

THE BONSAI SOCIETY OF SW FLORIDA

February 2023



Happy New Year!

We are almost into March! The Southwest Florida economic engine, our tourists and sunshine, seem to be back to help fuel us out of the hurricane dampened time. We have great events and speakers to start out the year. Be sure to add them to your calendar and invite a friend.

YOUNG CHOE

“Young Choe is a Kusamono artist who studied traditional art in her native Korea before moving to the United States and earning her BS in horticulture from the University of Maryland. While volunteering at the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, she brought her artistic talent together with her knowledge of horticulture to create Kusamono. As her interest developed, Young traveled to Japan to study the unique art form with the master Kusamono artist, Keiko Yamane, a former student of Saburo Kato. She worked for many years with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) including the U.S. National Arboretum. Young is considered a leader in the field and enjoys conducting workshops and lectures nationally as well as internationally.

Young studied internationally and is renowned for her expertise both botanically and artistically in Kusamono. Young did a Power Point

presentation on the art of Kusamono and then created a variety of Kusamono which we will raffle off in our March meeting.



Also see: www.kusamonochoe.com

SPEAKING OF THE MARCH MEETING

Those who sign up at our February meeting will be creating 2 Kusamono plantings like Young's demonstration. There will be a signup sheet at the welcome desk. The cost is \$20 to cover cost of materials like soil, muck, screen, etc. Those signing up will also be asked to try to collect 3 types of 'weeds' to add to the plant table. I will also be bringing a number of different plants to use. We will put all our plants together and everyone will be able to choose from that collection. Now what about pots?! Everyone can bring their own pots if they wish OR they may join me at my home to make 2 pots just for the workshop. I do a \$5 charge for firing the kiln and clay is free. You have a choice of days to make your pot which will be February 24th, Friday, 9AM-Noon, or Saturday, February 25, 9AM-Noon. If we have a big demand, I can easily add an afternoon session. This first meeting is to make your pot. The second set of dates is to glaze the pot. Glazing dates are March 10th, Friday, 9AM-Noon and March 11th, Saturday, 9AM-Noon. After firing, I will bring the pots to the March 18th meeting. Again, if attendance demands it, we can also add afternoon sessions.

Sooooooooooooooooooooo, signup at the end of the February Meeting, pay your \$20 fee to David Bovio, and pick up your 3 nursery pots for collecting plants. By the way, the signup sheet will have a box to check if you are bringing your own pots or making them and also a box to check if you will attend the Friday or Saturday pot making adventure.

Basic Bonsai Tool Maintenance

by William Smith

If you can recall the repotting of the Bald Cypress during the January BSSWFL meeting, it was discovered that the original tree had a bad case of mold in the root system. Since my tools were being used in this demonstration, I decided to do a little extra cleaning of my tools. This meant not only cleaning but getting rid of any traces of mold on the tools. As a precaution, it is good maintenance to disinfect your tools and get rid of the possibility of contaminating another tree when using your tools. Normally, I clean my tools by just wiping the tool and applying a little oil to keep the tool from rusting.

Disinfecting the tools

There are many different solutions that can be used to disinfect tools such as Clorox, Pine Sol, or even Alcohol. I used Pine Sol because it was available. Start by mixing one tablespoon of Pine Sol in a 16 oz. jar filled with water. After wiping off the loose dirt with a paper towel, I just put the tools in the solution to soak for about an hour. It doesn't have to soak this long usually, but I wanted to make sure because mold is a silent killer of trees. I used a paper towel rather than a rag to wipe the tools because a rag might be reused later. Using a paper towel avoids the possibility of reinfesting the tool. After soaking, next, dry each tool thoroughly in order to minimize the possibility of the tool rusting. Make sure to open scissors and dry the intersection where the blades pivot.

Oiling the tools

After the tools are completely dry, a coat of oil is used to keep the tools from rusting. Although WD40 or 3 in 1 oil will keep your tools from rusting, it is better to use Camellia oil instead. Camellia oil is plant based and poses no danger to your bonsai tree. Camellia oil can be purchased at Wigerts or online. Coating the entire tool including the handles and the pivot intersection of scissors will ensure that your tools will be ready for service for a long time.

Sharpening Tools

The sharpening of tools is beyond the scope of this article. We at BSSWFL have a resident member Bruce Riggins, who can sharpen and possibly repair broken cutting edges on many tools. I suggest that you speak to him at our next meeting.

Conclusion

Keeping your bonsai tools free from contaminants will ensure that you don't inadvertently pass on diseases to the next bonsai tree that you work on. Keeping them sharp will ensure faster tree wound healing.

Non-Bonsai Society events

Annual Plant Sale & Strawberry Festival (rain or shine), Alva Garden Club

Saturday March 11th, 9am-1pm, Alva United Methodist Church, 21440 Pearl St., Alva

March in the Park, Garden Club of Cape Coral

Saturday March 11th, 9am-3pm, Jaycee Park, 4215 SE 20th Pl., Cape Coral

Caladium Planting Fundraising Event, The Poinciana Garden Club

Saturday March 25th, 9:30am-12noon, Fort Myers, Buckingham area
Pre-registration with \$35 fee. RSVP or questions call 239-994-8147

Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council Flower Show "All that Glitters"

Thursday March 30th 1-4pm, Friday April 1st, 10am-3pm, FMLCGC HQ

And please remember to sign up for the Berne Davis Honorary Service Award Luncheon which is on April 4th at Crown Colony Golf and Country Club!

