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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There seems to be a “growing” (no pun intended) movement towards the art of shohin size bonsai, both in the United States and many other countries. Thus our March meeting with artist Ted Matson was right in step. I have been fortunate to attend some of Ted’s programs, both here in Florida and in other parts of the country. To me, he is the ultimate perfectionist when it comes to explaining his approach to creating good bonsai, especially shohin or smaller. During his lecture for Gold Coast, he used the term, “the devil is in the detail”, and he certainly explained to us why it is so important to practice good technique in the creation of any size bonsai. Ted chose several of the pre-bonsai specimens, and gave some of our members a good start for nice

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Volume # 08 Issue # 04

NEXT MEETING

SCHEDULED:

Saturday, April 12, 2008

Village Civic Center
6800 Sunset Strip, Sunrise, FL
954-572-2287

PROGRAM:

April Program: ANNUAL AUCTION



shohins when they won them in the raffle afterwards, Thank you Ted for another great program!

OK guys, it's auction time. Sellers, get your items presentable.....Buyers, break open those piggy banks!

The auction has been advertised on the BSF website and will be in several newspapers, so we're expecting a big crowd and lots of fun !

For those who did not get a chance to read last month's newsletter I will repeat the following urgent request for help:

The National Bonsai Exhibit at The U.S. Arboretum needs our help to rally Congress to restore funding that was recently taken away. Please visit the NBF website at www.bonsai-nbf.org, and read the special announcement on the main page. If you can, write a letter of support as outlined, to further help this effort.

We have added a section to the newsletter giving links to our State, National and International bonsai organizations. Please consider joining these organizations that truly help to promote the art of bonsai in the USA., I Do!

Ed

CLUB BUSINESS: **PLEASE MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS !!**

Just a reminder that our annual auction is one of the ways we can increase our club treasury and enable the club to afford quality speakers to help further our knowledge of bonsai.

Please try to attend and purchase raw material or finished trees or supplies that you may have been wanting. This will help to support the club and make everyone a winner.

MARCH PHOTOS:

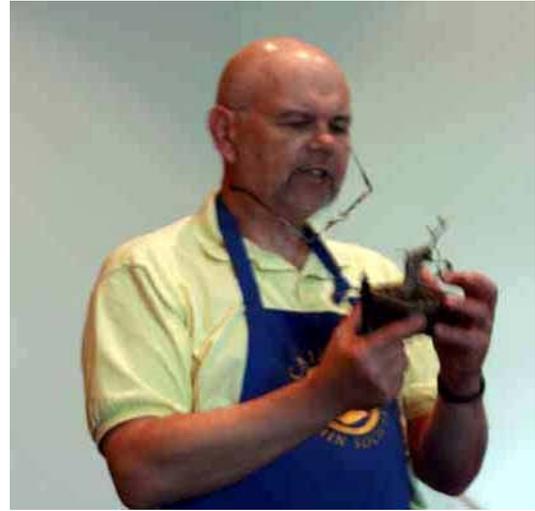
Photos by Larry Duke



Ted Madson our guest bonsai artist from California, discusses shohin bonsai .



Here Ted discusses selecting the front of this healthy Fukien Tea.



One of the five trees he worked on was this sturdy trunked Ficus.



Ted prunes an Elm shohin into the broom style.



Ted studies tree to determine design of the Juniper.



Ted showing how to use 2 pliers to twist this Pine.



Ted discusses future wiring and care.

CLUB INFORMATION:

By: Anita Lorenz

MEMBERSHIP

I'm glad to say that we have continued to attract new members through our advertising efforts as well as locate some of our previous members who had forgotten about us. Now they are rejoining.

It was exciting to see some individuals who came to the meeting because of the ad, win a tree. Hopefully, they will join and become involved. No one may join our club the day of the auction in order to sell.

AUCTION

I hope everyone is spreading the news about our upcoming Auction. More and more members are renewing their membership or signing up to auction materials. If you plan to auction items but have not received your letter space or materials, please call me after 6 p.m. at 954 989-4123 and leave a message. I will call you back and send out the materials you will need. You will not have time the day of the auction to be filling out cards, papers, and attaching the cards correctly to your merchandise.

A couple of things: No individual tables will be given out to place your merchandise on that day. All available tables will be commandeered for the Silent Auction, the Auctioneer, the Registration Desk, and the Cashiers. You must bring something to cover the floor area located in front of your letter (which will be taped on the wall) where you will set your merchandise down. If you wish to bring your own table, please do. At the last Auction we held, we didn't even have access to the entire left side of the room. Don't forget the paperwork of listed items you are auctioning, one page has to be given to the cashiers before the auction begins and you may keep one copy. This is very necessary in case of problems.

Please be there early. At 9 a.m., people are allowed in to see the merchandise, which means we all have to be ready ahead of time. I would appreciate every one who is also working with me, to be there by 8:30 a.m. We have a lot of setting up to do ahead of time.

Once the doors are opened to the public, please keep a watchful eye on your merchandise so nothing disappears into someone's pocket or heads out the door without a sold sticker on it.

No personal sales taking place in the parking lot. If you want to sell your trees, etc. or make deals to individuals, have them come to your house. We are there to raise money for our club.

And most importantly, I hope those of you who are planning to auction merchandise carefully read the informational paperwork given to you. The rules and directions need to be followed by everyone in order to allow our auction to run smoothly.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has signed up to participate and who is also working the auction. Remember, just because you're working, does not mean you can't bid. So, be certain to get your own bid number when you arrive. Waving your hand wildly in the air without a bid card number just won't do the trick.

BADGES

Please remember to wear your nametags, especially at the auction. It's like having security. Too many of us are not using them, and it's not easy for the newer members to speak with you. I am still taking names of people who need badges. Right now, I only have three names. If I receive at least two more, I will send in the order. A new badge can be ordered for \$7.00. If you wish to add your name to the list, you can call me at 954 989-4123.

DISPLAY

Thank you for bringing your trees to the Display area. Everyone loves to see what others are working on as well as the progress of the bonsai we have worked on. It's great to bring in workshop trees. No one is here to judge, only to help you expand your knowledge. We invite our beginners as well. Starting a tree properly is really important. The longer a tree goes with improper branch placements, wrong front, etc. the harder it becomes to make the necessary changes to bring out the best that tree has to offer. You may realize your tree needs something, but another practiced eye just may see the problem.

RAFFLE TABLE

We had a delightful, informative, and creative Shohin program with Ted Matson. Ted is a wealth of knowledge, and he had no problem imparting that information to his students as he carefully explained and worked on a number of various small trees. Afterward, all the trees, wired or not, were brought to our Raffle table. Needless to say, we had a great response by members and visitors for Raffle tickets. At least one of the visitors was a winner, and hopefully will now return to learn more about caring for her new acquisition.

All I know is that the older we become, the better looking those smaller sized trees becomes. And we must not forget that even though Shohin trees are small, they require the same amount of careful styling and work as their larger sized relatives. If only we could shrink our fingers down to make it easier to place the wire on those tiny branches.

I always remember the story told about the Japanese actor who was also a bonsai enthusiast. He only owned Shohin, or at that time the term used was Mame', sized trees. No matter where he was sent to act, he would just pack his tiny trees into shoe boxes and bring them along so he could always be able to care for them himself.

**DON'T FORGET THE
AUCTION !!!!**



AREA BONSAI EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Monday – March 31st, – 7:00 PM

Bonsai Society of Miami

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Old Cutler Road,
Coral Gables
Guest Speaker—**Michael Hagedorn**

Saturday – April 12th – 9:00 AM

Broward Bonsai Society, will be held at
Flamingo Gardens, 3750 South Flamingo Road, Davie
Classroom in rear

Saturday – April 12th, – 9:00 AM

Gold Coast Bonsai Society

Village Civic Center, 6800 Sunset Strip, Sunrise
AUCTION

Saturday – April 26th, – 9:30 AM

Lighthouse Bonsai Society

Boca Raton Community Center, 150 N.W. Crawford
Boulevard, Boca Raton

Friday–Monday – June 6–9

Bonsai Societies of Florida's Annual Convention

YOUR GOLD COAST BOARD

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STATE, NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL BONSAI 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