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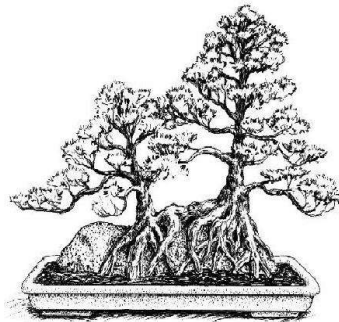
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# Bonsai Clipper

*Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida*

*Online Newsletter, Issue 8*

*August 2009*



## August Program

Regular Meeting: Saturday, August 15, 2009  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: SPALC Building  
6281 Metro Plantation Rd.  
(off Metro Pky. between  
Daniels Pky. and Colonial  
Blvd.)

### Program:

August is a regular meeting with a Round Robin with three groups and three trees. The members are divided into three groups to style similar trees. Each member has input, the results will be judged, and the trees will be auctioned or raffled.

***Message from the Prez:***

Where does the time go? It has been nearly a month since our trip to Puerto Rico, and while some of the information gleaned there has been pushed to the back of my mind, the idea of Suiseki grows. I sent for and received a book called *The Japanese Art of Stone Appreciation* by Vincent Covello and Yuji Yoshimura. Now I'm trying to add to my understanding of Aesthetics, using *sabi*, *wabi*, *shibui*, and *yugen* (four Japanese words related to their understanding of Aesthetic concepts.) At this point, it's going to be a learning process, but the best measure I have right now is if I like the stone or not. I have enlisted my son in Minnesota and daughter in California to be on the lookout for potential Suiseki. My hope is that I get a box of rocks for Christmas.

Florida has few collectible rocks: coral and limestone are hardly suitable. Black is the most preferred color because it is the hardest stone, while white is the least desirable and softest. Quartz and crystals belong in a curio cabinet. The more natural you keep the stone, the better. Some stones have their bottom cut flat so they fit into the base called a dia. The natural oils from your hands give the stones their shine, so handle them often.

When searching for Suiseki, you look for rocks that portray mountain tops, landscapes, animal or human shapes, waterfalls, rivers, or celestial patterns. The list could go on and on.

I have rambled on about Suiseki, hoping to create an interest and give a better understanding of what it is. Perhaps I can put together a 15-minute demo for some future meeting. I don't want to throw cold water on the Suiseki idea, but someone said to me, "No matter what you call a rock or how it looks, a rock is still a rock."

I will leave you with one last thought. Time is growing short for our Annual Show. We are just on the edge for time. Hopefully, we will have good information for you at our next meeting.

Prez Jim

***Minutes of the Meeting of the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida***

DATE: July 18, 2009

TIME: 9:30 A.M.

LOCATION: SPALC Building, 6281 Metro Plantation Road

President Jim Gehring called the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M. Sandra Bishop gave the Treasurer's report. The balance in the Club treasury is \$11,010.06. Reading of the minutes from the June 20 meeting was waived, as Secretary Becky Bodnar was absent. The minutes from that meeting were printed in the newsletter. Member John Moya's guests, Becky and Anthony, were introduced and welcomed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Board has proposed creating a "Member Emeritus" award for a member who has made a lifelong contribution to the club. The member will be nominated for the award, and the Club will pay the member's BSF dues. This proposal is an addition to the Standing Rules, so it must be presented to the membership a month prior to being voted on and must be approved by a 2/3 vote. The announcement was in the June newsletter. Approval of the motion to accept the Member Emeritus membership category was unanimous.

Jim announced that he received a check for \$488 for the club's share of the profit for the work members did at the BSF convention. Dorothy was in charge of the Exhibit, and all members attending helped. Jim thanked everyone for their hard work. We still need a Chairman for the Annual show in November. Jim has called a brief board meeting following this meeting to discuss the show. The club shirts are here. If you ordered one, please pick it up from Gail.

#### NEW BUSINESS

BSF has scheduled Ben Oki for a tour in January, 2010. Other speakers throughout the year may be Robert Mahler of an Internet club and Lindsey Shiba of California. Jim will try to confirm information so that we may decide which one/ones to schedule for next year.

Gail Gehring thanked the club members for their calls, notes, and letters following the death of her father and Club Librarian, Albert Sestok. She also read a note from the Fort Myers/Lee County Garden Council saying that the club has donated an inscribed 'brick' in his honor at their Botanical Gardens.

Jim reported on the BCI World Convention that he and Gail attended in San Juan, Puerto Rico. There were many outstanding demonstrations, tours and activities. Greg and Cindy Lignelli also attended, and Greg added to the report.

Cel Luke is taking orders for special rubber gloves. Erik Wigert gave his monthly update of the club bougainvillea, which will be raffled off at the Christmas Party. It is developing very nicely.

Judy Gore reported on the Mentor program. The meeting was adjourned to a program by Ernie Fernandez. He critiqued the trees brought by the club members. A lively raffle was held and \$83 added to the treasury.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Gore, Acting 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.

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