



# BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

### “Dragon Tree”

On Saturday, Aug 30<sup>th</sup>, Martha and her entourage made a trip to Dragon Tree nursery and loaded up on trees for our November show. As she recounts, Dragon Tree was very generous with the selection. Martha purchased several “Jaboticaba” trees for the Styling Competition, and a Buttonwood for Adam Lavigne’s demonstration. She also purchased some small-leaf Schefflera for the Shohin workshop.

### “Next Meeting”

Our next meeting is on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 9AM.

The purpose of this meeting is to bring, and discuss, trees that we will display at the November show. However, in addition to just “display trees”, bring any tree you may have questions about, need direction, or just to work on.

### More Annual Show Comments

Click [here](#) for a list of “Show Jobs”. We still need people to help with the set up. This is a significant amount of the work, but goes quickly with more people. I recall that last year we set up all the tables and drapes in fewer than two hours with about eight people.

Here is the [Tree Submission Form](#). Please print it, fill it out, then scan or use your camera to send to Rick Owens. Please fill it out ASAP and either alternatively snail mail it, or present it at our next meeting on Saturday, Sep 20<sup>th</sup>. **This is very important!** Here is the [Judging Sheet](#) that Phil Krieg will use to evaluate your tree(s). It shows you what Phil is judging for.

### “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 might consider talking about this topic a little more.

### “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](#).

## Premna (Japanese Neem Tree)

**History:** This plant has become a premier bonsai specimen throughout its established areas. The best trees are collected in Taiwan and Indonesia because of the gnarled weathered bark with natural [jin](#) and [shari](#). In the wild the leaves can be quite large, up to 3". However, they are prized because they quickly reduce to an amazing ¼" with twigging. The leaves are waxy and aromatic. The smell is not pleasant, especially with other species. In China, the plant originally had names that could be translated to "Stinky Lady" and believe it or not, "Stinky Bitch." Since becoming so popular in bonsai, however, the name has been changed to translate as "Long-life Lady." Much better, I think. [Read more.](#)

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

Here are some things that you can do with a Premna:



Here's a [link](#) to "Premna Bonsai Care" from Bonsai Empire (4:30 mins.)  
Here is another [YouTube](#) link to Premna Bonsai by Robert Steven (26 mins.)

## STUDY GROUPS and WORKSHOPS

Kokoro: A Bonsai Study group with Dorothy Schmitz

The dates for 2025 are Sept 20 and Oct 28 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: Thursday, Sep 4th

All workshops begin at 9AM at the Garden Center

### Monthly Duties for Sep 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Display: Scott Goddard

Hospitality: Julie and Jeff Pakrosnis

Clean-Up: Dorothy Schmitz and Jim Demarest

### Here are two Quick-Reference Potting Guides

[Part 1](#) [Part 2](#)

## Our Local Talent

### POTTERY

Joe Mayhew

[jmpotteryllc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

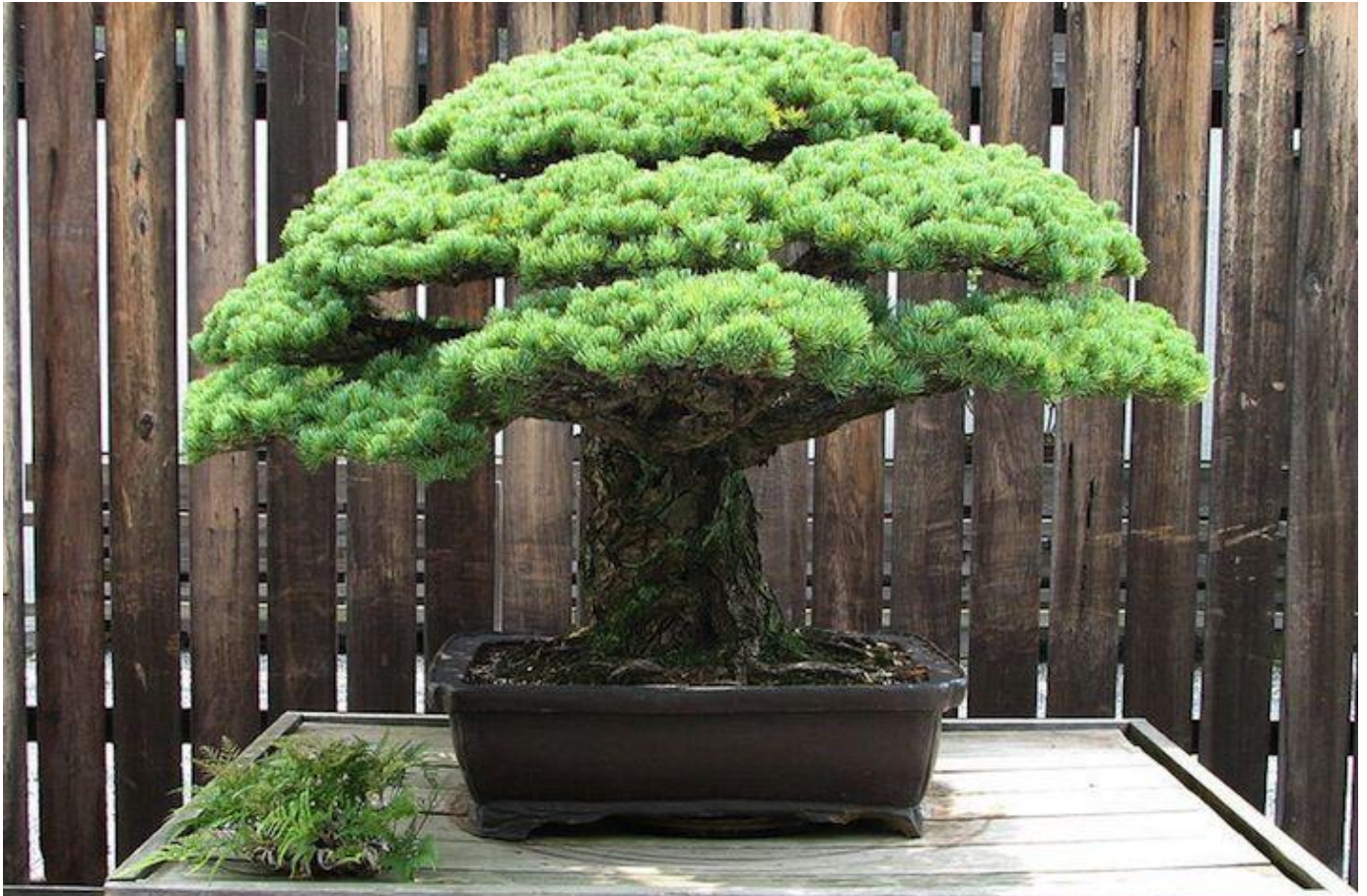
Bruce Riggins, 239-297-7361, [grybrd77@gmail.com](mailto:grybrd77@gmail.com)

### **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.

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**  
**P.O. Box 61945 Fort Myers, FL 33906-1945**

**This Bonsai Tree is now over 390 years old and survived the bombing of Hiroshima.**

On August 6, 1945, Bonsai Master Masaru Yamaki was in his home when the bombing happened. A significant force blew out his house's windows, causing glass fragments to hit him and slash his skin. It turned out that it was a B-29 bomber, the "Enola Gay."



Since Yamaki was a Bonsai artist, and he had many of them on a towering wall encircling his outside nursery. They may have helped his Bonsai survive the bombing massacre.

It was given as a gift to the United States by the Nippon Bonsai Association in the Bicentennial Celebration of 1976.

It is on display at the National Arboretum in Washington, DC. [See more](#) and [more here](#).