



Gainesville Bonsai Society

Newsletter – May 2010

Meeting Date: **Sunday, May 23, 2010 – 2 p.m.**

Topic: **Marian Borchers will discuss how to develop branch ramification**
(Meeting rescheduled from April – see President's message)

President – John King

Vice President – Jerry Benefield

Secretary – Jay Beckenbach

Treasurer – Lucy Skelley

President's Message – John King

Spring brings the rains and increasing heat that pose the greatest challenges for managing our trees. With the irregular rains, sometimes days of rain at a time, and other weeks totally dry, we need to be diligent in metering the right amount of water. This is the most important lesson we took away from the discussion Jay and Clif had on soil compositions. If you have a well draining soil, the heavy rains will not harm your trees due to soggy soil - or lack of oxygen. You will actually see the trees relishing the rains, increasing the brightness of their foliage and adding new shoots. If your soil is too compacted or with too small a particle size you might see the browning and dying of some branches. If this occurs, repot the tree immediately and remove roots that seem to be dying and causing the browning. If you don't do this you risk more (or all) of the tree in the next major rain event.

Heat can be a boon to root growth, as many plants' internal clocks are set by the soil temperature. I have my trees in training on black ground cloth (just like the nurseries use) to increase the temperature. As long as there is a good watering plan the trees will thrive. If you have sensitive trees like some maples, or trees that are at their southern most extreme here in Gainesville (maybe some birch, etc.) use partial shade in the middle of the day to temper the intense heat.

This month we will enjoy the slide show presentation by Marian Borchers discussing the development of branching, and how to increase the ramification in deciduous trees. Should be great presentation, which originally was scheduled for last month but we were rained out. For those members who were not there in April we have a handout on maples that gives great tips on the full life cycle of care and training. Ask for your copy at the meeting.

Please bring in an example of a deciduous tree that you are working on, whether it is alternate or opposite leafing. We will be discussing both and we would all enjoy seeing what each other is working on in their collections.

See you on May 23rd at 2pm.

Secretary's Report – Jay Beckenbach

Gainesville Bonsai Society

Sunday, April 23, 2010

Summer House, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Gainesville, Florida

Meeting called to order by Mr. John King, President, at 2:05 pm.

John announced that there would be a change in the programs for this month and next, with moss being this month's subject and ramification for next month. He also announced that the official who has been running the Prison Bonsai program was retiring and that the program was in flux.

While waiting for Marian Borchers and Clif Pottberg to arrive, John gave a brief introduction to growing

WWW.gainesvillebonsai.com

maples, in preparation for next month's program.

A raffle was held, run by Barbara Chapman, with material donated for the club's use.

One visitor, Patty Hill, was announced.

Meeting was adjourned for the program on moss given by Marian Borchers and Clif Pottberg.