



BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

The News!

"Wellesley's Move"

Okay, guys, I (Martha) just talked with Wellesley. They got the house and she was standing in it in Portland. They made it in time to be there when the grandbaby was born. It is a girl. She is still tired from the long trip and they are still waiting for the furniture which was behind them, but she is very excited that she made it in time for the grandbaby. She will send us a picture of the baby girl as soon as she can. I told her how much we will miss her. She said all her bonsai that she kept made the trip well, and all in the backseat of the car.

"Next Meeting"

For our next meeting on Saturday, August 16th, 2025 at 9AM,

Karen Cogswell wrote: "This month's meeting will feature several of our members who have been around the bonsai world for quite a while. They will be our "Panel of Knowledge."

Martha Goff, Richard Owens, Dorothy Schmitz and Jason Michael have agreed to be our panel. Please bring any questions you may have about anything we may have covered already or things we missed. Be sure to bring any tree you may have questions about, need direction, or just to work on.

"T-Shirt Discussion"

We need club T-shirts. Our old supplier who supplied both the shirt and the embroidery of our design can no longer do the job. So, we decided to open it up to our creative, artistic members to come up with a design. We have met a person who can generate the winning design on his computer and then print it on shirts that he provides. The prices vary by style but are very reasonable. But first, we need a new design. Be as creative as you like. I only ask that the design includes the name of our club and a tree. How it is done is up to you. I will give more details at the club meeting but be ready to enter the contest. The winner, of course, will receive a free T-shirt or two? We would like to have the shirts ready to order by our September meeting so we can all wear them at our November show. [Go here](#) to see some of the Club Members thoughts, so far.

" Elections Are Coming Up!"

That's right. At our November meeting we will be electing new officers for the year 2026. If you are presently an officer and you are going to run again, let me know. If you would like to become an officer, we also want to know. Very interesting people, short rewarding hours, lot's of fun and, no pay!

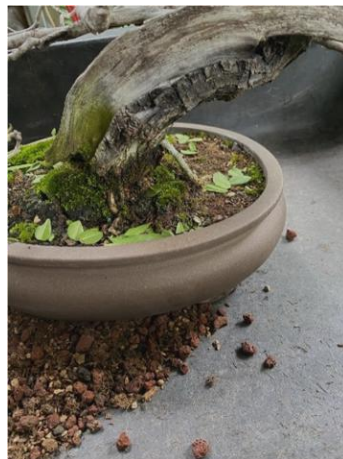
“Martha’s Corner”

Each month we will feature one species. It is selected based on the month that it may need your attention. Several years ago, Martha Goff wrote a voluminous work called **Tropical Green Sheets**. In this two-volume set, Martha goes to great length to detail everything about hundreds of trees.... Type, Species, Soil, pH, watering and much, much more. You can purchase Tropical Green Sheets at [Wigert’s Nursery](#) or [Bonsai Jack](#).

Buttonwood

History: The buttonwood is native to South Florida, the Bahamas, West Indies, Central and South America, and Mexico. **This plant is a must for the Florida bonsai artist.** A native to Florida’s southern coastlines throughout the zone 10 range, it grows as far north as Cape Kennedy along the Indian River. It grows to heights of 50’ or more. The wood was once used to make buttons. The best buttonwoods for Bonsai, because of the large amount of deadwood, are found in the Florida Keys. Even some of the smallest specimens have beautiful **Shari** or deadwood. Most of this is protected and permission is needed to collect. Buttonwood is sometimes included as a member of the mangrove family. It is not a true mangrove, however, as it cannot tolerate its roots in salt water. It is usually easy to distinguish the buttonwood from other mangroves as it grows slightly inland while the mangroves have their feet in the water. [Read more.](#) Also, see this link to [Wigert’s](#) about Buttonwood.

Here are some things that **you can do** with a Buttonwood:



Kokoro: A Bonsai Study group with Dorothy Schmitz

The dates for 2025 are Aug 16, Sept 20 and Oct 28 at the Garden Center right after the regular meeting from about Noon to 3PM. If we have an extended meeting running later, time will be adjusted. The program will be announced quarterly and may include additional workshop material that will be provided for a cost. Participation is \$20 per session.
Dorothy's private instruction by appointment.

Adam Lavigne Workshops: August 3.

All workshops begin at 9AM at the Garden Center

Monthly Duties for Aug 16th Meeting

Display: Troy Randall

Hospitality: Gail Gehring

Clean-Up: Troy and John Carrington

Here are two Quick-Reference Potting Guides

[Part 1](#) [Part 2](#)

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

rickj55@verizon.net

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Bruce's Bonsai Tool sharpening, repair and cleaning

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

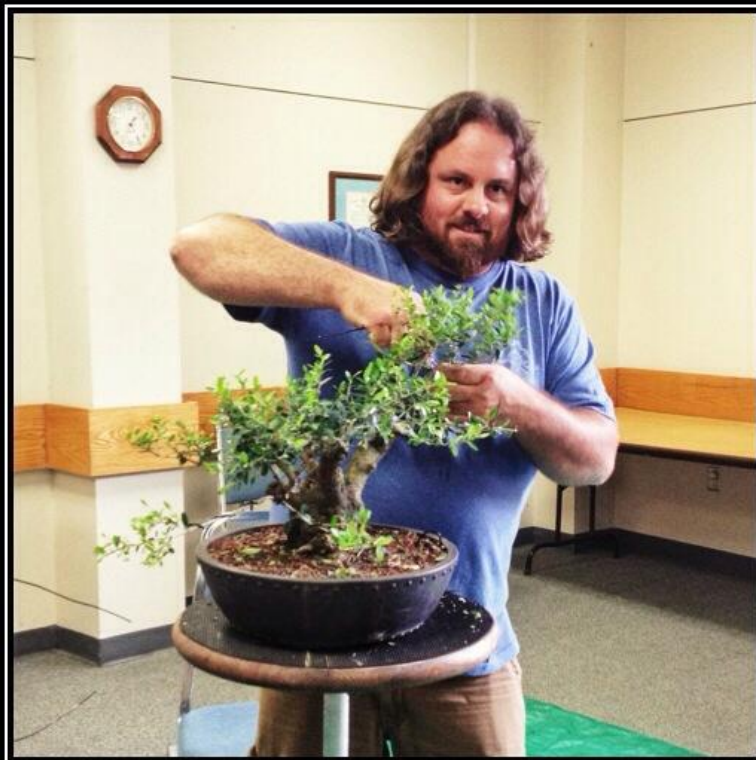
ABOUT THE BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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.

We welcome everyone interested in this Ancient Art form to take advantage of our many experienced artists and teachers. Enjoy the camaraderie of those who work to keep this art alive. Please join us.

The Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida, Inc. www.bonsaiswfl.org 239 935-5860



HEE HEE HEE

I play with tree