

Clippings



The newsletter of the
Treasure Coast Bonsai Society

March, 2007Tom Kehoe, editor

President's Message

by Jim Vanlandingham

For those of you that missed last month's meeting, I am proud to announce that the members of the TCBS will be providing 16 of the 30 trees that will be displayed at EPCOT this year. Boy, that just blew me away when I got the list of trees that had been selected.

We started, about five years ago, to concentrate on getting our trees ready for EPCOT display. It is very heartening for me to see a dream come true. This is quite a group accomplishment for us.

The Malins, Ray and Tammy, deserve a lot of credit for this year's showing. They did two programs for us on bonsai photography that helped us tremendously in getting so many trees selected for display. We are really submitting a photo to be selected; not a tree.

Thanks again to Ray and Tammy for their efforts. Now we need to make sure that our trees are "looking good" for their April 5th drop off at EPCOT.

If you have questions, bring

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your trees to the March meeting or to the Fourth Sunday Under the Oaks at Jim Smith's nursery. I look forward to seeing all of the trees on stands at EPCOT; "looking good". Way to go Club!!!!

Our Club will be participating in the Stuart Flower Show on March 31 and April 1.

Barbara Poglitsch will be coordinating the Club's efforts at this event. We will have a bonsai display both days, so Barbara will need support with plants and set up.

She can be reached at, (772) 287-5356 or barbarp3@bellsouth.net. Let's pitch in and make a great showing for the Club. We could get new club members out of this effort. Joe Verone will also be doing a program on one of the days.

I would like to mention that Joe has been doing a great job supporting the Club's efforts. He recently helped Richard Turner and I do a workshop at Heath-

cote. The Club is doing a lot of outreach, so get involved and help the Club grow.

Spring is upon us, so make sure that your deciduous trees get repotted before buds start showing up, which will be happening soon.

Also it happens to be an optimum time to repot tropical trees. The new growth is happening right now on these trees, so fresh soil will insure that you get maximum performance out of your trees.

The BSF Convention is coming up very soon, June 8, 9 & 10. Now is the time to register and sign up for workshops. We need to get our act together relative to Club Nite, the individual competition (\$1000 award) and the scholarship competition for the younger folks. All of these activities make for a fun time at the convention. Jump in and get involved and have some fun.

Winners listed on page 8.

-- A favorite tree --

Development of a Red Cedar

By Patrick Giacobbe

I found this tree at a plant nursery in Stuart, FL, that is no longer in business. I think the name was "Green Please." They had a section where they kept their junk trees that was probably between a quarter- and a half-acre of stuff that bonsai nuts would love.

I saw these bushes that were six or eight feet tall, tied to posts to keep them from falling over. They were leggy with brown-outs and the color was pale. When I got into them, they had heavy trunks and good roots. What more do you need? I made my choice and gave the man his money.

This tree was in a 15- or 20-gallon nursery container in Aug. 2003. It was a twin-trunk, about eight feet tall. The best trunk was chosen for its taper and the other removed, along with the top and all unnecessary branches. A new apex was formed by wiring and bending up a small branch. The heavy left and right branches were maintained to keep the sap flowing.

They would be removed at a later time. The tree was potted in a brown, unglazed, 18 1/2" X 14 1/2" X 5" Japanese pot on Dec. 4, 2004. Although this tree is called a cedar, the Eastern Red Cedar is not a true member of the genus *Cedrus*, but actually a variety of juniper. Some botanists do not separate *Juniperus virginiana* from *J. Silicicola*, the Southern Red Cedar. The foliage is bright green to dark green and is native to the east coast of the USA.

Whenever there is an action there is a reaction. Removing the second trunk caused all the growth along the sap line on that side of the tree to die, along with the roots on that side. The new apex that was brought up in the front is getting its nourishment from the roots in the front of the tree.

The sap line should always be kept in mind when pruning branches from the trunk. When cutting a heavy lower branch, you must consider the effect it will have on the roots. Going slow is always a good idea. Jin, Shari and Uro (hollows in the trunk) are in progress. The back of this tree might be the front one day. With bonsai things never stay the same.



12/4/04

The front, above, and back, below.





3/15/05

The tree was shortened again and a new apex was formed by bring up a small top branch. The first branch was pretty long and leggy. Fortunately a sprout grew under the main branch, about an inch from the trunk.

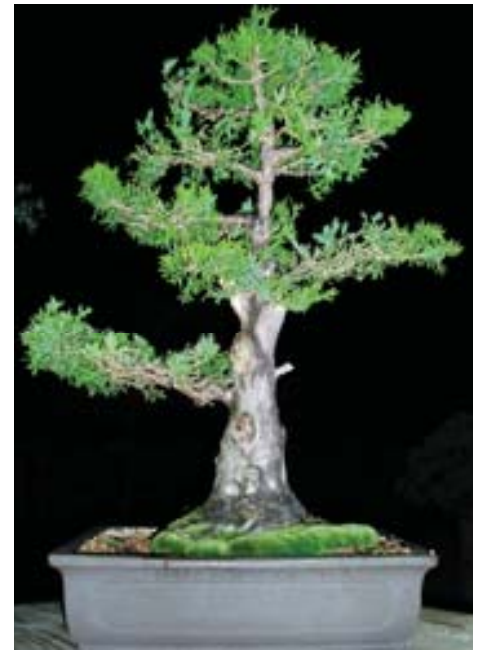
The sprout was encouraged to grow and at the right time, the main part of the branch was cut off. The sprout then received all the energy from the sap flow, and grew very fast. The tree was then left to grow, gain strength and settle in.



12/4/05

As you can see, the first branch is growing very well. A new front branch has started to grow just above the heavy branch on the right, so the heavy, unnecessary, right branch was removed.

The heavy, unnecessary, left branch will be removed later.



1/13/06

The left branch had been removed. It had been left on for the front branch to get all the benefit from the sap flow that it was drawing.

The position of the tree in the pot was moved to the right a little.

I made sure I kept up with the normal maintenance for junipers, pinching new buds and trimming branches to keep them compact.

I pot my bonsai solely in Turface. This means the tree is completely dependent on me for nutrition.

My routine is simple. I always keep my trees in full sun and water aggressively every day – twice a day in the summer.

I water the whole tree: foliage, trunk, soil, pot and surrounding area. I drench the tree so

that water pours out of the drain holes. Junipers love a lot of water

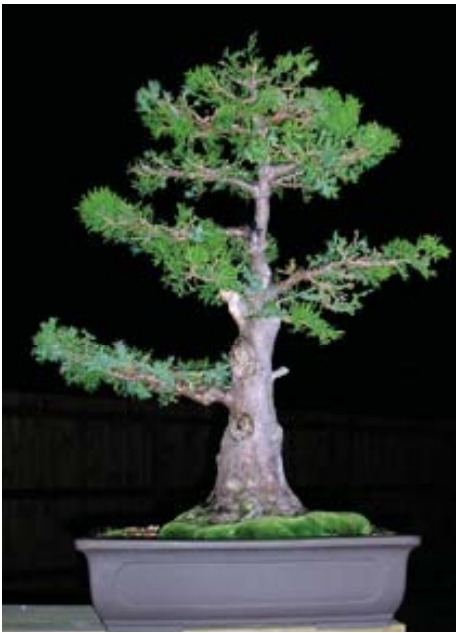
I feed aggressively – every week, all year, at one-quarter strength.

I give lots of nitrogen in the growing season for the foliage (lots of foliage means lots of roots) and lots of phosphate in the so-called non-growing sea-

son to strengthen the roots.

CAUTION: For this routine to work, you must have very freely draining soil, or you could lose the tree. But this is what works for me.

It might not work for you. Bonsai is an art and what one artist uses, another will frown upon. One needs to find their own rhythm.



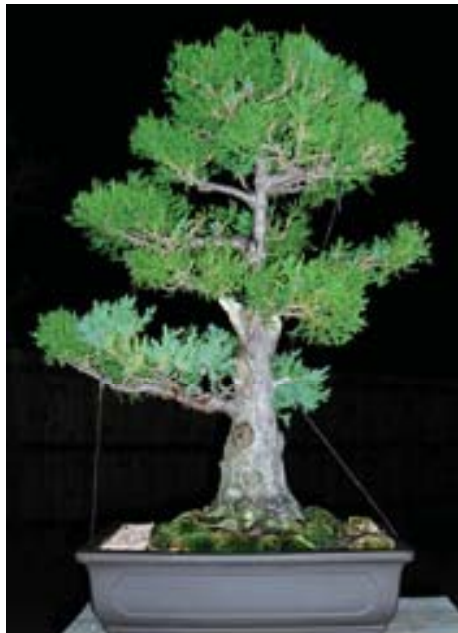
3/30/06

All is growing well. Talk about growing well: While at the club meeting, when we were having our tree photos taken for the Ep-cot show, I was chatting with my friend, Barbara Poglitsch. She reminded me that moss robs the tree of nutrients and can prevent water from penetrating to the tree's roots.

A little side bar; In the '80's I did a little art work for her nursery business and a little personal art work also. Way back then, she had trees in her collection that you would give your left, well, never mind. She was a lady then and still is. She knows bonsai that's for sure. (I get side-tracked too easy).

It's a good idea to keep a photographic journal of your trees and mark your pots with a permanent marker (on the inside) for security reasons.

Talking about security: While walking through my friend Robert Pinder's nursery, we were talking about critters, the four-legged kind, getting to the trees.



10/26/06

The tree is doing well. It is ready for a major rewiring and branch arrangement.

Oh yes, the moss: Some people like it and some don't. I can take it or leave it. It seems to grow naturally on my trees, so I leave it until it gets out of hand, then pull it off.

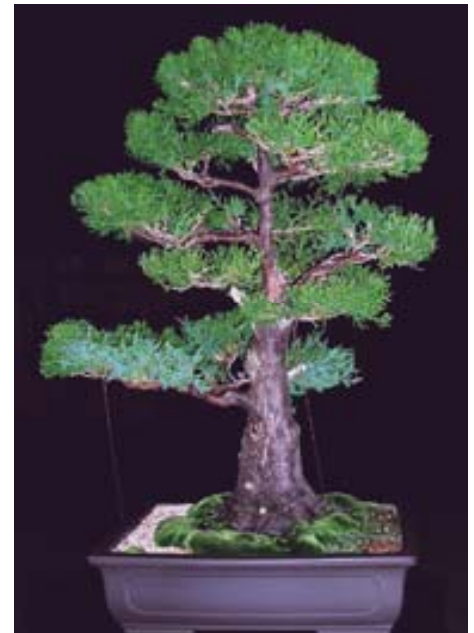
But when I pulled it off on the right side of this juniper, there were hairlike roots growing right underneath.

So I put the moss back and let the roots get a little thicker. Then I removed it and covered the roots with Turface. Guess what? It's growing back.

Short of trying the usual ugly things, we were stumped.

Well, down the road a piece Robert asked me what I did to get the lime build-up off the pot for a show. I told him I used mineral oil, the kind you get at the pharmacy. He tried it and it worked.

But guess what, he informed me



11/13/06

Height: 29" from the top of pot; 34' including pot

Width: 23"

Depth: 17"

Container: Japanese brown unglazed 18 1/2" X 14 1/2" X 5"

Style: Formal upright

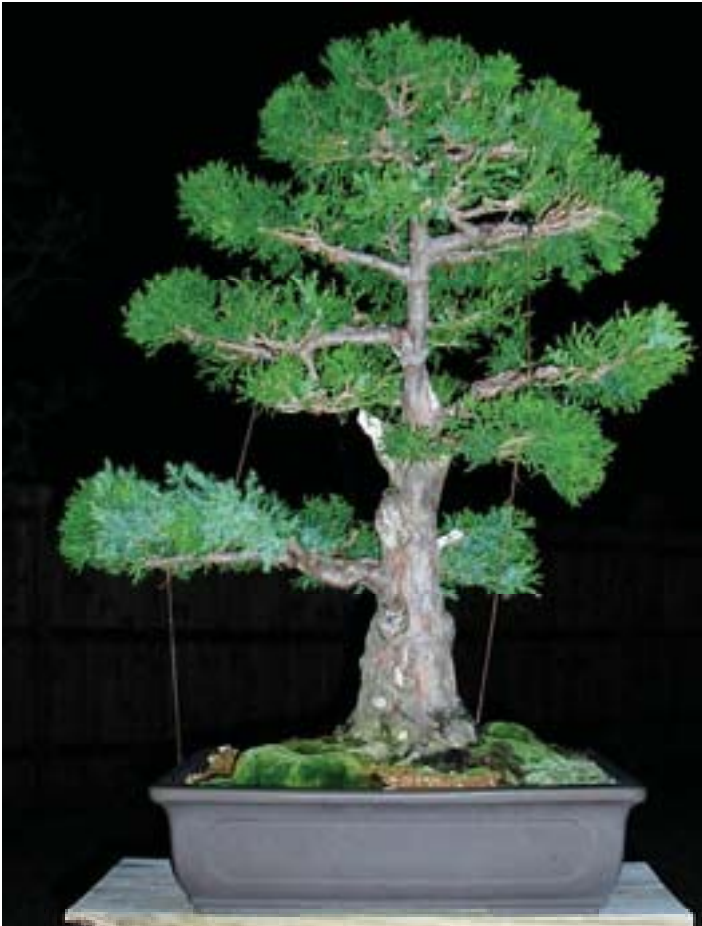
Species: Eastern Red Cedar (Juniperus virginiana)

Weight: 54 pounds

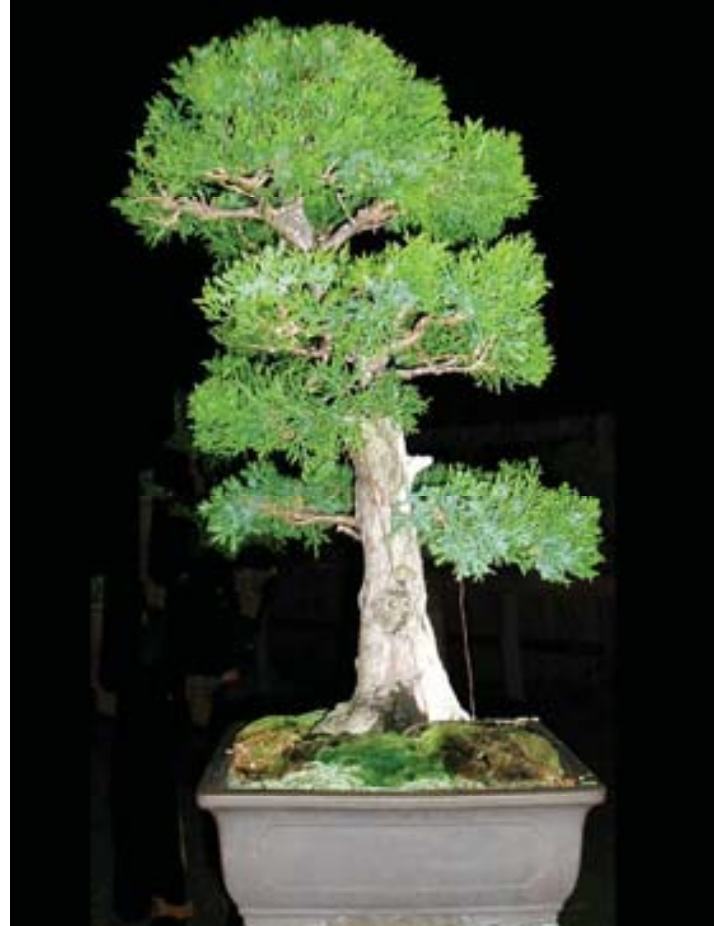
it was a quinella.

The critters stayed away and the pots looked great. If you ever tasted mineral oil, you would understand.

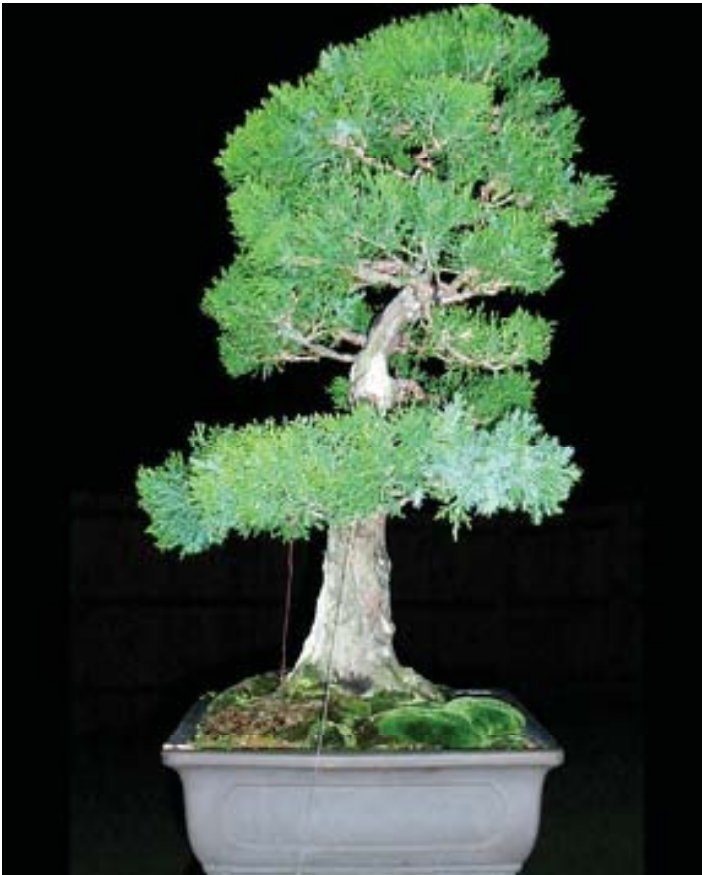
It also works well on the trunk and branches to bring out the color for a show.



2/6/07 Front



2/6/07 Right



2/6/07 Left



2/6/07 Back

Raising Black pines in Florida

By Tom Kehoe

One of the tricks to working with Black Pine in Florida, says Rob Kempinski, is getting the seasonal chores straight.

Unlike many tropicals, Black Pines have definite, often short, seasons during which you should pluck, trim and work on roots.

Kempinski, a Melbourne man who has become well know for his work with a species most consider difficult in Florida, was last month's guest speaker.

"In Florida, pines hardly ever go dormant," Rob told a packed house at the February meeting of the Treasure Coast Bonsai Society. "Our pines make candles year round."

In Florida, Kempinski said, pines go dormant only briefly in December. The upside of that, he said, is rapid growth and accelerated development. The downside is that there's not a lot of time or tasks that are best undertaken when the tree is dormant.

Kempinski said the best method for propigating Back Pines, *Pinus Thunbergii*, is starting from seed.

"I've rooted the candles," noted Jim Smith.

"That's because you're a master," Kempinski quipped. "Mere mortals can't do that."

Kempinski said that there are three stages to a Pine's development. In stage one, nursery stock, you focus on growing the trunk and nebari.

In stage two, prebonsai, you focus on growing and refining the branches, principally through proper candle trimming.



Tom Kehoe, photos

Rob Kempinski offers Bill Ziegler some advice on improving his Black Pine.

In the final stage, you focus on ramification and reduction of needle size.

Some tips for growing Black Pines:

- Pines are apically dominant, so you can selectively pluck more needles from the top than from the lower branches to balance the trees energy.

- Because of our long growing season, you can pluck needles twice each year, in August and the end of December.

- The later in the year that you prune the candles, the smaller the needles will be.

- Pines in Florida are ver sensitive to being bare-rooted. If you have to bare-root a tree, do only half of it in one season.

- Pines like water, but they have to dry out in between waterings. To ensure good drainage, a good



One of Rob Kempinski's Black Pine bonsai, showing the needle reduction characteristic of the third phase of development.

soil mixture is one-third each lava, Turface and Akadama.

Veneer grafting a pine



Tom Kehoe, photos

Rob Kempinski recommends veneer grafting as being more reliable than thread grafting in Black Pines. It's not as difficult as you might think.

Start with a scion, above, ideally from the same tree. Make two cuts across the base, one at a 45, and the other at a 30 angle.

Carefully make an incision in the trunk at the desired spot.

Next, gently insert the scion into the incision, top right, and try to line up the cambium between the scion and the trunk.

Carefully wrap with rice-paper tape (called BuddyTape) to hold the scion in place, center right.

Finally, seal the edges with grafting paste, bottom right.



This is your newsletter

By Tom Kehoe

We need you!

Well actually, we need your stuff: Your stories, photos, memories and information about the bonsai scene in Florida.

- Did you do something interesting related to bonsai?
- Did you read a new book on bonsai you could review?
- Do you have a favorite tree that you can tell about?
- Did you participate in an interesting workshop?
- Do you have a question that one of our experts can help answer?

If the answer is "yes," we need to hear from you. We are constantly looking for material for future editions, and can help edit or arrange your material. Email editor Tom Kehoe, tkehoe@cfl.rr.com, with any questions or contributions.



Portia Chavonelle, photo

He does do junipers! Jim might be famous for his ficus, but he knows a thing or two about junipers, as well, as he demonstrated at the February "Bonsai Under the Oaks."

16 club trees chosen for Epcot display

Here are the club members who had trees chosen for the Epcot Display:

- Richard & JJ Turner, Bougainvillea
- Richard & JJ Turner, Fukien Tea
- Rob Kempinski, Ficus Salicaria
- Rob Kempinski, Black Pine
- Pat Giacobbe, Eastern Red Cedar
- Patrick Giacobbe, Bucida Spinosa
- Robert Pinder, Dwarf Youpon Holly
- Jim Vanlandingham, Bald Cypress

- Jim Vanlandingham, Bunjin Cypress
- Charles Bevan, Bougainvillea
- Gene Callahan, Ficus Natalensis,
- Carla Winkler, Ficus Salicaria
- Joe Verone, Green Island Ficus
- Jim Smith, Parsley Aralia
- Jim Smith Ficus Salicaria
- Jim Smith, Portulacaria Afra

Foursa tackles Podocarpus at March meeting

by Jim Vanlandingham

Vlad Foursa is very active in bonsai in Florida. I was going to list all of his activities with BSF, but was unable to bring up the BSF Website.

This means that we will have to wait until the meeting to catch up on what Vlad has been up to with BSF and with bonsai.

Coming Up

Date	Program	Artist/Venue	Host
3/11	Open House	Dragon Tree Bonsai	R. Pinder
3/13	Demo	Vlad Foursa	
3/25	Study Group	DuraStone Nursery	Jim Smith
3/31-4/1	Club Display	Stuart Flower Show	Barbara Poglitsch
4/10	Demonstration	Ed Trout	JJ & Richard Turner
4/22	Study Group	DuraStone Nursery	Jim Smith
5/8	Demonstration	Toby Diaz	
9/11	Demonstration	Ernie Fernandez	JJ & Richard Turner

He does a great demonstration with podocarpus and will find a way to demonstrate his carving skills before he finishes with the tree that he will be working on, I'm sure.

We have selected a tree that you

will be pleased to win in the auction after Vlad finishes with his creation.

So, don't miss this opportunity to see one of Florida's leading bonsai artists in action. Be there!