

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

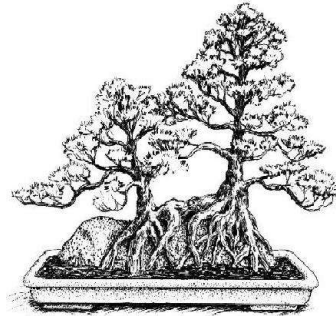
239-472-9281

Bonsai Clipper

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida

Online Newsletter, Issue 31

March 2010



March Program

Reg. Meeting: Saturday, March 20, 2010
The regular meeting is a bus trip to Turner and Smith's Nurseries

Time: 7:30 AM

Place: Bus leaves the SPALC Building
6281 Metro Plantation Rd.

Seats are still available for an exciting day to Turner and Smith's Nurseries on March 20, cost \$20. You can pay the morning of departure, but contact me at gjgehring@embarqmail.com or 239-772-1411 so I can keep a total of those going. I'm going to open the seating to the SO FU club and the Garden Club of Ft. Myers, so I need to keep a correct count. The bus leaves the SPALC Building promptly at 7:30 AM and returns approximately 7:00 PM. You will need to pack your own lunch.

Jim Gehring

Message from the Prez:

Will this cold ever end? This past weekend at Erik's open house, it was cold, rainy and tested our cheer. But, the weekend turned beautiful on Sunday and the open house was a terrific experience. Congratulations to Renee on winning the beautiful Fukien Tea – care for it well! Congratulations are also in order for Martha who won the Best of Show for her Literati Buttonwood. The styling competition was particularly interesting and engaging both for the participants and the audience.

Pedro Morales, Irene and Adam were in great form in their workshops, informative as well as entertaining. I finally learned that to get a good start from pre-bonsai material, you have to make the hard choices immediately – cut back to the basic skeleton, follow the line of the trunk and the tree's future will be bright.

Don't forget that we are taking a trip to the east coast on March 20th to visit the nursery of Jim Smith. It is a real bus with all of the comforts of home. This is a great opportunity to see some great trees. Call Jim Gehring to sign up now!

We are developing this newsletter with articles on anything related to Bonsai. Please send in your ideas and/or articles to Bonnie at zeff63@aol.com.

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

Minutes – Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida:

DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2010

TIME: 9:30 AM

LOCATION: SPALC BUILDING, 6281 METRO PLANTATION ROAD

PRESENT: SEE ATTENDANCE ROSTER (29 MEMBERS ATTENDED)

President Phil Krieg called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. Becky Bodnar read the Minutes of the January 16, 2010, meeting. The Minutes were accepted as read. Becky distributed a list with members' email addresses only. Sandra Bishop gave the Treasurer's Report. There is presently \$11,794.65 in the Club Treasury. Last year at the same time, the balance was \$9,379. Visitors Hal and Marion Mahoney, Bob and Sharon McLelland, and Bob and Bev Luttio were introduced to the membership. Jim Gehring announced that the bus trip to the East coast will be on the next regular meeting day, March 20. The bus will leave from the SPALC building at 7:30 AM, and the cost is \$20. Anyone interested in going should sign up with Gail Gehring and pay for the trip in advance.

OLD BUSINESS: Phil reported on the lighting project for the SPALC building. The cost for four portable light fixtures and two 8' ceiling fixtures is \$100. *Greg Lignelli moved that the Club purchase these fixtures; Jim Bremer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.* Phil will find out the cost of installation for the 8' ceiling fixtures before the membership decides on installing them. The BSF convention is May 28-31 in Orlando. The registration form is available on the BSF site, www.bonsai-bsf.com.

NEW BUSINESS: Any member wishing to place a tree in the Second US National Bonsai Exhibition should send the photo to Jim Valavanis by April 15. The exhibition is June 12-13 in Rochester, New York, and is for North American trees only. Chad Beatty will speak to Board members about improving the web site after the regular meeting. The Club by-laws are not currently on the web site, but will be put there soon.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Bodnar, Secretary, BSSWF

Minutes - Board of Directors meeting - Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida

DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2010

TIME: 11:30 AM

LOCATION: SPALC BUILDING, 6218 METRO PLANTATION ROAD

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS BECKY BODNAR, JIM GEHRING, DAVID HAMERA,
GREG LIGNELLI, PHIL KRIEG, CELESTINE LUKE, SANDRA BISHOP,
AND OBSERVERS JUDY GORE AND JOHN BISHOP

ABSENT: VIRGINIA BOKA, ERNIE FERNANDEZ, DOUG SUITOR

President Phil Krieg convened a brief meeting at 11:30 AM. Chad Beatty was on hand to explain improvements to the web site in order to make it more interactive. The cost for the update would be \$200, and the ongoing cost would be the same as it is now, \$25 per month. Chad agreed to make a presentation to the club on how they would use the updated web site. Members will vote on the one-time expense at that time. Judy Gore discussed venues for the Annual Show. Considering availability, location, and space, Judy feels that the most suitable place to have the show is at the Church of Saint John the Apostle. She will find out if the church is willing to negotiate a more reasonable cost than in the past. However, Judy is still open for additional suggestions. Judy would also like to have an additional show similar to the one the Club had at Bell Tower Mall. There would be the exhibit only, and no demos. Board members were in agreement with this suggestion. Phil will find out whether the Mall would like to have the exhibit again and if so, available dates. Becky Bodnar said that in the current economy, the Club might consider accepting a payment plan for dues. The Board agreed that a member may pay the dues in two payments, the first one of \$25 in December, and the second one of \$20 in March. Board members would also like to invite back those members who have not rejoined the Club for 2010.

Phil adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Bodnar, Secretary, BSSWF

Bonsai Buzz:

BALD CYPRESS – Part 2

Here are a few additional pieces of information on development of the Bald Cypress:

Trunk Caliper Reduction Techniques

- There are two methods to reduce trunk caliper and improve taper. The first is from Guy Guidry, who trunk chops at a sever angle and develops a new apex.
- The second is a shelf configuration by Vaughan Banting. This method will eventually require cutting the shelves at a step angle anyway. This 2nd method can be viewed on the web at two locations:

<http://www.vlbanting.com/makingtaperoncypress.htm>

<http://www.bonsai-wbff.org/nabf/newsletter2/bcarticle.htm>

Other Observations

- Recent Experience has shown me that during the end of a growing season, August through

October, Cypress will brown and lose leaves. However, as of today, my trees are starting to bud out with new growth, just in time for the dormant season?

- I found an article that says to fertilize weekly in the spring. In late summer, decrease fertilizing to every two weeks. During winter dormancy, do not fertilize.

Phil Krieg

BAMBOO

In Chinese culture, the bamboo, plum blossom, orchid and chrysanthemum are known as the Four Noble Ones, representing the four seasons and, in Confucian ideology, four aspects of nobility. In Japanese culture, the pine tree, bamboo and the plum blossom are admired for their perseverance under harsh conditions and are known as the "Three Friends in Winter". John Naka tells us that it is considered a "must" to include bamboo in a bonsai collection. He goes on to tell us that pine, bamboo and plum are used as symbols during the Japanese New Year celebration; and each one represents a human virtue: Pine denotes strength, bamboo is symbolic of virtue, fidelity and constancy and plum daintiness and endurance. Naka also reminds us that bamboo will bend with the wind, not go against it, and when it is weighted down with snow, it will patiently wait until the snow melts then bounce up again.

The Nature Conservancy in their Summer 2009 issue wrote, "Around the globe, some 600 million people rely on bamboo for their livelihoods. Bamboo is eaten as food, pulped into fibers for fabric, milled into strips to create flooring and veneer, and is joined together in its unprocessed state as "vegetal steel" to construct furniture and buildings. The plant itself is remarkable: a hollow grass that can grow more than 150 feet high, bamboo generates more oxygen than trees and absorbs large amounts of carbon. Capable of growing a yard or more in a single day, bamboo takes just three years to mature. And bamboo stalks regenerate automatically from underground roots after cutting. These attributes lend themselves to sustainable harvesting...."

Bamboo is found naturally in all parts of the world except Europe and Antarctica. They are a woody perennial evergreen member of the grass family. There are over 1,000 species in more than 100 genera. Bamboos are the fastest growing woody plants in the world and have been measured growing as fast as 47.6 inches in a 24-hour period. Some prehistoric bamboos exceeded 250 feet in height. Unlike trees, all bamboos grow to full height and girth in a single growing season of 3-4 months. During the first year the young shoots grow supported by photosynthesis from the rest of the clump with no time to sprout their own branches and leaves. Over the next year the pulpy wall of each culm slowly dries and hardens, sprouting branches and leaves during the second year. The following year, the culm hardens further. Bamboo is ready for harvest and suitable for use in construction from 3-7 years.

Careful attention must be paid during harvesting for use in construction, as the sap must be leached or through post harvest photosynthesis.

Most bamboo growing in the wild are clones grown from "running" (found in temperate zones) or "clumping" (found in tropical zones) rhizomes. The vast majority of bamboo flower infrequently, some only every 60-120 years, and one species every 130 years. All members of a species will flower at the same time and then die. In some Oriental cultures, flowering bamboo is a symbol of famine and starvation. This is because the massing flowering produces so many seeds that rats and rodents thrive, their populations explode with subsequent destruction of cultivated crops and stored food. The rats also carry disease. During a massive flowering of a

particular type of bamboo in a Chinese Panda preserve several years ago, all the bamboo in that area died out and led to starvation for the Pandas there. The Chinese authorities tried to move the Pandas to another part of the preserve, or to zoos, to save the population .

Bamboo does not have a vascular cambium and do not exhibit secondary growth by the production of concentric annual rings. They cannot increase in girth as trees do. They have scattered vascular bundles composed of xylem and phloem tissue, each bundle surrounded by a ring of cells called a bundle sheath. The maximum diameter of bamboo stems is predetermined at the time of sprouting. Although bamboo culms do not have the structure of true wood, they are very hard because they contain silica and lignin.

Just below the growing point (apical meristem) of the sprout is an active region of cell division that is responsible for the predetermined size of bamboo shoots. When a bamboo shoot emerges from the soil, it consists of a series of tightly overlapping protective sheaths surrounding the developing nodes and internodes. The culm sheath terminates in a leaf blade. All the leaf-bearing nodes are predetermined in the shoot, which grows out telescopically as the internodes elongate. This is similar to the extension of the legs of a camera tripod or the sliding tubes of a collapsible telescope or radio antenna.

In John Naka's *Bonsai Techniques II*, pages 397 to 401, he describes and illustrates "How to Start a Bamboo Bonsai" and tells us to use a rhizome for a starter. This would be in a forest or raft style. There are detailed illustrations showing how to shorten a bamboo, and this is done by "dwarfing" this telescoping node by removing the sheath half way on each joint. This stops the telescoping node from extending to its full length. Start your bamboo bonsai in a deep pot and after three or four years of training, it can be planted in a shallow container or on a rock slab. Change the soil during warm weather, and when the rhizomes become coiled around the container, take the whole thing apart, rearrange and replant it.

Scientific Classification

Kingdom: Plantae (Angiosperms, Monocots, Commelinids)
Order: Poales
Family: Poaceae
Subfamily: Bambusoideae
Supertribe: Bambusoideae
Tribe: Bambusae
Diversity around 92 genera and 5,000 species.

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