



Kawa Bonsai Society



June 2011

www.kawabonsai.com

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The Next Meeting

We will **not** be having our regular meeting in June due to the BSF Convention.

The next meeting we will be having is with visiting artist Enrique Castano. The workshop will be held at the Flagler Extension Office on Friday, July 1 at 7 PM.

Please note that this is a change of date.



Enrique Castaño from Mexico, is a second generation bonsai artist . He was introduced to the art of bonsai as a normal part of life, overtime his love for nature lead me to study biology from which he obtained his PhD in 1997 from Rochester University, NY. Followed by postdoctoral positions in Harvard and in the UK, which were valued opportunities to observe the work of well known artist and more important to learn about different plant species, how they grow and how to treat them under different conditions. . Currently he is a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology. In the plant institute located in Merida. Besides his research he is very active in the field of Bonsai establishing a group since 2003.

Calendar of Activities

June 9 - 12 BSF Convention

June **There will be no meeting in June for Kawa**

July 1 Bring Your Own Tree Workshop with Enrique Castano 7 - 10 PM He is a master of tropical trees so we suggest that you bring tropicals to work on. The cost of the workshop is \$35.

July 15 Repotting Tropicals: Each member should bring in one tropical plant for repotting. We will show how to clean the bottoms of the plant as seen on the Boon DVD. Please bring in soil, pots and your trees. If you have several pots to choose from for your tree that would be even better.

August 20 A Day with Erik Wigert. Material will be Campechia. This will be our summer picnic and lunch will be provided to the membership. Trees prices in range from \$50 to \$205. The price includes Erik's workshop fee as well.

We suggest that you bring tropicals since this is his specialty. The cost of the workshop is \$35.



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Tips for June Finish air layering.

Reduce fruit load on plants to preserve their health. Partially shade hinoki cypress, sweet gum and maple to slow leaf burn. Unwire most plants. Watch for the presence of pests. Prune to shape new growth. Set miniature bonsai pots into a larger container of calcinate clay to help retain moisture. Propagate tropicals. Cut candles at the end of June if you are not going to reduce the size of the needles on black pine.

Campechia Workshop in August

Goodies

July 1 This is a new workshop no one has signed up for goodies here

July 15 Ann

August 20 Picnic

September Jane and Peggy

October Mary Lou

November Diane Lorber

December Christmas Party

January 13, 14 15 Joy of Bonsai

If you are planning on taking the Workshop with Erik Wigert on August 20, it's time to get your deposit in to Louise.

Kawa has spent \$1000 to hold trees from Erik's Nursery for this workshop. Depending on the size of the tree, the workshops will run from \$50 to \$205 With \$50 for the smaller shohin trees to much larger specimens.

So if you are planning to take this workshop, you need to get you deposit of \$25 to Louise as soon as possible. This will hold your position in the workshop. After that you can discuss the size tree you want for the workshop.

If not enough people sign up from Kawa to fill this workshop, then it will be opened up to other clubs in the area.



Glenn's Campechia tree of Campechia

Kawa Bonsai Minutes

May 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Rogers at 7:37 PM. The treasurer's report stated that we had \$4,515.02 in the Vanguard's account and \$2928.69 in the Money Market. The minutes were read and both reports were accepted.

Convention details were given by Louise and the possibility of a trip to Erik Wigert's in the fall or perhaps next February when he has his annual show. Further, the August meeting with Erik was discussed and prices given to hold a tree and the prices for the various sizes were given. See the newsletter for details.

The meeting then went on to show all our companion plants and their various needs of soil and watering issues when the weather is a bit warm.....bit warm!!!!

Ha Ha!

The meeting ended at 9:35 PM, with 17 in attendance.

Submitted....G. Partelow /Kawa Secretary

News from D & L Nursery

DON'T LOOK NOW... Summer is here, hot and hotter. All of our tropicals are loving it, me, I am heading for the shade. Towards the end of this month and through July and August keep an eye out for heat stress, especially on certain trees that don't like the heat.

WATERING... We now go through the three hottest months of the year. We also will be starting the rainy season, hopefully. Don't let the rains fool you, it takes at least a 1/4 inch of steady rain to water your trees. I still water unless I receive a half inch. A rain gauge is a must. On days it does not rain your trees might need to be watered twice a day, once early morning and then watering the "soil only" in the heat of the day. Give your trees full sun from morning till around 2-3:00, then part shade. If they start heat stressing, move them to the shade earlier. Signs of heat stress: margin of leaves turning brown or curling, some leaves and/or leaflets dropping off or leaves appear somewhat dry or shriveled. Many species of trees will close or droop their leaves during the heat of the day, this slows transpiration, they should open, or raise back up when the temperature starts declining, if not, they are either not being watered sufficiently or they may need repotted. Generally the rains come in late afternoons which means the foliage stays wet all night, perfect conditions for mildew and fungus problems. A systemic fungicide applied now would be a good preventative on trees you know are prone to problems. We use Clearys 33G, which we have available.

FERTILIZING... Heavy rains can easily wash out all the nutrients in your fertilizer, even Osmocote can leach out a lot of its nutrients with too much rain. Tropicals are in their very active growing season so they will require more. Last month I gave all of my trees 8-9 month Southern Formula Osmocote. I use Peters 20-20-20 water soluble food once a month. Additionally, I use fish emulsion, mid-month, on trees I want to develop more, but not on my more finished trees. If I want flowers I use Bloom Buster. Ironite with 5% nitrogen is good for any tree that tends to yellow or get a little chlorotic, like your Bougainvillea or Philippine Jasmine. If your tree is not reacting to the fertilizer, has some yellowing of the leaves with darker veins, your soil is probably low on magnesium. This is pretty common with all the watering they receive now. Mix two tablespoons of

of Epsom salt in a gallon of water and water them as you normally would. Do not overfeed for this will increase the leaf size. This is only a basic fertilization program, you will need to tailor it to your trees.

INSECTS... With all the lush foliage on your trees every non-beneficial insect there is will be wanting to eat. Aphids, scale and thrips to name a few, can infest a tree in a matter of days. A systemic insecticide is good to use, because they only kill the bad bugs. Soapy water will take care of aphids, soft body scale, mealy bugs and other soft bodied insects. If you see ants on your tree you probably have aphids or scale. Spider mites are bad, especially on Junipers. By the time you notice the damage they have caused it is generally too late. Check for them by placing your tree on a white piece of paper and tapping the branch. Watch for movement on the paper, if you see any, you got them. You should check your trees daily for any signs of problems or just to say hello. Two days without water in this heat can easily kill a tree. A caterpillar can defoliate a tree for you in one day. If you notice the leaves on your Ficus benjamina varieties closed up and yellowing, you have thrips. We use Bonide and Merit, both a systemic insecticide which main ingredient is Imidacloprid, available here..

PRUNING... The trees you defoliated last month should have a flush of new growth on them. Keep all your biggest leaves cut off and your growth tips pinched back. If you are wanting a branch to increase in diameter do not pinch back, just let the branch grow until it is the size you want. Your secondary branches should be filling out now and you can be doing directional pruning on them to create more of your tertiary branches. By carefully selecting where to cut a branch, you can control the direction of new growth. On alternating leaves, clipping above a leaf on the right side of a branch will cause the new growth to grow to the right and vice-versa. If you clip above a leaf growing from the top of the branch, the new growth will go up. and likewise, clipping by a leaf growing on the bottom of a branch will cause new growth to grow down. With leaves that form opposite one another rather than alternating, clipping above these leaves will usually result in 2 new growths, one to the left and one to the right. You can choose either to be the new leader and the other to be a side branch or remove one to allow the other to grow in the direction you want. This will create the ramification and taper you want. If you wired last month keep an eye on them, tropicals grow fast and can wire scar before you know it.

POTTING... You can root prune any of your tropicals now except Black Olive, Buttonwood, Sea Grape or Texas Ebony, wait till later in the month or next month. Afterwards put them in shade for a couple of weeks or so until new growth starts, then slowly acclimate them back into full sun. The more sun you can give your trees, without heat stressing, will result in better ramification and smaller leaves.

OUR NEXT BYOT... workshop is on **June 4th**. As usual Linda will have coffee and something delicious for the early birds, fruits and snacks for the munchies with soda, water and pizza for lunch if you want it. Pizza is \$5.00 some people pack a lunch. And who knows what delectable thing someone might bring for us. The cost is only \$25.00 for the workshop including soil and wire, within reason. If you are more experienced and just want styling ideas or help with wiring or potting you can bring up to three trees. If you are a novice and want to learn how to create a bonsai we recommend you concentrate on just one tree, it takes awhile to completely style a tree. Newcomers are not yet capable of doing much of the hands on work themselves, and we like to take the time to explain what we are doing as we do it. This is not only good for them, but it helps even the more experienced learn more tips on wiring, styling and such. As people gain experience we want them to do more of the work themselves, then I will assist them in styling their tree.

This is a workshop for you to learn how to, not for us to do all the work for you. Experience is the best teacher. Our desire is to help you learn the art of bonsai.

Pre-bonsai trees and all supplies will be available. Observers are welcome at no charge, so come spend the day or just a few hours. You can come anytime between the hours of 9:00-3:00. We have set up an area where we can take before and after pictures of the trees we work on. If you want us to, we can e-mail your pictures to you.

BIG EVENT...

Bonsai Societies of Florida 38th annual convention on June 10th, 11th and 12th, this is the bonsai event of the year that you do not want to miss. It is free to view the exhibit and to check out the vendors, the exhibit alone is worth the trip. Ryan Neil is the featured artist along with many Florida artists. It is three days of demos and workshops. You will need to sign up for any of the workshops soon before they fill up. If you are into bonsai, even a little, you owe it to yourself to go.