



February 2011

Lighthouse Bonsai Society

Newsletter

For those who missed our meeting on January 22nd, you missed a wonderful program. Our guest, Jim VanLandingham from Treasure Coast Bonsai Society in Fort Pierce, offered a workshop for members who brought their own trees for styling. Jim answered questions from the audience as he worked with the trees. As you can see from the photos taken by Larry Duke, some of the trees show a radical change. I would like to see how much these trees improve in four or five months!

Our Program Director Rita has scheduled a "Bring Your Own Tree" for our February meeting on the 26th. At the same time members can bring bonsai related items to swap or sell. Our meetings are open to the public but only members can participate in the "Swap & Sell". If you haven't renewed your membership for 2011, this would be a good time to do so.

Please bring a tree to display at the meeting. Many of you have some really nice trees which can serve as inspiration to all of us. We want to see them. Taking part in the display will also help us learn more about how to exhibit our trees. It would be wonderful to have members enter a tree or two for the exhibit at the BSF Convention being held on June 10, 11 and 12 this year.

And, speaking of the convention, the BSF website has photos of workshop materials which can be purchased in advance. You can reserve the actual tree you will be working on. Material is being offered in various sizes and prices for the same workshop. If you plan on attending and signing up for one of the workshops, check out the website soon. Many of the trees are already marked sold. There are ilex, campeche, juniper, Florida privet, buttonwood, bougainvillea, podocarpus, and neea buxifolia to choose from. Workshops will be presented by Ryan Neil, Ed Trout, Mike Cartrett, Mike Rogers and Erik Wigert.

Full registration for the convention will be \$185 before April 15th and \$210 after that date. Registration for Friday or Saturday only is \$90 per day and \$50 for Sunday. I am hoping we can schedule a convoy of members to drive up together again this year. We just won't allow Jorge to lead the way. He took us on a merry chase last year!

There are lots of area bonsai happenings locally - on any given week you could attend one or two meetings. Dragon Tree Bonsai sponsored a cypress dig on Saturday the 5th and also has a second Sunday meeting each month. I had planned to go to the dig but decided to help "groom" the landscape at Mounts Botanical Gardens on the 5th.

At the last minute Saturday morning, I looked at the trees on my benches, realized that time was slipping away all too quickly for repotting my cypress and juniper trees and decided not to procrastinate any

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longer. The three old junipers I had just bought were severely pot-bound so I decided to do them first. What a job! I got cramps in both my hands from raking the roots out. The shimpaku juniper that I had planted in a large pot to try to develop a bigger trunk was not as difficult, but when I got finished cutting it was a small tree again. The shimpaku that Ben Oki styled last year was next and then a little juniper I got from Noel and one I bought from Mike Cartrett at the show in Ft. Myers. I didn't realize I had so many. Hopefully, most of them will survive the repotting!

Then, I started on my cypress trees. I had been experimenting with different soil mixes for them and I always set my pots in water. Some of the trees I had planted in nursery soil, some in a mix I bought from Jupiter Bonsai and some in a mix I bought from John Evans. The nursery soil didn't allow very good root development and the roots were harder to rake out. I ended up blasting the soil off with a hose jet. The Jupiter Bonsai mix produced some pretty good roots and those trees were fairly easy to repot. But, when I pulled the trees from John's mix, I was absolutely amazed at the hair roots that had grown. I was almost tempted to reuse the spent soil but decided against that. I don't have any more of John's mix so I am hoping I can talk him in to selling me more. I still have to repot the big cypress tree that Rita and I dug up at the Treasure Coast Bonsai cypress harvest in January of 2010.

The Drake Elm that Jim VanLandingham helped me style in January was starting to really bud out so I decided to repot that one along with the smaller elm I bought from Vlad at our last meeting. Next month I get to repot my podocarpus trees. I hope you are having as much fun with your trees as I am with mine!

Wabi Sabi Workshop has been formed to meet at John Evan's home at 708 Nathan Hale Road in West Palm Beach. Currently, meetings are held on the Second Thursday and Fourth Wednesday at 7 PM. There is lots of table space under a large canopy surrounded by all his benches and trees. John does have cats roaming his garden so this workshop might not be for you if you have an allergy to those critters. Anyone interested in attending to work on bonsai and share ideas should contact John or Rita.

There is plenty of space in our newsletters for member articles. If you all do not send me stories, you will just have to keep reading my typical ramblings.

See you all at our next meeting!

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Your Lighthouse Bonsai Board

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Member at Large - scorpbug@aol.com
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Private Sessions

Mike Cartrett 561-586-2541
Ed Trout954-432-8202
Mike Sullivan954-432-1418
Vlad Foursa561-436-1501

State, National, Int'l Links

Bonsai Societies of Florida
www.bonsai-bsf.com
Bonsai Clubs International
www.bonsai-bci.com
The American Bonsai Society
www.absbonsai.org
The National Bonsai Foundation
www.bonsai-nbf.org

Area Bonsai Events & Meetings

Bonsai Society of the Palm Beaches
(First Tuesday each Month - 7 pm)
Mounts Botanical Garden Auditorium
531 N Military Trail, WPB

Gold Coast Bonsai Society
(Second Saturday each Month- 9 am)
City of Sunrise Parks & Leisure Dept
6800 Sunset Strip, Sunrise
www.goldcoastbonsai.com

Wabi Sabi Workshop
(2nd Thurs & 4th Wed 7pm)
John Evan's home
708 Nathan Hale Road, WPB
johnevans1111@mac.com

Second Sunday Study Group
10 am - 1 pm Robert Pinder
Dragon Tree Bonsai
3663 SW Honey Ter, Palm City
dragontree@bellsouth.net

John Evan's Tip for the Month:

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

Please send articles, suggestions, photos and other items of interest to Newsletter Editor Maggie Kline at mbk2763@yahoo.com for future publications.