

MAY NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim Van Landingham



Pictured are various TCBS Members at the Denton Nursery

Another month of bonsai fun!!!! The Club members went to the Denton's Nursery in Palm City and they also made a bus trip to Miami Tropical Bonsai in Miami. Toby Diaz did a 50/50 workshop for us and all participants were pleased with his work. Toby takes a different approach to bonsai than what are usually exposed to, or I think so. He tries to develop a good looking tree for "right now" as opposed to taking a couple of years to develop a tree. This requires a lot of wiring and Toby does a good wiring job. It was fun for me to watch him work. (By the way, I will be doing a program for him in August; payback!) "Bonsai Under the Oaks" was a big hit this month. Remember that you can bring your plants in and get expert advice, from Jim, on your plants! Ed Trout will be making a visit to our club in May. It is always fun to see Ed work. He is one of the best bonsai artists in Florida, so be sure to make the meeting.

It's time to take a look at your plants and make sure they are healthy. Our growing season is in full swing. It has felt like summer the past couple of days and the plants at the nursery are growing like crazy. With the increase in heat, it is a good time to check your plants to see how they are contending with the heat. Now is a good time to repot your tropicals. This usually wards off problems in the future. Fresh soil and fertilizer allows the plant to be all that they can be. At Jim's nursery we have a lot of plants to monitor and now and then we will find a weak plant. Repotting this plant usually gives it a new lease on life and away it goes.

I get asked, a lot, "How do you keep the plants so healthy?". From my perspective it is simple for tropicals.

- 1) Plenty of sun.
- 2) Plenty of water (with the right balance of soil, water and sun).
- 3) Well draining soil.
- 4) Plenty of fertilizer (we are growing trunks, so we use 24 - 5 - 10 time release).

Try it and talk to Jim and I if it doesn't work!

Ed Trout to Visit May 9 by Jim Van Landingham

Ed Trout will be our guest speaker for our regular meeting. He will be bringing a \$150 tree to do a demo and the tree will be raffled off when he completes it. This tree along with the box of pots should make for an interesting raffle.

Ed always does a great job. He is one of the best artist in Florida and has trees on display at EPCOT. He is past President of BSF and is on the board of Bonsai Clubs International. He has done a tremendous job of promoting Florida bonsai around the world. In addition to being an outstanding bonsai artist, Ed is a tremendous person. Make sure that you take the opportunity to get to know Ed on his visit with us. If you have bonsai problems, he will take the time to help you. So don't be bashful.

When I ask Ed to visit our Club, he almost always agrees. I think that it has something to do with the fact that his Mom lives right here in Vero. She supports Ed's bonsai interests and is quite proud of him; so am !!!!

Make sure you that you take advantage of this opportunity to learn from one of Florida's best. Be there!!!!

SATURDAY AT THE DENTON'S NURSERY
BY Jim Van Landingham



Pictured is Alan Carver at the Denton Nursery

Saturday, April 22nd, club members descended upon the Denton Nursery. Sylvia, Stuart and the Boys met everyone and made us feel welcome. The setting is very tropical and it is a plant and animal lovers paradise. We toured the grounds and had lunch; burgers and barbequed chicken with the trimmings. We all ate like locust until it was almost all gone; very good food!!!! Alan Carver did a program on Bazilian raintrees. He brought his late Grandfather's (Jim Moody) famous raintree to critique, along with four raintrees that he put in the raffle. For me, it was a joy to see Alan talk about his Grandpa and the things that he had learned from Jim. Alan has developed into a great speaker. For those of you that haven't seen Alan, he will be at the BSF Convention in Gainesville over Memorial Day Weekend. After the demo, Stuart added trees to the raffle table and everyone brought home a tree. What a great way to end the day.

From a personal standpoint, I had a great day with my two year old grandson. He enjoyed the cows, donkeys, birds, chickens, geese, people and even took a header into one of the lily pools. He had fun!!!

A tremendous "thank you" goes to the Denton Family for being outstanding hosts. We all had a great time.

MEMBERS DROP OFF PLANTS AT EPCOT by Jim Van Landingham



Joe Winkler at Epcot

Friday morning, April 21, found about 20 cars with 29 bonsai trees in them ready to depart for the Japanese and Chinese Pavilions at EPCOT. Jim Smith has displayed trees at EPCOT's "Garden and Flower" Show for all 13 years that they have had bonsai on display. So for him, it was not a big deal, but for the "first timers" it was a blast of excitement!!!! I still get excited when I go over there. Just seeing all of the folks that are displaying trees with the excitement in their eyes does a heart good. They are so proud of their trees and want to see how they "stack up" against the other trees. This year's group of trees were outstanding. I think that we are getting better!!

From our Club, we had Joe Winkler, Charles Bevan, Jim Smith and myself displaying trees. Our neighbors to the north, Brevard had seven folks with trees. One of my early objectives was to help improve the quality of bonsai on the Central East Coast of Florida. Between Brevard and TCBS, we had 15 of the 29 trees on display. Congratulations to ALL!!!!

Tom Zane usually makes a trip to EPCOT a few days after the plant setup and takes photos of the plants and posts them on the BSF Website (bonsai-bsf.com). So take a look and enjoy all of the trees on display.

And yes, we had to stay at the Polynesian Hotel on Thursday nite (the minimum room rate this time of year is \$325). We had a group dinner on Thursday nite with some of the folks displaying trees. It was fun to see old friends.

We have two programs this year, being presented by the Malin's, which will concentrate on getting good photos of your trees for entry into EPCOT next year. The first program will be on general photography and the second program will be one where you can bring in your tree and have it photographed for entry into the competition. EPCOT takes a look at the photos and selects the ones that they would like to have displayed. EPCOT puts you up in one of the Disney Hotels for two nites; for drop off and pickup of the plants. They pay mileage, tolls and give you \$65 for food for drop off and pickup. So, the cost to you for having a good time should cost you nothing. What a deal!!!!
