

2010 Officers

President, Phil Krieg

phil@bhpk.com

239-489-3238

Vice President, Jim Gehring

GJGehring@embarqmail.com

239-772-1411

Secretary, Becky Bodnar

beckybodnar@earthlink.net

239-463-4102

Treasurer, Sandra Bishop

SandraCB@embarqmail.com

239-466-5939

Board Members

Virginia Boka

gboka1@aol.com

239-995-3558

Ernie Fernandez, Past President

erniesbonsai@earthlink.net

239-947-3552

David Hamera

david.hamera@yahoo.com

239-233-1177

Greg Lignelli

glignelli222@gmail.com

239-560-3275

Doug Suitor

dgsuitor@earthlink.net

239-334-2138

Cel Luke

Jelcel661@aol.com

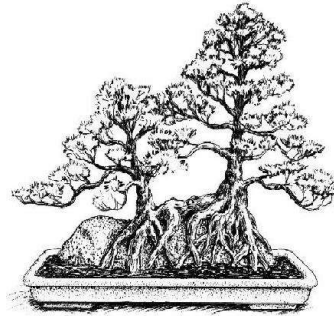
239-472-9281

Bonsai Clipper

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida

Online Newsletter, Issue 4

April 2010



The April 17 meeting at 10:00 AM is a PICNIC the park-- LAKES PARK--that is. Look for someone in the parking lot for the pavillion. It's our auction to raise money to supplement the cost of our Annual Show; and, remember We voted to have a formal show this year. We'll have a POT LUCK with the club furnishing hotdogs and hamburgers. After we have stuffed ourselves, we settle back to auction off the donated bonsai-related materials. Bring friends, family, interested bonsai people, people you drag in off the street, well maybe not that far; but as someone said, we don't want to just swap plants among ourselves. In the past the club has taken 10 percent of individually sold plants, for this year I would like to put that idea on hold. If you want to sell plants outright just mark them with a price (so as not to confuse them with the auction material) and sellers keep the total asking price.

March Field Trip:

The March meeting was a huge success. There were 37 members on the bus. With a 7:30 AM start and a 5:30 PM return it was a very full day, but everyone was happy to get back to Ft. Myers in the daylight and not completely worn out. First stop was at Turner's where many seemed to find one or two plants that they just couldn't get along without. The bus driver even warned about the size of some of the plants, because the bays under the bus were full to overflowing. Second stop was Jim Smith's where we were again not disappointed. Needless to say, many more plants found their way to the underbays of the bus. The weather was near perfect; although the trip was long, no one seemed to run out of conversation. I for one am looking forward to a another trip in the future.

Jim Gehring

Message from the Prez:

It looks like we are finally going to receive spring weather – at long last. Hopefully, our trees are starting to bud out and begin to look like we hoped. It is always a delight to see young green leaves – such is the joy of Spring.

We had a terrific trip to Vero Beach. Most of us came home with new “treasures” and near-empty wallets. This was my first trip to see Jim Smith’s nursery and wow, he rightly deserves the accolades. To see so many extraordinary Nerifolias at one time was overwhelming and inspiring. The Turner nursery was also a delight, and I returned with a very unusual Florida Elm, my first and only. All in all, everyone enjoyed themselves on a real bus – many thanks to Jim Gehring for making it a great trip.

Please remember that we are looking for articles to share with our members. We have members who have a vast experience and invite them to share their knowledge with us.

Phil Krieg

Bonsai Society booth at the Germain Arena Home and Garden Show:

Jim Bremer would like to give heartfelt thanks to those members who manned the Bonsai Society booth at the Germain Arena Home and Garden Show on March 13 and 14, especially since it was the first good-weather weekend of the year. The members are: Don Branscom, Greg Lignelli, Doug Sutor, Robin Choinski, Dave Hamera, Bonnie and Bill Zeff, and Jim Gehring. Everyone did a fine job of representing the Bonsai Society, and there were six attendees who asked for further information about our club. The attendees have been invited to attend the club picnic and auction at Lakes Park on April 17. The Expo Marketing people are planning shows for September 11 and 12, and for January 8 and 9, 2011; and our club will again be invited to participate in these shows.

Bonsai Buzz:

What is Haiku?

Haiku is a poetic form and a type of poetry from the Japanese culture. Haiku combines form, content, and language in a meaningful, yet compact form. Haiku poets write about

everyday things. Many themes include nature, feelings, or experiences. Usually they use simple words and grammar. The most common form for Haiku is three short lines. The first line usually contains five (5) syllables, the second line seven (7) syllables, and the third line contains five (5) syllables. Haiku doesn't rhyme. A Haiku must "paint" a mental image in the reader's mind. This is the challenge of Haiku--to put the poem's meaning and imagery in the reader's mind in ONLY 17 syllables over just three (3) lines of poetry!

The following poem uses the Haiku form to explain Haiku:

Poems in three lines
Five syllables then seven
Then another five

On stolen bonsai:

A stolen bonsai:
An empty spot in the yard,
And, one in the heart

Author: 01101001

On the timelessness of bonsai:

In the wake of our passing,
When memories fade-
The small tree remains

Author: Peter Dickason

Haiku Challenge: Write your own Haiku dealing with some aspect of bonsai, and the best ones will be published in the newsletter. Send the Haiku to beckybodnar@earthlink.net

Golden Dragon Disease

Golden Dragon Disease is threatening Florida citrus production and may threaten our limeberry bonsai also. Golden Dragon Disease, (also known as Huanglongbing, HLB or Citrus Greening) was first found in Florida in 2005, although the USDA and the Florida Department of Agriculture had been alerted to its possible introduction to the state since 1998. HLB is a bac-teria which infects only citrus plants and which ruins the fruit and eventually kills the tree. It attacks the vascular system of the plant. There is no cure. This bacterial is not dangerous to man and is not spread by wind or rain or through contact with contaminated personnel and tools.

Golden Dragon Disease was first discovered by farmers in southern China in the 1800's. It is spread by two species of a tiny (3-4 cm.) insect, the Asian citrus psyllid and the African citrus psyllid. In the United States, the Asian citrus psyllid is the only one detected. The insect vectors transport the citrus greening pathogen from infected trees to healthy trees as they feed. Not all psyllids are infected with the bacterial. There are some species of psyllids native to North America, and they are not carriers. Only the Asian citrus psyllid are carriers of this bacteria.

There are actually three forms of citrus greening disease, but only the Asian form of the disease has been found in the US.

Golden Dragon Disease can also be transmitted by grafting diseased budwood.

Unfortunately, a tree may become infected and not show signs of disease for several years. Also, unfortunately, many of the symptoms are similar to other plant diseases or deficiencies--such as zinc or manganese deficiency. Latency persists for approximately two years. The entire tree may progressively turn yellow, produce misshapen bitter fruit and die.

To control the spread of Golden Dragon Disease, a Federal order requires that host plants of the Asian citrus psyllid must be treated prior to being moved from areas where citrus greening occurs. Some states and territories do not allow movement to their areas of any host plants.

Host plants of citrus greening, including all live plants, budwood and cuttings are prohibited from being shipped or moved outside of areas quarantined for citrus greenings. Not all plants that are hosts for the insect are also hosts for citrus greening. However, the provisions limit the movement of potentially infected insects on hosts that do not harbor the disease, and prohibit the movement of citrus greening host plants outside of quarantine areas for the protection of other States and areas of Florida currently unaffected.

Pesticides will kill Asian psyllids, but the number of applications and quantities necessary are logistically, economically and environmentally challenging.

The University of Florida has imported a parasitic wasp from Asia and released it into Florida where it has become established and has reduced the population of Asian Citrus psyllids. The wasps will help control, but will not eliminate the carrier insects.

At this point in time, infected trees must be removed to prevent the spread of the disease to nearby healthy trees. Golden Dragon Disease has been reported all over the world, in Asia, Africa and South American countries as well as the US. It has not been reported in citrus producing areas of Mexico, Central America or the Mediterranean.

Anne Miller, December 15, 2009

.....