



# BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

### Annual Show

As most of you have already heard, our Annual Exhibit and Show, scheduled for Nov 1-2, **has been cancelled**. The Edison-Ford Winter Estates is undergoing major construction, and they have begun the work by eliminating Larchmont Street. They are in the process of removing all the topsoil, and will begin the next phase of digging it up to install new drainage, sewage and water pipes, and electricity. Including parking lot improvements, this project will take several months. That left us with a parking problem. Virginia Ave. is the only other street bordering the Berne Davis Gardens, and is a fairly short street that cannot accommodate much more than 20-30 vehicles. It is unclear if the Gardens will be open for our Spring Auction. All regular club meetings will continue as scheduled.

### T-Shirt Discussion

So far, we have made very little progress on the topic of T-Shirts. A few members have gone out on their own to get shirts. Angel Vega wore one that he had recently made for him, and it looked very nice. **We would like your input for design**. If you think of anything that would look nice on a club shirt, either printed or embroidered, please let us know.

### Next Meeting

Our next meeting is on Saturday, October 18<sup>h</sup>, 2025, at 9AM.

We will be honored to have Mike Lane as our speaker who will be giving a presentation on Buttonwoods that he has been working on. Here are some links to Buttonwood by [Adam Lavigne](#), [Wigerts](#), and [Jason Osborne](#).

**Nominations for 2026** Please go [here](#) to review the candidates for next year. We will have one more nominating poll at the Oct 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### Repotting Time Hint from Martha

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 Almost Wiring Time

I know that anytime 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!

## Membership Dues

2026 Dues are coming up, and still the same price! \$45 for single membership, \$55 for family membership. Please download and print the [Membership Form](#) here. Please remit at the next meeting, or mail before the end of this year to:

Bonsai Society of SW FL                      Make checks payable to: BSSWFL  
P.O. Box 61945  
Ft. Myers, FL 33906-1945

## "Martha's Corner"

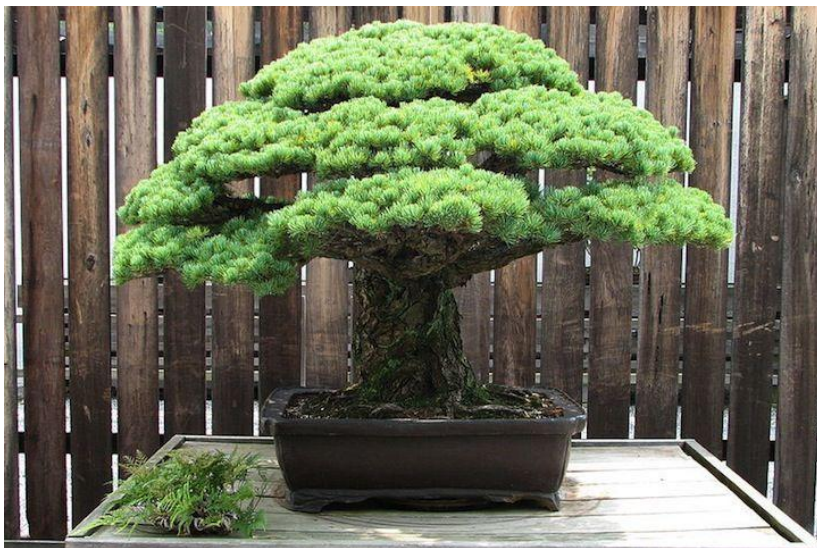
Each month we will feature one species. It is selected based on the month that it may need your attention. Several years ago, Martha Goff wrote a voluminous work called Tropical Green Sheets. In this two-volume set, Martha goes to great length to detail everything about hundreds of trees.... Type, Species, Soil, pH, watering and much, much more. You can purchase Tropical Green Sheets at [Wigert's Nursery](#) or [Bonsai Jack](#).

## Ficus (Ficus benjamina)

**History:** Ficus are members of the Moraceae family of plants. There are reported to be over 1,500 species of Ficus, over 800 of these being trees. They are native to southern Asia and India but grow successfully in any tropical climate. In general, the ficus have gummy sap (it "bleeds" when injured), stipules cover and protect new leaves as they emerge and fall away, aerial roots, and fruit (figs). Although ficus grow all over the tropics, they are most often associated with Taiwan. That region uses the fig as one of their main bonsai materials. For the tropics, Ficus is probably the most rewarding plant. Even for the novice, it is very forgiving. The Ficus grows quickly, leaf reduction is generally easy, and it fits a number of different styles. The list of those available and suitable to bonsai is lengthy. The care of all Ficus is, generally speaking, similar. [Read More](#).

Also, see this [link](#) to Wigert's for their "Specimen Tree."

Here are some things that you can do with a Ficus



This tree is 375 years old >



## STUDY GROUPS and WORKSHOPS

Kokoro: A Bonsai Study group with Dorothy Schmitz

The next date is Oct 18 at the Garden Center right after the regular meeting 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's private instruction by appointment.

Adam Lavigne Workshops: TBD

All workshops begin at 9AM at the Garden Center

### Monthly Duties for Oct 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Display: Justin Michael

Hospitality: Martha Goff

Clean-Up: Dorothy's Crew

### 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](mailto:don.rosio@gmail.com) 321-890-8353

### STANDS

Bill Smith

[smittysmit23@aol.com](mailto: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](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 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. [www.bonsaiswfl.org](http://www.bonsaiswfl.org) 239 935-5860  
P.O. Box 61945 Fort Myers, FL 33906-1945

**Don't try this at home:**

