

2010 Officers

President, Phil Krieg

[phil@bhpk.com](mailto:phil@bhpk.com)

239-489-3238

Vice President, Jim Gehring

[GJGehring@embarqmail.com](mailto:GJGehring@embarqmail.com)

239-772-1411

Secretary, Becky Bodnar

[beckybodnar@earthlink.net](mailto:beckybodnar@earthlink.net)

239-463-4102

Treasurer, Sandra Bishop

[SandraCB@embarqmail.com](mailto:SandraCB@embarqmail.com)

239-466-5939

Board Members

Virginia Boka

[gboka1@aol.com](mailto:gboka1@aol.com)

239-995-3558

Ernie Fernandez, Past President

[erniesbonsai@earthlink.net](mailto:erniesbonsai@earthlink.net)

239-947-3552

David Hamera

[david.hamera@yahoo.com](mailto:david.hamera@yahoo.com)

239-233-1177

Greg Lignelli

[glignelli222@gmail.com](mailto:glignelli222@gmail.com)

239-560-3275

Doug Sutor

[dgsutor@earthlink.net](mailto:dgsutor@earthlink.net)

239-334-2138

Cel Luke

[Jelcel661@aol.com](mailto:Jelcel661@aol.com)

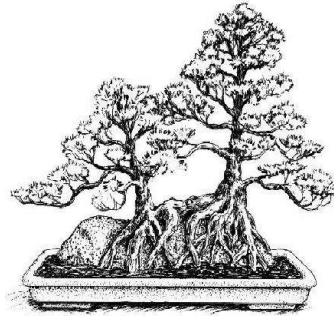
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# Bonsai Clipper

*Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida*

*Online Newsletter, Issue 7*

*July 2010*



## July Program

**Reg. Meeting:** Saturday, July 24, 2010  
**Time:** 9:00 AM  
**Place:** SPALC Building  
6281 Metro Plantation Rd.

GET READY FOR A SPECIAL TREAT; REMEMBER THAT IT'S ON JULY 24, ONE WEEK LATER THAN OUR USUAL MEETING DATE. PEDRO MORALAS WILL DO A DEMO TREE (IT WILL BE RAFFLED THAT DAY) AND A POWER POINT PRESENTATION.

PEDRO WILL BE AT WIGERT'S THAT WEEKEND, AND WE WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO FIT IN HIS SCHEDULE WITH A LITTLE SHIFTING OF OUR'S. HE WILL SELECT A TREE FROM ERIK'S STOCK, STUDY IT, AND STYLE IT. THERE IS SOME QUESTION ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF A POWER POINT AT THIS POINT, THAT SHOULD BE WORKED OUT BY THE 24TH.

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

DATE: JUNE 19, 2010  
TIME: 9:30 AM  
LOCATION: SPALC BUILDING, 6281 METRO PLANTATION ROAD  
PRESENT: SEE ATTENDANCE ROSTER (22 MEMBERS ATTENDED)

President Phil Krieg called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Becky Bodnar read the Minutes of the May 15 meeting. The Minutes were approved as read. John Bishop gave the Treasurer's report. There is presently \$11,454.25 in the Club treasury, but there are a lot of expenses which remain to be paid. Phil reminded members that our next meeting would be on July 24, the 4th Saturday of the month, instead of on our regular meeting day. Pedro Morales will do a Demo at that meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Jim Gehring discussed the recent visit of bonsai artist Lindsay Shiba. The cost for his visit was \$700, but his demo at 10:00 AM and his workshop at 1:00 PM were not well attended. In the future, visiting artists will be scheduled to do presentations in the evening or on Saturday morning so that more people can attend. There was also some confusion about transporting the artist between clubs. Each club is expected to transport the visiting artist half way between their respective cities.

Phil and Judy Gore remarked that the Second National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, New York, was successful and of very high quality. Of the 18 trees accepted to the show from Florida, six of the trees were from our Club.

NEW BUSINESS: Judy announced the committee members for the annual show in November:

DEMOS: Dorothy Schmitz  
PUBLICITY: Greg Lignelli, Becky Bodnar, Bonnie Zeff, Rick Owens  
VENDORS: Jim Gehring, David Hamera  
RAFFLE: Robin Choinski, Sandy Thornburg  
ROOM SETUP: Doug Suitor, Jim Bremer  
EXHIBIT SETUP: Martha Goff, Peter Shawinsky

There are still duties to be assigned. Judy needs someone to be responsible for the Service Award, to be on the Welcoming Committee, and to be workshop assistants. Judy will set a date to meet with committees. The time of the show will be 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday, November 20, and 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Sunday, November 21. Setup will be on Friday, November 19.

Phil adjourned the meeting at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Bodnar, Secretary, BSSWF



## **Bonsai Buzz:**

### **Exhibit at 2010 BSF Annual Convention**

Some Comments by Mike Knowlton

One of my favorite activities at the annual BSF convention is to visit the exhibit of bonsai. Volunteers have worked countless hours to set up the room and the exhibit, and owners of bonsai and suiseki have shared their prize possessions with others.

Usually I will go several times to the exhibit. It is interesting how your perspective on the exhibit changes with each observation. Initially, I am impressed by the size and scope of the exhibit as well as the size and age of most of the trees. Imagine an Asian Festival exhibit increased in size fourfold. On the other hand, I begin to notice things the second or third time that I did not notice the first time – things like the simple beauty of the suiseki and the small imperfections in some of the trees.

I have particularly enjoyed that portion of the convention that allows people to join the headliner for the convention on a lunch time critique of the exhibit. Last year Boon Manikavitipart expanded his critique to include a review of the exhibit itself, not just the trees.

This year Robert Steven concentrated on a few flaws that were common throughout many of the trees. These flaws included a tendency to build foliage pads that are unnaturally even and rounded with a lack of appropriate branch ramification. An example of this flaw is shown in the picture of the narrow leaf ficus – beautiful trunk and nebari but foliage pads that look almost sheared and prevent the observer from seeing into the pad to observe the branch ramification structure.

Another critique by Steven was the tendency of some of the tropical trees to be styled as if they were apically dominant conifers. Tropical trees generally do not have a single obvious apex. Rather they are often as wide or wider than they are tall. An example of this flaw is reflected in the Brazilian Rain Tree which has beautiful lines that you might expect in a northern conifer, but it does not reflect the natural look of a Rain Tree in nature.

Interestingly, the tree that won the President's award was a small bald cypress – reminding us that quality is far more important than size. The tree which was no more than 14" in height had a certain obvious elegance in its simplicity.



I encourage Sho Fu members to consider attending next year's convention and participating in the critique of the exhibit. It has been a significant learning experience for me over the course of the last few years.





### **HYDROPONICS COMES TO SOUTH WEST FLORIDA**

Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange (CRFE) in conjunction with Lee County Extension Service IFAS will present a one day course in hydroponics. The class will be run September 30, 2010, with an optional half-day tour of local hydroponic growers the following day. The class has a size limit of 40 people and must be registered before August 15, 2010. Registration closes when the class is full.

The class will introduce hydroponic growing to homeowners and small farmers. Latest technology in techniques, nutrient solutions, growing media, and demonstration systems will be shown and explained. The class will be run in the “back porch” rooms at the Extension Service on 2306 Palm Beach Road, Ft. Myers. Instructor Wm. Thompson will be assisted by brief speakers in various areas of expertise relating to hydroponics.

Cost for the class is \$150 with a \$10 fee for the optional half-day tour. Included in the class will be a lunch, breaks with beverages and fruit, CD with photos from the research, CD with technical information to assist in your venture, and source information for everything needed to start your system.

Register by sending your check made payable to CRFE for the course and tour (\$160) to CRFE, C/O Mr. Ed Wilson, 1698 Lakeview Blvd., Fort Myers, Fl. 33903. Instructor Bill Thompson can be reached at [williamet@aol.com](mailto:williamet@aol.com) if you have questions. 6/7/2010

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