

RAINY SEASON IS HERE

BONSAI CLIPPER

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 6

JUNE 1, 2018

JUNE 16, 2018 MEETING

This will be a repotting workshop including how to select the correct pot. Soil and wire will be provided by the Club. You should bring your Root-Over-Rock tree we started last year and a pot for it or any other tree you need to repot. If you have your own soil, feel free to bring it but make certain it is well draining and avoid root rot.



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...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LET A TREE RUN 2

REPOTTING BY MARTHA GOFF 3

WIGERTS CLASSES 4

MISCELANEOUS NEWS 4

2018 PROGRAMS

JULY 21st will be a workshop making a slab with Papercrete by John Bartolozzi. We will break up into several teams to make this more efficient. This will likely be messy so wear old clothes.

AUGUST 18th we will plant the slabs in preparation for our show in teams. This will also likely be messy so wear old clothes.

SEPTEMBER 15th will be a presentation on displays and companions/accents lead by Phil Krieg (display) and Martha Goff (companions) just in time for our November exhibit. The forms, Show posters and folded programs for the 2018 exhibit will be distributed.

OCTOBER 20th will continue our discussion on display and will include tables and slabs. We will also have a slide show from our 2017 exhibit.

NOVEMBER 3-4 is our annual Show. This is our big annual event and has earned a reputation for displaying some of the best trees. You should be planning on which tree(s) you will be exhib-

iting. Plus, we have great vendors so that you can find that pot you've been searching for, stock up on soil and find a new specimen for your collection.

Here are the work assignments:

- Chairperson Judy Giandelone
- Greeters & Docents Linda Rodriguez
- Vendors Joe McKenzie
- Raffle Jim Gehring
- Programs Martha Goff
- Exhibit Phil Krieg
- Refreshments Gail Gehring
- Street Signs Ham Agnew
- Publicity Jim Bremer

Tentative Schedule:

Judging by Ed Trout Saturday 9-10 am

Critique by Ed Trout Saturday 5-6 pm

Hours are 9-5 on Saturday and 9-4 on Sunday.

DECEMBER is our annual Christmas Party which is always a lot of fun.

WHEN TO LET A TREE OFF THE LEASH BY CRATAEGUS

We talk endlessly about how to manage the growth of bonsai. Which technique for this species, which for that...and it's a good thing we do, as it's very important. If we get it wrong we could end up in a pretty pickle.

Less often do we talk about how important the opposite is for an old bonsai: Letting the tree go a bit. Stop 'managing' it for a while. Many trees cannot be kept in continual show shape.

There are two concepts here and I don't wish to confuse them. Most trees need to grow a bit seasonally before they can be cut back to where the profile is. Without that extension growth, if we're constantly nibbling on the tree, then it can just tire out. This goes for many trees, not all, but it's not the purpose of this post to go into detail about all that.

So there's that idea, seasonal wildness, unrestrained growth. Then there's the other one, where over some years of life in a bonsai pot, an old bonsai begins to just tire somewhat. It takes a close eye and a good memory to know when is the right time to let a tree off the leash.

Any of you who have dogs know that when you go to the beach or a big field, and take off the leash, it is amazing to see a totally new animal. It takes off and becomes years younger. It laughs. Dances. Becomes a wolf, even if it doesn't look like one.

The same thing happens for bonsai. Sometimes after years of applying the same

techniques to contain growth---which is an important idea---the tree slows down to the point of damaging it. Branches begin to tire out. We might lose a few. And then it's time to consider taking the leash off.

There are a few ways to do this--- simply letting the tree grow for a while unrestrained, maybe until fall. Or if it seems like a serious problem and you're losing parts of the tree, do a "slip pot" into a box with large size soil. *Be careful, though, as these techniques can totally change the age of a tree. If left too long in a box, a bonsai soon won't have the structure of a bonsai any more.* Leaving it grow unmanaged for one growing season for a light adjustment, to three years for a really tired old tree, is the range.

Deciduous trees and conifers can respond significantly differently when let go. The deciduous tree is like a small rowboat, easy to turn in the water, needing only months to a year for an upward physiological swing. Conifers can take longer to turn around, sometimes a couple of years, like a big old battleship that takes miles to turn to port.

And then after a summer of joyful growth, or maybe after a couple years if it's a really tired out grandparent of a tree, return it to a bonsai pot.

By Michael Hagedorn

2018 CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Sam Wollard

VICE-PRESIDENT

Susan Hoch Johnson

SECRETARY

Phil Krieg

TREASURER

Hamilton Agnew

BOARD MEMBERS

Judy Giandelone, Past Pres.

Martha Goff

Linda Rodriguez

Justin Michael

Gail Gehring

Joe McKenzie

JUNE TREE CARE—REPOTTING BY MARTHA GOFF

June through August are the most important months for repotting. If you are new to repotting, let me suggest a few precautions. It is always better to be safe than sorry with the loss of your tree.

1. When you repot, sit your tree in part shade until you see new buds appearing, then you can put it back in its proper place in the sun.
2. If you are repotting buttonwoods, once repotted, sit it in a shallow dish of water.
3. Before you remove the tree from its container, style it. Do your trimming and wiring and get your new pot or the old one ready for the tree.
4. Some people completely defoliate while others just thin out the tree removing anywhere from 50% to 90% of leaves. I suggest that if you defoliate, leave the growing tip so nutrients are still pulled to the tip. Remember if you defoliate completely and you cut back roots, the tree can struggle to replace both leaves and roots.
5. If your tree has been repotted before or is in a bonsai pot already, no worries. Simply clean the bottom under the trunk and cut back any roots growing there. Rake out with a chopstick the side roots and trim around the edge, the margins.
6. Since I use organic, I add a layer of soil, tie the tree in securely, and place organic cakes in each corner of the pot. If the pot is very large, I add a cake between each corner also. Then top it off with your soil, slowly working in with your chopstick.
7. Water immediately either with a hose spray or a dipping pan. With the hose, make sure the water runs out the bottom of the pot. With a dipping pan, submerge the pot, then raise it up so the water runs out the pot bottom. You can add a growth hormone like SUPERTHRIVE to the water.
8. If your tree is in a nursery pot, let me suggest the safest method:
 - Again, trim back and style the tree first with wire.
 - Prepare a grow pot. This is not your final pot but one the tree can have plenty of root room to grow all the branches and ramification it will need.
 - Most nursery pot trees are planted in some type of organic soil or dirt. Remove it from the nursery pot and cut the root ball in half from the bottom.
 - Clean out directly under the trunk, removing any roots growing from the bottom of the trunk.
 - Gently comb out the edges of the soil around the tree. This may mean removing some large roots that are circling the plant.
 - Choose a section from the trunk out that makes up about ¼ of the soil surface and remove all dirt using a chopstick or bonsai rake. Leave the remainder of the soil intact.
 - Add a layer of soil to the pot and add organic cakes as already explained.
 - Since you have cleaned out under the trunk, there is probably a void. Pile your bottom layer of soil high in the middle of the new pot.
 - Place your tree on top of the pile and wiggle it down. Tie the tree

securely and add your bonsai soil to fill the pot working it in with a chopstick to remove any voids. This method insures the safest repotting. If the tree does well, you can remove more of the old soil the next year.

The next important item is to watch out for bugs. It is that time of year. Everyone has a different method of dealing with this problem and they do what works for them. I try to be environmentally safe and use **Dr. Earth** products for pests and fungicide. The best precaution is never let the problem get too severe. If you don't know what's wrong, get help.

I suggest non-organic soil mix. It doesn't clog the drainage; it doesn't compact; it doesn't stay too wet with our rains; and it promotes healthy root growth. If you use non-organic, remember your tree is totally dependent on you for fertilizer and water.

When fertilizing and using a chemical fertilizer such as Miracle Grow, follow instructions carefully. These products force feed trees and if misused can burn leaves and roots. Using some type of organic fertilizer does the opposite. The tree will use only what it needs.

NOTE: If you have a squirrel problem, don't use organics. The squirrels will dig up your trees to get at the fertilizer.

By Martha Goff

UPCOMING CLASSES AT WIGERTS BONSAI NURSERY

REFINING YOUR BONSAI TREES

Instructor Jason Osborne will help you refine your "mature bonsai" tree

Fee : \$40 bring your own tree that you have been working with for a year or more

Date June 9 2pm-5pm

Bring YOUR OWN TREE

Style & Repot your trees with instructor Jason Osborne's assistance.

Fee : \$30 bring your own tree & supplies

Date : June 14 9am-12pm

BANYAN DWARF UMBRELLA TREE

Instructor Mike Lane

Easy to grow & great for Beginners! Style & Repot your tree in Banyan style with lots of hanging aerial roots.

Fee \$50 includes a tree. Pot & Soil not included.

Date: June 24 9am-12pm

ROOT OVER ROCK BONSAI

Instructor Mike Lane

Great for Beginners! Fun & Easy Class.

Bring an interesting rock from home. Learn to start the "root over rock" bonsai process from the beginning attaching a tree to the rock.

Fee : \$35 Ficus tree included. Bring a rock from home.

Date : July 15 9am-12pm

SHOHIN TWISTED BUTTONWOOD

Instructor Mike Lane

Shohin are "Miniature" Trees that fit on the palm of your hand. These are amazing little trees with twisted trunks.

Fee: \$75 includes a tree. Pot & Soil not included.

Date : July 22 9am-12pm

FUKIEN TEA BONSAI

Instructor Mike Lane

Style & Repot a "flowering" Fukien tea. Tiny White Flowers Year Round!

Choose to work on a large upright tree or a unique cascade style.

Fee : \$100 - receive a 8" pot \$75 pre bonsai

or \$200 fee receive a 10" pot cascade tree

Pot & Soil not included.

Date : August 12 9am-12pm

AFRICAN FLAT TOP STYLE / PIERNEEF BONSAI

Instructor Mike Lane

Style & repot your bonsai tree in this design.

Very popular with Brazilian Raintree, Acacia, etc..

Fee : \$30 Bring your own tree or purchase here. Pot & Soil not included .

Date : Sept 16 9am-12pm

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

CLUB NIGHT AT THE B.S.F. CONVENTION

Our club won for best Legacy planting! Thank you John Bartolozzi for making another outstanding container! It was lots of fun. Everybody should attend next year...



BONSAI SOCIETIES OF FLORIDA
&
BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
Membership Application

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ CELL: (____) _____

E-MAIL: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

AREA OF EXPERTISE: _____

HOBBIES (Optional): _____

This application is for a:	_____ Single membership	\$45.00
	_____ Family membership (2 people)	\$55.00
	_____ Family membership (3 people)	\$65.00
	_____ Family membership (4 people)	\$75.00

NOTE: If you are a member of another BSF club or study group and pay BSF dues to that group, you do not have to pay BSF dues to our club unless you are a BSSWF officer.

After July 1st, dues for a single membership are \$22.50. For additional members, same household, dues are \$5.00 per person. If this is a Family Membership, please list the name(s) of the other member(s) of the household.

Make check payable to BSSWF (Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida)

Amount Received: _____ Received by: _____

Part-time Residents, please list your alternate address, phone number and dates of residence at that address. Use the other side of this sheet or insert it here:

Mail to: Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida
P.O. Box 61945
Fort Myers, Florida 33906-1945