



8. WHO'S WHO

IT HAS BEEN REALLY INTERESTING TO CONTINUE TO FIND OUT ABOUT OUR CLUB MEMBERS SO THIS MONTH WE COVER ONE OF THE CLUB'S FOUNDER MEMBERS, NOBODY ELSE BUT MR CUT CUT CUT AND MASTER OF THE MAME - OOM HENNIE. WE DID IT A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY THIS MONTH AND LET OOM HENNIE SPEAK FOR HIMSELF.

HI OOM HENNIE, TELL US MORE ABOUT YOURSELF

I WENT TO A BONSAI SHOW IN THE 1970'S IN PRETORIA AND THAT PLANTED THE SEED. I TRIED TO GROW BONSAI IN 1986 BUT IT DID NOT WORK, I HAD A BOOK FROM PETER CHAN BUT DID NOT REALIZE WHAT THEY DO IN EUROPE IN MARCH WE HAD TO DO IN SEPTEMBER.



Oom Hennie with his wisteria



Not Oom Hennie with his wisteria

THEN IN 1988 WE WENT TO LEeway's nursery IN THE SOUTH OF JOHANNESBURG TO BUY PLANTS AND THERE WAS A BONSAI SHOW AT THE nursery. CALVIN LEADER CONVINCED ME TO JOIN SOUTHERN BONSAI SOCIETY AND I HAD TO DO A BEGINNERS COURSE. THE SEMI CASCADE PYRACANTHA I HAVE WAS MY FIRST TREE THAT I EVER CREATED AND IT DEVELOPED INTO THE TREE THAT IT IS TODAY. THEN WE JOINED FORCES WITH EBS WHEN SOUTHERN BONSAI SOCIETY CLOSED DOWN AND I MET A LOT OF NEW BONSAI GROWERS, MY TWO MAIN MENTORS WERE CALVIN LEADER AND PETER VISAGIE, I ALSO MET DUNCAN WILES AT EBS AND LEARNT A LOT FROM HIM.

I DON'T COUNT MY TREES BUT WITH ALL THE MAME'S INCLUDED I MUST HAVE ABOUT 200 TREES PLUS A LOT OF CUTTINGS AND OTHER STOCK THAT I PLAY AROUND WITH AND TRY ALL KINDS OF THINGS WITH.

MY FAVOURITE STYLE IS CASCADE AND SEMI CASCADE. ONE OF THE LADIES AT EBS ASKED ME WHY I LIKE CASCADES SO MUCH AND I REPLIED A MAN HAS GOT SOMETHING HANGING DOWN AND THAT WAS THE REASON I LIKE THEM. LATELY MY PASSION IS SHOHIN AND MAME TREES BECAUSE IT IS EASIER TO CARRY AROUND HOWEVER MUCH HARDER TO KEEP ALIVE. MY FAVOURITE SPECIES IS BURTT DAVYII FIGS AND WILD OLIVES, I WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDER MEMBERS OF MIDWAY SO I AM THERE FROM THE START. MY FAVOURITE TREE IN MY COLLECTION IS MY HUGE WISTERIA AND THROUGH THE YEARS I REALLY GOT TO UNDERSTAND THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF WISTERIAS THE BEST ADVICE I EVER RECEIVED WAS IF YOU DECIDE TO CUT YOU DON'T WAIT YOU DO IT THERE AND THEN OR YOU LOSE AT LEAST A YEAR OF PROPER GROWTH BECAUSE YOU WERE TOO SCARED TO MAKE A CUT, YOU ALL KNOW THAT IS STILL MY MOTTO TODAY DON'T BE SCARED TO CUT AND DON'T WAIT TAKE A CUTTER AND CUT.

FROM 1991 TO 2009 I WAS SHOWING CATS, MAINLY SIAMESE AND ANOTHER PASSION I HAVE IS TEDDY BEARS. IN MY COLLECTION I ALSO HAVE ABOUT 200

DANKIE OOM HENNIE.

Just some of Oom Hennies mame and shohin trees

