

Guidelines for Refinement of Most Ficus

By: Jim Smith

First defoliate the entire tree, then wire all branches that need to be moved, after they have been repositioned shorten them as needed. Make sure you remove all wires before they start to cut into the bark. Remove all terminal buds except those that you want to grow longer.

After new buds start to developed it will be necessary to remove all the unwanted buds that have sprouted on the trunk and branches, keep any new buds that are needed to complete the design. Study the design and remove any growth that is too long or growing outside the silhouette, keep in mind the triangular shape of the tree. Remove all the terminal bud except any that you wish to lengthen.

This new flush of growth will develop with smaller leaves and if pinching is continued on a regular schedule the leaves will remain small. Pinching is the removal of the young tender growth at the end of a branch, it may be just the terminal bud or it may be longer and include several leaves. Remove all leaves that are too large.

The position of a leaf on a branch determines the direction the bud will grow. There is a bud at the base of each leaf, if we pinch back to a leaf that is growing on the side of a branch the new bud that sprouts will grow on that side. It is therefore possible to direct the terminal growth on each branch in the direction we wish by pinching back to the leaf that is growing in that direction.

When pinching always keep in mind the shape you are trying to create and pinch accordingly. When looking at the branch from the top it should have a triangular appearance as in Fig. 1. The side view Fig. 2 will have a flat bottom with no branches

extending downward the top should be contoured so that the highest part of the silhouette is closest to the trunk. The end of the branch will taper to a point.

When working with small bonsai we sometimes need to shorten a branch to a leaf that is not growing in the direction we desire. This can be corrected by wiring the tip of the branch then twist until the leaf is in the direction you wish the terminal bud to grow. The wire must be removed shortly after the new bud starts to grow.

Surface roots and aerial roots that look too large and are not in proportion to the size of the trunk should be either reduced by carving or removed.

The trunk can be cleaned with a stiff brush, a smooth bark may be wiped with an oily rag to bring out the color of the bark, experiment to determine which works best.

The surface of the soil may be improved by adding new soil or moss. When adding moss contour the surface so that it does not look artificial. The surface should taper down to the edge of the pot so that it is just below the rim.

The pot should be clean but not necessarily look like new. An old rugged looking pot may compliment an old looking tree.



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Raffle Table

Do not forget to bring items for the raffle table, and do not forget to buy tickets to help support your club.

Show and Tell

Please be sure to bring a tree, stone, or accent plant to this month's meeting for show and tell.



Calendar of Events

December 13 at the St. Lucie Agriculture Center: The annual Christmas meeting for the Treasure Coast Bonsai Society will be held on Tuesday, December 13th, 2005 at the St. Lucie Ag Center beginning at 6:30 PM. The program will be the club planting of Ficus Salicifolia on a slab led by Jim Smith. Please bring a covered dish to share and lots of items for the raffle table.



Proposed slate of TCBS officers and committee members for 2006-07

President: Jim VanLandingham

Vice President: Richard Turner

Secretary: Barbara Poglitsch

Treasurer: Ray Malin

Board of Directors:

Jim Smith, Henry Robbins, Narelle Robbins, J.J. Turner, Ernie Johndrow, Charles Bevan, Tammy Malin, Stuart Denton

Newsletter: Charles Bevan

Membership Committee: Narelle Robbins

Hospitality Committee: Robert Small
Ann Warren

Raffle/Auction Committee: Joe Winkler & J.J. Turner

Heathcote Gardens Advisory Committee: Richard Turner, Jenny Glover, Joe Verone, Jim VanLandingham, Myron Redding

All positions are open for nominations and/or volunteers.

President's Message

We will finish this year with a flurry of activities. We need to elect new officers, pay our dues, plant a forest, eat good food and buy raffle tickets. We are in the process of planning the program schedule for next year beginning with Ben Oki in January and Ted Madsen in February. Any suggestions from members for programs would be appreciated. The Treasure Coast Bonsai Society will have an exciting new year filled with bonsai fun, information, education and a new president. Look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas Party.

The annual Heathcote Plant sale was a success, in spite of rainy weather. The Treasure Coast Bonsai Society display included beautiful trees from first time exhibitors Joe Verone, Henry and Narelle Robbins and Myron Redding. Thank you to Joe Verone, Ann Warren, Henry and Narelle Robbins, Jim Smith, Jim VanLandingham and Tammy Malin for manning the raffle table.

Pay your yearly dues at the Christmas Meeting. Narelle Robbins will take applications and money. December 31 is the deadline for payment.

Congratulations to our 2006 BSF officers and board members:

Tammy Malin - 1st Vice President / Membership

Henry Robbins - Treasurer / Trustee

Ray Malin - Education / Trustee

Narelle Robbins - Trustee

Larry Duke - Trustee

RHT

TREASURE COAST BONSAI SOCIETY



FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA USA

The Society meets the second Tuesday of each month at the St. Lucie County Agricultural Center on Picos Road at 7:00PM

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

9 DIGIT ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Family Membership: _____ @ \$25.00 (includes membership in Bonsai Societies of Florida with quarterly newsletter)

Single Membership: _____ @ \$20.00 (includes membership in Bonsai Societies of Florida with quarterly newsletter)

TCBS Society Memberships for Current BSF Members

Family Membership: _____ @ \$15.00 (does NOT include additional BSF Membership)

Single Membership _____ @ \$10.00 (does NOT include additional BSF Membership)

PAID BY: CASH/CHEQUE ON: _____

Posted on: _____ by _____

Or Mail to:

Narelle Robbins

108 Greenbriar Drive

Jupiter, FL. 33458-3551

TCBS Board of Directors

President

Richard Turner 772-569-5630

Vice President

Ernest Johndrow 772-286-8015

Past President

Stuart Denton 772-287-1203

Treasurer

Ray Malin 772-466-0054

Secretary

Barbara Pogliatch 772-287-5356

Treasure Coast Bonsai Society Contacts

Martin County

Robert Pinder.....772-418-7079

St. Lucie County

Sheila Hayes.....772-466-7576

Indian River County

Jim Smith.....772-562-5291

Brevard County

Jim VanLandingham.....772-569-9806

Newsletter

Charles Bevan.....772-778-4181

Email: charlesabevan@gmail.com



Treasure Coast Bonsai Society



723 24th Square
Vero Beach, FL
32962

**Come
Join Us!!**

TCBS Meetings take place at 7:00 P.M. on the second Tuesday of every month.

Meeting Place: St. Lucie Agriculture Center on Picos Road