



BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM MARTHA:

A SPECIAL EVENT FOR OUR AUGUST MEETING IN ADDITION TO JESUS BRITO!!! I have been examining our novice membership, but

WHY?

Why am I asking who is a novice? We have had a beautiful tree, Green Island Ficus, donated to the club. The owner gave specific instructions as to who would be eligible for the tree. Those instructions are:



1. They must be a novice. I explained that in our club, a novice is anyone with less than 5 years of experience. That suited Mr. Gosselin just fine but not the board. If the person has joined this year, 2026, the board feels the person might not have enough experience to take care of this quality tree. We would like the winner to have some experience. We feel the tree might be in danger if the person does not have some basic knowledge of bonsai.
2. The person must be a member of our club. This does not just refer to paying membership dues, but it does refer to an involved person. Someone who attends meetings, does workshops, and participates in club activities.
3. The person must be at the August meeting, because that is when the tree will be given away! Those participating will receive a raffle ticket. Half of the ticket will go in the jar. I envy the winning ticket!

I AM VERY SORRY THAT THESE GUIDELINES ELIMINATE THOSE WHO JOINED THIS YEAR. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT WE MUST THINK OF THE TREE'S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FIRST. SO, WE ARE LOOKING FOR AN ACTIVE CLUB MEMBER WITH AT LEAST A 2025 CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND UNDER 5 YEARS.

At the August meeting, each person that is qualified will receive a raffle ticket (just one). Our President will draw the winning ticket! That person will get to meet the donor of the tree and take home this gorgeous tree!!





THE BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

2026 ANNUAL BONSAI SHOW & SALE

**Exhibit of Bonsai Trees, Sales,
Demonstrations and Workshops.**

November 21-22, 2026

Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION

FREE LUNCH

FREE PARKING

(On Larchmont Street)

**Ft. Myers-Lee County Garden
Council ---- Berne Davis Gardens**

Just North of

Edison-Ford Estates

2166 Virginia Ave. Ft. Myers, FL

www.bonsaiswfl.org

239-935-6850

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, Nov 21, 2026

9:00 - 5:00

EXHIBITS, VENDORS AND RAFFLES OPEN

9:00 - 12:00

MULTI-CLUB STYLING COMPETITION

9:00 - 12:00

**WORKSHOP WITH Adam Lavigne
"Green Island Ficus", 10 Spots, \$50 ea.**

12:00

RAFFLE of Plants and Bonsai Items

1:00

**Demonstration by Adam Lavigne
"Buttonwood"
(Will be on Sunday's Raffle Table)**

1:00 - 4:00

**Free workshop with Phil Krieg
10 Slots available. The workshop is free, but if
you wish to purchase the tree, the cost is \$25**

4:30

RAFFLE of Plants and Bonsai Items

Sunday, Nov 22, 2026

9:00 - 3:00

EXHIBITS, VENDORS AND RAFFLES OPEN

9:00 - 12:00

**Bring your own Tree Workshop
With Adam Lavigne
The cost is \$25**

12:00

RAFFLE of Trees and Bonsai items

1:00 - 3:00

**Joe Mayhew, Potter
Pot-Throwing Demonstration**

Bonsai Help Table, Ask Questions!

2:30

**Final Raffle of Trees, Bonsai Items,
and Styling Competition Trees.**

This month Jesus Brita will be joining us and doing a demo on a Buttonwood. Don't miss it!

September is our Panel of Knowledge. Come prepared with all your questions.

The Garden Center includes a dedicated library section filled with excellent books available for checkout. A selection of these titles will be highlighted in upcoming communications.

A Quick & Dirty A-Z of Bonsai

Bonsai terms refer to the specialized vocabulary used in the art of growing and styling miniature trees. Many terms come from Japanese (reflecting bonsai's origins), while others are botanical or English descriptions. Here's a quick reference to some of the most frequently used bonsai terms, with plain-language explanations to help you understand and use them effectively.

A – Apex: The topmost point of the tree, often the focal point of design.

B – Back Budding: Encouraging new growth on older parts of branches or trunks by pruning terminal buds

C – Caliper: The diameter of the trunk, measured in centimeters, indicating tree size.

D – Deadwood: A branch or trunk section intentionally left to add character and depth.

E – Eda Nuki: Japanese term for the process of removing unwanted branches.

F – Fukinagashi: A Japanese term for “folding the leaves,” often used to describe a style where foliage is arranged in a cascading or flowing manner.

G – Girdling: Removing a ring of bark to stop growth and encourage branching.

H – Han Kengai: A bonsai style where the trunk curves dramatically downward, often used for dramatic, naturalistic effects.

I – Internode: The space between two nodes (points where leaves or branches grow).

J – Jin: A section of trunk or branch that has been cut back to create a “bend” or “knob” for dramatic effect.

K – Kabudachi: A style where the trunk is shaped to resemble a human figure.

L – Literati: A style with a single, long, thin trunk and sparse foliage, often with a leaning or slanting trunk.

M – Mame: A style with a single, thick trunk and minimal foliage.

N – Nebari: The outward spread of roots from the trunk base, important for stability and aesthetics

O – Old Wood: Growth which was produced prior to the current growing season.

P – Pruning: Removing branches to shape the tree.

Q – Quercus: Oak trees - Although a popular species for people to try working with, they can be difficult to bonsai effectively.

R – Ramification: The branching pattern of the tree.

S – Sabamiki: A style with a single, long, thin trunk and minimal foliage.

T – Tachiagari: A style with a single, long, thin trunk and minimal foliage.

U – Underplanting: Placing a small plant beneath the bonsai to create a layered effect.

V – Venation: The pattern of veins on the leaves.

W – Wabi Sabi: A Japanese aesthetic principle emphasizing imperfection, impermanence, and simplicity.

X – Xylem: Also known as sapwood. This section of the trunk of the tree sits between the heartwood and the cambium.

Y – Yose Ue: A style with a single, long, thin trunk and minimal foliage.

Z – Zouki - Japanese term for deciduous tree

This list is far from all encompassing. It's just a short terminology list for beginners and knowledgeable alike.



Martha's Corner - Green Island Ficus



Botanical: Ficus

Family: Moraceae

Zone: 10-11

Origin: Tropical regions.

History: Ficus are members of the Moraceae family of plants. There are reported to be over 1500 species of Ficus, over 800 of these being trees. They are native to southern Asia and India but grow successfully in any tropical climate. In general, Ficus have gummy sap (it “bleeds” when injured),

stipules cover and protect new leaves as they emerge and fall away, aerial roots, and fruit (figs). For the tropics, Ficus is probably the most rewarding plant. Even for the novice, it is very forgiving. The Ficus grows quickly, leaf reduction is generally easy, and it fits a number of different styles. The list of those available and suitable to bonsai is lengthy. The care of all Ficus is, generally speaking, similar.

var. ‘Green Gem’—Green Island Ficus. There are actually two variations grouped under the name Green Island. On one, the thick leathery dark leaves are pointed. The other Green Island’s leaf is slenderer with a pointed end and does not always produce figs. It was once believed that the rounded-leaf was the female plant and the pointed leaf was the male plant because the round leafed is a prolific fig producer. This is no longer believed to be true. It is now classified as two separate species—Ficus microcarpa ‘Green Island’ is the pointed leaf variety and Ficus microcarpa ‘Crassifolia’ or Green Mound, is the rounded leaf variety. It should be noted that the leaf size is easier to reduce with Green Island.

Repot: Minimum night temperature—Low to mid 60°’s. Ficus are fast growing and probably will need to be repotted every year. Check for signs of being root bound. Although they have been successfully repotted year round in the tropics, novices should use caution. They can be safely repotted all summer.

Soil: Adding an organic to the mix that is well-draining is considered a good practice.
pH: 6.5-7.5

Fertilize: Feed with a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20).

Prune: Most species respond well to severe root and top pruning.

Train: Most Ficus species can be wired for shape but be careful of scarring. Ficus are fast growers. Many bonsai practitioners have great success tying down branches. This method takes longer but is safer. Methods for pruning differ somewhat from species to species. With most Ficus new leaf buds should be pinched back to maintain shape, reduce leaf size, and thicken foliage. Some species do better being clipped back. As always, when shaping use directional pruning. Some species such as the nerifolia and Green Island can be completely defoliated 1-3 times yearly to reduce leaf size and thicken foliage.

[Click here to read more.](#)



Don't forget your used wire scraps! Bring them to the meeting, Martha will collect and recycle them. Also if you need soil for your repotting - contact Rick Johnstone: MixedByRix@gmail.com or 941.882.2290. He will either make arrangements with you to deliver or bring it to the meeting. Most of our tropical trees will need repotting this summer.

Thank you to those who attended the ShoFu Bonsai show Saturday, July 11. It was a great show, and there was a good turnout. We should always try to support our fellow clubs on this coast - there is so much to learn!

A quick note -

While the cypress cannot be repotted until it is dormant, it is now the best time to style the tree. It grows very fast and wiring needs to be watched. Again - DO NOT REPOT right now, but take the time to style your tree.



Volunteers for August meeting:

Display: Justin Michale

Hospitality: Angel Vega

Clean-up: Greg & Pat Geuss

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

We still have spaces available for Display and Hospitality and Cleanup Crew. For Display, this is a great way to learn 'how to.' Basically, you need a tree, a stand for the tree, and a complimentary plant or item on a stand. The club will provide the tablecloth and backdrop. For Hospitality, the club provide all paper products and all supplies needed for coffee. You would provide the food. We usually have around 30-40 people. The Cleanup Crew is not responsible for your individual table. You must do that. Hospitality will take care of the kitchen. The Cleanup Crew makes sure the trash is taken out and the floor is clean and all things are put back in order.

OUR LOCAL TALENT

POTTERY

Joe Mayhew
jmpotteryllc@gmail.com
941-650-7635

POTTERY

Don Rosio
don.rosio@gmail.com
321-890-8353

STANDS

Bill Smith
smittysmit23@aol.com
410-869-6650

BONSAI SOIL

Rick Johnstone
MixedByRix@gmail.com

TOOL SHARPENING

Bruce's Bonsai Tool sharpening,
repair and cleaning

Bruce Riggins
239-297-7361
grybrd77@gmail.com

Stone Lantern Bonsai

Distributor used by many
of our members:

stonelantern.com

Wigert's Bonsai

For all your Bonsai Needs:
Trees, Tools, Pots

Wigert's Bonsai Nursery,

2930 South Road,
N. Ft. Myers, FL 33917

239-543-2234
wigertsbonsai.com



BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

We meet on the third Saturday of each month at the Berne Davis Botanical Garden building located just north of the Edison-Ford Winter Estates at 2166 Virginia Avenue. Doors open at 9 AM. A friendly member will make you feel welcome. Coffee will be fresh. Don't forget to pick up your Member's Booklet on the sign-in table. It has all the information you will need about the club, including contact information.

Membership Dues

2026 Dues are still the same price! \$45 for single membership, \$55 for family membership. Please download and print the [Membership Form](#). If you haven't paid dues for 2026, you won't get this Newsletter or any of the fine publications put out by the BSF.

The Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida, Inc.

P.O. Box 61945 | Fort Myers, FL 33906-1945 | bonsaiswfl.org | 239 935-5860

