

Bonsai Clipper

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Online Newsletter, Issue 11 November 2015

November Program

Place: SPALC Bldg., 6281 Metro Plantation Road

Date: Saturday, November 21, 2015, at 9:00 AM

Topic: What do I do with this Dead Wood-Carving Nature's Way

This month there is a great deal of business to attend to, but I still have a great program for us. Okay, this is the plan. I will be bringing some trees that are loaded with dead wood but not good deadwood. I will discuss tools needed for carving and how to make a plan. Get ready because this is going to be a good one. Several club members with experience carving on bonsai trees will do a demo transforming some 'ruined and worthless' material into great bonsai potential. It is only step one! These trees will return from time to time for more work because carving Nature's Way doesn't happen in one session. I hope to see all of you there for a fun, learning time.

Note on fall:

Well, we know it is fall here in south Florida because the rains are few and far between, the Crepe Myrtle have stopped growing and beginning to lose leaves, and the Cypress are beginning to turn. All of that means it is time for fall preparation for our winter.

Remember, our trees do not stop growing, with a few exceptions, they only slow down. There are a few important things to get done right now:

1. Top dress. Remove about 1 inch of old soil from the top of your pot and add new soil. This removes old fertilizer, salts, and weeds.
2. Add a Fall fertilizer. This is a fertilizer with high phosphates or a high middle

- number. It is usually the same as a Fruiting/Blooming fertilizer. The fertilizer should be slow release or total organic as during the slow growing season, our trees only use a little at a time. This type of fertilizer strengthens the roots and next year's buds for better growing.
3. Do a final trim back and wiring. This will probably be the last time for most of our trees until spring. Do not defoliate. Everything is growing slower and will not come back strong. Rather, thin out growth or cut leaves in half before wiring.
 4. No more repotting for most of our trees, unless it is an emergency.
 5. This is a good time to clean your benches and remove any algae that has formed from rainy season.
 6. We probably have several more months before any cold snaps, but get prepared. Have a plan and be ready.

2015 Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida Exhibition and Sale

The Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida presented our annual show and sale on Saturday and Sunday, October 17th and 18th. It was in a new venue, the City Pier building with a spectacular view - it was an excellent exhibit! Many thanks to all of you who worked so hard and long to make this happen. The display was exceptionally beautiful with many excellent trees suitably displayed in the traditional style.

We offer our sincere thanks to our judge Ed Trout. His critique comments were instructive, insightful, and very encouraging. Based on his critique, the following awards were given:

Best in Show

Sea Grape by Ginny Boka

Best Display

Buttonwood & Premna Display by Justin Michael

Shohin Trees

1st Place – Mame by Martha Goff

2nd Place – Bucida Spinosa by Charles James

3rd Place – Ficus Salicaria by Justin Michael

Small Trees

1st Place – Willow Leaf Fig by Mike Knowlton

2nd Place – Premna Microphylla by Craig Brown

3rd Place – Tiger Bark Fig by Mike Knowlton

Medium Trees

1st Place – Sea Grape by Ginny Boka

2nd Place – Ficus Kinman by Dorothy Schmitz

3rd Place – Juniperus Parsonii by Dorothy Schmitz

Large Trees

1st Place – Ficus Retusa by Martha Goff

2nd Place – Bougainvillea Glabra by Mike Knowlton

3rd Place – Chinese Elm by Rick Owens and Portulacaria by Phyllis Contino

Forest or Group Planting

1st Place – Portulacaria Afra by Judy Giandelone

2nd Place – Neea Buxifolia by Gerry Glenn

Novice Trees

1st Place – Bougainvillea Glabra by Phyllis Contino

2nd Place – Ficus Salicaria by Hamilton Agnew

3rd Place – Juniper Procumbens Nana by Barbara Murza

This award recognizes a tree that is a favorite of everyone:

People's Choice

Ficus Retusa by Martha Goff

Dues:

It is getting to that time of year again where we pay our dues for the 2016 year. Dues should be paid by Dec. 1st in order to be registered with BSF for the state magazine and also to insure that you are on our newsletter for the new year. I will be sending out an updated membership application that we need everyone to complete so all information is current.

Thanks,
Martha

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