

2009 Officers
President, Jim Gehring
GJGehring@embarqmail.com
239-482-7029

Vice President, Martha Goff
marthagoff50@comcast.net
239-332-3850

Secretary, Becky Bodnar
beckybodnar@msn.com
239-463-4102

Treasurer, Sandra Bishop
SandraCB@embarqmail.com
239-466-5939

Board Members

Virginai Boka
gboka1@aol.com
239-995-3558

Ernie Fernandez, Past President
erniesbonsai@earthlink.net
239-947-3552

Phil Krieg
phil@bhpka.com
239-332-5764

Cel Luke
lcel661@aol.com
239-472-9281

Robert Schneider, Church Liaison
Lschneider1@comcast.net
239-549-3520

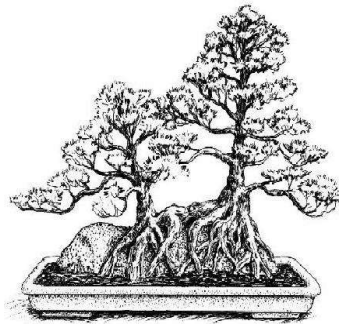
Erik Wigert
wigertsbonsai@embarqmail.com
239-543-2234

Bonsai Clipper

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida

Online Newsletter, Issue 7

July 2009



July Program

July is a work on your exhibit tree. This is a great opportunity. Ernie Fernandez will be in charge to help members with their potential exhibit trees. Members should bring their trees, tools, wire, etc.

Message from the Prez:

Sometimes it's not what you know, but who you know, and sometimes it's both. Phil has been involved with our space at the garden Council Building from the beginning. First, with a quick makeover to be ready for the grand opening. Now to take it one step closer to a final product, early on a Saturday morning a couple of weeks ago after a trip to Lehigh, he arrived at the council building followed by two pickup trucks. One of them was pulling a flat-bed trailer with a bobcat and a very large rock. All the rocks were then arranged to simulate a mountain range. These guys delivered and arranged the thousands of pounds of rock. It didn't cost our club thousands of dollars, because they were doing Phil a favor. THANKS Phil. Now we are ready for the next step--some cleaning and planting.

I think that we will have to call this a little bit of rambling. I don't have a main theme, just some bits and pieces from here and there:

1. I know that it was mid-week and summer, so our program with bonsai master Lance Laney was not very well attended. I feel if you weren't there, you missed a really good demo and workshop. I would be the first to invite him back another time. Making your plant healthy and happy first seemed to be his key to great bonsai. Health first, bonsai next.
2. Second: Mike Cartrett's being at our regular Saturday meeting was great as always. He has been around for a long time and always has a great demo and the workshop. It was full to overflowing with 12 people and their trees. Thanks to Cel and all the people who brought food for the potluck, we all came away well fed. Back to Mike for a moment. He'll always tell people to be on the lookout for plants in peoples' yards and to go to the door and bargain for replacing one that you want. Judy Gore was sitting next to me and she finished his punch line to me, about the people who were renters after Mike had harvested the specimen tree. I guess she had heard that one before. It makes me happy inside to have him call me brother, as he always has time to go just one step farther for everyone. I'd invite him back again, also.
3. Third: This one will be the hardest to write, but as most of you who knew him, know that my father-in-law and Gail's dad Al passed away on Father's Day. Because he had a yard and I have a shady lanai, when my bonsai were looking pale and sickly, I would take them over to "Camp Al's" for some R-and-R. He got interested little by little and became a full fledged bonsaist. From someone who didn't volunteer for anything, he surprised us when we heard that he would be the club librarian. As my collection and his grew, he maintained them day in and day out in my absence. I know that he is in a better place, but I would invite him back for a backyard critique, too.

MINUTES - BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA MEETING

DATE: June 20, 2009

TIME: 9:30 A.M.

LOCATION: SPALC Building, 6281 Metro Plantation Road

PRESENT: See Attendance Roster (29 Members attended)

President Jim Gehring called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. John Bishop gave the Treasurer's Report. The balance in the Club Treasury is \$10,061. The visit by bonsai artist Lance Laney on June 9 cost the Club a total of \$486. Contact Jim for shirt orders. So far, he has received only one order, and there is a twelve-order minimum. Judy Gore, Phil Krieg, and Jim were at the Garden Council garden, where Phil had arranged to have a huge rock placed on the site designated for our Club. They built a mountainscape in preparation for the root-over-rock ficus that Erik Wigert will provide and plant on top of the large stone. Erik is now taking sign-ups for an intermediate bonsai class which lasts for five Saturdays, beginning on July 11 and ending on August 8. Anyone interested in signing up should call Andrea at 896-0446. Approval for the new

membership category of "Member Emeritus," awarded to a Club member for lifelong contribution to the Club, will be voted on at the July meeting. This amendment to the Standing Rules must be approved by a two-thirds vote. Anne Miller has again offered to have the Club Christmas party at her house. Members greatly enjoyed the party and the lovely setting at Anne's house the last time, so we are grateful for her offer. The Club needs a volunteer to chair the Annual Show. The chairman makes committee assignments (Programs, Publicity, Exhibit, Vendors, Hospitality, Service Award, Raffle, Sign Permit (Banner), Printing), arranges setup and breakdown times, makes sure equipment is hauled if necessary, has progress meetings with committee chairpersons, and in general oversees the smooth operation of the show. Most of the committee heads from last year will be available for this year as well. If you would like to volunteer for this position, let Jim know. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Bodnar, Secretary BSSWF

In Memory

On June 22, BSSWF member Al Sestok passed away after a long period of illness. Al was our Club Librarian and the father of Gail Gehring and father-in-law of Jim. Al took great pleasure and had a lot of pride in his bonsai, which he continued to care for throughout his illness. In lieu of flowers, the Club has bought an inscribed brick in Al's memory in the Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council garden on Virginia Avenue. If members want to send condolences to Gail and Jim, their address is:

15090 Lakeside View Drive #1502

Fort Myers, FL 33919-8481

Jim's email address is: gjgehring@embarqmail.com

Newcomers' Corner:

Welcome to new members, Dan and Helen Fields, from Naples. Helen is the daughter of Club member Ron Green, and she and her husband have a nursery where they grow mainly palm trees.

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