

Florida Bonsai

W I N T E R 2 0 1 1

A View of Bonsai Mirai



BONSAI SOCIETIES OF FLORIDA, INC.

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WINTER

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ON THE COVER: A view of Ryan Neil's nursery, *Bonsai Mirai*, outside Portland, Oregon taken by Florida student Michael Fiduccia.

A Message from the President

An email from a concerned member: "It strikes me that a "BSF CONVENTION" is irrelevant, and out of date. Consider: Wickert [sic], Miami, Gold Coast, Broward, Brevard, Lee, Panhandle, Schley, Dragon Tree.

"I must be missing about three big time events with multiple programs and entrance fees exceeding BSF. Not to mention individual club "master's" programs, (Not complaining, just noting the saturation of attendee's interests, and budget busting to get people to the BSF event.)"

I believe nothing could be further from the truth than to say that the BSF Convention is "irrelevant." I reject that statement in principle and in fact!

The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings!

Florida is a dominant state in the participation and activism of bonsai. Our climate is an advantage that other states and countries can only envy. By virtue of the work, experience, and teaching of those before us, we are an active state of bonsai enthusiasts who continue to thrive through the access to exceptional speakers, incredible material, resources to participate



at a variety of levels, and a dynamic and motivated group of people (with initiative) dedicated to bonsai.

Based upon the principles of capitalism, our conventions continue to be well-attended and continue to make a profit for BSF. Even through the recent years of economic turmoil, people continued to attend in the convention to the best of their ability because of the intrigue of our hobby, the joy of participation, and sharing the

A Message from the Editor

W

here has this year gone? Shorter days, holidays upon us, cooler temps. The time just flies. I thought I'd find all this extra time in my retirement. I just don't know where the time gets to. I am happy to say that we have had a great year of bonsai in 2011 and 2012 looks even brighter.

The convention committee has been hard at work with the event planning which is now set. You will find the registration form in this issue of *Florida Bonsai*. We are looking forward to a great event at our new venue – the Wyndham Orlando Resort. Headlining will be Ryan Neil (OR), Peter Warren (UK) and Kora Dalagher (CA). Also appearing for the first time as a featured artist will be Florida's rising star Michael Fiduccia. You will see what Michael has been up to this year in his article, *The Bonsai Mirai Experience*.

This issue is focused on introducing you to our headliners for

BSF 2012 – *A Learning Experience*. We're sure that our members who attended last year's convention will understand the scope of this year's event. We are looking forward to a great learning experience with our speakers.

I would like to thank all of our members this year who so generously sent their

articles and experiences to us for publication. They are: Clarina Allen, Mac Caruthers, Arturo Cid, Michael Fiduccia, Louise Leister, Susan Moring, Paul Pikel, Rosemarie Voelker and Erik Wigert. Without the literary contributions of our members this publication could not exist. It is through our shared experiences



The Bonsai Mirai Experience

By Michael Feduccia

I am sure that by now most of you are familiar with bonsai master Ryan Neil, a young man from Colorado who recently returned from a six year apprenticeship in Japan with the famous bonsai master Masahiko Kimura. He was our headlining artist for the 2011 BSF convention in Orlando and, by popular demand, will be returning as our headliner for 2012. Attending a workshop or demonstration by Ryan will give you a glimpse into the level at which he is practicing bonsai. But to truly experience all that he has to offer you must spend more time than what a convention would allow. It was for this reason and others that in early 2011 I contacted Ryan about becoming a dedicated student.

The pinnacle of study with Mr. Neil would definitely be a complete full-time apprenticeship for several years, much like his time spent in Japan. But having a family to support does not allow that kind of long-term separation. So I opted for the next best thing, intensive studies with Ryan several times a year for one to two weeks at a time. My studies began in early spring of this year with a nine hour flight to his garden, *International Bonsai Mirai*.

International Bonsai Mirai is nestled on a beautiful hilltop outside

of Portland, Oregon. Just traveling to the Pacific Northwest is like going to another country, especially coming from Florida. Portland is a charming city and Oregon is by far one of the most beautiful places I have seen in our United States. A forty-five minute drive North along the Columbia River brings you to the gorgeous and somewhat secluded countryside that Ryan Neil calls home. As we make our way up the curvy road to the top of the hill I can't help but notice all of the giant trees in the surrounding



A view of Ryan's nursery – International Bonsai Mirai, and the majestic view beyond.

forest; Cedar, Hemlock, Spruce, and Maples to name a few. As the garden comes into view you can't help but feel a sense of astonishment. It quickly becomes apparent that this is a very special place and not only does it house hundreds of world class specimens but the garden itself is world class.

Drawing on my experience with martial arts I approached these studies with "an empty cup". This would be a new beginning, a fresh start down the path of becoming

a world class bonsai professional. With that goal in mind I knew I was in the right place. Being early spring, our focus was to be on repotting. But before getting our hands dirty I was presented with about an hour of classroom study in the studio. I found this to be quite interesting because we weren't just discussing bonsai concepts but more about the physiological aspects of each species with which we work. Ryan has a four year degree in

Saruyama Bonsai: Peter Warren

W

ho is Peter Warren you ask...What is Saruyama Bonsai? We found the following information on his website and hope you find it both interesting and enlightening. We are all looking forward to Peter's joining us in May in Orlando for the BSF Annual Convention – A Learning Experience.



Saruyama Bonsai, home of Peter Warren, a bonsai professional from the UK. Peter trained for over five years under Kunio Kobayashi, one of the top masters in Japan and is now on a mission to bring the best of Japanese bonsai to the rest of the world.

Saruyama comes from part of a Japanese proverb, “*Saruyama no taishou*,” which roughly translates as the general of monkey mountain, which at the time made me laugh and think about the world around me. I decided there and then that I would name my future garden “*Saruyama*”,

Saruyama Bonsai: Peter Warren

literally “monkey mountain”, as a reminder to myself to try and not become as close-minded as those that I had seen around me. It is with that in mind that I intend to work with the finest bonsai in Europe and the U.S. and improve the standard of bonsai education from beginners to the most advanced level, constantly learning and improving myself as I go.

My name is Peter Warren, a shy and retiring type...! I grew up in the North Yorkshire countryside, went off to Leicester University where I read Physics with Astrophysics before running

away to Japan for what I thought would be a year-long stay before settling down for a relatively normal life. Fortunately while I was there I stumbled across bonsai in an attempt to become cultured. I was instantly taken by the power and beauty that... well, trees in pots could have. I had never seen anything quite so incredible in my life and even now the idea of bonsai is one which astounds me and continues to drive me forwards. There are so many interesting facets of bonsai; ideas, ways of doing things, aesthetic concepts and philosophical



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c/o Louise Leister
4 Claridge Court South
Palm Coast, FL 32137-8350
phone: 386-569-1639

or email:
mysecretbonsai@me.com



A LEARNING
EXPERIENCE

BSF 2012 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY / MAY 24

- 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Convention Set-up
- 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Registration Open
- 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. BSF Board Meeting

FRIDAY / MAY 25

- 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration Open
- 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Bazaar/Raffles Open
- 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Florida Artists' Booth**
- 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Seminar I/The Art of Display**
Peter Warren
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch on Your Own
- 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Workshop I/Bonsai Display**
Peter Warren/ Ryan Neil/Kora Dalagher
- 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Workshop II/Escambron**
Michael Feduccia
- 7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Dinner on Your Own
- 7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. **Grand Exhibit Opening**

SUNDAY / MAY 27

- 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast on Your Own
- 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration Open
- 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Bazaar/Raffles Open
- 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. **Exhibit Critique I**
Peter Warren
- 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Workshop IV/Bring Your Own Tree**
Ryan Neil
- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Workshop V/Companion Plants**
Kora Dalagher
- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Demonstration III**
Peter Warren (Podocarpus)/Michael Feduccia (Escambron)/
2011 Scholarship Winner Jason Osborne
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch on Your Own
- 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Workshop VI/Shimpaku**
Ryan Neil
- 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Workshop VII/Chinese Elm**
Peter Warren

7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Grand Exhibit Opening	
Ryan Neil/Peter Warren/Kora Dalagher	Cash Bar	
Vendor Hospitality Night/Special Pot Viewing & Auction		
SATURDAY / MAY 26		
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast on Your Own	
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration Open	
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Bazaar/Raffles Open	
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Florida Artists' Booth	
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Seminar II/The King of Bonsai (Black Pine)	Ryan Neil
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Annual Luncheon	
1:30 p.m. - 5:30 pm.	Demonstration I/Ilex	Peter Warren
	Workshop III/Black Pine	Ryan Neil
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Dinner on Your Own	
7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Demonstration II/Companion Plants	Kora Dalagher
	Viewing and Judging of Club Trees/Artist's Trees	

6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Cash Bar	
7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Annual Banquet/Awards/Auction	
MONDAY / MAY 28		
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast on Your Own	
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Registration Open	
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Bazaar/Raffles Open	
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Exhibit Critique II	Ryan Neil
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Demonstration IV	
	Ryan Neil (<i>Shimpaku</i>)/Peter Warren (<i>Bouganvillea</i>)	
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Farewell Raffle & Auction	

Workshop VIII/Kusamono
Kora Dalagher

BSF 2012 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM (PART 1)

Name(s) _____
(Please Print Clearly)
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____ Email address _____
 Phone Number (_____) _____ (_____) _____
Area Code Home Area Code Cell
 Bonsai Society of Florida Club Affiliation *(if applicable)* _____
 I wish to donate Raffle Material _____ Silent Auction _____

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Full registration includes Seminars, Demonstrations, Bazaar, Raffles, Florida Speaker's Booth, Exhibit, Annual Luncheon, Annual Banquet & Auction and Farewell Raffle & Auction. *All 2012 paid BSF members receive a \$15.00 (Individual/Family) discount on early full registration.*

EARLY REGISTRATION BEFORE February 15, 2012	LATE REGISTRATION AFTER February 15, 2012
Individual No. _____ @ \$225.00 (\$210 BSF)	Individual No. _____ @ \$235.00
Family No. _____ @ \$400.00 (\$385 BSF)	Family No. _____ @ \$450.00
Extra meal package No. _____ @ \$100.00	Banquet only No. _____ @ \$65.00

DAILY REGISTRATION AND CONVENTION MERCHANDISE

Friday: \$80.00 ea. _____; Saturday: \$80.00 ea. _____; Sunday: \$80.00 ea. _____; Monday: \$50.00 ea. _____
Shirts No. _____ \$30.00 ea. S M L XL XXL **Aprons** No. _____ \$25.00 ea. _____
(All Shirts and Aprons must be ordered by April 15, 2012.)
 SUBTOTAL \$ _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop I	Neil/Warren/Dalagher	*Hands-on Bonsai Display	No. _____	\$75.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop II	Feduccia	**Escambron S(4)/M(2)/L(2)	No. _____	\$125/\$165/\$200	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop III	Neil	†Black Pine	No. _____	\$150.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop IV	Neil	Bring Your Own Tree	No. _____	\$150.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop V	Dalagher	Companion Plants	No. _____	\$100.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop VI	Neil	Shimpaku	No. _____	\$275.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop VII	Warren	Chinese Elm	No. _____	\$250.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop VIII	Dalagher	Kusamono	No. _____	\$100.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit Critique I	Peter Warren	(Limited to 25 participants)	No. _____	\$25.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit Critique II	Ryan Neil	(Limited to 25 participants)	No. _____	\$25.00	\$ _____
				SUBTOTAL	\$ _____
				TOTAL	\$ _____

(Cancellation of Registration after April 15, 2012 will incur a \$40.00 handling charge.)

***Workshop I & Exhibit Critiques:** Limited to 25 participants only (no silent observers). ALL workshops are limited to eight (8) participants.
****Workshop II:** Escambron: A variety of trees are available: 4 small (shohin), 2 (chuhin) and 2 (large) (see website for selection).
†Workshop III: Pine trees are for sale in addition to the \$150 workshop fee (see website for selection).

BANQUET MEAL SELECTION

(Please select from the following choices.) (All selections served with salad, accompanying vegetables, coffee or tea and dessert.)

- Beef Chicken Fish Vegetarian

Please select credit card type: Visa MasterCard Discover American Express CVC # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Signature: _____

Before calling in a credit card, please send an email to: treasurer@bonsai-bsf.com with your Name, Address, Phone Number, email address and banquet selection. Thank you, Barbara Poglitsch, Treasurer, (772) 287-5356.

BSF 2012 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM (PART 11)

Mail the completed registration form with a check or money order (no cash please) made payable to: Bonsai Societies of Florida. For credit card payments, complete the form below. Payment will be accepted in U.S. Dollars only. Refunds will not be made after April 15, 2012 except in extreme circumstances as to be determined by the BSF Board of Directors. Mail your payment to: BSF 2012 CONVENTION, 5622 S.E. Lamay Drive, Stuart, FL 34997-6548.

- ❑ All workshops are limited – see registration page 2 for availability. Participant must be registered for the convention to participate.
- ❑ Priority for the workshops will be allocated according to postmark. Full registrants will have priority over daily registrants.
- ❑ Registrants should rank their preference for all workshops. You may select workshops within the same time frame; just remember to prioritize your selections.
- ❑ Successful applicants will be notified as to which workshops they are assigned.
- ❑ Refunds of excess deposits will be made in full.
- ❑ Once an applicant has received confirmation of workshops assignment, if that applicant wishes to cancel that workshop, refunds will be made only after the replacement applicant has been notified and has paid the required fees, except in extreme circumstances as determined by the Convention Chairman. No refunds of any portion of registration fees shall be made after an individual has participated in a workshop.
- ❑ Observers in all workshops are expected to be silent throughout the duration of the workshop. If the instructor addresses an observer and asks for your questions you may feel free to participate; otherwise a strict code of silence will be observed.
- ❑ The rights to exhibit and reproduce recordings of “BSF 2012” activities, events and displays including audio, video, both still and motion pictures, in any form or format whatsoever are the exclusive property of BSF for use in furtherance of their organizational goals and objectives. This restriction is not intended to prohibit individuals from taking photographs or from making recordings of “BSF 2012” activities for their own personal use or from sharing their photography and recordings with their local bonsai club providing they do not interfere with or obstruct any other person’s view or enjoyment of the events and activities. Registrants must observe and respect individual presenter’s wishes regarding recording or photographing of their presentations.

BSF 2012 CONVENTION WORKSHOP WAIVER

- 1) I _____, acknowledge that I voluntarily observe, or participate in bonsai workshops being held by the Bonsai Societies of Florida at the 37th Annual Convention held in Orlando, Florida from May 25-28, 2012.
- 2) I am aware that working with bonsai tools and equipment is a hazardous activity. I am voluntarily observing or participating in these activities with full knowledge of the danger involved. I agree to accept any and all risk of injury, and verify this statement by placing my initials here: _____.
- 3) As consideration for being permitted by the Bonsai Societies of Florida to participate in these bonsai workshops, I hereby agree that I, my assignees, heirs, distributees, guardians and legal representative will not make claim against, sue, or attach the property of the Bonsai Societies of Florida or the Workshop Instructors or Assistants for injury or damages resulting from my observation of or activities in, the Workshop or from the action of the other participants. I hereby release and shall indemnify the Bonsai Societies of Florida and the Workshop instructors and their Assistants from all action, claims or demands that I, or my assignees, heirs, distributees, guardians and legal representative may have for any injury or damages resulting from my observation of, or participation in, these Workshops.
- 4) I have carefully read this agreement and fully understand its content. I am aware that this document/waiver is a release of liability and a contract between myself, and Bonsai Societies of Florida and sign it of my own free will.

(Please Print)

Name _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Signature _____

Witnessed by _____

Executed at (City) _____



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After 6:00 p.m. arrivals must be guaranteed to a major credit card.
Reservations must be made by April 15, 2012 to receive the special rate.

Be sure to mention "BSF 2012 Convention."

Canceling Individual Reservations – Individual room reservation cancellations will be accepted up to seventy-two (72) hours prior to arrival; however, Group's Room Block and attrition obligations shall not be modified.

Advance deposits are refundable to guest if timely notice of cancellation is given and a cancellation number is obtained.

Early Departure – The Hotel will require an early departure charge in an amount equal to the guest's current per night charge, plus applicable tax, for all guests who depart one or more days prior to their scheduled departure date. The first night deposit will be credited against any early departure charge and the charges for the first night shall be included on the guest bill. However, any such refund shall not alter release or negate the Group's attrition obligations of this Agreement and any such canceled room shall be considered an "unused" room for purposes of such section.

The Story of the Mind Behind the Mirai: Ryan Neil

Growing up in the Rocky Mountains of western Colorado, Ryan was exposed to endless examples of nature's wrath and nature's beauty. With every hike he took into the mountains, Ryan's interest in plants and their resiliency grew, increasing his curiosity and unknowingly establishing a foundation for his future. Fishing may have been Ryan's initial justification for exploring his backyard, the Rockies, but after a fateful encounter with bonsai at the annual town fair and mentor-to-be Harold Sasaki, the subject of his hikes and the path of his life changed forever. By the time Ryan graduated high school he had already made up his mind to pursue bonsai professionally and knew that an education in horticulture could only help his chances of someday apprenticing under the great master Mr. Masahiko Kimura.



Shitkusa or Kusamono: Kora Dalagher

San Francisco's Bay Area resident Kora Dalagher has been active in bonsai for the last 25 years; she has gained a deep appreciation for the art of bonsai through her numerous travels (over 27 trips) to Japan as a tour organizer and owner of Bonsai Travel. She has been a bonsai teacher for the last 16 years. Kora has given workshops and demonstrations on companion plants, wildflower plantings along with the art of display. Kora has published articles in *Golden Statements* and several other bonsai-related magazines. Kora is very active in the Bay area and is a member of the Bay Area Bonsai Associates (BABA).

We are excited to have Kora join us as a headliner at this year's



BSF Annual Convention 2012 – *A Learning Experience*. You will have several opportunities to work with her on creating a kusamono and a companion plant. Kora has just returned from Japan, where she shopped for interesting and unique containers for her workshops. We hope you take advantage of this great opportunity.

At left, Kora poses with Kunio Kobayashi after completing a bonsai display seminar in Rochester, NY. Below, Kora assists a participant with a planting.



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Cover, Pages 7-14 – Michael Feduccia; Page 2 – Charles Michelson; Page 4, 15-18, 29-33, 34 – Louise Leister

COMING IN LATE 2011

TROPICAL GREEN SHEETS II

IT'S THE OLD PLUS THE NEW

Revisions of old entries with updated information and names.

Green Sheets on newly introduced species including:
Florida Natives
Tropical Trees from Puerto Rico
Species from Mexico
Plus additional trees requested from Florida growers.

New Articles, Tidbits, and Tips

Featuring
an all new Tropical Bonsai Gallery
with trees by Florida Artists and
also including a special Shohin Gallery

Be included!

Submit your photos of outstanding trees for the new gallery and possibly have your tree selected for the new cover.

All photos must be of high resolution and display quality.

All photo submissions become the property of

TROPICAL GREEN SHEETS II.

All submissions are due by August 1, 2011.

Please include name of owner and name of tree.

One tree will be chosen for the cover.

Owners will receive full recognition for their submission.

Photos may be emailed to: marthagoff50@comcast.net or mail to:
Martha Goff, 5017 Bygone Street, Lehigh Acres, Florida 33971

Don't miss out on Spotlighting Florida Artists and Florida Bonsai.

Old Florida Bonsai

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BSF Membership

Individuals acquire BSF membership as members of a local affiliated club. Other memberships include: Member-At-Large, Member Organization-At-Large, Donor Membership, or Special Life Membership.

For membership information contact: Gail Santini, Membership Chair,
8855 Lake Park Circle S, Davie, Florida 33328-7013 Email: membership@bonsai-bsf.com

List of Advertisers

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Florida Bonsai Subscription Form

Florida Bonsai is published by the Bonsai Societies of Florida (BSF) four times a year. If you would like to subscribe to Florida Bonsai for \$20 a year, please complete the following form. For international subscribers, please send info requests to publications@bonsai-bsf.com (the cost will be \$20 plus applicable postage).

NAME

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EMAIL ADDRESS

AFFILIATION

DATE

AMOUNT ENCLOSED



Make check payable to Bonsai Societies of Florida and mail to:
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