



BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

- A NOTE FROM KAREN -

Our show is **NEXT MONTH** and we are going into full mode planning. In back I have placed several sign up sheets for Volunteer opportunities- Greeters, Docents, manning our sales booth. We also will need volunteers on Friday for setting up on Friday- that is a very busy day. Going to the storage unit for our stuff, setting up tents, moving tables and chairs, etc. Not all of it is heavy work. Inside we will have to set up the back drops and cover tables. Later in the afternoon people will be bringing in their trees. Any one is welcome to help – we will find a job for you according to your abilities. There are also sign up sheets for the various workshops we will be having. If you are taking a work shop just sign up for one so others have an opportunity to sign up also. If you are still interested in another workshop check with us the day of the show we may have openings.

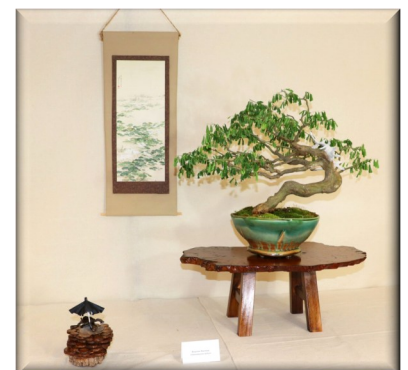
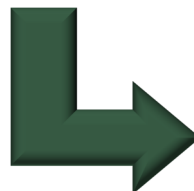
Nominations will be coming out for officers and Board members- be thinking of who you might want to nominate – you can nominate yourself if you want to serve. If you'd like to submit a brief article or blurb about what office you'd like to run for, or why you should be nominated - please send it to Toni asap (so we can get it put into the November Newsletter!)

October

We'll be focused on show prep: everything that makes a display look intentional and professional. That includes how to clean pots, how to apply moss, presentation techniques, choosing companions, and all the small details that elevate the overall look.

November

November is important! It's the month of the show! We will need volunteers of all kinds. The day ahead is setup: moving tables, chairs, setting up tents. While we didn't have our show last year - make sure to check out the pictures from previous years on the website! Click the picture >> to see pictures from 2024.



2024 SWFL Bonsai Show



THE BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

2026 ANNUAL BONSAI SHOW & SALE

**Exhibit of Bonsai Trees, Sales,
Demonstrations and Workshops.**

November 21-22, 2026

Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**FREE ADMISSION
FREE LUNCH
FREE PARKING
(On Larchmont Street)**

**Ft. Myers-Lee County Garden
Council ---- Berne Davis Gardens**

**Just North of
Edison-Ford Estates**

2166 Virginia Ave. Ft. Myers, FL

**www.bonsaiswfl.org
239-935-6850**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, Nov 21, 2026

9:00 - 5:00

EXHIBITS, VENDORS AND RAFFLES OPEN

9:00 - 12:00

MULTI-CLUB STYLING COMPETITION

9:00 - 12:00

**WORKSHOP WITH Adam Lavigne
"Green Island Ficus", 10 Spots, \$50 ea.**

12:00

RAFFLE of Plants and Bonsai Items

1:00

**Demonstration by Adam Lavigne
"Buttonwood"
(Will be on Sunday's Raffle Table)**

1:00 - 4:00

**Free workshop with Phil Krieg
10 Slots available. The workshop is free, but if
you wish to purchase the tree, the cost is \$25**

4:30

RAFFLE of Plants and Bonsai Items

Sunday, Nov 22, 2026

9:00 - 3:00

EXHIBITS, VENDORS AND RAFFLES OPEN

9:00 - 12:00

**Bring your own Tree Workshop
With Adam Lavigne
The cost is \$25**

12:00

RAFFLE of Trees and Bonsai items

1:00 - 3:00

**Joe Mayhew, Potter
Pot-Throwing Demonstration**

Bonsai Help Table, Ask Questions!

2:30

**Final Raffle of Trees, Bonsai Items,
and Styling Competition Trees.**

September Meeting Recap

This month's meeting centered on an open question and answer session focused on bonsai fundamentals, care techniques, and member challenges. The discussion gave both new and experienced members a chance to share insights, troubleshoot issues, and learn from one another. Topics ranged from winter care and wiring questions to pot selection, soil mixes, and refinement techniques. It was a relaxed, collaborative session that highlighted the strength of our club's collective knowledge.

2027 Membership Dues

A reminder that **dues for the 2027 calendar year are now being collected**. Members are encouraged to submit payment at the next meeting to ensure continued participation in workshops, demonstrations, auctions, and club events throughout the year. Make sure to bring the membership form with you, or you can access it online [here](#) and mail it in with your check or money order.

Odio Trees – Member Auction

The trees acquired from Mr. Odio are now being offered to members through a silent auction format at each meeting. This ongoing auction gives members the opportunity to obtain unique material while supporting the club. Trees vary in size, species, and level of development, making each meeting's selection a bit different. Members are encouraged to arrive early to preview the available trees.



Pictures from Angel Vega

PRESENT OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS:

OFFICERS:

President: Karen Cogswell
Vice President: Dave Bovio
Secretary: Richard Simon
Treasurer: Jaye Saarinen

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

John Bartolozzi
Ileane Flores
Troy Randall (declined for 2027)
Angel Vega (declined for 2027)
Richard Owens (declined for 2027)

Past President: Sam Wollard
Club Mentor: Martha Goff
Website/Newsletter: Toni Rozelle-Rosio

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICES FOR 2027

ELECTIONS FOR 2027, NOVEMBER 21, 2026
POSTING OF NOMINATIONS FOR 2027, OCTOBER 17, 2026

EACH CLUB MEMBER IS ASKED TO:

Fill in each blank with your nomination for next year.
You may fill in your own name.
Do not sign this form.
Return to the President when you finish.

OFFICERS FOR 2027: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
BOARD FOR 2027: Past President, 5 Directors-at-large

PRESIDENT: _____

VICE PRESIDENT: _____

SECRETARY: _____

Click form above for access to full nomination form.

The nomination ballot for 2027 is now available. Please ensure your completed form is submitted by the **October meeting**. You may return it by [email to Martha](#) or bring a printed copy with you to the meeting.

After nominations are received, the board will contact each nominee to confirm their willingness to run. A finalized ballot will then be prepared and presented for voting at our annual show.

The nomination form does not require a signature, and members are welcome to nominate themselves if they wish to participate more actively in the club.



Membership dues for the 2027 calendar year are now being collected. Members may bring a check to the next meeting or mail the completed membership form to the club's P.O. Box. A link to the form [can be found here](#) for anyone who needs to download and print a copy.



Bonsai Slip Pot Juniper to a Colander for Denser Growth

Bill Smith

Slip potting is the process of moving an intact root ball into a larger container with fresh soil without heavily pruning or disturbing the roots. I chose to slip pot my Juniper in a colander to improve root health and encourage faster, denser growth during the development stage. Re-potting a Juniper during summer or when it is not dormant is a big no-no. Slip potting is different. This means literally slipping the whole tree into a bigger pot WITHOUT disturbing the roots. Slip Potting is also called Up Potting.

When to Use Slip Potting

- **Out of season:** When it is too late or too early for a full root-pruning repot.
- **Emergency moves:** When a pot breaks or a tree is drying out too fast in summer.
- **Building vigor:** When you want a young tree to grow faster by giving its roots more room and oxygen.

2 Step-by-Step Instructions

- 1) **Prepare the new pot:** Cover the drainage holes with mesh and add tie-down wires if needed.
- 2) **Add base soil:** Fill the new, slightly larger pot about one-third to three-quarters full with fresh, well-draining bonsai soil.



Starting point

- 3) **Remove the tree:** Gently slide the tree out of its current pot while keeping the root mass whole.
- 4) **Position the tree:** Place the undisturbed root ball onto the fresh soil in the new container.
- 5) **Fill the gaps:** Add more soil around the edges, using a chopstick to poke and work the substrate into air pockets.
- 6) **Water thoroughly:** Drench the pot with water to settle the new soil and reduce plant stress.



Bonsai Slip Pot Juniper to a Colander for Denser Growth

(cont.)

Pros and Cons

- **Pros:** Low stress, safe to do almost any time of the year, and boosts growth.
- **Cons:** Does not fix circling roots or compacted core soil, and mixing different soil types (like organic nursery soil into inorganic bonsai grit) can cause uneven watering issues. Plan for a proper root-pruning repot during the next dormant season.



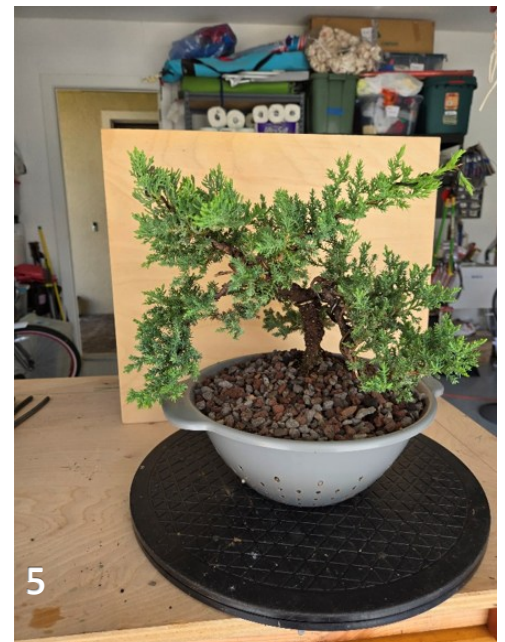
Juniper is removed from the nursery pot and the colander or pot is wired to tie in the tree.



Wired colander



Tree is tied down and filled with soil on the sides of the rootball.



Finished Slip repot in a Colander.

Martha's Corner - Bougainvillea

Botanical: Bougainvillea

Family: Nyctaginaceae

Zone: 9B-11

Origin: South America.

History: Bougainvillea is a woody vine that originated in South America deriving its name from the navigator Louis Antoine de Bougainville (1729-1811). It is grown in both tropical and sub-tropical areas. It can be semi-deciduous, losing its leaves from time to time. There are a number of different types used in bonsai. It is one of the most beautiful blooming specimens in the Tropics.



Flower/fruit: The tiny white flowers of the Bougainvillea are generally insignificant. What is significant are the bracts that vary in color from species to species. Bracts are modified colored leaves that remain on the tree for a long time.

Species: The list of bougainvillea available for bonsai is long. Among the many varieties is an abundance of color variation. Most tropical nurseries carry a wide selection of these varieties.

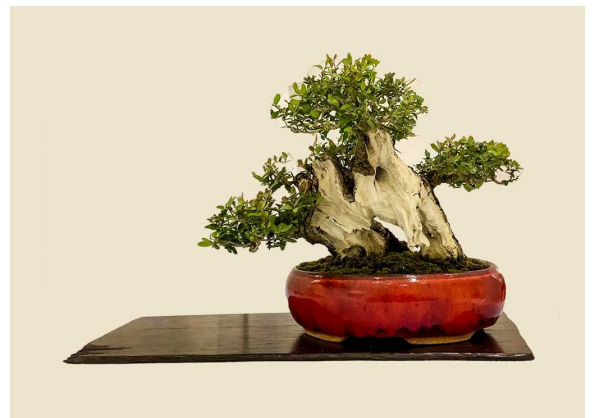
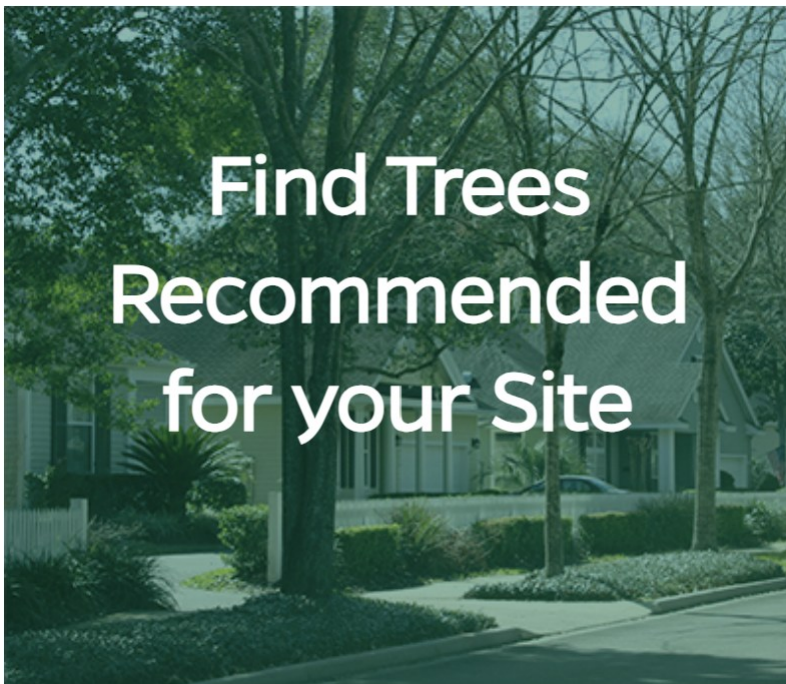
[Read more here!](#)



Pictures from Google search

Florida Trees Recommendation Tool

Members interested in selecting Florida-native trees for their landscape may find the Florida Trees Recommendation Tool from UF/IFAS helpful. The site guides users through a short series of questions about their planting location and then provides a list of trees suited to those conditions - a “right tree, right place” approach . For best results, UF/IFAS recommends reviewing the Site Analysis Checklist before using the tool to ensure an accurate assessment of your planting site.



Pictures from Google search



VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED

There are always openings for Display, Hospitality, and Cleanup Crew.

Display: This is a great opportunity to learn the basics of show presentation. Participants provide a tree, a stand, and a complementary item or companion plant on its own stand. The club supplies the tablecloth and backdrop.

Hospitality: The club provides all paper goods and coffee supplies. Volunteers bring the food. Attendance typically ranges from 30-40 people.

Cleanup Crew: Volunteers ensure the room is returned to order at the end of the event. This includes taking out trash, cleaning the floor, and resetting the space. Individual display tables remain the responsibility of each participant, and the kitchen will be handled by Hospitality.

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

TOOL SHARPENING

Bruce's Bonsai Tool sharpening,
repair and cleaning

Bruce Riggins
239-297-7361
grybrd77@gmail.com

Stone Lantern Bonsai

Distributor used by many
of our members:

stonelantern.com

Wigert's Bonsai

For all your Bonsai Needs:
Trees, Tools, Pots

Wigert's Bonsai Nursery,
2930 South Road,
N. Ft. Myers, FL 33917

239-543-2234
wigertsbonsai.com



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. Don't forget to pick up your Member's Booklet on the sign-in table. It has all the information you will need about the club, including contact information.

Membership Dues

2026 Dues are still the same price! \$45 for single membership, \$55 for family membership. Please download and print the [Membership Form](#). If you haven't paid dues for 2026, you won't get this Newsletter or any of the fine publications put out by the BSF.

The Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida, Inc.

P.O. Box 61945 | Fort Myers, FL 33906-1945 | bonsaiswfl.org | 239 935-5860

