

BONSAI SOCIETY OF SW FLORIDA, INC.
ESTABLISHED 1978

FROM DELUGE TO DRY!

BONSAI CLIPPER

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 10

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OCTOBER 19TH MEETING

Bring your show tree for display advice. Continuing discussion of display in preparation for the November show. Start looking for moss now!

Reminder: We have been forced to move our dates for the annual show to November 23rd and 24th. We need everyone to pitch in and help. It's also time to get your exhibit tree in shape...

2019 PROGRAMS

NOVEMBER 16 We hold the officer elections for 2020. This meeting is a workshop on Penjing with Mike Lane. We will have our Annual Show on November Saturday the 23rd and Sunday the 24th. Get to work on the tree you will be exhibiting now.

DECEMBER It's the annual Holiday party. We will discuss show results, photographs of each display and how to improve the event.

MISCELLANEOUS

Sources to purchase **moss**:
Store.mossacres.com or Appalachinemporium.com

Jorge Nazario, the President of Bonsai Societies of Florida, visited us during our September club meeting and offered news from Bonsai Societies of Florida including the 2020 Convention, new policies and the competition which was highlighted in the September newsletter. Thank you Jorge...

EVENTS AT WIGERT'S

- Nov 10 Windswept with Mike Lane
- Nov 30 Bonsai Collection Management with Mike Knowlton
- Dec 15 Intro to Juniper with Mike Lane
- Jan 2 Bring Your Own Tree with Jason Osborne
- Jan 12 Intro to Juniper with Mike Lane
- Jan 18 Bonsai Pruning & Care with Rick Johnstone
- Jan 19 Fukien Tea Bonsai with Mike Lane
- Feb 1 Kusamono with Martha Goff
- Feb 2 Visiting Artist - Jim Doyle Demo and workshop
- Feb 16 Shohin Elm with Mike Lane
- Feb 29 Chinese Elm with Mike Lane
- March 8 Bunjin with Mike Lane
- March 14 Wiring Jason Osborne
- March 15 Pyracantha with Mike Lane
- March 21 Triple 3xDemo "Mike Lane, Jason Osborne, Erik Wigert"

Please contact Wigert's Bonsai for prices and details and to sign up.
Andrea Wigert 239-543-2234



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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PROCESS OF CREATING BONSAI BY MARTHA GOFF

Choosing a Tree

1. Broad at base with surface roots extending out from tree
2. Taper from the base to the top
3. Branch material to work with (choices)
4. Healthy
5. Most people who are new and some who are not buy too many trees and never master any. Start slow and learn as you go.

Styling a Tree

1. Decide the style that best suits your tree and its natural growth.
2. Remove all material not needed for that style.
3. To defoliate or not—I choose thinning. It is my effort to stress the tree as little as possible.
4. Wire the branches to conform to your style.
5. Once wired, gently bend the branches into place. The movement of branches should match the movement of the trunk.
6. Check the shape from the front, sides, back and top. Make sure every branch has its own space so the sun can get to everything.

Choosing a Training Pot

1. For the next 3-5 years the tree will be maturing into a finished bonsai. While that is happening, the tree will need ample room to grow. A pot that is deeper and slightly larger than the final pot is needed.
2. I do not recommend using plastic for a long period of time as plastic does not breathe and retains a lot of water. Choose an inexpensive bonsai pot with plenty of good drainage holes. It is easy to drill additional holes with a ceramic bit.
3. Once the tree is planted, add shredded sphagnum to the soil surface. This helps retain moisture and some believe added nutrients.

Know Your Species

1. Every species is different in its requirements-sun, water, fertilizer, etc. When you purchase or collect a tree, do the proper research about its care.
2. Make sure it is suitable for your zone.
3. If you are near the coast, make sure it can take salt in the air.
4. Make sure that your yard can provide the adequate sun and air flow needed.
5. Check the pH of your water. Many on well water find that they are alkaline high which can cause nitrogen lock. There are ways to correct this. Do your research.
6. Know each species' need for fertilizer—acid, balanced, blooming.
7. Know what pests each species is susceptible to and be prepared.

Maintenance

1. Never worry about leaf size until you have all your branches and you have refined it with plenty of ramification. This will usually take care of the leaf size.
2. Once you have all branches and you are happy with the ramification, the best way

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BONSAI TERMS

Siuban A ceramic tray without drainage holes to display viewing stones (Suiseki) or for rock plantings which are usually shown as in water.

Tokonoma A small raised alcove where individual Bonsai are displayed, consisting of three elements: the tree (man), a scroll (heaven) and accessory (earth). A Tokonoma is a traditional area in a Japanese house where bonsai are brought inside for a short period and displayed with accent plantings and calligraphy.

Yamadori Japanese term for a tree collected from the wild (Everglades, beach or mountain) or a tree dwarfed "in the wild" by natural circumstances.

Mame Refers to the size of a bonsai. Mame bonsai should ideally be no more than 4" (10cm) and can be held in the palm of your hand.

PROCESS OF CREATING BONSAI (CONT'D)

to reduce leaf size is by removing the largest leaves from each section of the tree. Check this every week or two. The leaves will come back smaller and smaller.

3. Ed Trout once said that skipping a year of tree maintenance sends you back to the beginning.

Choosing the Final Pot

1. The pot becomes a complement to the tree similar to a frame for a painting. They blend into one picture.

2. The pot should never be stronger than the tree. A good test is asking, "What do you see first?"

3. The shape and color of the pot conform to the style of the tree. Some trees are masculine. Some trees are feminine. Some display both characteristics.

4. If you are new at this, ask advice from those more experienced. There are many articles on the correct way to choose a pot.

5. The price does not make the pot. There are pots that can cost as much as a tree, however, if asked, most people could not tell you who made your pot or how much it cost. The important thing is does it complement your tree or take away from it.

Displaying the Tree

1. Trees to be displayed need a stand. Again, just like the pot, the stand should complement the tree. The stand should have an inch or two space all around the pot.

2. When displaying trees, wire should never be obvious. I recommend using copper wire. A smaller gauge will do the same job as aluminum. Make sure it is hidden.

3. The pot surface should be covered with moss. Since moss represents vegetation growing around a tree in nature, at least 3 separate varieties should be used. The moss should be torn in quarter size pieces and placed with no visible edges.

4. Every tree in a display should have a complementary plant or figure with it. The planting is called Shitakusa. This planting shows the geographic location of the tree and the season of display. There are many rules for using Shitakusa regarding pot choice, the jita, and the plants. Be sure to get advice from someone with experience.

5. The total display depicts a scene in nature. Every element shows a part of that landscape and should transport the viewer to that scene.

Final Words

As you can see, Bonsai can be a great deal of effort but it is always a pleasure. Each topic listed is a study all on its own. Never hesitate to get help from those who have experience and take as many classes as you find available. Learning never ends...

As Ed Trout says, "You are an expert in your own backyard."