

Newsletter

A monthly newsletter for those who enjoy bonsai

Issue Spring 2008

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President's Corner

I suppose it's time for a newsletter (Sigh).

I'm sorry for the delay but it's been a hectic few months for me. Now that all of that seems to be behind me let me see if I can get things going again. I have a plan in place to try to bring this newsletter back more frequently than it currently published. If all goes well it will be published bimonthly with plenty of content.

Speaking of content I am happy to present you with a great article on beginning bonsai this month. The article was written by Brent Walston of Evergreen Gardenworks. George, Christy and I visited Brent last October and saw his operation first hand. I believe Brent may run the most diverse bonsai material nursery in the US. His selection is geared just to bonsai, specializing in rare material. His larger material is fantastic and after 15 to 20 years of work it's just becoming available.

In the next issue of the newsletter look to see another great article by Brent Walston of Evergreen Gardenworks as well as plenty of photos from recent events. We will also have mini book reviews that hopefully will guide you on some "must have" bonsai books.

We are on our third year as a bonsai society. It's refreshing to see new faces at the meetings and to also see a steady list of new members joining. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the new (and old) members and ask for suggestions on content for the newsletter. John Petterson has been gracious to provide us with material over the past year (thanks John!) but we need more items to fill these pages. What would you like to see here?

Try not to miss our next meeting on April 17. Our special guest will be none other than Mary Madison, Florida's own Buttonwood Queen! Named the "Buttonwood Queen" by fellow artist Ben Oki,

Mary works on a number of tropical plants but is most known for her buttonwoods and cypress creations. She is a fascinating speaker and wonderful instructor. Not only does Mary do a great deal of guest lectures she also spends much of her time collecting trees. Much of her collecting trips take her to swamps infested with snakes and alligators.

A true collector would never let something as trivial as a reptile come between them and a prized tree. It's an honor to have Mary come and present a program on buttonwoods.



Words of wisdom:

There is no need to grow unnecessary plants. Pull weeds as and when you find them growing in your containers.

I hope to see all of you at our next meeting as well as our bring your own tree workshop at Cee Jay on April 26.

Charlie

A Beginner's First Bonsai

by Brent Walston



Introduction

Don't 'buy a bonsai'. That is a poor way to begin this fascinating hobby and usually doomed to failure. Bonsai is not about 'owning' bonsai plants, but rather the enjoyment of caring for them and especially creating them.

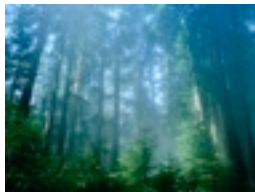
One learns the [basics of bonsai](#) best by creating them, even your first one. Without these basics, it is unreasonable to expect that someone could keep one alive, let alone maintaining it as art. There is also the cost factor. Any 'real' bonsai will take at least five years of development to be convincing. To buy such a bonsai would cost several hundred dollars. Of course you can find 'mall bonsai' everywhere, even grocery stores. These are junk, they are not bonsai. A two year old juniper cutting plunked unceremoniously into a bonsai pot is not bonsai. It is the care and training that makes bonsai; these plants have none.

This article can be viewed in it's entirety at Brent's web site. [Here](#) is a link to this article.

Brent Walston is the owner and operator of Evergreen Gardenworks. Evergreen Gardenworks was started by Susie and Brent in 1989 to propagate and grow rare and unusual plants for bonsai and landscape use. They soon discovered that the population base in the remote beautiful Ukiah valley was much too small to support an operation of this type. This led to the start of their mail order operation in 1994. As Brent puts it "We are a very small company and grow all of our own plants in limited quantities. We want to stay this way. At present we can offer superior customer service and advice because of our size, and we hope that this never changes". He can be reached at his web site at <http://www.evergreengardenworks.com>. A free plant price list is available if you write Brent at the following address:

Evergreen Gardenworks
PO Box 537
Kelseyville CA 95451

We appreciate him allowing us to reproduce this article in our newsletter. You are encouraged to visit Brent's site as he has made a wealth of information available to all of us in his article section.



Meetings

Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the First United Methodist Church, located at 72 Lake Morton Drive in Room D3. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM and conclude around 9:00 PM.

Member bonsai workshops are the second Saturday after the meeting from 10:00 AM until the last person leaves and are located at Cee Jay Nursery, 4225 Lake Hancock Road. Bring a tree to work on or simply show up to help other members.

New Members

Judith Richter, Lee Steele, Hank Jennings and Butch Goosby are our recent new members.

Thanks to all of the new members that have joined. We appreciate your membership and help in making the BSL bigger and better. We look forward to helping you grow and sharing your bonsai experiences. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

About the BSL

Officers and Board Members

Charlie Swedberg — President
John Petterson — Vice President
Cindy Petterson — Treasurer and Membership Chairman
Christy Herringshaw — Secretary
George Herringshaw — Board Member
John DiTomo — Board Member
Brent Burris — Board Member
Pete DiNunzio — Member Workshop Chairperson



Events

April 17 - Mary Madison, buttonwood demo and critique.

April 26 - Club workshop at Cee Jay Nursery or road trip to Mike Rogers' nursery in DeLand.

May 8 - Club exhibit at GOSH! in Lake Miriam Plaza.

May 15 - Bring your own tree workshop at Charlie's warehouse (contact Charlie for directions 660-3959).

May 24 - Club workshop at Cee Jay Nursery.

June 6-9 - BSF state convention in Cape Canaveral.

June 19 - Hector Morales, root over rock demo and general tree critique.

June 28 - Club workshop at Cee Jay Nursery.

July 12 - Road trip to Jim Smiths' nursery in Vero Beach.

July 17 - Bring your own tree workshop at Charlie's warehouse (contact Charlie for directions 660-3959).

July 26 - Club workshop at Cee Jay Nursery.

August 21 - Erik Wigert, tropical demo. Come early for tool, supplies and plant sale in parking lot.

August 30 - Club workshop at Cee Jay Nursery.

September 18 - Bring your own tree workshop at Charlie's warehouse (contact Charlie for directions 660-3959).

September 27 - Club workshop at Cee Jay Nursery.

October 16 - Your best dead tree contest.

October 18 - Exhibit at Hollis Gardens.

October 25 - Club workshop at Cee Jay Nursery.

November 20 - Club auction at Charlie's warehouse.