

BONSAI SOCIETY OF SW FLORIDA, INC.
ESTABLISHED 1978

WE NEED RAIN!

BONSAI CLIPPER

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JUNE 15TH MEETING

Repot It! clinic includes a demo with club soil and wire. We will re-pot both Pre-Bonsai (bare root) as well as mature (perimeter margins only) plants to illustrate the differences in potting techniques depending on the plant's needs.

2019 PROGRAMS

JULY Workshop Fukien Tea *Root-Over-Rock*. Judy Gore has donated the plants and rocks. Find and bring a nice rock that has no salt minerals. Also, bring a deep nursery pot to start it out.

AUGUST Topic is Buttonwood, Chili Thrips and other pests discussion.

SEPTEMBER *Bonsai Stepchildren and Why They Matter* presentation including Keshiki, Pop Bonsai, Kusamono and Suiseki. A discussion of related arts to Bonsai. A workshop for Keshiki and Kusamono.

OCTOBER Bring your show tree for display advice. Continuing discussion of display in preparation for the November show. If we have Ernie doing the judging, we will invite him to give us a lesson on his criteria for judging.

NOVEMBER We hold the officer elections for 2020. The feature of this meeting is a workshop on Penjing with Mike Lane. We will have our Annual Show.

DECEMBER It's the annual Holiday party. We will discuss show results,

photographs of each display and discussion of how to improve the event.

(PS Sorry for missing the May newsletter. I was preoccupied. I'm back on track now. Phil)

REMINDER

- Erik Wigert styling hints:
 1. "Find the line of the trunk"
 2. "Where movement and tapers ends cut the trunk"
- Please share photos of your trees for this newsletter. We would like to see your work.



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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SUMMER REPOTTING PREPARATIONS

Since our next meeting is about repotting, Martha Goff has really good non-organic bonsai soil for sale. She has 5 gallon buckets for \$35 and one gallon buckets for \$12. Ed can bring them to the next meeting for anyone who preorders and pays. Call Martha at 239-332-3850 and use a credit card.

MAY CLUB MEETING REPORT

- The club has named Ed Trout as an honorary member. He has taught us so much over the years and given generously of his time and talent. Many thanks Ed!
- Sam reported on the 2019 Bonsai Societies of Florida convention. Lots of interesting and educational events were delivered. Our club was given a permanent trophy for winning Club Night 2018 which will be permanently displayed at the Garden Council building. Martha Goff noted that Club Night was originally created by our club in 2003 when we hosted the event and has become a favorite feature of each convention since.
- Spring picnic/auction raised \$943 which should pay for our annual show security. Thanks to all and well done!
- We have a permanent storage unit located off of Colonial near McGregor. We have paid \$1,632 for 25 months rent...such a deal.
- Tuesday June 25th we will host Jenifer Price for a demonstration at 6:00 p.m. She is a student of Walter Pall and has toured worldwide. The club authorized spending \$300 for the plant material which will be a high quality plant. Don't miss it.
- Peter Shawinsky presented a progression of trees to illustrate how much progress can be made in a short period of time. He noted that when repotting Portulacaria allow the plant to dry out two weeks prior to repotting. This may seem counter productive but it works for this plant. Don't try this with others...!

I HAVE A TREE

I have a tree It's in a pot I sit and stare at it a lot.

I rack my brain for ways to trim it; chop the top and maybe jin it?

Twist the branches bend the trunk strip the bark prune out the junk!

Perch the poor thing on a rock and hope it doesn't die of shock.

Expose a root or make a raft; perhaps I should perform a graft?

My victim sits and glares at me; "I'm not a sculpture,

I'm a TREE!"

I want to grow up tall and limber. (I hope I don't end up as timber!)

I reconsider, guiltily. What right have I to carve this tree?

I'll turn it loose, yes, set it free! But wait, is that a smirk I see?

I seal its mouth with grafting wax then I sharpen up my ax.

Because it's played me for a chump, I chop it down and leave a stump.

Fiesta Cranberry

TREASURY OF

HUMOR by Isaac Azimov

Lady Astor, who entered the House of Commons in 1919, had few betters in the art of repartee. One of them was Winston Churchill.

After one hot set-to in Parliament, Lady Astor said to Churchill, "Winston, if you were my husband, I would poison your coffee."

"If you were my wife, Nancy," replied Churchill suavely, "I would drink it."

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Yep, it is that time of year again—**REPOTTING TIME**. Ready or not, it has to happen. Hopefully, you have your pots, soil, and wire lined up.

1. Make sure the tree needs repotting. If you can lift the tree out and the roots are a solid mass, it's time to repot. If you lift it and most of the soil is falling away, it isn't time. Check the tree again later in the summer.
2. Before you repot, trim back and wire the tree to style. Some people totally defoliate the tree but I do not. To me it is an additional stress on the tree. I choose to thin out the foliage so when I remove roots, it balances.
3. Make sure your pot is screened and at least two tie wires are ready.
4. Add a layer of bonsai soil to the bottom of the pot.
5. Add organic fertilizer around the sides of the pot on this layer of soil.
6. Trim the roots of the trees especially around the sides and the bottom of the tree.
7. Gently rake the roots straight out from the tree and trim again if needed.
8. Place the tree in position in the pot.
9. Join the tie down wires and tighten down the tree. You should be able to lift the tree by the trunk and it will not move in the pot. I wouldn't try this with a heavy tree.
10. Fill the remainder of the pot with soil and gently work in with a chop stick. Using the heel of your hand, tap around sides of your pot. This will allow the soil to settle.
11. Using a sprayer, water your tree from above until water runs out the drainage holes. This will further settle the soil.
12. I add a layer of shredded sphagnum to the top of the soil. This helps maintain moisture and some believe the sphagnum has nutrient benefits for the tree.
13. Keep the tree in the shade until new growth begins to appear, then move back to the sun.

Many are noticing a bug problem after our mild winter. Keep a watch for any tree problems and watch for bugs. Ants are a good indicator of aphid problems.

Recommended solutions for bugs:

1. Soapy spray. You can make your own with mild liquid dish detergent or buy products such as Safer Soap for plants.
2. A good preventative is Ortho 3-1 systemic, but remember, it can take up to 4 weeks for it to start working. It does last a long time however. It will kill only bad bugs that eat your plant and not good bugs.
3. There are many products out there. Be sure to read the instructions carefully and make sure it is safe for pets or children to be around.

You are about to have 4 to 5 months of very hungry plants. Make sure you establish a regular fertilizing routine and stick to it. It is a good idea to change products from time to time. Always read the instructions. Also, if you use a liquid fertilizer, remember it is rainy season and all that fertilizer will wash out of the pot quickly. I recommend not only the liquid, but also an organic or other slow release fertilizer. Always follow directions when applying. Organic is the only fertilizer that will not burn your plants if you use too much.

HAPPY BONSAIING!

Martha Goff