you.

He has 15 acres divided into three developments. A nursery, (crepe myrtle) trees in ground, (trident maple) and future development (pines and bamboo). He says that Mary Ann Borchers will be there also. She has a large number of antique pots for sale or viewing.

Let's be ready to leave the SPALC Building promptly at 7:30 AM. You will need to pack a lunch, (Cliff says he will have sodas for us). Some people are going by car, so there will be space to bring home any purchases. Instead of the 12-hour trips we had done in the past, we plan to shorten the day and only go to this one place.

Please let me know if you want to be included with the people who signed up at the last meeting. Do this as soon as possible, (no later than February 7). I need to know whether I have to reserve more than one van.

**PHONE 239-482-7029 or Email [GJGehring@embarqmail.com](mailto:GJGehring@embarqmail.com).**

***Message from the Prez:***

I must lead a pretty quiet life when the two biggest events of the month were two bonsai meetings. I was thrilled at the response to our "Ben Oki Special." A quick head count of 28 showed great interest; and although it crowded the Garden Center room, those facilities proved very adequate. We will use them again when the need arises. Everyone attending got to take a look at the outside area that the club will be responsible for completing. More about that at another time.

For those who missed the fast hand of Ben, he styled two junipers in record time. The first tree with no wiring necessary took less than 20 minutes; and I, for one, didn't see where he was going with it at all. The second tree was more traditional, but he kept up a good banter as he worked. Just ask anyone who was there what "micasai" is.

The regular club meeting was also a beehive of activity. Adoption of the program for 2009, Goz's retirement sale, the raffle, Martha and Ginny's pots and pot cleaning, (who would have thought to use toilet bowl cleaner to clean those stubborn pots, no pun intended), and Justin's 15 minutes, etc.

Now we look forward to February and what a month we have planned for it. First, no regular meeting, rather a Club sponsored FREE FIELD TRIP. That's right, the club will pay for the transportation. You need only reserve a seat for the trip and bring a lunch. Call me at 482-7029 to get your name on the list that was started at the last meeting. I hope my phone rings off the hook. You will hear more from me before February 21.

Prez Jim

***Minutes of the 2009 Board Directors Meeting of the Bosai Society of Southwest Florida:***

DATE: January 17, 2009

TIME: 12:20 P.M.

LOCATION: SPALC Building, 6281 Metro Plantation Road

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS: JOHN BISHOP, SANDRA BISHOP, BECKY BODNAR, GINNY BOKA, ERNIE FERNANDEZ, JIM GEHRING, MARTHA GOFF, PHIL KRIEG, CEL LUKE,

OBSERVER: DOROTHY SCHMITZ

ABSENT: BOB SCHNEIDER, ERIK WIGERT

President Jim Gehring convened the meeting at 12:20 P.M. and called for approval of the agenda. (See Attachment I). Becky Bodnar summarized the Minutes of the last regular Board Meeting on June 21, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS: Jim received information about the Strolling Flower Show and Luncheon at Bell Tower Mall on February 5 & 6. Its theme is "Going Green for Mr. Edison." Reservations for the luncheon on February 5 are \$23 per person, due by January 25. There are still windows available for display. See Jim for forms for the event. Martha Goff submitted a program budget to the membership during the monthly meeting, and it was approved unanimously, so the Board does not need to take any further action on programs. Phil Krieg said that the Mooring's Park exhibit would take place on March 6 & 7, not on February 6 & 7. Setup will begin between 12:30 and 1:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. Approximately 30 trees are needed for the exhibit. Martha will call around for availability of trees. 18 tables with skirts will be provided, with 10 tables used for the exhibit. Jim will check at Renee's or with Dorothy for extenders for the tables. The exhibit will open, and there will be a cocktail hour for residents only. (There are around 450 residents, total.) On Saturday, March 7, the exhibit will be open to the public. Erik Wigert will do a demo, and the educational exhibit with Ernie's story board and tools, as well as a TV monitor with the DVD of the club's activities, will be set up. We also need to have club pamphlets available. Ernie is going to redo the club logo. This community is located at 120 Moorings Park Drive, Naples 34103. Phil takes Rte. 41 to Pine Ridge to Goodlette. Moorings Park Drive is off Goodlette. The contact person is Anita LaRusso.

The bonsai section at the Garden Council needs serious consideration. Ernie will work with Phil on a design, but how much money and manpower the club is going to devote to the project has

not yet been decided. Phil will call the President of the Garden Council to find out if any finances are provided to clubs for their sections of the garden. We also need to know what the shed will be used for and how it will be accessed. If the shed will be used on a regular basis for equipment, tools, etc., there will be quite a bit of traffic through the area; and our part of the garden will have to allow for this.

Dorothy Schmitz brought pictures of the exhibit area for the BSF convention. Ernie will make a simple design with a Japanese motif for the reception area to the exhibit. Dorothy will find out if the hotel will supply tables for the exhibit. We use 22 tables for our show, but that may not be enough for the BSF exhibit, and if we have to bring the tables ourselves, as we did for the Cape Canaveral exhibit, a truck must be reserved beforehand. We may also take the pedestal tables for use at the exhibit. Benches for viewing the exhibit, as in a museum, would be a nice addition to the exhibit.

Our club may give Honorary Memberships to members, such as those who are designated as Visiting Artists by BSF; and these members will have all rights of the club. A Member Emeritus will be a member who has made a lifelong contribution to the club, and the club will pay for his/her membership in BSF. Herb Granger has been nominated for Member Emeritus, but this is a change in the Standing Rules that must be approved by the club. Jim adjourned the meeting at 2:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Bodnar, Secretary, BSSWF

### ***.Mminutes - Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida Meeting***

DATE: JANUARY 17, 2009

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

LOCATION: SPALC Building, 6281 Metro Plantation Road

PRESENT: See Attendance Roster (36 Members attended)

President Jim Gehring called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Becky Bodnar read the Minutes from the November 22, 2008, meeting. A name correction was made for "Stan Smith." The correct name is "Sean Smith." The Minutes were then approved. Ben Oki will give a demonstration on Monday evening, January 19, from 7:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. at the Garden Council Building on Virginia Avenue. Jim passed around a ballot with the slate of officers for the BSF Board and Trustees. After everyone had seen the ballot, David Hamera moved that we approve the slate of officers. Jim Bremer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Becky will contact BSF with the results of the vote. The Program Committee had planned a field trip for February, but found there was no bus transportation available. The trip was to the bonsai nursery of Cliff Pottberg in Dade City near Tampa. Jamie Michael suggested the rental of vans which would cost \$110. per day and be driven by members. Martha Goff moved that the club pay for the cost of the vans. Greg Lignelli seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. As of this meeting, there are 17 people interested in going on the February 21st trip. Sandra Bishop gave the Treasurer's report. There is presently a balance of \$9,198.98 in the Club treasury. This amount represents a loss of \$683.93 for the year. Martha discussed programs for 2009 and made a budget proposal of \$2050. for the programs. However, space rental of \$50. per month, should not be included in this budget. (The rental contract for space at the SPALC building goes from August '08 to August '09.) On February 6, Erik Wigert will host Guy Guidry, a bonsai artist from Louisiana. The club field trip to Dade City will be on the regular meeting date, February 21. There will be no club meeting in March because of several events in which club members will participate. Three events taking place in March are the bonsai exhibit at Mooring's Park on March 6 & 7, the state BSF convention on March 20-22, and the Home and Garden Show on March 28 & 29. Our club members will set up the Mooring's Park exhibit, assist Dorothy Schmitz in setting up the exhibit at the BSF convention, and assist Robin Choinski in setting up and manning the booth for the Home and Garden Show. In April, Erik will host the Annual Picnic at his nursery in North Fort Myers. Martha has allowed up to \$300. for a tree that will be styled by Erik. The tree will be raffled

at the Christmas party, and tickets will be sold at meetings until December. There will be a regular meeting in May followed by a Board Meeting. Lance Laney, a visiting artist from Hawaii, will make a presentation to the club on Monday, June 8. The cost of his visit is \$350., and Jim will donate the tree. On June 20, Mike Cartrett will do a demo and the club will pay up to \$150. for the tree, which will be raffled afterward. In July, Ernie Fernandez will conduct a workshop for potential exhibit trees, and members will participate in "Barter Time," trading trees, pots, or bonsai items with each other. In August, there will be a "Round Robin" activity, and the cost will be \$300. In September, Ernie will assist members with exhibit trees for the club's annual show. Also in September, Erik will attend a shohin symposium in New York and has offered to purchase and bring back black pines for any members interested in purchasing them. Show preparation will continue at the meeting in October. Our Annual Show will be on the second weekend of November, and the regular meeting will be on November 21 with a budget of \$100. In November, Erik will host visiting artist Sean Smith. The Christmas party will be in December, and the tree Erik designed in April will be raffled. Judith Giandelone moved that the budget be approved. Phil Krieg seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Jim adjourned the meeting at 10:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Bodnar, Secretary BSSWF

***Bonsai Buzz:***

We all have problems with the build up of salts, lime, and calcium on the outside of our pots. For those of you who missed the January meeting, Ginny Boka and Martha Goff discussed two methods for cleaning empty pots:

Martha's method:

I place my pots in hot water and let them soak up the water. The hot water causes some expansion. I then remove the pot and paint Sno-Bowl cleaner all over the affected area. I let this dry on the pot. I place the pot back in the water and use a scrubber to remove the minerals. This may take several applications.

Ginny's method:

Combine one cup alcohol with one cup 409 in a half-gallon container. Fill with water. Brush several coats on the pot, drying in between coats. Allow to sit a day or so. Scrub off with pads, steel wool, brushes, etc.

FYI:

Subject: The John Naka Books

The sources for the "technique books" (the cost of which is about \$90.00 for the two books) are as follows:

[www.dallasbonsai.com](http://www.dallasbonsai.com)

[www.bonsaimonk.com](http://www.bonsaimonk.com)

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