

**TREASURE COAST BONSAI SOCIETY
NOVEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim Van Landingham

Wow!!!!!! What a great picnic and auction at the fourth Sunday Under the Oaks!!!! Ray says that we made \$2195. What a great turn out and good participation by all. Belinda and Tom are to be congratulated on the tremendously good chili!!!! Tammy and Ray for keeping the numbers straight and Mike Cartrett for doing the auctioneer duties. Seems as tho everyone came to buy plants. It was a perfect day for bonsai. It was great to have Jim and Doug taking care of business at their nursery. Some of the folks actually got some plants worked on. I just enjoyed myself just like a lot of other folks. This is what "bonsai fun" is all about.

I will get started soon on getting our programs sorted out for next year. I appreciate the enthusiasm that everyone showed in voting for their choices for programs next year. It looks like a slate of good activity to make another great year of bonsai for the club. If you happen to have any other ideas, let me know so I can factor them into the year.

I would like to thank Nancy Leatzow for donating her plants and pots to the club. We put some of them in the raffle at the last meeting and also had a couple of them in the auction with Sheila's plants. Nancy is moving to Tallahassee to be closer to her family. Nancy, thanks and we will miss you!!!!

Dorothy Schmitz out did herself on the juniper that she styled at our last meeting. I think that the job she did was "convention quality" rather than a simple demo for a club. The finished tree was beautiful and Bill Zeigler won it.....I had stuffed the raffle can with tickets, hoping to win it!! Dorothy, thanks for the outstanding job and we are looking forward to being in Ft. Myers on November 10 & 11 for the club show.

MALIN'S DO EPCOT PHOTO SHOOT FOR NOVEMBER PROGRAM

By Jim Van Landingham

Be sure to bring your EPCOT candidate trees to this month's meeting to be photographed. Tammy and Ray will be taking pictures of the trees so members can submit them before December 31 to Disney. The EPCOT experience is a lot of fun. Jim Smith has displayed trees for the last 13 years at EPCOT, so if you have questions, he is a good prospect to answer them. Disney puts you up in one of their hotels for drop off and pickup. They have a meal allowance and will

pay for mileage on your car.....it really is a good deal. You also get to drive to the Japanese and Chinese pavilions to drop off and pick up your trees. You will be able to meet and chat with the other folks displaying trees from all over the state. It is quite something for me to do this every year.

I am sure that the Malin's will be glad to take a picture of your best tree, even if you don't submit it to EPCOT. So bring your trees and let's have some fun!!

BONSAI PHOTOGRAPHY

By Ray Malin

Bonsai in many ways is one of the easiest subjects to photograph. Bonsai is essentially portrait photography. You are taking a static shot in which the subject is not moving and where you can control the lighting on the subject, just like shooting a portrait of a person. In bonsai photography, you have the advantage of moving the subject around to show it's best side, you can dress (pot) the subject to look it's best (no loud shirts) and grooming the subject is permissible (no wondering who cut the subject's hair).

However, like anything else, bonsai photography has its pitfalls. Many species have very shiny leaves, such as ficus, dwarf jade, and others. You have to be careful in your lighting to avoid glare and harsh reflections with these particular plants. Focus, particularly, auto focus in bonsai can be difficult. In human portrait photography the standard practice is to focus on the nearest eye, which will give the most pleasing result.

In bonsai photography, it is better to set your focus on the trunk line, lock the focus, then recompose and take the photograph.

Another thing to keep in mind in photographing bonsai is the depth of field or zone of sharpness of the subject. Human portrait photography often uses a very shallow depth of field or zone of sharpness to very good effect. But, with bonsai, you really want to see as much as possible of the tree in focus, particularly a tree with well-defined pads or layers. This will involve opening your depth of field to include more of the subject front to back. This may present a problem with your background. In portraiture you usually want to isolate your subject from the background as much as possible. With bonsai, you are trying to present a 3-D look to the tree and still isolate it from the background. This can be somewhat more difficult. There are several ways of doing this to good effect. You may move the bonsai farther from the background, to blur the background more. You can use a telephoto lens (which has the effect of fore shorting the foreground and blurring the background) and move farther from the subject. Or a combination of several techniques to achieve the effect you want.

Don't be afraid to experiment. Look thru Bonsai magazines and books at the photos presented in them. Look at them AS photographs, not bonsai. Check the background, check the lighting, check the composition. See which photos you like best, then try to duplicate them.

HEATHCOTE PLANT SALE ON NOVEMBER 18 &19

By Jim Van Landingham

The Plant Sale will be on Saturday and Sunday after our regular meeting on November 14. Ann Warren and Joe Verone will be coordinating the event this year, so come out and support them. This is the Club's only event of the year for us to "show our stuff". It is a fun two days, lots of plants for sale and an opportunity to get new members. In the past few years, the Club has raffled a blooming bougainvillea on both days and has made a considerable amount of money for the Club. I'm sure we will be doing this again this year. Ann and Joe will review the plans for the show at the November meeting.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

By Jim Van Landingham

December 12	Group Forest Planting & Covered Dish Dinner	Jim Van Landingham
January 11 (Thur)	Ben Oki Work Shop	Bill Zeigler