

IT'S LOOKING LIKE SPRING

BONSAI CLIPPER

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 3

MARCH PROGRAM VIA ZOOM

Getting down to the nitty gritty: Linda Rodriguez will discuss soil basics and then Martha Goff will explain special soil choices.

In past issues of the newsletter I have included photos of trees in the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, part of the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. I had the opportunity to visit the collection many years ago on a cold grey day in winter. Even then, the trees were impressive. Judging by the photographs of the National Bonsai Federation (<https://www.bonsai-nbf.org/>) many improvements have been made and more are planned. When we get to travel again, I consider a visit next time you are in the area. To whet your appetite here is another tree in their collection.



Crepemyrtle *Lagerstroemia indica*

In training since 1930.

Gift of Yuji Yoshimura, 1980

This tree was started in Japan from a cutting by Yuji's father, Toshiji Yoshimura.



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 located one block south of Virginia off McGregor Boulevard.

Our website is:

www.bonsaiswfl.org

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

See you soon...

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Increasing Trunk Size in Bonsai Trees

The most impressive bonsai are those with substantial trunks, and when I look at my collection, my first thought is that I wish more of them had larger-diameter trunks.

There are ways to accomplish this. Although the best method requires mental discipline and patience the best way to grow a bigger trunk is to grow a bigger tree.

To do this:

- 1) Remove the tree from its pot (and from any “bonsai soil” it’s in), and plant it in the ground, or at least into a bigger pot, using rich organic soil, and in a sunny location. Add rotted manure to the hole before planting.
- 2) Do not trim the roots or the foliage at all.
- 3) Water and feed consistently, but otherwise IGNORE the tree (I told you mental discipline was required).
- 4) Wait for a year (or 2 or 3), until the trunk base is as big as you want it (I told you patience was required, too). I

I have done this with Fukien Teas, Bougainvillea and Black Olive trees, and the trunks double or triple in diameter in 1-3 years.

Other techniques I have heard of but have not tried:

- 1) Pound the trunk with a hammer (lightly, I assume).
- 2) Make cuts in the trunk vertically (that is, from the ground up).
- 3) Periodically bend the lower portion of the trunk. These abuses reportedly cause the trunks to swell as they repair themselves. Personally, I like the first method better....

Jim Bremer

LAST CHANCE!

To pay your dues!

It is now time to renew your membership for 2021. We pay dues for the calendar year which begins in January. BSF urges us to have a current, up-to-date membership list by the first of January.

The club will continue with innovative programming next year, either virtually or in person.

Please mail your check to BSSWFL, PO Box 61945, Fort Myers, Fl 33906-1945.

Please enclose a membership form . Click [Here](#)

Some interesting links to Bonsai:

<https://youtu.be/ZovDAN1Y6uw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEGevD5jd64>

BONSAI GLOSSARY

BACK BUDDING - A technique used to encourage growth further back along the branch or trunk by pruning the terminal buds.

BOTANICAL NAME - The Latin name given to each and every plant the world over.

BUD BREAK - The point at which the bud has opened enough to show a green tip.

BUD BURST - The point at which the bud's contents unfurl; a new leaf appears.

BUD EXTENSION - Prior to Bud Break, where the tiny buds have been on the branch since the previous year, begin to swell and extend.

BLEED - to weep sap.

BRANCHES - Primary branches grow directly from the trunk; Secondary branches grow directly from the Primary branches; Tertiary branches grow directly from the Secondary branches.

BROAD-LEAVED/CONIFEROUS - Conifers belong to the group of naked-seeded plants known as gymnosperms- their seeds are not enclosed in an ovary. The leaves of Conifers are needle-shaped or scale-like. All Conifers are "evergreen" with a few notable exceptions. Broad-leaved trees are a much larger group belonging to the angiosperms or flowering plants which have seeds enclosed in an ovary. Also know as "deciduous" trees, these go dormant in Autumn until Spring.

BUD - Organ or shoot containing an embryonic branch, leaf or flower.

BUTTRESSING - Also known as the root-flare, the base of the tree flares outwards giving the impression of great age and solidity.

<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/blog/bonsai-terms>

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