



# BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

## TIPS AND TIDBITS BY RICHARD OWENS

As we have a good number of new BSSWFL club members, I am publishing, each month, a selected style of bonsai with tips that I have learned as a bonsai practitioner.

The fourth in the series is Informal upright style, November 2023

## Informal upright Bonsai style (**Moyogi**)



The informal upright style is widespread in each nature and within the art of Bonsai. The trunk grows upright roughly within the shape of a letter 'S' and at each and every turn branching happens. Tapering on the trunk should be clearly visible, with all the base on the trunk thicker than the greater portion

### Positive aspects of Moyogi

Trees within this style produce a really lovely flowing image which can be really inviting for the viewer as well as the capability to make use of the trees movement and flow and incorporate it into your [Bonsai style](#). A slight benefit to this style may be the capability to locate bonsai stock or Yamadori (Which have already been collected by licensed collectors) that really conform beautifully to this style. We prefer to see angles inside the trunk of informal upright, to offer a rough thought, at about 1/5th and 3/5th height bending back towards the center to offer harmony.

# Informal Upright Style

By Richard L. Owens:

Please forgive the state of this tree, it needs some attention. I wanted to show you something I did with this tree to accentuate the Informal aspect of the tree.

**Number 1:** This tree is actually a second tree that I grafted to the main tree because the branch that was growing there died.

**Number 2:** This is where I air layered from a second tree.



Almost any pot can be used for an Informal Upright....glazed pots of a complimentary color, especially if it is a flowering tree....unglazed for evergreens.

## Disadvantages of Moyogi

1. The many ways to decide how to develop.
2. If grown from a young stage, good bends and branch placement may have been ingrained into the tree from its beginning.
3. If a tree is Yamadori, a "collected tree", bends and branch placement must go with what nature has provided. The most important item is the apex sitting at the center of the tree.

## Appropriate Species

Most species of plants are appropriate for this style. From deciduous to coniferous from tropical to pine, including fruiting trees may be utilized for this style.

## NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

### What to Expect!

1. Report on the Show
2. Member Interest Survey to plan for next year
3. Election of Officers for 2024
4. Dues Payment for 2024
5. GET INVOLVED!!!
6. Study Group Sign Up for both Mike Lane and Adam Lavigne

I will be bringing the tree created by Laurent Darrieux to the meeting. Buy your raffle tickets. Only one more opportunity to buy raffle tickets and that is the December Holiday Party. At that party, we draw the winning ticket, and the winner takes home their holiday tree!

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### 1. REPORT ON THE SHOW:

It looks like everything went well at the show. I know personally that it was a great deal of work and not enough helpers. Hopefully, this part will improve in the future. I hope everyone was happy with the exhibit and the workshops that were offered.

A big thank you to Richard Owens for organizing and running the exhibit, and acquiring the trailer to pick up and return all show supplies. The same thank you goes out to Dave Bovio for acquiring our speakers and organizing the workshops and demos and the raffle area. A special thank you to Jaye Saarinen for his superman work organizing the pickup of show supplies, the set-up of the show, the tear down of the show and the return of all those supplies and for helping Adam with his demo. A thank you to Linda Rodriguez for making sure that we were fed and watered and her work making sure that everyone who arrived was greeted. Thank you to Wellesley and Troy Lindsey for the set-up and tear down in the exhibit area. Thank you, Justin, for helping our speaker, Dorothy Schmitz during both her workshops and demo. Thank you to Sam Wollard for setting aside the necessary days for our show with the Garden Council and for being there to help with everything. Thank you to Hamilton for running the award certificates for the show. Thank you to April for helping Richard with calculating the point awards and helping set up the exhibit.

I know I have forgotten someone, and I am very sorry, but I was so “here and there” every day that I may not have noticed you. Please know that we thank you.

## 2. MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY:

It is very important to the club that we provide programs that club members want. We have prepared the following survey. Hopefully, you will print it and bring it with you to the meeting. If not, I will provide extras at the meeting.

### BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

#### MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY

#### Looking to 2024

**To serve you better we would like to ask you a few questions regarding your skill level, goals, and desired involvement with BSSWF activities. Based upon your responses, opportunities will be presented to you to help you achieve these goals and keep you involved with our bonsai club.**

**REMEMBER THE PURPOSE OF OUR CLUB AS STATED IN OUR CHARTER:**

**ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE:** This organization is declared to be an education organization whose prime purposes are as follows:

**SECTION A)** To advance the education of its members and the public in the aesthetic, historic, scientific, business, and social features of the art of bonsai.

**SECTION B)** To promote the knowledge, interest, appreciation, and enjoyment of the art of bonsai on the part of its members and the public.

**SECTION C)** To hold meetings and exhibitions in the furtherance of these purposes.

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ # of years as a club member: \_\_\_\_\_

# of years doing bonsai \_\_\_\_\_

Level of experience: \_\_\_Beginner \_\_\_Novice (under 5 years) \_\_\_Intermediate \_\_\_Advanced

Have you displayed bonsai: \_\_\_Never \_\_\_Club Annual Show \_\_\_BSF State Convention \_\_\_Other  
\_\_\_Monthly Meeting

#### **WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR BONSAI:**

\_\_\_Have a private collection \_\_\_Exhibit in the local show \_\_\_Exhibit at State Convention  
\_\_\_Teach others bonsai \_\_\_Display at Epcot Pavilion \_\_\_Exhibit nationally  
\_\_\_Improve my skills \_\_\_Enjoy others' art \_\_\_Just be part of BSSWF  
\_\_\_I want to be the best

**WHY DO YOU BELONG TO OUR CLUB:**

- Promote the Art of Bonsai       Maintain/Improve Collection       Enjoy Bonsai People  
 Start a Bonsai Collection       Enjoy working with plants

**WOULD YOU CONSIDER BEING:**

- Club Officer       Program Presenter       Committee Member       Annual Show Chair  
 Community Outreach       Club Photography

**WHAT COMMITTEES WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF?**

- Hospitality       Annual Show       Website Administrator       Program  
 Newsletter       BSF Convention       Monthly Display Coordinator       Website Administrator  
 Nominating Committee       Community Outreach Coordinator

**HOW CAN WE IMPROVE OUR MEETINGS?**

- More speakers       More time working on trees       More Show and Tell

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**WHAT PROGRAMS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE NEXT YEAR?**

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**OTHER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS:**

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### **3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2024:**

Becky Troop will be presenting the slate of officers for 2024. These are people who have agreed to return or to fill an officer or board slot. We will take time to have nominations from the floor. Anyone who wants to run for office or nominate someone other than the ones listed, may do so. If there are nominations, we will have a ballot with places to write in your choice. If there are no nominations, we will call for a vote to accept the slate as presented.

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### **4. DUES PAYMENTS FOR 2024**

Beginning this month, we will be collecting dues for the 2024 year. The deadline for reporting to the state is the last week in December. So, be prepared to pay your dues either at this meeting or mailing them in to Ham. (Mailing address at the bottom of this newsletter.) You may be asked to fill out a membership form (found at the front table). Many people's email, phone numbers, etc. change over time. Be sure to update.

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### **5. GET INVOLVED**

Below is a description of all the committees we have. We need everyone to get involved in one way or another, with a committee of your choice. We will have a sign-up sheet available so you can sign up for the committee of your choice at the meeting.

## **COMMITTEES AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **HOSPITALITY:**

1. Maintain refreshment supplies: paper plates, plastic ware, cups, napkins. These materials are kept by the Hospitality Chair and brought to every meeting. When purchasing materials to add to the listed items, receipts must be kept and turned in to the Treasurer to be paid.
2. To budget appropriately each year, the chair should keep a record of expenditures throughout the year.
3. The Chair is also responsible for the coffee and paper liners for the coffee pots.
4. Prepare and keep a sign-up sheet for club members as to who brings refreshments each month to the meetings.
5. Send this list to the newsletter person to include each month.
6. Send out reminders to those bringing refreshments each month.
7. Responsible for coordinating the food and refreshments for the annual show and the annual auction.
8. Should appoint a sub-chair if they have to be out of town for any meetings.

### **NOMINATING:**

1. The head of the committee should meet with the other members and discuss jobs.
2. First, speak with each present member and see who wants to continue next year.
3. If there are gaps, find members willing to fill those positions.
4. Elections are always held in November of the present year, with new officers taking over in January of the following year.
5. At the November meeting, take any nominations from the floor that are seconded and add to the ballot.
6. Prepare a ballot for the meeting with blank spaces after each position for floor nominations.
7. If there are no floor nominations, a vote may be called to accept the committee nominations as stated.
8. A majority is required to finalize.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH:**

1. Occasionally we receive invitations to present a talk or demonstration on bonsai from other clubs or organizations.
2. This is very important for community outreach.
3. This committee is our public voice and can easily promote our annual show and auction.
4. A list of these programs and contacts should be maintained for future publicity.
5. If interest in this committee is strong enough, they might reach out to some residential communities such as retirement communities, villages, schools, etc. and offer programs.

### **CLEAN UP CHAIR:**

1. Much like Hospitality, this person makes a list for club members to sign up for clean up after each program. At least two people should do the job each month.
2. The Clean Up Chair must make sure that the table plastic is available for each meeting and help remind members to clean their area when they are finished.
3. Send a list of those that signed up for each meeting to the newsletter person so it can be published. You will also need to remind people.
4. Report any shortages to cleaning products to the President so it can be reported to the Center.
5. Empty all trash containers.

### **PUBLICITY:**

1. Find venues for the monthly announcement of our meetings.
2. Explore as many venues as possible to get the work out about our shows.
3. Make any suggestions that you think would improve our attendance at our annual auction and annual show.

### **MONTHLY DISPLAY:**

1. Make a sign-up list for the year with a place for name and contact.
2. When the list is filled, send a copy to the newsletter person to publish each month for reminder.
3. Remind each signed up person each month.
4. Make sure the area is set up for the display each month.
5. The display should be elevated with a backdrop and table cover.

**ANNUAL SHOW CHAIR:** This is a big job and requires a lot of help with committees. Planning should begin in June or July.

1. **Appoint committee chairs:** Exhibit, Set-up and Tear-down, Program, Raffle, Vendors, Styling. It may not sound like a lot of committees, but it is essential that each of these committee chairs has several people working with them.
2. **Hand out a thorough description of each job to the committee chairs.**
3. **I say if you display a tree in the exhibit, then you must serve on a committee and work at least either setup or tear down and work at least one full day of the show.**

**SHOW AND TELL DISPLAY:** After the crazy 2021 and the late start to 2022, we haven't had this for a while. I don't even know if it should be a committee. We once had a sign on a table saying for Show and Tell, and members brought trees and placed them there. After the business meeting but before the program, time was given for those members to share what they had brought.

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## **6. SIGN UP FOR 2024 STUDY GROUPS WITH MIKE LANE AND ADAM LAVIGNE**

At present the two study groups for Adam meet all day, two separate days. Remember, depending on the sign up, we will have one day or two days. It takes 10 people to make one study group. We must have a minimum of 8 people signed up in order to have a second group. All fees are paid directly to Adam. He prefers that individuals pay for the entire year but arrangements can be made with Adam for different payment plans. A \$5 fee must be paid in January to the club for the use of the center.

The number count works the same for Mike Lane except that Mike's study group is a 3 hour meeting once a month for 3 months. Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. He will take up to 10 people. If we get a sign up of at least 8 more people, we will add an afternoon group. In order to participate in Mike's group, the \$75 fee plus a one-time \$5 club for use of the center is due to be paid by December 30<sup>th</sup>. This first payment is paid through the club, so mail the payment to Hamilton. After the first quarter, all payments go directly to Mike for the next quarter. The payments for the next quarter are due the last meeting of each quarter.

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## **COMING IN DECEMBER**

**Holiday Party!!!** Linda Rodriguez will discuss with the group the food needs. Everyone brings something great to eat!! In addition, we have a blast with our gift exchange. Everyone who wants to participate must bring a gift to exchange. No one should spend over \$20. The game is so much fun. We will explain the 'how to' when everyone arrives.

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