



# Lighthouse Bonsai Society

Newsletter

July 2011

## Last Month's Meeting

If you missed our June meeting, you missed having a great bonsai experience. Our own Mike Cartrett was on hand to preside over a "Bring Your Own Tree" workshop. Members waited, sometimes not so patiently, for a turn to present their tree to Mike to receive his opinion and styling advice. With over thirty years of experience working with bonsai, he was able to keep our complete attention offering tons of information along with amusing stories as he worked on each tree. As always, he brought along plenty of pre-bonsai trees and pots for those who couldn't resist buying just one more.

The raffle table was overflowing with good stuff and our two newest members, Peggy Kuntz and Jim Rosa seemed to have a lucky winning streak and everyone walked away happy with their new goodies.

After the meeting, members were invited to join a group taking Mike to lunch at Sakura Sushi on North Federal Highway where we prolonged our bonsai experience for an hour or more with great conversation over some really good food.

## July Meeting

Let's all plan on welcoming Mike Sullivan from Gold Coast Bonsai Society to our club for our July meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. He has generously agreed to present a program featuring Shohin Bonsai. For those of us who tire of lifting and repotting those bigger trees that seem to get heavier each year, these little trees have become increasingly attractive. Having attended a number of programs with Mike, I can tell you that you do not want to miss this meeting. He has some fabulous trees in his collection and shares his knowledge freely, keeping no secrets. So bring all your fat little trees and Mike will critique them and answer any questions you might have.

Since we do not have anything planned for refreshments this month, feel free to bring something for the food table and don't forget the raffle table either. See you all next Saturday!

## BSF 2011 Convention

I picked Rita up around 9:30 on Thursday morning June the 9<sup>th</sup> and we hit the road headed to the 2011 BSF Annual Convention in Orlando. Stopping at a rest area enroute to buy coffee, we had to run through the rain to get to the building then headed to the Dunkin Donuts counter. Can you believe they refused to accept my coupons? We bought coffee anyway and continued north.

Around 12:30 we stopped for lunch. Our first choice was Olive Garden but they had a 25 minute wait so we settled for Perkins Restaurant. Bad choice! Rita's cod was overcooked and my chicken noodle soup was really bland. I could have used some Louisiana hot sauce but, hey, you take your chances when traveling.

We checked in early at the convention center (formerly Ramada Celebration) hauled our bags up the stairs to our second floor room and then rushed off to the vendor area to see if we could get first pick of goodies from vendors that were in the process of setting up tables filled with anything bonsai-related you could possibly ask for.

After a light meal at a nearby restaurant (crab cake and shrimp cocktail for Rita and grilled grouper sandwich for me) we went back to the convention center so Rita could attend the BSF board meeting scheduled for that evening. I stayed in the room with a NCIS marathon playing in the background while I started writing this article. I have seen most of the series episodes and only looked up when Gibbs slapped Dinoso. He does that at least once every other episode. It kind of reminds me of when I have to head-slap John Evans when he gets out of line.

Hotel registration included breakfast each day so we showed up at the Paradise Café on Friday morning at 7:15. I don't know about you all but, when I travel away from home, I am always starving. In the dictionary, the definition of "breakfast buffet" just has to be "lots of food"!

Ryan Neal's first demonstration on a huge Juniper San Jose / Parsonii was scheduled for 8:00 but started at 8:30. As Ryan worked on the tree, he told us about his experiences working six years as an apprentice to Kimura in Japan. He cleaned the lower branches of the tree to reveal the trunk, then offered three options for styling and encouraged the audience to offer their opinions as to which style he should use. A compelling speaker, he talked constantly as he worked and wired, explaining different aspects of styling including how to use the grain of the wood on a jin to achieve a natural look as opposed to carving with tools. He talked about the red color on the tree at cuts containing sap which protects the tree from insects. He spoke about beetle kill in the western US that has devastated pine populations since warm weather and extended drought which diminished the sap production allows more insect larvae to flourish.

He challenged us to create something interesting with our trees and to never create something that your eye can't identify with. He suggested that we study the fundamental aspect of the visual art of bonsai – not the rules. He directed us to select teachers who appeal to us and who compliment our own ideas of bonsai and learn something from each one to add to our talent and form a base of knowledge that we can always go back to. He asked what our motivation was in pursuing the art of bonsai. If it was to create beauty, we should create our own trees. If it was to maintain, nurture and treasure the trees, it is perfectly acceptable to purchase a finished tree. He encouraged us to make our trees react – to create a visual tension. "Don't settle for a style you have done before and are comfortable with," he said. "Challenge yourself to do something different."

Each of his demonstrations drew a good crowd and we were all rightly impressed with his talents. I understand Ryan has already agreed to return to Florida for the 2012 Convention which is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend at a new and better location in Orlando. I am already making plans to attend.

The bonsai exhibit at the convention was awesome and inspiring. This year, each club had been asked to provide a club tree for display in a special area of the exhibit. Lighthouse did not send a tree so we ask everyone to look carefully at your trees and let us know if you might have one to represent our club on a state level at next year's convention.

## Photos from the Convention Demonstrations



## Photos from the Convention Exhibit



# Photos from Lighthouse June Meeting



## Lighthouse Bonsai Society Board

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**Rita Rosenberg** - BSF Trustee  
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## Private Sessions

Mike Cartrett 561-586-2541  
Ed Trout 954-432-8208  
Mike Sullivan 954-432-1418  
Vlad Foursa 561-436-1501

## State, Nat'l, Int'l Links

Bonsai Societies of Florida  
[www.bonsai-bsf.com](http://www.bonsai-bsf.com)  
Bonsai Clubs International  
[www.bonsai-bci.com](http://www.bonsai-bci.com)  
The American Bonsai Society  
[www.absbonsai.org](http://www.absbonsai.org)  
The National Bonsai Foundation  
[www.bonsai-nbf.org](http://www.bonsai-nbf.org)

## Area Bonsai Meetings

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

Gold Coast Bonsai Society  
(Second Saturday of the Month)  
City of Sunrise Parks & Leisure Dept  
6800 Sunset Strip, Sunrise  
[www.goldcoastbonsai.com](http://www.goldcoastbonsai.com)

Wabi Sabi Workshop  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed at 7 pm)  
John Evan's Home  
708 Nathan Hale Rd, WPB  
[johnevans1111@mac.com](mailto:johnevans1111@mac.com)  
Everyone is welcome!

## Special Notice!

The Bonsai Society of the Palm Beaches has scheduled their annual bonsai auction for August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Mount Botanical Gardens auditorium at 531 North Military Trail in West Palm Beach. Preview will be at 6:15 and the sale will start at 7:00 pm. There will be both a live auction and a silent auction and there are sure to be plenty of bargains so don't miss this event! Bring cash or a check, credit cards will not be accepted for payment.

## Newsletter Editor

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