



## Gainesville Bonsai Society

Newsletter – September 2010

**Meeting Date:** Sunday, September 26, 2010 – 2 p.m., Kanapaha Gardens

**Topic:** A sharpening workshop given by member Jeff Ketts. Jeff will demonstrate sharpening techniques and care of tools to keep them in good working condition.

**Note:** We will have a visiting artist in November – more details to follow at the September meeting.

President – John King

Vice President – Jerry Benefield

Secretary – Jay Beckenbach

Treasurer – Lucy Skelley

### President's Message – John King

If it would just get a little cooler....

We're in the late summer, and our trees are surprisingly still growing, we just don't see it. The leaves and shoots that have been growing throughout the summer are now hardened off. As little sugar factories, they are now doing their thing creating the food that will take them through the winter and be the burst of energy for the spring flush. The roots are now becoming more active, and probably will continue to grow until the ground temperature is somewhere on the south side of 50 degrees. The roots are now storing lots of sap.

So why does this matter? By understanding the growth patterns of our trees you can better style them and keep them healthy. It is actually a good time just to let the trees go. Heavy trimming now just lessens the spring energy. So if that is your goal, to not have a strong Spring growth, then trim. If you want to further restrict the Spring growth, then do root pruning in the Fall. Just be aware that you can get the same results by root pruning in the early Spring and not deal with the risk of die back from exposed (recently cut) root tips. This is also where different species act a little differently, so knowing how your plant reacts can take you to the next level of care and design.

Hope to see you at the meeting on Sunday. Jeff will be there to take us through a discussion on tool care. He will be sharpening a tool or two, but told me he is not able to do more than that. If you have a tool with a problem, I'm sure he will give you some advice on how to correct the problem. With the price of our utensils, it is really worth keeping them in great shape. Bring a tree to work on, as you all have said this is a really valuable part of the meetings.

John

### Secretary's Report – Jay Beckenbach

Gainesville Bonsai Society

Minutes of the August 2010 Meeting

Sunday, August 22, 2010

Summer House, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Gainesville, Florida

Meeting called to order by Mr. John King, President, at 2:10 pm.

It was announced that the state dues (Bonsai Societies of Florida) will be going up by \$6.00. Our dues will have to be adjusted to cover the cost.

[WWW.gainesvillebonsai.com](http://WWW.gainesvillebonsai.com)

A hand-out on pruning was distributed.

The September program will be a tool sharpening workshop given by Jeff Ketts.

In October, the club will be participating in the Kanapaha Fall Plant Show on October 2nd and 3rd at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens and in the Asian Arts Festival at the Thomas Center in Gainesville on October 23rd and 24th. Further details will be given at the September meeting. Volunteers and display plants will need to be established at the September meeting.

There will be no October meeting at Kanapaha so everyone should stop by on Sunday afternoon at the Asian Arts Festival.

A Multi-club auction will be held At Clif Pottberg's nursery in Dade City on November 20th. Further information can be gotten through John Petterson at johnpetterson@aol.com.

A photo for your enjoyment - taken at a bonsai display in San Francisco a few years back.

