



MAY 2010

Morning All,

Well we are in for a very interesting and an exceptionally helpful meeting to those members who intend to bring their trees on Saturday for Philip Kotze to work on. Philip has so much knowledge which he shares so freely. He is retired, but certainly not from Bonsai, his trees are always in pristine condition and a visit to his home compares with any leading bonsai exhibition. Let's take full advantage of his visit to our club.

The dormant season is finally upon us, (my husband says the grass has stopped growing), Philip will also cover the issue of "Winter Care" and what should take place during Winter and how to care for the trees. He will base his talk on the correct pruning of figs. Although growth does slow down during winter, the figs are evergreen and grow throughout the year, so pruning is vital should you want to keep the foliage small and close to the trunk. Thank you to Jerry and Barbara for opening their home to us once again.

There is very interesting information on figs in a newsletter received from the Yoroshika Bonsai Club so I decided to included an abbreviated version for your information.

"The fig family is found world wide and can be developed into bonsai in a relatively short time. Figs are unique and have:-

- A strong vigorous root system, and graft easily
- The ability of fusing thick branches as well as roots, and the leaves minimize fairly quickly
- Develop aerial roots
- Branches are pliable and easy to bend and train
- Fast growers and Pest resistant
- Can tolerate low light conditions - one of the best species for indoor cultivation
- Will adapt to various climatic conditions, and tolerate most soil types.
- Enjoy warm humid conditions BUT ARE NOT frost resistant and will need protection during cold temperatures

Aerial Roots can add to the design of a tree and grow faster than the trunk. The aerial roots generally form on the trunk and underneath the main primary branches. These roots are reddish pink and very brittle - don't touch them! The young roots grow quickly and will soon reach the soil. As soon as they are established they will turn brown and can now be handled with confidence and directed into desired positions. Caution should be taken when a number of these aerial roots form on a branch as reverse taper could occur. However, there are ways to create aerial roots should you want them in certain positions.

As these trees have the ability to fuse when tied together tightly limiting the movement between them, so much can be achieved. Thicker trunks, branches and even roots can be developed. Figs do well with defoliation which will reduce leaf size and improve fine twigging.

Tips of defoliation. Cut leaves with sharp scissors as pulling them off can tear into the stem and damage the dormant buds. The best time is during the active growing season, and do not fertilize until the new set of leaves have hardened off +/- 4 - 6 weeks. Protect from dry winds and the tree will need less water after defoliation. If you want to improve ramification, it is important to remove terminal buds as well. Ficus Burt Dayvee does not like defoliation, and is not necessary as the leaves are already small. An excellent tree to use for the Strangler and the Root over Rock Style, but generally figs produce fantastic bonsai in any form. There is a freedom with figs." So Good Luck and enjoy the meeting with an expert in figs.

Thank you to Fred for stepping in at the last minute and talking at our last months meeting. Both the meeting and the workshop went well. The feed back on the Structured workshops has been positive, so lets continue in the same vain and please bring trees to work on. This has seemingly taken the place of "The Crit" at meetings and is far better and more beneficial and so worthwhile to pursue.

Welcome to our two new members Jacques Scheurkogel and Tristin de Jager, we hope that you have very many happy bonsai growing times with us. Please use the freedom as a member and make use of all facilities we offer and the knowledge of guest speakers to our club.

Three members celebrate birthdays this month, Pieter Kritzinger , Phyliss Bothma and Darryl Roman, and Derrick Van Der Walt on the 5th June. To all we wish you the very best and all the good things of life. Be Blessed!

We now need to finalize the travel arrangements to Waterberg in July, so please make sure either Kallie or Kristo (the two K's) have your names on record should you need transport.. Please diarize the 29th May, The Brat meeting to be hosted by Eastern Bonsai Society. Kallie has all the details and program available at the meeting. It would be great to have a *crowd* from Southern.

Our annual subscription fees to Brat and SABA have been paid, so just another reminder to those members who still have not submitted their subs to Southern. Kristo is available for any queries regarding the finances of Southern.

Margaret's Book Review:-

TREE VIEW MAGAZINE FILE

EBS 1987 - 2006

"I really enjoyed browsing through these magazines, they have so much information, but they also give an insight to the development of Bonsai in South Africa. Just to mention some of my favourite articles:

A Natural Pesticide - Treeview April 2004

This remedy comes from a Bonsai Club in India!!

What Tree Did You Fall From - Treeview January 2005

A tree for the time of year you are born in. - I am a maple

Twenty Elms = One Boabab by Hennie Dirkers - Treeview June 1987

My Layered Slate. Chinese Elms by Errol Rubin - Treeview July 2004 also

My Trip to Thailand by Errol Rubin

Charles Ceronio - Trip to Pakistan.

I especially love reading the Haiku, and will end this review with one of my favourites by Trish Fourie

"Softly the Owl calls,
Dark Shadow lengthen,
As the moon hides behind the cloud....."

Take this file out and I can guarantee a lovely month of reading..... Margaret....

The committee is looking into a "CRAFT DAY" encompassing all crafts and our Annual Exhibition. We really need to work to put this together, but what do the members think about this? It will be very interesting to hear.

Club Notices are:

June 12 th	-	Merle from East Rand (to be confirmed)
July 10 th	-	Not to be missed ----- Louis Nel
August 14 th	-	Dr. Barry Fourie
September 12 th	-	Cheryl Van Der Walt - Pot making

In addition, please diarize the regional meeting

May 29 th	-	Brat AGM / Open day & New Talent Competition at EBS
July 31 st	-	Waterberg Open Day (Mookgophong / Naboomspruit)
October 30 th	-	Brat Top Ten at Vaal Bonsai Kai
Sept 24 – 26 th	-	Pretoria Show

Penny

Committee: Chairperson: Penny Webber 084 644 6700 Secretary: Kallie du Plessis 082 678 2759 Treasurer: Kristo Serfontein 011 902 3797
Members :- Margaret Langenstrass 011 907 8002 Ray Currie 072 383 7431 Cheryl Van Der Walt: 011 436 1404 Cecil Porter: 011 432 5881