

BONSAI SOCIETY OF SW FLORIDA, INC.
ESTABLISHED 1978

LOTS OF RAIN AND OUR TREES LOVE IT!

BONSAI CLIPPER

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SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

SEPTEMBER 21ST MEETING

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

REMINDER: November 23rd and 24th is our annual Show and Sale. We need everyone to pitch in and help. It's also time to get your exhibit tree in shape...moss hunting might be easier now in our rainy season...maybe?

2019 PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 19 Bring your show tree for display advice. Continuing discussion of display in preparation for the November show.

NOVEMBER 16 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 on November Saturday the 23rd and Sunday the 24th. Get to work on the tree you will be exhibiting now. It will take that long to prepare it to be ready.

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

MISCELANEOUS

Sources to purchase **moss**:
Store.mossacres.com or tnursery.net

Jorge Nazario, the President of Bonsai Societies of Florida, will be joining us at our next meeting on September 21st. Please make sure to attend this meeting as we would like to show our support.

Arnim Jebe has a collection of *Bonsai Today Magazine* from issue #1 through #82 which he would like to sell for \$750.00.

EVENTS AT WIGERT'S

Oct 20 Kusamono with Martha Goff
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 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
info@wigertsbonsai.com



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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PEST CONTROL BY TROY RANDALL

My favorite and trusted place to seek information on pests and diseases is the University of Florida's IFAS website. I have obtained most of the information through this website and basically through my decades of experience in the industry and from the Bonsai club as well in which I have learned that broad applications can be dangerous!

Basics: Insecticidal Soaps, Neem oil, Pyrethrins, home solution of mild soap, vegetable oil (for sticker) and water

Aphids: A simple jet of water or a solution of 1 tsp mild soap, 1/2 tsp Neem to 1 Qt of water

Mealy Bugs: Manual removal or squishing or a solution of 2 tsp mild soap to 1 Qt of water then rinse after 15 to 20 minutes. Also 70% Isopropyl alcohol spray or via cotton swab.

Whitefly: Seaweed powder and water (have not found mixing rate yet) or 4oz of epsom salt to 1 gal water, soak plant, especially underside of leaves.

Scale: Organic mineral oil (kills crawler stage and clogs the pores in the scale's protective armor (will not kill eggs), repeated applications necessary for 3 to 4 weeks. Use caution using oil on some plant material. Can also use sharp tool or needle to pierce scale body.

Ants: Usually a secondary issue from an infestation of aphids or mealy bugs. Also could be simply nesting in potting soil. I use Terro liquid ant bait if I see "ghost" or "sugar" ants crawling around. This product can be found at True Value Hardware and most likely other hardware/box stores.

Borers: Systemic control with possibly using Imidacloprid...can also use Lindane or Dursban. Borers are very hard to eliminate. Destroy plant if heavily infested, remove from property.

Caterpillars: Manually by hand or organic spray (3-in-1), also seen Di-pel recommended, don't know much about this one...constant monitoring of plant is best prevention.

Sri-Lanka weevil or Little leaf Notcher: Manual squishing or Systemic/Foliar chemical control is best but difficult as they either fly or drop to the ground as a defensive move. Very seasonal, usually associated with infestations of other trees and plants in yard or neighboring foliage. Possible solution would be to spray foliage with a nasty-tasting but safe, organic solution of some sort.

Ficus Thrips: Systemic Insecticide, soil drench is best with Imidacloprid (my favorite!) Foliar application is difficult due to folding of leaves. Manual removal of affected leaves is probably the quickest method as ficus recovers quickly.

Chilli Thrips: Pyrethrins are not effective. Systemic soil drench or foliar application of Imidacloprid ..keep leaf litter to a minimum, great environment for reproduction.

Spider Mites: Bayer 3-in-1 spray for most plants or Systemic and foliar applications of Imidacloprid. I use Avid for mite control on Junipers.

As with all chemicals, exercise caution with the use of gloves, eye protection, etc...

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Martha Goff

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Justin Michael

Gail Gehring

Joe McKenzie

BONSAI TERMS

Back Budding is the process of encouraging new growth on a branch where growth is currently non-existent. Back budding occurs when new buds appear on "old" wood. Sometimes you can induce back budding by scrubbing the branch either with a brush or a pressure washer...know your species.

Cambium The layer of living tissue (typically green) between the sapwood and the bark. In regions where there are alternating seasons, each year's growth laid down by cambium is discernible because of the contrast between the large wood elements produced in the spring and the smaller ones produced in the summer, the annual rings.

Feeder Root Fine roots that absorb water and nutrients from the soil.

BONSAI 101 BY JIM GEHRING

Jim Gehring presented an education program. Here is a brief summary...

1. Basics

- a.) Many trees are not indigenous to South Florida or the Caribbean Basin. Many were deposited here by storms. And we all know how storms can relocate most anything, including plants.
- b.) Design guidelines: Find the line of the trunk. Where movement and tapers ends, cut the trunk. Bark texture adds to sense of age.
- c.) Xylem is where sap flows up and phloem is where sap flows down.
- d.) The primary factors in development of vegetation types are Soil, Water, Drainage and Elevation (a minor change in elevation results in great changes in vegetation)
- e.) Remove branches growing straight up or from under the branch.
- f.) Plan for the future of your tree...1 year, 5 years.

2. Buttonwood occurs where peat build-up is 10" or more above sea level. The underside of the leaf has a system to expel salts, those two little dots on the bottom of leaves.

- a.) Mangrove can tolerate salinity of 40,000 ppm while Buttonwood tolerates 1,000 ppm. Buttonwood can tolerate more salinity if heavy rains follow to dissipate the salt. Buttonwood strands will take over alligator nests when abandoned by the gators.
 - b.) Buttonwoods have been a commercial commodity as in buttons and charcoal.
 - c.) Leave a clump of root base when repotting in a "feather" cut with shortest roots on top and longest roots at the bottom of the root ball. Cut the long heavy root back. New root system will sprout at the terminal of the largest roots. Some people place the pot/plant in a shallow dish of water. Never allow the plant to dry out. Keep in shade/filtered for first week. Full sun when new buds appear as in the 2nd or 3rd week.
 - d.) They are susceptible to the cold. Bring inside when temps Approach 40°. If they get chilled water with warm water. They are impervious to decay.
 - e.) Fertilize full strength once a month or 1/2 strength twice a month with 1/4tsp Superthrive, 1tblsp liquid seaweed, and one 1tblsp 20-20-20 applied to trunk and branches (foliar feeding). At the 4th and 5th week discontinue foliar feeding and use a mild fertilizer as in fish emulsion. Then return to your regular fertilizer.
 - f.) If leaves are too big cut branch back to 2 leaves (one set)
 - g.) The only pests are Chili Thrips. (Refer to article page 2.)
4. Develop a rounded apex for a tropical profile. No tropical is shaped with a cone profile like a conifer.
5. Collect during hottest time of the year, May through August.

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MORE TERMS

Lava Rock is a bonsai soil amendment formed from crushed volcanic ash.

Pumice is a light colored volcanic rock containing abundant trapped gas bubbles formed by the explosive eruption of magma. It's often used in soil amendment.

N-P-K is the acronym for the three major nutrients and describe the amount of each chemical. "N" is for Nitrogen. "P" is Phosphorus. "K" is Potassium.

Petiole is the structure that attaches the leaf blade to the stem.

Photosynthesis is the process by which plants convert water and carbon dioxide into carbohydrates, using sunlight as the source of energy and the aid of chlorophyll.

Shohin are plants less than 10" tall although some prefer less than 8".

Scholarship Competition

BSF is planning a new and exciting format for scholarship competition for the 2020 convention. The only qualifications are that you are a member of a BSF affiliated Club and that you have not previously won the State Scholarship competition. There will be three stages. First local clubs within District 7 (Sho Fu, Ichiban Kai and Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida) will determine through a club competition, if there is more than one member who is interested, which member will represent the club at stage two (District 7). There will be a competition in District 7 to determine a District 7 winner. Stage 3 will occur at the Convention between winners from each District. District winners will act as apprentices to instructors at the Convention next year. The final competition will take place at the convention and be judged by a team of professional judges. All competitions will involve similar species of comparable plant material. The first and second prizes are \$1000 and \$500, to be used exclusively for the study of bonsai. The State winners will do demos at the 2021 convention.

Sho Fu can have its own competition to determine the winner for our club, assuming that we have several members interested in competing. Think about it! This is a great opportunity to further your knowledge of bonsai. This is just a short summary - all of the details of the competition are in the recent summer newsletter that all members received from BSF. The deadline for Sho Fu club members to express interest in participating is October 1. Contact Mike Knowlton (District 7 Trustee) at trustee7.mk@bonsai-bsf.com if you have any questions or you are interested in participating.