



BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

We have some exciting adventures coming up!

1. "Super Sale" by a dear board member, Wellesley Legier, who is moving to Portland, Oregon to be near her daughter. She has decided to sell many of her plants that may not do well there. She is one of our best, most involved members who is also a member of our board. She will be missed. Anyway, her home sold faster than expected and she must be out by August 1st, therefore, the sale. All these plants will be at our July meeting with a price attached. Wellesley says she is willing to negotiate the price.

COME PREPARED TO ACQUIRE SOME QUALITY MATERIALS!!

2. WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A CONTEST!!! 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. I offer no guidelines.

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!

3. ELECTIONS 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.

Meeting Agenda for Saturday, July 19th, 9AM

Jay Saarinen and Matt Romejko will do a presentation on irrigation that you can do yourself.



SHOW & EXHIBIT

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 10A-4P
ST. MARK'S CHURCH, 508 RIVIERA ST., VENICE

EXHIBIT OPENS AT 10A • SILENT AUCTION (10A-NOON)

- FREE DEMONSTRATION BY LARRY NAEDEK OF THUNDERSTRUCK BONSAI (10:30)
- FREE LUNCH (NOON) • EXHIBIT TOUR (1P) • RAFFLE (3:30P)
- FREE DEMONSTRATION BY SHO FU PRESIDENT CHRISTOPHER COSENZA (2P)



Water Jasmine

Here are just a few of the quality items donated for the silent auction. All proceeds benefit the Knowlton Award.



Root Stand



Wire Caddy

Sho Fu Bonsai Society of Sarasota meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30p at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 800 South Palm Ave., Sarasota. The club, established Dec. 2, 1975, is responsible for the bonsai exhibit at Selby Gardens, the only one of its kind in SW Florida.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT SHOFUBONSAI@GMAIL.COM

“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](#).

Brazilian Raintree

History: The Brazilian Raintree has a very distinctive history in Florida. It is a native of Central America and South America and considered one of the tropical world's most beautiful trees. It is a leguminous tree in the sub-classification of *Mimosoideae* and is the state tree of Brazil. As the story goes, a number of years ago Jim Moody of Jupiter Bonsai received an envelope containing seeds from his sister-in-law in Brazil. The botanical name was not known at the time. She simply called it a "Saman." The rest is history. The Brazilian Rain Tree, recently classified as *Pithecellobium tortum*, is now one of the most popular bonsai subjects in the tropics. The tree has delicate, tiny compound leaves that close at night or when stressed. The trees started by Jim did not produce seed pods. One tree produced from the seeds developed a curious trunk. With age, the trunk flattened and fluted developing a "muscular" look. This "look" continued into many of the branches. Since then, Jim has used this one tree through cuttings and air layers to produce the tree many seek. [Read more.](#)

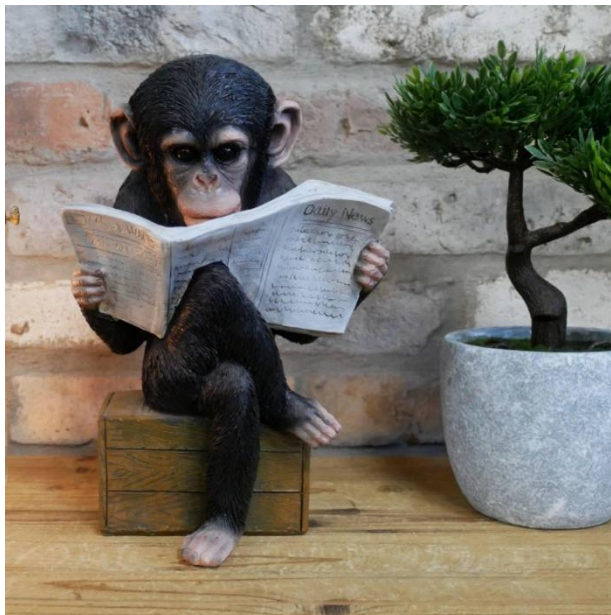
A "Brazilian Raintree" Link

[Here is a link](#) to Adam Lavigne's "Brazilian Raintree" page.

Here are some things that you can do with a Brazilian Raintree:



...hmmmm....says here they're also called Monkey Pods!



Kokoro: A Bonsai Study group with Dorothy Schmitz

The dates for 2025 are July 19, Aug 16, Sept 20 and Oct 28 at the Garden Center right after the regular meeting. All meetings 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 will also be available for private instruction by appointment.

Adam Lavigne Workshops: July 31, August 3.

All workshops begin at 9AM at the Garden Center

Monthly Duties for July 19th Meeting

Display: Rick Simon

Hospitality: Nilda Garcia-Douglas

Clean-Up: Troy Randal 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

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. Parking is located on Larchmont Street, one block south of Virginia off McGregor Blvd.

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