



August 2022 Volume 35, Issue 8

Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida

[www.bonsaiswfl.org](http://www.bonsaiswfl.org)

### **JULY MEETING RECAP**

When Adam Lavigne conducts a Bonsai workshop, the foliage flies. At the July 16 meeting of Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida, the theme was Refinement.

In Bonsai terms, refinement is the second stage of care, after initial development. The goal of refinement is to create ramification of primary, secondary and tertiary branches. Adam demonstrated how to apply judicious pruning to develop highly refined trees that show the broad ramification of a much older tree.

Ramification is not a phase of Bonsai development, but a continuous process in the care of the tree. Refinement techniques include pinching, leaf trimming, clip and grow and wiring. Patience is key in refinement. Like Rome, a Bonsai is not built in a day. There is perhaps no such thing as a finished Bonsai product.

In the photo below, April Lattanzi watches closely as Adam and Troy Randall work. Note the large pile of foliage nearby, formerly attached to the tree being refined.





Adam Lavigne demonstrates refinement technique.

### **BEGINNER WORKSHOP TUESDAY, AUGUST 16**

Mike Lane returns with an all-day workshop aimed at helping new Bonsai artists develop skill, technique and confidence. The meeting will be held at the Garden Council of the Berne Davis Garden Center, 2166 Virginia Avenue, Fort Myers.

Contact Martha Goff at 239-332-3850 to sign up for the limited available seats. [This is a landline, so do not try texting to this number.] Be sure to ask about any fees associated with this session. Martha will provide lunch.

### **NEXT BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING SATURDAY, AUGUST 20**

Be prepared for teamwork and a little competition at the August meeting. Three trees will be presented to the club for styling. Three teams will be created, each working on one of the trees. Teams will have 90 minutes to complete their work.

At the end of the workshop, awards will be given for styling superiority. These three trees will be raffled after the workshop or during a later meeting. Tickets for the raffle of the holiday tree will also be awarded.

This promises to be a collaborative workshop. It's also an opportunity to show off our famous teamwork. Mark your calendar: the meeting is Saturday August 20, 9:00 AM to 12 noon at the Garden Council of the Berne Davis Garden Center, 2166 Virginia Avenue, Fort Myers.

Volunteers have offered to make the August meeting even more enticing. Rick Hawk will provide morning refreshments, and Rick Owens will create the Bonsai display this month. Volunteers are also needed to assist in post-meeting clean-up.

### **COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER**

At last, the highly anticipated wiring workshop with Jason Osborne is set for Saturday September 17 at our regular monthly meeting. Mark your calendar. Some have signed up and paid for a wiring session with Jason, using their own trees. That credit will continue, although the September meeting is not the paid wiring workshop. That will be held separately. Contact Martha Goff with questions.

## **OCTOBER MEETING SCHEDULE**

October is the time for final preparation of trees prior to the November show. All members are urged to enter one or more trees, and the October session is the perfect opportunity to get help preparing your trees for display.

This meeting will concentrate on not only the trees themselves, but also the pot, the companion plant, the stand, mossing and much more. You'll want to be there.

## **ANNUAL SHOW NOVEMBER 12-13**

This is the biggest event of the year for BSSWFL. Many members have already volunteered to participate, and more are needed.

Thank you to all who responded after our last newsletter about the show. Every area now has someone in charge, but those people are going to need a #1 Helper: someone who learns the job and can be there to help fulfill the requirements. Those in charge of each area for this year's show are as follows: 1. Exhibit-Phil Krieg; 2. Program-David Bovio; 3. Vendors-Martha Goff; 4. Raffle-David Bovio and Wellesley Legier; 5. Set-up and Tear-down-Sam Wollard; 6. Greeters and Docents-Jaye and Terri Saarinen; 7. Hospitality-Gail Gehring; 8. Publicity-Mary Charles.

Look the list over and see where you think you might be a good assistant and volunteer. All club members will be called on to help in some capacity or other. There will be multiple signup lists as we get closer to the show.

It's time to choose the tree you will show and start the work. Even the newest member is encouraged to show their tree. Martha Goff and Phil Krieg will judge.

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

BSSWFL President Martha Goff intends to send a welcome email to every new member. In case her email was not received, Martha wants you to know that we are thrilled that you have joined us.

Martha encourages new members – and all members – to call or email if in need of any help related to Bonsai. Reach Martha at [marthagoff50@comcast.net](mailto:marthagoff50@comcast.net) or by phone at 239-332-3850. Note that this is a land line, so don't try to text her.

## FOOTPRINTS

Bricks have been created to memorialize BSSWFL members. See the photos below, installed at the Berne Davis Botanical Garden.



## **AWARDING SERVICE TO THE ART**

With the onslaught of Covid-19 in early 2020, in-person meetings became impossible. The activities of Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida would have come to a halt were it not for the quick thinking of Hamilton Agnew.

Ham's progressive idea was to conduct our meetings via Zoom. By creating a Zoom platform for our club, Ham enabled our meetings to continue throughout the dangerous early period of Covid. The meetings were lively, and in some ways workshops were facilitated by the camera's ability to show close-ups of the demonstrations.

Bonsai Society of Florida, the state organization, has honored Ham for his innovative approach to keeping the art and the cooperation alive during the pandemic. Shown below is the certificate of achievement delivered to Ham by BSSWFL president Martha Goff.



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Shitakusa Group**

We had a great time! At least I did. Over the month of July, 14 club members came together on 3 Saturdays to make 2 pinch pots, glaze them, and plant them. We were studying Shitakusa, Under Grass which goes with your Bonsai in exhibit. Each person created two Shitakusa to use with their future displays. Many made a third pot yet to be completed. Hopefully, everyone will bring their pots to the August club meeting so all can see what fun we had.

### **To the Shohin Study Groups**

We had such a great time making our pinch pots for our Shitakusa group that I thought those who are taking the Shohin study group might like to try their hand at making small, Shohin size slab pots. I will have a sign-up sheet at the August meeting. When we see how many are interested, I will work out a schedule and we will begin to make our pots. Understand that all this activity takes place at my home, usually on the weekend to begin and will require at least three separate sessions. I only charge \$5 for the electric bill for kiln firing. Sign up if interested.

Advertise in the *Bonsai Clipper*. Add your announcement of goods or services to the vendors below. Contact Martha Goff to submit your ad.

### **Bonsai Tool Sharpening and Repair**

Check me out on Facebook @

[Bruce's Bonsai Tool sharpening, repair and cleaning](#)

Bruce Riggins 239-297-7361 [grybrd77@gmail.com](mailto:grybrd77@gmail.com)

### **Super Bonsai Soil Sale**

**Will Deliver Free in Lee County**

If outside Lee County, call for delivery arrangements.

MINIMUM ORDER 1 BUCKET WITH LID (5.75 GALLON TO A BUCKET)

Soil is premixed with the following ratio:

1/3 pumice

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All soil can be special ordered with different ratios.

All components are sized (1/4 inch) and washed.

All components can be bought separately by the bucket; same price.

1 Bucket \$38.00

2-3-4 Buckets \$35.00

5+ Buckets \$32.00

\$2 credit per bucket with exchange of bucket with lid when purchasing.

TO ORDER Call: 239-332-3850

If no answer, leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

TROPICAL GREEN BONSAI

Ed and Martha Goff

### **For all of your Bonsai Needs: Trees, Tools, Pots**

**Go to Wigert's Bonsai Nursery, 2930 South Road, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33917**

**239-543-2234 [www.wigertsbonsai.com](http://www.wigertsbonsai.com)**

### **POTTERY**

Joe Mayhew

Email: [jmpotteryllc@gmail.com](mailto:jmpotteryllc@gmail.com) 941-650-7635

### **STANDS**

Bill Smith

Email: [smittysmit23@aol.com](mailto:smittysmit23@aol.com) 410 869-6650

## **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: <http://www.bonsaiswfl.org>

*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.*

### *Officers:*

*President Martha Goff*

*Vice President Dave Bovio*

*Treasurer Hamilton Agnew*

*Past President Sam Wollard*

### *Board Members:*

*Jim Gehring*

*Linda Rodriguez*

*Bill Smith*

*David Bovio*

*Wellesley Legier*

*Phil Krieg*