



BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

What a wonderful convention! Start saving now for next years and remember it's always Memorial Day weekend. A huge thank you to all who donated to the auction at the convention. Our club set a record for sales- **\$2,403!** Our very own Troy Randall entered his beautiful Brazilian Raintree into the



exhibit at the BSF Convention. Troy won two awards over the weekend - **Best in Show and the Inaugural Demarest Bonsai Design Award.**



JUNE WORKSHOP - EXPOSED ROOT

A reminder that in our June meeting we are doing an exposed root workshop. Members should bring a pre-bonsai tree. Probably on the smaller side or a cutting that has roots. If you remember bring an empty water bottle. We will supply soil and pots.

JULY DEMONSTRATION

In July Dorothy and Jim have arranged for Jesus Brito to do a demonstration for our club.



Jesus Brito is a Venezuelan born bonsai artist whose work blends refined aesthetic training from the Venezuelan Bonsai Society with the technical mastery he developed after moving to the United States, where he studied under renowned artists such as Nacho Marín, Juan Andrade, Suthin Sukosolvisit, Tyler Sherrod, Pedro Morales, and Boon Manakitivipart. His trees have been exhibited at major state and national shows—including our own Bonsai Society of Florida Convention, the American Bonsai Society seminars, multiple U.S. National Bonsai Exhibitions, and the long running EPCOT bonsai display—earning him recognition for the Best Tropical Tree at last year's National Bonsai Exhibition.

NOTES FROM MAY

At the June meeting, there will be an exposed root workshop. Members should bring an empty plastic bottle and a small nursery pot, along with a tree. Soil will be provided. The workshop is free.

At least 18 members of our club attended the state convention. Dorothy and Jim organized a lot of the event along with Richard Owens and Martha. John Bartolozzi created the impressive display for club night. Bruce Riggins, who sharpens bonsai tools, created a specific tool for grafting and jinning for \$50.

Richard Owens explained how he creates moss, with a large sample slab. The recipe includes sphagnum moss, half inch white screen, peat moss and mixes it into plaster.

The beautiful monthly display was created by Martha. Her bougainvillea with dead wood is about 23 years old.

The display for the club was created.

Club polo shirt orders are available from Angel for \$30, who is the new club photographer, and t-shirts can be ordered from Douglas Fee for \$25.



Photos from Christina Barrows



A NOTE FROM MARTHA

Okay, everyone, we have moved into our heaviest repotting season, summer! If you need soil, whether it is Shohin or regular size, contact Rick. He should be able to get it to you by the June meeting. In case you don't have his card, his contact is MixedByRix@gmail.com or call 941-882-2290. Do it soon as Rick sold quite a lot at the Bonsai Convention in Orlando. I am sure he is busy-busy, washing and mixing. Anyone needing help with repotting or other bonsai questions, feel free to email me or call 239-332-3850. Remember this phone # is a land line--no texts.

By the way, we had so many members at the convention!! It was great. We had a spectacular Shohin bonsai display that Rick Owens put together, a fantastic time at the Club Night that John Bartolozzi put together, and many beautiful displays in the exhibit that Jim and Dorothy Demarest with Rick Owens help, put together. Our club really got in there and volunteered and helped at every venture.

I am not sure, as yet, how much our club will earn by doing the Friday raffle, but I do know that we made more on Friday than the other days. Every day was close, however, so hopefully our participation should pay for our November show!! I should know soon.

Next year's convention will feature Florida's Native Trees. I have a website that I like, that features many trees and shrubs that are native so we can all get an early start. Remember, however, if the tree is invasive, you probably won't be able to purchase it. The website is: floridasnature.com



Photos by Dorothy and Jim Demarest







Photos by John Bartolozzi





Photos by John Bartolozzi

MARTHA'S CORNER

Repotting season is upon us! Keep in mind - this is only a general guideline. Night temperatures should fall consistently within the range given and be gradually increasing. The list indicates the earliest they can be repotted, not the last. Many plants can be repotted throughout the growing season while a few have a small window of opportunity. Check individual sheets for more details. Most true tropicals can be repotted once night temperatures reach 60°F, but a few require the hottest nights, 70°F+. Plants need at least one month to recover from repotting at the given temperature. Temperatures are given in Fahrenheit.

WHEN TEMPERATURES ARE CONSISTENTLY AT LEAST 60°

Acacia	Lignum-Vitae
Bahama Berry	Maple
Barbados Cherry	Natal Plum
Bottle Brush	Orange Jasmine
Bougainvillea	Paper Bark
Brazilian Pepper Tree	Pomegranate
Brush Cherry	Powder Puff
Cape Honeysuckle	Starflower
Cassia Chinese Hat	Tamarind
Chinese Lantern Tree	Wild Tamarind
Chinese Sweet Plum	American Beautyberry
Confederate Jasmine	Brazilian Leopard Tree
Divi Divi	Cat's Claw
Dwarf Jade	Chaste Tree
Evergreen Wisteria	European Olive
Fig	Firebush
Flame Vine	Japanese Neem Tree
Fukien Tea	Kapok
Gardenia	Mulberry Parrot's Beak
Guava Gumbo Limbo	Pitch Apple Roble
Ixora	Scrub Mint
Jaboticaba	Sea Hibiscus
Jacaranda	Tough Buckthorn
Jamaican Ebony	Turk's Cap
Lantana	Wild Lime
Lead Tree	Vietnamese Blue Bell

WHEN TEMPERATURES ARE CONSISTENTLY AT LEAST 70°

Black Olive
Buttonwood
Sea Grape
Texas Ebony
Brush Holly
Calabash
Florida Keys Blackbead
Hammock Velvetseed
Hawaiian Rose
Pond Apple
Tachuelo
Vera Wood
White Logwood
Simpson Stopper
Gumbo Limbo

If you don't see your tree listed, let me know. Sometimes it is because we call different species by different names or it may not be on the list. I will find someone who does know and let you know the correct time to repot.



WHEN TEMPERATURES ARE CONSISTENTLY AT LEAST 65°

Campeche	Golden Dewdrop	Manilla Tamarind
Dwarf Poinciana	Miracle Fruit	Aralia
Escambron	Tintillo	Neea
Florida Privet		Schefflera

MAKING MUCK

Last month Richard Owens brought in a beautiful large tray of moss that he was taking to convention. He brought extra rack that he used to grow his moss on. Those racks were free to anyone that wanted to try his method. He wanted to show us how he grows moss. Richard instructed those who took the large rack that they should first cover it with screen open mesh and then cover that mesh with muck. The moss would be added to the top of the muck and allowed to grow and cover the entire rack. I want to tell you a method for making muck. I often use muck to make what we call 'moss ball' in Kusamono. The technical name is Kokedama. There is a recipe by Ginny Boka in the Green Sheets. That recipe has a drawback, however. If not used right away, the corn starch can spoil and smell very bad. I used to buy my muck but the recipe that the Bonsai Society of Brevard uses is fantastic and very simple. I am including that recipe below. When it is made, spread the muck on the screen and place the moss on top of the muck. I love to use rainwater for moss. If you don't have a rain barrel, put a couple of buckets out to catch the rain to use.



MUCK RECIPE by Bonsai Society of Brevard:

Mix one part Bentonite with 5 parts Black Kow (a popular brand of composted manure), and one part sphagnum moss cut into one-inch lengths (be sure to add the moss before any water is added to the mixture). Add water. The resulting mixture is still sufficiently sticky, easy to handle, stays in place, is quite easy to rewet if it dries out, and can be reshaped on the slab if it is moist. Be sure to wear gloves. NOW: The company NATURE'S OIL sells it. As far as the 'parts' go in the recipe, I use a 2-cup container so it would be 2 cups of Bentonite, 2 cups of sphagnum moss and 10 cups of Black Kow. Mix it all together while dry and then add your water until it all sticks together.



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.

Cleanup crew for June meeting: Kurt Hartmann

Hospitality for June meeting: Kelly Knowlton

Display for June meeting: Troy Randall

We currently still need:

Hospitality - July

Hospitality - August

Clean-Up - July

Display - July

Display - October

For hospitality, you are only responsible for food not coffee or paper goods, as the club supplies that.

For Clean-up you are not responsible for the kitchen as Martha does that, only the room.

For Display, we provide the space with table cover and backdrop.

If you are interested, please get in touch with Martha or sign-up at the June meeting



OUR LOCAL TALENT

POTTERY

Joe Mayhew
impotteryllc@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
rickj55@verizon.net

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

Things I do in my spare time

