

BONSAI CLIPPER

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida, Inc.

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www.bonsaiswfl.org



Annual Auction and Pot Luck

April 19th, SPALC BUILDING, 9:30 AM

NO MORNING REFRESHMENTS (JUST COFFEE) NOR BONSAI DISPLAY THIS MONTH

Pot Luck Luncheon provided by members; Club provides drinks.

I can't believe it is already spring and time again for our annual auction and picnic. A little change this year as we were unable to book the Garden Center, we will be meeting at our regular place, the SPALC Building. Coffee will be served at 9:30 AM while members bring in their pot luck items and their auction items. Don't forget to bring a friend or to invite others that may be interested in bonsai. It is a great time to get to know each other and pick up some great trees for a great price.

Of course we expect everyone to bring food, but we also expect everyone to look over their collection of trees and choose something you are ready to sell. You have a few choices with our auction. 1. You can donate the item to the club with all proceeds going directly to the club. 2. You can split the proceeds with the club—you take 80%, the club takes 20%. 3. Adding to #2, you can also set a base price on the tree. If you feel it is worth a certain amount and do not want to let it go for less, make sure you put down your base price. Everyone bringing an auction item needs to check in with Ham, our treasurer, to fill out the correct papers.

Hopefully, if things run smoothly, we will be able to start our morning program between 10 and 10:30. Ernie Fernandez is going to do a demonstration on what will become our annual tree. Each month you will be able to purchase raffle tickets toward the tree. We will have the drawing for the tree at our annual Holiday Party.

After the demonstration, we will break for lunch. Around 1 PM, we will start the auction. I will be the auctioneer this year. Bring your wallets and help make our fundraiser a success.

Don't forget:

Food

Auction Items

A Big Fat Wallet

BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
 MINUTES
 GENERAL MEETING at Wigert's Bonsai Nursery
 March 15, 2014

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION/ACTION
Minutes	Published in news letter	Waived reading of minutes
Visiting Master Jim Vanlandingham	Jim styled a Shohin with excellent results.	<p>Jim presented his basic priorities criteria for a Bonsai tree to look old: R Roots S Spread of roots T Taper</p> <p>For a Bonsai to look good: L Line of tree (style) Need a Triangle Even need Branch ramification</p> <p>He offered another tip: removal of the apical bud will stop the flow of nutrients creating smaller leaves and back budding. Note this is applicable only on some species – know your tree.</p> <p>In order to achieve the best taper on each branch he suggested using a 22.5° angle (1/2 of 45°) from the end of the branch front and 66° from the back of the branch.</p>
PART 1: Quarter Trees	<p>Several trees were brought in by club members representing those with less than and more than 5 years' experience.</p> <p>Jim gave a critique for each.</p>	<p>The Fukien Tea by Judy Gore was selected as best choice for more than 5 years' experience.</p> <p>The collected tree by Rick Owens was selected for best choice with less than 5 years' experience.</p>
PART 2: Nursery Crawl	The group was divided into four groups who were instructed to select acceptable Pre-Bonsai trees.	This was enjoyable as well as instructive.
PART 3: Wiring lessons	Justin Michael led a group on wiring which is an essential skill for training your tree.	
April meeting reminder	Annual Picnic and auction.	Remember to bring something for the auction – anything related to Bonsai and that includes wine I suppose...

Submitted by:
 Phil Krieg, Secretary

NOTE: We receive invitations to speak throughout the year, and if you would like to give a talk, please speak to one of the officers

Mentoring: If you are a beginner, and would like to meet individually with an experienced member of the Society, see Jim Gehring about our mentor program. (Also speak to Jim if you would like to volunteer to mentor others).

Library: Please remember to return your LIBRARY BOOKS to Judy.

Bonsai Buzz:

Some trees require repotting time in April through the summer months. For those members new to bonsai, the following may be helpful:

According to Professor Amy Liang in *The Living Art of Bonsai*

Choosing the Pot

Bonsai is a form of landscaping that uses trees and rocks as the subject. The selection of the pot is important because it allows the viewer to imagine the potted tree growing in its natural environment. The pot is one of the three essential elements that constitute a bonsai. If a fine tree is planted in an unsuitable pot, it will look unpleasing and lack stability and harmony, or the pot may become the dominant element and detract from the overall beauty of the design. If the choice of the pot and the means of positioning the tree are appropriate, tree and pot will complement each other. Thus, the depth of the bonsai in the pot, the planting position, and the proportion of the tree to the size, color, shape, height, and width of the pot are closely related to the message the artist wants to convey.

Harmony between the size of the tree and the pot

The ideal proportion of the width of the pot is $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the height of the tree, and the depth should be about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the height of the tree. The height of the pot should be equivalent to the diameter of the trunk. These proportions are best to display harmony and stability.

Generally speaking, large trees should be grown in large pots, small trees in small pots. Sometimes a small tree may be planted in a large pot and then embellished with fine rocks, ornaments, and a little landscaping of the soil surface to create a whimsical feeling. Conversely, a large tree may sometimes be grown in a smaller pot to heighten the feeling of loftiness and dominance. In addition, for certain species that require more water, it is preferable to use larger or higher pots for better growth.

Harmony between the color of the tree and the pot

Though the tree is the main element in bonsai creation, the pot is a supporting one. Thus, the color of the pot is very important and should not detract from the beauty of the tree. In general, bright contrasting colors or soft harmonizing colors should be chosen. Reddish pots look wild and strong and can express the character of rocky mountains or barren lands; blue is associated with water; yellow implies golden leaves and autumn scenes; green suggests the verdure of a meadow. For pines and junipers, it is best to use plain unglazed pots of austere color, such as dull red, reddish, purple, or brownish-red, Yihsing wares or nanman wares. For flowers and fruits, pots with bright colors, such as light yellow, crimson, or dark green earthenware, celadon, nanman, or shiro kochi can be chosen to heighten the beauty of the bonsai. p258

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