

IT'S WINTER AT LAST

BONSAI CLIPPER VOLUME 27 ISSUE 3

MARCH 16, 2017

MEETING THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH, 9:00 AM

NOTE: This month we are meeting at our old location, the SPALC building.

March 18th Meeting: Gmelina Workshop

Gmelina philippensis, or Parrot's Beak, is native to the Philippines, South East Asia and India, and is evergreen in the tropics, but deciduous in colder climates. Repot Gmelinas now when the nighttime temperatures are 60 degrees or higher in well-draining soil. (Cont'd page 2)



ABOUT US:

We meet every third Saturday of each month at the Berne Davis Botanical Garden building located just north of the Edison Estates at 2166 Virginia Avenue. Parking is located on Larchmont street which is one block south of Virginia off of McGregor.

*You can find us at:
bonsaiswfl.org*

We welcome anyone interested in this ancient art form to take advantage of our many experienced artists and teachers.

See you soon...

OUR NEW MEETING PLACE BY SUSAN HOCK JOHNSON

In January, 2017 the Bonsai Society met for the first time at the *Berne Davis Botanical Gardens* on Virginia Avenue, Downtown, Fort Myers. The Gardens are the home of the Fort Myers - Lee County Garden Council, Inc. of which we are a member. It's newly renovated building hosted our November, 2016 Bonsai Show, and is a beautiful facility where we now hold our monthly meetings. We have also held our auction and picnics in the Council Gardens.

In 1957, nine local garden clubs and societies joined together to create the Fort Myers Garden Council. Ten years later, it was renamed the Fort Myers – Lee County Garden Council and now includes more than twenty garden clubs, nine plant societies and two affiliates. Areas of the garden are planted and maintained by the various garden clubs and societies. Garden Council meetings are held on the second Friday of the month, every other month, from September to May.

The Organization's brochure notes that the Fort Myers – Lee County Garden



Council, Inc. moved to its present location in 2007, and that is when our tree, *Ficus Benjamina* var. *nuda*, *F. philippensis*, was planted and the rocks put in place.

According to Judy Gore, Erik Wigert donated the tree to the club. Judy Gore planted it and mucked it onto the rocks that Phil Krieg brought in from LeHigh. Over the years, various members have tended the tree.

At our January meeting, an iris was planted to frame one corner. This tropical iris, *Neomaria Regina*, was hybridized by Andrea Wigert's father and named after her mother. An all-weather sign was ordered and will be put in place shortly to let visitors to the garden know who we are.

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OUR NEW MEETING PLACE (CONT'D)

The Berne Davis Botanical Gardens building also houses the Mina Edison Botanical Reference Library – as well as our library collection – and is open to the public on Tuesdays, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. beginning October through the end of May. (Cont'd page 2)

According to Bernadette Hamera, First Vice-President of the Council, last year, approximately one thousand people visited the garden during those months. “And this year,” she said, “we expect even more people.”

Word-of-mouth and advertisements placed in local papers, draw people to this little gem right next door to The Edison & Ford Winter Estates. We are very fortunate to be able to hold our meetings in this lovely spot.

Many hands worked to make this transition happen. To all of you, “Thank you!”

NOTES FROM FEBRUARY MEETING

- The 2017 Bonsai Societies of Florida convention is coming up in May. It is a joint convention this year with the American Bonsai Society so it will have a national flavor...don't miss it. Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida has agreed to participate in Club Night, where each club produces a Bonsai. Our club will be represented by Judy Gore, Justin Michael, John Bartolozzi, Jim & Gayle Gehring and Phil Krieg.
- John Bartolozzi presented a horticulture lesson including how chlorophyll moves in a plant, Ph and how it works, soils (turface isn't recommended), roots will split when they hit sharp objects among many other topics. He also gave the recipe for his paper-crete pot materials:
 - 60% Portland cement
 - 40% shredded paper

Paint with acrylic while it is still wet which will stain the mix. The bottom is not sealed. All other surfaces are sealed. He is very talented with this material!

CLASSES AT WIGERT'S BONSAI

- **Wire Class.** Learn and improve wiring techniques. Instructor Jason Osborne. Highly recommend this class for March 26 9am-12pm \$40 Bring your own tree.
- **Forest Planting** Class Feb 19 9am-3:30pm \$50 bring your own tree Instructor Jason Osborne
- **Chinese Elm Class** Feb 26 9am-12pm \$35 includes a tree Recommended for Beginners Instructor Mike Lane
- **Root Over Rock** Class March 11 2pm-5pm \$75 includes a tree Instructor Jason Osborne
- **Bucida spinosa** "Dwarf Black Olive" workshop with Ed Trout \$250 include large Bucida trees. Hard to find this size tree. March 26 1pm-4pm
- **Shohin "Miniature" Crepe Myrtle** March 12 9am-12pm \$50 includes a tree, Instructor Mike Lane

PROGRAMS: LOOKING AHEAD

April 15th is our annual picnic and auction at the Garden Council.

May 20th is a root-over-rock Ficus workshop, cost \$10.00.

June 17th is a caravan field trip to Lake Placid to Mary Madison's nursery. Mary, aka The Buttonwood Queen will give a talk on Buttonwoods, as well as provide a delicious lunch! This is a very valuable trip and you will enjoy it. Her reputation is well deserved!

July 15th is a Pinch pot workshop with Lyn Baker, cost \$15, which will make three pots.

(Cont'd from page 1)

Gmelinas do not like wet feet! They prefer full sun and are fast growers.

For more details, please refer to [Tropical Green Sheets II: A Care Guide for the Tropical Bonsai Grower](#), by Martha Goff, page 61-62.

If you did not sign up for the Gmelina Workshop, bring along your Acacia, Cassia, Dwarf Jade, Fukien Tea, Ixora, Pomegranate or Powder Puff to repot and style.