



BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

On Saturday, Feb 15th, 9AM, we had two presentations.

The first presentation by Jaye Saarinen was entitled: “What’s in My Bag?” Jaye’s program was geared toward those new to bonsai but included useful information for all. Items covered were 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 ended with a short talk about how to maintain your tools between sharpenings. [Read more.](#)

Next, we had Bruce Riggins, our resident tool sharpening expert, discuss how to hold them, when to sharpen and how to maintain them. [Watch video.](#)

MARCH, 15, 2026 Meeting

There will be two events of interest for our next meeting.

Troy Randall will be talking about pests that we may encounter on our Bonsai, and how to prevent, or get rid of them. Feel free to talk about any pests that you have encountered.

Rick Owens, the builder of our newest outside display, will talk about, and then trim and style the Bald Cypress Forest that is on the stand. This will be a good opportunity to see him work his magic.

Meeting Crew:

Meeting Display by Dorothy Schmitz

Hospitality by Brenda Sarna

Clean-up by Angel Vega and Mike Snyder

“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](#).

Ilex (Holly)

History: This plant is a favorite of bonsai growers in the tropics. Some Ilex are native to Florida and produce evergreen, dark, egg-shaped leaves or spiny leaves. The plant is unisexual with some species being male and others female. To get the bright red berries, be sure to select a female.
[Read more](#)

Here are some things that you can do with an **Ilex**





Here are two Quick Reference Potting Guides

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

Workshop Scheduling

Adam Lavigne:

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

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

Mike Lane's Shohin:

March 10, April 14, May 12, June 6

Kokoro: A Bonsai Study group with Dorothy Schmitz

The dates for 2025 are: Mar 15, Apr TBD, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug 16, Sept 20 and Oct 28. All dates are on the 3rd 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

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 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 239 935-5860

Penjing landscape by Yee-sun Wu

