



# BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

For the next Bonsai meeting, on Saturday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 9AM, we will have two presentations.

The first presentation by Jaye Saarinen is entitled: “What’s in My Bag?” Jaye’s program will be geared toward those new to bonsai but will include useful information for all. Items covered will be what tools you need to get started, when you need those tools and what you can do to get by until you get that next tool. Jaye will end with a short talk about how to maintain your tools between sharpenings.

As a bonus, after Jaye has done his presentation, Bruce Riggins, our resident tool sharpening expert, will be here. Bring your tools and Bruce can answer all questions about your tools. He will demonstrate how to hold them, and when to sharpen them. He will evaluate them to see if they need sharpening or repair. Bruce will not do any sharpening on site but will accept them and arrange for a timely return.

Don’t forget to bring in your trees to work on. Let’s start to get ready for our November show, or possibly the at the [BSF Convention](#) in Orlando on May 23-25, 2025.

We are introducing a New Special Feature to all upcoming Newsletters. As most of you know, 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.

Please note that you can read further by clicking on the [Blue](#) link buttons in this Newsletter.

Each month we will feature one species. It is selected based on the month that it may need your attention. We are highlighting the “Chinese Elm.”

### “Martha’s Corner”

#### History of the Elm Family

Various species of the Elm family are found growing all over the world. The most common species used in tropical climates is the [Chinese Elm](#). The Chinese Elm is a deciduous tree native to China, Korea, and Japan. There are several varieties of Chinese Elm available. There are a number of Elms native to the Southern United States that also do well in bonsai. A tree of a different genus but of the Elm family that is often used in bonsai is the *Zelkova* species. Elms are magnificent trees usually growing to very old age with large spreading branches. In recent years many of the Elm family have been attacked by the Dutch Elm disease and are disappearing.

To read the full description in Martha’s Tropical Green Sheets, click [here](#).

Click [here](#) for a link to Martha's Repotting Guide.

Here are a few examples of what you can do with a Chinese Elm.



## Workshop Scheduling

### Adam Lavigne:

Group A (Thursdays): March 2, April TBD, May 1, June 5

Group B on (Sundays): Feb 2, March 2, April 6, May 4

### Mike Lane's Shohin:

Feb 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 6

### Kokoro: A Bonsai Study group with Dorothy Schmitz

The dates for 2025 are: Feb 15, Mar 15, Apr TBD, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug 16, Sept 20 and Oct 28. All dates are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month right after the regular meeting, about noon to 3PM. If we have an extended meeting running later, times 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 will also be available for private instruction by appointment.

## Our Local Talent

### POTTERY

Joe Mayhew

Email: jmpotteryllc@gmail.com 941-650-7635

### STANDS

Bill Smith

smittysmit23@aol.com, 410-869-6650

### WIGERT'S

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](http://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](mailto:grybrd77@gmail.com)

## ABOUT THE BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

We meet 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. Parking is located on Larchmont Street, one block south of Virginia off McGregor Boulevard.

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](http://www.bonsaiswfl.org) 239 935-5860

"Suspended Bonsai Tree"

