

SHIBUI BONSAI KAI

NEWSLETTER

P O BOX 81084, PARKHURST, 2120

E-MAIL: bonsaikebana@mweb.co.za

MONTH: September 2020

--0--



Dear Bonsai Friends

Well, here we are, some good rain the other day at long last but some not so good hail as well for some. Fortunately, there was none at Brenthurst and all the Bonsai are looking great. I spent a couple of hours yesterday sweeping up leaves and tidying up in my garden as I had quite a bit of hail damage. There is not much to report at the moment but I am sure you are all busy trying to keep up with controlling the new growth on your Bonsai as well as coping with the weeds. You all received the following from Ruza last night:

Good evening Members

I hope you are all keeping well.

We have been invited by Pieter Loubser to have our monthly meeting at his house in Klerksdorp on the 17th. We will have to leave Johannesburg about 10am in order to have ample time with Pieter who will be doing a group/forest dem for us.

Please will you let me know asap who will be coming to the meeting, no later than Friday please, I need to give Pieter numbers. If you are coming to the meeting let me know if you are willing to offer or share transport.

Many thanks in advance for your prompt response.

Kind regards to all
Ruza 082 873 7955

So, **PLEASE RSVP RIGHT NOW!!** Yes, we are all used to being in lockdown, and don't say or think, I will do it tomorrow or later is not good enough, as later never comes.

Pieter Loubser's name is familiar to you all and we have been very privileged to read his articles each month in our newsletters and he has a very impressive Bonsai collection, well worth seeing. Personally,

I have not seen it for years, but you should not miss this golden opportunity. The following should whet your appetite:

Following are some Ficus trees that have recently been defoliated waiting for Spring 2020 to arrive. Some have started budding. Some look over-ramified, but this is due to the angle at which the photograph was taken. My hope is only to show that Ficus trees can be quite lovely without leaves. I took the photographs with my cellphone.

I defoliate the figs just before Spring and then again at least once in Summer.

It took me years to develop the bases and the curves in the trunks, even 38 years in the case of the *Ficus ingens* shown later.



The *Ficus natalensis* above needs some ramification. About 20 cm tall. It was grown from a cutting.



The cascading *Ficus ingens* above was bought when I started bonsai in 1982. It has been broken off through accidents and looked quite different when I started with it. I changed it into a cascade. About 30cm tall.



This *Ficus Burt-davyii* was the top of one that I uprooted some 15 years ago and that was considered to be too tall and straight. It was only a short piece of trunk that had no branches and I managed to get it growing. *Ficus* trees are wonderful material to work with.



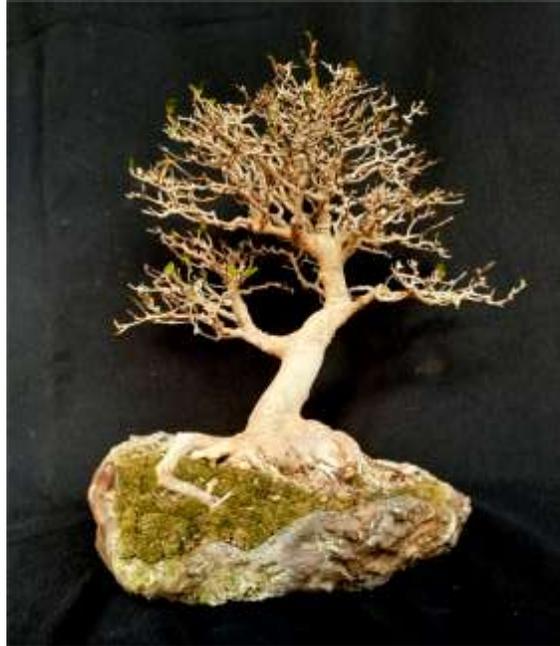
Above is another *F natalensis* grown from a cutting. The strange branching on the right looks far better than in the photograph, but just serves to show that I do not follow the rules meticulously. Nature doesn't allow for that ideal.



Above is a *F natalensis* cascading and at present outgrowing the artificial hollow rock. My concern at the moment is how to get it out of the container and then find another that mirrors the character of the trunk. Maybe I can re-use the present one.



This *F natalensis* has been grown from a trunk I was given as present in East-London. The base and then balance at the top is something I like. About 25cm tall.



This *F burt-davyi* seems a mess at the top, but honestly isn't. They ramify very well over time, but have many inner branches dying only to be replaced with new growth. I cannot imagine my life without the Ficus trees. In my garage under lighting for three months, but then into the sunshine and shade for nine months. Wonderful trees to work with.

Kind regards,

Pieter Loubser

Many thanks, once again Pieter, we all appreciate your magnificent Bonsai and very informative articles.

Last month we had a hands-on workshop at Brenthurst and gave some of the Bonsai some much needed attention. It was not very well supported but we are grateful to those who came and did some very necessary weeding, trimming and tidying up. With the very hot weather we have been having, the Bonsai are growing like crazy and I am struggling to keep up with the maintenance. I have been taking some of the smaller trees I am able to manage home to repot but we will need to all get stuck in next year to do a few major repotting sessions. Hopefully, all our lives will be back to normal again by then and hopefully The Floreum will be available for our monthly meetings. We have not yet received any further information about when it is likely to be available.

Just a reminder to all, Subscriptions for the new year are now due!! Single membership R200, Family membership R250, and Junior R30 per annum. If you pay by EFT, please let me know. Banking details below:

And now:

Something different for the newsletter.



<https://www.facebook.com/1396026080609020/posts/2747908648754083/?sfnsn=scwspmo&extid=SJ76yWelemsyjpnY&d=n&vh=e>

Regards,

Mike Hardisty

Thank you, Mike, very interesting. Wish our 'powers that be' would consider things like this. If there are any cake decorators out there, do consider the contents of the above as something suitable to do a presentation at a Bonsai meeting or convention in the future.

Birthdays in October: To Fred on the 12th, Marion on the 13th, Ruza on the 16th, Hazel on the 26th, and Almero (in Holland) on the 28th, congratulations, we all hope you will enjoy your special day and have many more.

Hoping to see you all on the 17th in Klerksdorp. Have you contacted Ruza yet?

Sincerely

Derry

COMMITTEE:

President:	RUZA WHITAKER	(082) 873 7955	TREVOR BOTHAM	(082) 784 7581
Treasurer:	DERRY RALPH	(082) 435 7126	GODFREY JONES	(082) 958 0771
Secretary:	STAN SIMCOX	(082) 467 8571	MIKE BULLIVANT	(071) 821 0272
BRAT:	ERICH WALTER	(083) 326 9799	PAUL HENRY	(074) 739 8886

**Banking Details: Nedbank – Rosebank Gardens Branch – 195 805:
Shibui Bonsai Kai: A/C # 1958 289 906**