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www.msgcbonsai.org

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President/ Webmaster	Lauralee Reugger	(985) 630 2848	dalady@charter.net
Treasurer/ Librarian	Lou Leger	(985) 892 6029	laleger@charter.net
Newsletter Editor	Patrick LaNasa	(985) 304 0840	msgcbs@bellsouth.net

Events

June 6-9 Bonsai Societies of Florida State Convention, Cape Canaveral, FL.

June 11 MSGCBS June Meeting, MGCCC, Long Beach, MS.

June 19-22 American Bonsai Society National Convention, San Antonio, TX

No MSGCBS meeting in July or August

Coming Up

Three of our members are involved with conventions this month- Buck Lawrence, Mitch Thomas and Patrick LaNasa. Buck will be attending the Bonsai Societies of Florida get together down in Cape Canaveral, a state convention.

Mitch and Patrick will be attending the American Bonsai Society's national convention in San Antonio, Texas. Famed bonsai artists Ted Matson, Jerry Meislek, Ed Trout, Martin Schmalenberg, Guy Guidrey, Mike Hanson and Sean Smith are some of the instructors working the seminars by the Riverwalk. Refinement vs. Development", Trout's "Buttonwood" workshop, Meislek's "Advanced Bonsai Techniques" and Smith's "Suiseki stand carving". All in all, some 35 seminars are feat

Rendezvous 2008

Well known artists Suthin Sukosolvisit, Marc Noelanders, Kathy Shaner and Cheng Cheng-Kung highlighted the annual event at Brussel's nursery this year.

This is the place to learn bonsai and gain weight as food of some kind is around all day. Also, dozens of greenhouses of tempting bonsai for all climates. Anything that meets your fancy can be put aside until the moment you check out. And, of course, there's the 20% discount.

If this is in your budget and schedule plan on a repeat Rendezvous next Memorial Day weekend.

The only member of our club who took advantage of this event last month was Mitch Thomas who completed two workshops with Marc Noelanders.

Mitch must be living right as Brussel invited him to dinner with all the visiting masters (describe above).

If that wasn't enough to convince me this guy has a hidden rabbit's foot, he won the raffle of a large Shimpaku Itoigawa styled by Marc Noelanders.

Mitch and I will be sharing the ride to San Antonio later this month. If there are raffle drawings with Mitch invested, I may not enter. Or, maybe I'll bring a horseshoe or something.

Book Review "Shohin Bonsai"

Author- Morten Albek

Publisher- Stone Lantern.

My home library has been expanding, especially, in the last couple of years. I keep looking for 'silver bullets' to zing out from the pages of just one more book I've yet to read and study.

This is a detailed study of shohin class bonsai. Well structured in all aspects of designing, maintaining and displaying shohin.

Deciduous and conifer trees are featured in the development and refinement stages in both easy to understand language as well as inspiring photography.

There may always be the controversy of the size limitations of shohin. In a previous newsletter this was addressed with answers from some bonsai masters I asked. Is the maximum height eight inches or ten inches? The answers were eight from some and ten from others.

In this reference, "*Shohin*", the answer is ten inches. I have wavered on this, eight or ten inches for the last 3 years, at least. From what I read on

the European website (www.shohin-europe.com) the decision is final- 10 inches.

Relieved that information came to me as nearly all my small bonsai are between 8 - 10 inches.

Depending on your situation- beginner or advanced, small or large bonsai grower, certain chapters will be more important to you than others. Some details expressed will be redundant, some revealing and still others inspiring.

For the beginner there is this advice "Start with inexpensive and easily maintained bonsai. Once you get the hang of it, you can try more expensive and demanding trees".

One section deals with carving shohin, step by step, again, with excellent photographs.

All of us can appreciate the step by step photography. Mr. Albek, a Dane, is an accomplished photographer as well as an advanced bonsaist and world traveler.

If I lost my copy of this book, would I buy another? Yes.

Next Meeting-

Wednesday, June 11 at 6:30, Long Beach, MGCCC. Program will be "Native Plants". Bring one or more native you're growing/ designing for bonsai.

Apologize for the newsletter this month. Still having computer problems.

Patrick LaNasa