



BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

November 15th Meeting Notes by Rick Simon

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM by Martha Goff at our regular monthly meeting hall in the Berne Davis Garden Council Headquarters. Martha pointed out that the Holiday Tree raffle was in full swing and the winner would be selected next month at the holiday party. The tree was on display on today's sign-in table.

Treasurer's Report: Ham Agnew reported \$10,032 in the bank. The Annual Show was cancelled this year due to construction on Larchmont. The cancellation created a surplus in our treasury.

New club T-shirt and polo shirt designs were discussed. On the side tables were several new Bonsai Club artwork designs and the group was asked to mark which one they preferred.

Mike Lane, our Shohin instructor, has classes forming but dates and times are not secured yet. A schedule is being created. We need a few more people to sign.

Patti Geuss discussed and brought information cards for "Origami in the Garden" at the **Peace River Botanical and Sculpture Garden**. Troy Randall, our member, has numerous Bonsai trees on display from his collection at the PRBSG. Further information on the PRBSG can be found at PeaceRiverGardens.org.

Demonstration: "Winterizing your Trees" by Jaye Saarinen

Deciduous trees should not be trimmed this time of year as they are becoming dormant for the winter. No re-potting this time of year. Nighttime temperatures are too low. Low 40's and 30's at night you need to protect your trees. 70's at night allows trees to create energy to grow.

Good time to weed your trees. Moss should be moved from the trunk of the tree to prevent waterlogged trunks. Good time to partially defoliate. It's a good time to wire because of slow growth and wire can be left on the tree longer.

Fertilizer is still required in the dormant season as growth still takes place and these nutrients are important for a healthy and disease resistant plant.

He discussed Organic Fertilizer vs. Synthetic Fertilizer. They are both effective. You just need to remember to fertilize.

Keep records and photos of your trees. One good app is Bonsai Album. For iPhone the app is at <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/bonsai-album/id465021382>. The download version initially runs in an unregistered trial mode, limited to 3 bonsai, 3 pots, and 3 logs, with 3 photos each. It will also only allow a single database to be open at a time, and database import is disabled. Purchasing a license either within the app or via the [Web Store](#) unlocks full functionality.

Re-pot when water takes over thirty seconds to start draining and percolating. This most likely means your plant is root bound.

Develop a Bonsai Buddy to have a second set of eyes and knowledge base.

Jaye is happy to help any member via email or text. Use your resources. Information can be geographically specific.

Stone Lantern Bonsai distributors are used by many of our members and their website is at <https://www.stonelantern.com>.

Beginning Bonsai Class starts in January. Class will follow regular meetings. It was recommended to read [Practical Guide to Bonsai Styles of The World](#). Remember we have a Bonsai book lending library that we maintain at the Berne Davis Garden Council Headquarters. Personally, a quick read and reference is [Bonsai \(101 Essential Tips\)](#). By Harry Tomlinson. It's on Amazon at [Bonsai 101 Essential Tips at Amazon](#).

Repotting Time Hints by Martha Goff

Repotting time is almost over for most of our tropicals.

Be careful! If night temperatures are consistently 60 degrees or up, it is still safe to repot most tropicals. When night temperatures begin to fluctuate, don't repot. There will still be repotting for deciduous, dormant trees. Always check your information about repotting time before trying.

It's the Dormant Season and Wiring Time by Martha Goff

I know that any time is wiring time, but my favorite is November/December. Why?

Depending on when night temperatures move to consistently low 50's or 40's, wire can stay on trees for up to 3 months. Because of what we call cold weather, growth slows way down and lessens the chance of wire cuts. I love that! Here are some links to wiring from [Bonsai Empire](#), [Bonsai Mirai](#) and [Eastern Leaf](#) that may help you.

Next Meeting: Our "Holiday Party"

For Holiday Party on Saturday, December 6, 2025, 9-12, we play a modified form of secret Santa so everyone who would like to participate in the gift exchange should bring a wrapped gift, valued at \$20 or less. The gift should be Bonsai related. This includes wine and spirits. We play a very interesting game with 2 decks of cards. Everyone bringing a gift should get a card when entering the building. You will get to choose a gift when your card number is chosen. Playing the game will be explained in detail at the party.

The Club is providing the main course for the party but participants are asked to bring a salad, side dish or dessert for the party.

Membership Dues

2026 Dues are still the same price! \$45 for single membership, \$55 for family membership.

Please download and print the [Membership Form](#). Please mail before the end of the year to:

Bonsai Society of SW FL

Make checks payable to: BSSWFL

P.O. Box 61945

Ft. Myers, FL 33906-1945

“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](#).

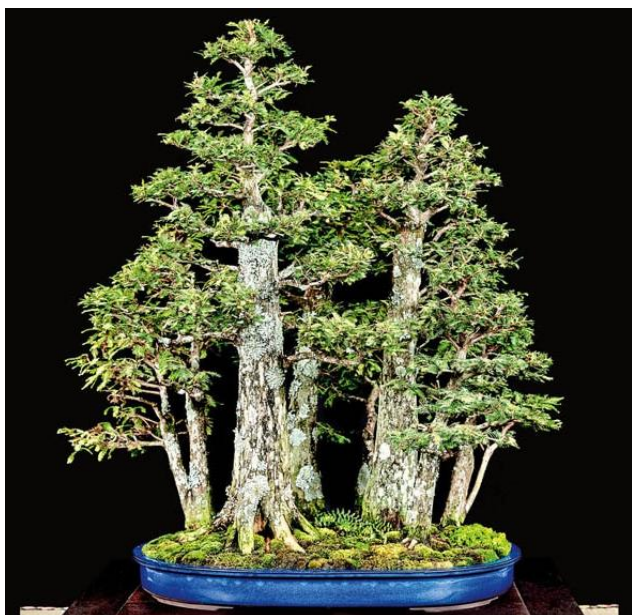
CYPRESS

(Swamp Cypress, Bald Cypress, Pond Cypress)

History: The bald cypress is a truly magnificent tree growing from Texas to Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, and north to Massachusetts. This is a tree that is easily collected, but make sure you have obtained permission. In Florida, the fines are heavy for illegal collection of the Bald Cypress. It is the state tree of Louisiana. It grows between 100-150 ft. and can live to well over 1,000 years. It can gain a diameter of 14 feet. [Read more](#).



Here are some things that You can do with a Cypress.



STUDY GROUPS and WORKSHOPS

Kokoro: A Bonsai Study group with Dorothy Demarest.

The next date at the Garden Center will be in January and is generally held right after the regular meeting.

The Kokoro study group is built for intermediate and advanced artists seeking to improve their design skills and overall bonsai knowledge.

We are planning field trips to Wigert's and the Morikami Museum and Japanese Garden in Delray Beach. We will feature guest artists, workshops, and demonstrations, and focus on Bonsai design and show preparation. We currently have just a few spots left.

To apply, please contact Jim at james.t.demarest@gmail.com

(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:

Thursday, December 4th and Sunday, December 7th

9AM-3PM at the Garden Center

\$35 per session

Future Workshops are held on the First Thursday and Sunday of each month.

To schedule, please email Sam Wollard at:

sswollard4@aol.com

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

WIGERT'S BONSAI NURSERY

For all your Bonsai Needs: Trees, Tools, Pots

Wigert's Bonsai Nursery, 2930 South Road, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33917

239-543-2234 www.wigertsbonsai.com

TOOL SHARPENING

Check me out on Facebook @

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.

**The Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida, Inc.
P.O. Box 61945 Fort Myers, FL 33906-1945**

www.bonsaiswfl.org 239 935-5860



Question: What is this?

- 1. An old man with a broken backpack?**
- 2. A tree walking with a cane?**
- 3. An Alien Bonsai species?**

Happy Holidays!

