

BONSAI SOCIETY OF SW FLORIDA, INC.

WWW.BONSAISWFL.ORG

WILL THE “COLD” WEATHER EVER STOP?

BONSAI CLIPPER

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2020 MEETING

HEADS UP!

Our March meeting is special! We are joining Sho Fu and Ichiban at Wigert's Nursery at **1 PM on March 21, 2020** for a Triple Demo featuring Erik Wigert, Mike Lane, and Jason Osborne. Wear your club shirt (if you have one) or name tag and bring a folding chair. We are asked to carpool wherever possible. The demo trees will be auctioned or raffled at the end of the program, so you may want to bring some cash and a check book.

Apologies for nagging, but have you paid your dues for 2020?

We need to get names and membership fees to BSF. If your name isn't on their list you will not get the on-line magazine.

On the 21st you can either pay your dues or you can pay the \$10 admission fee at Wigert's.

2020 Monthly Programs

April - Annual auction and picnic

May—Presentation by Mike Knowlton, “The Art of Display”

June—Jason Osborne on wiring He will give a 2 hour presentation and then we get to practice. BYOT

July—Process Development Stage 1. Bring your own tree or purchase a pre-bonsai blueberry. During the next three months we will follow the process from initial concept through styling. An optional program (TBD) will also be offered..

August—Ramification with Adam Lavigne. Process Development Stage 2.

September—Round Robin styling contest. Development Process Stage 3.

October—Mike Lane. Exposed root “bottle trees” using premna

November—Preparation for our annual show

December—Holiday Party



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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Notes from January 18,2020 club meeting

Phil Krieg presided in Sam's absence.

Remember: the March meeting will be at Wigert's beginning at 1 PM. Rare opportunity to see demonstration by Erik, Mike Lane, and Jason Osborne. This is a three club meeting with Sho Fu and Ichiban. Suggested that you bring a folding chair.

April will be our annual auction and picnic. Get your plants, pots and other stuff ready for the auction.

BSF Convention in Orlando Memorial Day weekend. Jim Gehring is heading up our club night display.

Also National Exhibition in Rochester coming up in 2020.

The club has been asked to do a presentation on bonsai at the rehabilitation center at Health Park. Judy Giandelone and Dave Bovio will be there.

Jim Bremer gave a presentation on clip and grow.

Gary McFall taught us about pot making. About 15 club members had fun making their own bonsai pot. For those who made a pot, remember it needs to be fired after drying for about a week; then glazed and fired again. Gary recommends the rec center in North Fort Myers. There will be a fee for joining the class.

2020 CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Sam Wollard

VICE-PRESIDENT

Phil Krieg

SECRETARY

Judy Giandelone

TREASURER

Hamilton Agnew

BOARD MEMBERS

Gail Gehring

Linda Rodriguez

Bill Smith

David Bovio

Gary McFall

“When I judge art, I take my painting and put it next to a God made object like a tree or flower. If it clashes, it is not art.”

[Paul Cezanne](#)

CLIP AND GROW

BY JIM BREMER FEBRUARY 15, 2020

To create bonsai, there are mechanical methods for shaping trees (wiring, tie-downs, clamps and spacers) and there are more natural methods, which are generally referred to as clip and grow. There are, I suppose, a few purists that use only one method, but in my experience, nearly every bonsaist uses techniques from BOTH methods, because in real life we are all of the WHATEVER WORKS school. In brief, clip and grow refers to a methodical approach to learning how a tree works in nature, what it is likely to do under changed circumstances, and making the changes that will induce it to grow as we wish. It requires some study (to acquire the knowledge), discipline (to apply the knowledge) and a great deal of patience (to allow the tree to respond). What are we hoping to achieve in our trees? Bonsai trees are judged by how well they demonstrate certain favorable characteristics: taper, movement and ramification are three basic structural elements, each of which can be created and enhanced by applying clip and grow techniques. Start with these observations from nature: The longer a branch remains on a tree, and the more foliage it bears, the longer and larger in diameter it becomes. This suggests the techniques of staging (or scheduled) branching and sacrificial branching. Branches that are cut will sprout new growth at the cut end from the last remaining growth node. This suggests the technique of directional pruning. Let's build a bonsai tree from scratch. Let's start with a demonstration you've probably seen, in which a nursery tree (a 5-6 foot, balled or potted tree with foliage only near the top, and known as a standard) is cut down to 1 or 2 feet. This is called a chop. What happens next? In the months following the chop, the tree is shocked, and thereafter rearranging its hormones to survive. It needs to grow foliage to survive, so the roots send out growth hormones to the upper portion of the tree. What to do? Reduce water and feeding. Green shoots will emerge from all over the remaining stump. Let them. Give the tree time to recover and restart its genetically programmed growth pattern (6-12 months). When the tree has shot out all over and you just can't stand it any more, examine the tree and select 1) an apex, near the top and 2) a first branch (on the side, about 1/3 up from where you foresee the height of the finished tree, and preferably on the outside of a curve). You may pick out an additional alternate shoot for each, but cut off the other shoots. Now let the tree once again recover from shock, and regrow (at least six months, and perhaps a year, depending on how fast the tree grows). Review your top and branch choices, and again cut off the other shoots. Repeat this process at least once. Remember that your ultimate success depends on waiting for the tree to grow into a desirable shape. You want to see the top and first branch grow long and fat. You are creating SACRIFICIAL BRANCHES to increase the diameter of the top and first branch.

When the top and branch are big enough (this is not a technical term, but is up to you to decide) you can cut them. The top should be about 2/3 the diameter of the part of the tree from which it emerges; the branch is preferably 1/3 to 1/2 of the diameter of the trunk where the branch emerges.

Where to cut depends on where you want the first tapering of the top to end, and where you want the first segment of the first branch to end. Angle the cutters so that the last remaining growth node points to where you want the future growth to emerge, usually at an angle away from the angle of the preceding branch, to incorporate movement in the branch as it grows out. . THIS IS DIRECTIONAL PRUNING and the part you cut off are SACRIFICIAL BRANCHES. Strive to make each segment of the branch change direction (MOVEMENT) and to be smaller in diameter than the segment behind it (TAPER). Repeat this process of growing the top and branch far beyond where you intend for them to be eventually, and cutting them back at an angle to fit your plan for the tree. In the following years, you should begin to allow other new shoots to remain on the trunk where you want them as branches, from the first branch up. Each of the upper branches, started later, should be smaller than the one below it (TAPER), and should be grown out and cut as you did the first branch. Branches may develop side shoots, or you may create tertiary branches by cutting off the branch tip, to create RAMIFICATION.

You should now have created the structure of a pretty good bonsai tree.

What if you're starting from pre-bonsai stock or a grown-out tree? Evaluate the tree and decide where it can be improved, applying clip and grow principles. Most often, branches were not allowed to grow long enough before being cut back. If the tree is not as good as it could be, decide where in the above staged growing process it went wrong. Go back to that stage and start over. The tree will start again in the growing process where it left off. (Of course it will take time, but start now and begin improving the tree rather than staring at its deficiencies and further delaying its improvement). For example, if the first branch lacks taper or movement, cut it back to where you want the segments to get smaller, and/or direct future growth to create changes of direction. (Cut back all of the higher branches in parallel fashion). If the first branch is just too thin where it emerges from the trunk, remove all of the upper branches and let the first branch grow to the size you want it, allowing the branches above it to shoot out in order (bottom first) with intervals in between. Remember, grow them out beyond where they will eventually be, and cut them back, using directional pruning to impose movement where the next segment begins. SUMMARY Clip and grow is the term used for understanding and using the tree's programmed growing processes to induce it to create the form you wish it to take. It relies on knowledge of horticulture to encourage the artistry of bonsai.

Up Coming Events at Wigert

Wigert's Bonsai Class Schedule. Please Contact Andrea to sign up. 239-543-2234 or email info@wigertsbonsai.com

Beginner Class 2 Part - March 7 /14

Bunjin March 8

Wiring March 14

Pyracantha March 15

Triple Demo "Mike Lane, Jason Osborne, Erik Wigert"- March 21

BONSAI GLOSSARY

Deciduous: A tree that has a seasonal growth cycle where new foliage is produced in the spring, then grows throughout the summer, turns colors in autumn, and drops in the winter, leaving buds on the branches for next spring's new foliage. Deciduous trees enter a state of dormancy annually.

Dieback: Death of shoots or branch tips caused by drought, insects, disease, lack of light or extreme weather conditions.

Defoliation: Leaf pruning, whereby some or all of the leaves are removed to encourage new shoots and smaller leaves which can greatly increase ramification.

Dormancy - Is the resting period for bonsai, where little or no growth is produced - usually autumn and winter months.

Dwarf: A variety or cultivar that is smaller than the species tree, but retains all of the characteristics of a full size species tree. Dwarfs are typically compact and slow growing.

<https://www.bonsaioutlet.com/bonsai-glossary/>

A photo of your tree would look great here

