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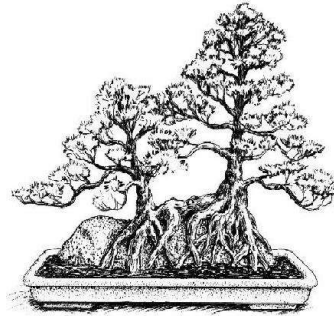
239-472-9281

# Bonsai Clipper

*Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida*

*Online Newsletter, Issue 6*

*June 2010*



## June Program

**Reg. Meeting:** Saturday, June 19, 2010  
**Time:** 9:00 AM  
**Place:** SPALC Building  
6281 Metro Plantation Rd.

Jim Van Landingham will do a guest demonstration on slanting style.

We will break at 12:00 for a bring-your-own lunch and continue at 1:00 for a workshop on slanting-style trees for a cost of \$15.00. You can bring your own plant. Jim will take 10-12 people for the workshop and observers are also welcome.

Sign up with Phil Krieg at 239-489-3238 or Jim Bremer at 239-482-7543.

### **Guest Artist Demonstration:**

Where: Garden Club Center

When: Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Time: 2:00 and 6:00 PM

RSVP: Jim Bremer @ 239-482-7543

Lindsay Shiba of California will speak and demonstrate on horticultural maintenance of bonsai and branch-development technics.

### **Biography**

Lindsay Shiba started his bonsai training at the young age of 11. He learned from his father Katsumi Shiba, who was an early student of John Naka in the Los Angeles area. Two years later as Lindsay's interest developed, he became a student of Khan Komai at his Bonsai-En in Temple City in 1972.

As Lindsay's sensei, Khan instilled a love and understanding of the formal display of bonsai. Now Lindsay has given presentations of formal display across America and Mexico, following in his mentor's footsteps. Lindsay is also known for his unique accent plantings which add to the display of his trees.

After graduating in 1981 from Cal Poly Pomona with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture, Lindsay worked at and now co-owns the family nursery, Mt. Fuji Garden Center in Upland, California. Although it is not a bonsai nursery, it does give Lindsay access to interesting stock; such as, Dwarf conifers, unusual Japanese Maples and various imported materials. The nursery offers beginning through advanced bonsai classes with a workshop held on a monthly basis.

Continuing the tradition established over 40 years ago, Lindsay now oversees the original Winter Silhouette's show at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. This show focuses on the beauty of branch structure and the winter feel of deciduous trees. It is put on by Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyu-kai, a club he has been a member of over 20 years.

Currently, Lindsay is new membership chairman and past president of California Bonsai Society, the last officer appointed by John Naka. Prior to this, for five years, he was CBS show chairman for their spring show at the Huntington Library. Lindsay's other club involvement is John Naka's NanPuKai.

When scheduling allows, Lindsay shares at clubs and conventions on the difference between matsu and momiji branch techniques, plant propagation, formal display and horticultural maintenance of bonsai. He has also assisted Ben Oki and Harry Hirao in workshops and demonstrations wherever possible.

Other hobbies of Lindsay include his family, traveling and sumi-e painting. He now has the privilege of sharing beginning bonsai with his 14-year-old son Caleb. Local club members have seen Caleb grow up in the bonsai community and now recognize him as an accomplished "raffle runner" at meetings and conventions. Lindsay's wife Debbie is his biggest Bonsai Supporter (besides "Grandma" Kay Komai) and is often seen in the kitchen at Winter Silhouettes or doing needlework on the sidelines. Bonsai has become a

Shiba family affair.

***Message from the Prez:***

I have just returned from the BSF convention – what a great time! Southwest Florida was probably the best represented club in attendance.

Robert Steven was the headliner, and he was a great showman. He used some plastic twigs attached to his demo trees to show the full design intent but didn't wire the single remaining twig on his Buttonwood. I am unsure if this is a useful teaching exercise but interesting nonetheless. He did carve the flat end stump beautifully and integrated it into the composition.

Club Night was a success. Broward club won with a huge scene of a valley with Procumbens. I don't know how anyone can move it. There were three students from Southwest Florida: Chad Beatty, Mike Lane and Jason Osborne. Mike Feduccia was also competing. Mike Lane was selected the winner and will receive a gift to continue his studies in Mexico with Enrique. They all did a great job and well represented their mentor, Erik Wigert.

Of course, there were many other interesting demonstrations, workshops, a beautiful exhibit (thanks Dorothy and Ernie) and a huge vendor area. We met many other Bonsaists who, you know, are ever enthusiastic and more than willing to talk about this wonderful art form.

Don't you just love Bonsai.....

Phil Krieg

***Minutes – Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida:***

DATE: MAY 15, 2010

TIME: 9:30 AM

LOCATION: SPALC BUILDING, 6281 METRO PLANTATION ROAD

PRESENT: SEE ATTENDANCE ROSTER (28) MEMBERS ATTENDED)

President Phil Krieg called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. He welcomed three visitors to the meeting: Phyllis Contino, Karen Harris, and Gerry Yontek.

OLD BUSINESS: Phil asked for a review of possible venues for the November bonsai show. Greg Lignelli described the amenities at Shellpoint and recommended it for consideration for a spring show or next year's annual show. Robin Choinski spoke in favor of the Hilton Garden Inn Ballroom located at I-75 and Alico Road. Rick Owens mentioned Gateway, and Peter Shawinsky recommended Reflection Lakes, although someone who lives there would have to reserve the facility. Judy Gore moved that the BSSWF have the annual show at the Hilton Garden Inn on November 20 and 21, with setup on November 19. Jim Bremer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The cost of the facility will be \$1500, and the tables will be provided. Judy asked for volunteers for annual show committees. Publicity: Greg Lignelli, Becky Bodnar, and Bonnie Zeff. Rick Owens, who is a graphic designer, also volunteered for the committee. Vendors: David Hamera and Jim Gehring.

Becky Bodnar read the Report of the meeting at the Lakes Park Picnic on April 17, 2010. Sandra Bishop gave the Treasurer's report. The balance in the club treasury is \$11,357.24.

Phil adjourned the meeting at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Bodnar  
Secretary, BSSWF

### **Bonsai Buzz:**

#### ***You can never have too many Bonsai, or can you?***

The Bonsai bug has bitten us all. You would be fooling yourself if you said I will never have hundreds of trees, pots, stands, etc. Winter seems to be the perfect time to discuss the “problem” of too many Bonsai. It’s really not a problem if we can properly take care of all our trees and, consequently, they will grow well and remain disease and pest free.

However, we would not be having this dilemma if we were caring for a reasonable size collection. The size, variety of trees, growing conditions all play a big part in the health of our Bonsai.

Challenges arise when we crowd our collection or stack more over or under our benches. Doing either of these will block the light and diminish air circulation, thus providing perfect conditions for diseases and pests to thrive and not be noticed until there is a major problem.

Once you get over the “I have to have that one too” syndrome you will discover the “solution” to the problem of care and possibly too many Bonsai. Now don’t panic, I’m not suggesting to get rid of your prize possessions, let’s just say we are going to manage our collection. You will be happier; your trees will be happier, and healthy too.

There are some basic guidelines. Usually these are plants and trees that I have had for years and now there is something better in my collection. Also, and this is not unusual, I have multiple plants of the same type. This is the result of “I have to have that one too.” Sometimes, I just don’t like the growth habit of a tree. It may grow too tall, leggy, become too heavy or just not what I expected. I will always have a few of these in my collection but not as many as I once had.

There comes a time when “collecting” evolves into “selecting.” We attend so many workshops to hone our skills and with each one we participate in comes another tree. After growing Bonsai for a while you probably know what you like and what you don’t like. There are, of course, many characteristics to consider: plant size, flowering, color, deciduous, conifer, tropical, accent, seasons and adaptation to your culture. Once you decide what you prefer in your collection, you will have a guideline to help you improve or upgrade your personal collection. With that comes the care, and believe it or not, that becomes easier. Bonsai growing is not a static hobby.

Many times we upgrade our collection without remembering to also cull our collections. You know the results: too many trees. Instead of adding on to your benches or building another greenhouse, why not dispose of those trees that you don’t really enjoy as much or don’t grow and flower as well so that you can provide the trees you love with more space, sufficient light, proper care, and good air circulation? Share with friends, donate to raffle tables, start grandkids on the rewarding hobby of Bonsai. Now you’ll be able to enjoy the full potential of your Bonsai Trees.

Look for the peace and happiness that our trees bring to us. Care should not be a burden or a mystery.

My long-time friend and teacher 'Kenji Miyata' once told me "sit with your trees and let them tell you what they want."

Pete Shawinsky, April 2010

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