



Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida
August 2023 Newsletter

www.bonsaiswfl.org

REMEMBER: I SAID I WOULD REPEAT OFTEN

A NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS

You will hear me repeat this note often. We want every member to enter one of their trees in the exhibit. Novices (those with 5 years or less experience) will have their own display and be judged separately.

Start thinking seriously about which of your trees you will submit for the November annual show. Now is the time to start working very seriously to get the tree ready. Think about the tree itself. Plan where you will get your moss. Think about the pot. Think about a stand to show off your tree. Think about a Shitakusa (accent plant) to accompany your tree with its stand. We have plenty of people who are willing to help you get ready. Just ask.

OFFICERS:

President-	Martha Goff
Vice President-	Dave Bovio
Secretary-	Mike Carter
Treasurer-	Hamilton Agnew
Librarian-	April Lattanzi
Web Master-	Hamilton Agnew

BOARD:

Jim Gehring
Linda Rodriguez
William Smith
Wellesley Legier

PAST PRESIDENT

Sam Wollard

ANNUAL SHOW
NOVEMBER 4TH & 5TH
SET-UP NOVEMBER 3RD

TIPS AND TIDBITS BY RICHARD OWENS

As we have a good number of new BSSWFL club members, I am going to start publishing, each month, a selected style of bonsai with tips that I have learned as a bonsai practitioner.

The first in the series will be ROOT OVER ROCK, August 2023

Growing on a rock Bonsai style (Seki-joju)

On rocky terrain, trees are forced to look for nutrient wealthy soil with their roots, which can frequently be identified in cracks and holes. The roots are unprotected just before they attain the ground so they need to defend themselves in the sun: a unique bark grows about them. With Bonsai the roots develop more than a rock into the pot, so caring for this tree is not truly diverse from caring for any other bonsai style. You'll find Juniper Bonsai are appropriate for this style, often even tropicals just like the Ficus Bonsai at the same time.



Benefits of Sekijoju are that not merely are you currently displaying a Bonsai but in addition an image of a landscape. The roots flowing down all through the rock give an impression of age and struggle. Bonsai that appear as if they may be taken correctly out of their organic landscape and place into a pot are a few of the most attractive pictures, and Sekikoku permits us to convey that image.

YouTube Video of technique

Click [HERE](#) to follow the link to the video



Here is one of my Root over Rock bonsai that I won at a \$5 club raffle years ago, 2015, I think, at one of our Annual Bonsai Shows:



I recently transitioned this bonsai from a deep masculine pot to a more suitable oval shallow pot.

The most popular pots for Root over Rock are low profile oval glazed pots, unglazed for evergreens.

I have taken established trees with long roots and draped them over rocks and wired the roots very tightly to make them contour to the rock protecting the roots with cut pieces of old garden hose. Depending on the length of the roots with respect to the height of your rock you may need to pack the roots with muck or sphagnum to encourage root growth down the rock, removing the medium a little at a time as the roots grow down.

I use an angle grinder with a ceramic cutting blade to trim the bottom of the rock so it sits flat in the pot.

I hope this gives more answers than it leaves questions. Richard Owens

***WE WILL HAVE A SPECIAL SIGN-UP AT THE AUGUST MEETING FOR THE WORKSHOP WITH Laurent Darrieux at our September meeting.**

This meeting will happen at a special time. The workshop fee of \$40 must be paid to Dave Bovio at the August meeting to insure your spot. If there is more room, I will email blast. Read the September meeting information carefully and don't miss this opportunity to see an international master at work. If you do not take the workshop, you may still stay and watch as long as there is room.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 15TH SPECIAL SPEAKER LAURENT DARRIEUX

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE 15TH IS A FRIDAY. We will not be meeting on the 3rd Saturday for September but rather a Friday to accommodate our international speaker, Laurent Darrieux.

SEPTEMBER 15TH, FRIDAY: 9AM-NOON: DEMONSTRATION

1PM-4PM: WORKSHOP

September 15th (FRIDAY) beginning at 9AM at the Garden Council building, we will be meeting for a very special demonstration by renowned French artist Laurent Darrieux, the author of the *Cosmic Bonsai*.

The tree that he will use will become our December Holiday raffle tree that we draw the winning ticket for at our Holiday Party. Members can attend the demonstration for free. All non-members are welcome at a \$10 door charge.

After a break for lunch, we will resume at 1PM for a workshop with the artist. Only those participants who signed up in August and paid the \$40 fee may participate. The club provides the trees and the wire. Participants must bring their own tools.

TO ALL OUR NEW BONSAI ARTISTS: BEGINNER CLASSES

Mike Lane is offering Beginner Classes off and on during the year. The next 2 classes can be found at <https://www.artinlee.org/event/beginner-bonsai-workshop-5/>

Check out Mike Lane's website at www.kitsunebonsai.com

CHECK THIS OUT: CHALLENGED BY WIRING?

Bonsai Wiring Essentials by Colin Lewis,
a [free tutorial at Craftsy.](#)

I NEED: CONTACTS

TOOLS SHARPENED: Bruce Riggins @ 239-297-7361

BONSAI POT: Joe Mayhew @ jmpotterylic@gmail.com

BONSAI STAND: Bill Smith @ smittysmit23@aol.com

BONSAI SOIL: Martha Goff @ marthagoff50@comcast.net

HELP: Contact Martha @ 239-332-3850

MONTHLY JOBS

MONTHLY DISPLAY:

AUGUST	Dave Bovio
SEPTEMBER	NOT NEEDED

REFRESHMENTS:

AUGUST	Nilda Douglas
SEPTEMBER	April Lattavis

CLEAN-UP CREW:

AUGUST	Bill Smith/ Anson Phetteplace
SEPTEMBER	Chris Burns Karen Cogwell

NEED HELP WITH AREAS RELATED TO BONSAI

Check out the club website for information about our club.

QUESTIONS?

Feel free to call 239-332-3850 anytime. This is a land line so leave a message if needed and someone will get back with you.