



BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

July Meeting Notes

Rick Simon was in Alaska, so Karen Cogswell took notes during the July meeting.

We welcomed new members Kelly Knowlton and Leo Diaz.

Bill Smith displayed a beautiful Neea that he purchased from Judy Giandelone before she moved away about 3 years ago.

Our November show will be on November 16-17, 2024. Start getting your trees ready, gather your moss, think about donations for “Grumpy Dave’s” raffle and save your money so that you can support our vendors and buy raffle tickets.

We now have our Torii Gate on permanent display at the Garden Center over the sidewalk on the “Edison” side. Many thanks to Ham, Jay, and Dave.

There are three openings in the two study groups.

Adam Lavigne: 9-3 on the First Thursday and Sunday. \$180 for six month semester, or \$30 for each session.

Mike Lane: The Shohin group. \$75 for 3 months (dates to be determined for August, September and October. See Dave Bovio for details and more info.

Both of these artists are available for private sessions when you book through them.

AUGUST 17th MEETING:

Due to health reasons our Kathy Maisano has had to cancel our Daiza/Suiseki demo. So, for our August meeting Karen will bring in the trees that Mike Lane did some grafting on in May so you can see how they are doing.

Also please bring in any trees you would like to work on or get some guidance on. Our November show is coming so this would be a great opportunity to bring in a tree or two that you are thinking about showing. You can ask for advice or a critique so you can get it on top form for the show. There are many experienced people who are more than happy to help you.

WHAT HAPPENED IN JULY?

Hiram Macias of Olicata Bonsai did a demo on a tree that Martha designated to be as our holiday raffle tree. Buy Tickets!

Every year we try to pick one special program out of all our others, to bring in a special speaker and offer a one-time treat. We were thrilled to have Hiram Macias from Florida's east coast join us. Hiram is especially skilled in the art of creating literati bonsai and we had an all-day event planned to tap into that skill.

Hiram Macias



Hiram conducted a teaching session while creating a literati bonsai in the morning session. The morning demo tree will become our Holiday Tree. We will sell raffle tickets every meeting until the December meeting.

After the demonstration, those taking the workshop in the afternoon were invited to remain for lunch.

“Stay Inspired”

THE TORII GATE



A *torii* ([Japanese](#): 鳥居, [\[to.ri.i\]](#)) is a traditional [Japanese](#) gate most commonly found at the entrance of or within a [Shinto shrine](#), where it symbolically marks the transition from the mundane to the sacred,^[1] and a spot where [kami](#) are welcomed and thought to travel through.

This gate has traditionally been assembled and displayed at our yearly Bonsai Exhibit for many years. Each year, after the show, we disassembled it and stored it either at a storage facility or someone's home. It's a fairly bulky and heavy item and took a considerable amount of effort to move it each time.

Several months ago, the Berne Davis Botanical Gardens, also known as the Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council, asked us if we would put it on permanent display. We were honored.

There were several issues to resolve.

The first step was to move all of the pieces from one member's home, where it was in storage, to another member's home for renovation.

The Torii Gate had been moved many times over the years and had many dings, bruises, scraped paint, and general signs of aging.

The second concern is that it's made of pine wood and had never lived outdoors for more than three days a year. Pine is a soft wood and not water resistant.

The first phase of the renovation was to patch, fill-in dings, and sand everything.

The second phase was to douse all pieces in varnish, over and over again...inside and out. That took about a week for five coats.

Then it was transported to the Garden Center, where Ham Agnew, Dave Bovio and Jay Saarinen dug six holes for the vertical post extensions and poured hundreds of pounds of concrete to protect it against heavy winds.....we get a few once in a while!

The final phase was to paint it. Over the years it had been touched up now and then, but it looked like a patchwork quilt in some places.

Three coats of fresh paint, and with the previous heavy varnishing procedure, may extend the Gate's life for a decade or more.

The last phase was to add an international flare to it.

The Gardens often have visitors from all over the world, so an effort was made, in the sign below, to say "Thank You for Visiting" in 25 languages.



ABOUT BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

We meet the 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, one block south of Virginia off McGregor Boulevard.

Doors open at 9 AM. A friendly member will make you feel welcome. Coffee will be fresh.

Visit our website: www.bonsaiswfl.org 239-935-6850

We welcome everyone interested in this ancient art form to take advantage of our many experienced artists and teachers. Enjoy the camaraderie of those who work to keep this art alive. Join us.

FOR ALL YOUR BONSAI NEEDS CONTACT OUR LOCAL VENDORS

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If you are a club member, soil will be brought to the meeting. You can pick the soil up at my home or we can meet you halfway to deliver.

TROPICAL GREEN BONSAI

Ed and Martha Goff

The Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida, Inc.

www.bonsaiswfl.org

239 935-5860

