

BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



- A NOTE FROM KAREN -

Hi Everyone! I hope you are surviving the heat and the feast or famine rain we are having. We have a busy Fall coming up!

First up is our Panel of Knowledge at our September meeting. It seemed to be a hit last year. Come prepared with all your questions – no question is a stupid question. Lets try to stump the panel. You can also bring trees to work on while we talk or ask questions about your tree.

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. If you are unable to do the "heavy work" there are tables that need to be covered, back drops put up, and more. On the actual days of the show we need greeters, docents, people to watch the sale trees etc. If you have few hours to give we will find a job for you. It is a lot of work but it is an exciting weekend and you get to know others in the club at a different level.

The Odio Trees

Sales of the Odio Trees will begin. In all fairness they will be sold as "Silent Auction". There will be a bid sheet by each item – there will be a starting bid. If you want that item place your bid and if another wants it they will bid and so on. The highest bidder will get to purchase that item. Bring you checks and money! The raffle trees at the next couple of meetings will also be from these trees.

Something to start thinking about- elections for Officers and the Board will be coming up in a couple of months. Start thinking about nominations (you can nominate yourself).

I think that is it for now. See you soon! Karen



2023 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.**

2026 Annual Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida Show Submissions

-Richard Owens-

Multiple submissions are acceptable (3 displays max). We encourage all members to submit a tree, especially the beginners, members with less than five (5) years' experience. We will have a table specifically for beginners so please submit your tree.

In submitting your trees for this show I would like to try something a little different this year to make my life easier. To make laying out our show display this year I would like participants to submit photos of their submissions as they will be displayed. I would like a top-down view and a portrait view.

Top-down View Photo:

Take some blue painter's tape and adhere to the ground, driveway or floor. The tables for our displays are 30" deep, so constrain your layout tape 30" deep inside dimension by whatever length is needed for your display inside dimension. Remember to include at least 6" either side of your display to leave some breathing room between displays. The pictorial below measures at 30" x 45"



2026 Annual Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida Show Submissions

Multiple submissions are acceptable (3 displays max). We encourage all members to submit a tree, especially the beginners, members with less than five (5) years' experience. We will have a table specifically for beginners so please submit your tree.

In submitting your trees for this show I would like to try something a little different this year to make my life easier. To make laying out our show display this year I would like participants to submit photos of their submissions as they will be displayed. I would like a top-down view and a portrait view.

Top-down View Photo:

layout some blue painter's tape on the ground, driveway or floor. The tables for our displays are 30" deep, so constrain your layout tape 30" deep inside dimension by whatever length is needed for your display inside dimension. Remember to include at least 6" either side of your display to leave some breathing room between displays. The pictorial below should be 30" x 45"



Portrait View Photo:

Please photograph your display as it will be in the show.



If you have 3 submissions you will send me 6 photos, 3 top-down, 3 portraits.

2026 EXHIBIT TREE SUBMISSION FORM

FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW AND RETURN TO:

richard.l.owens@comcast.net OR In Person at Club Meeting

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Please follow these guidelines:

- Multiple submissions are acceptable. We encourage all members to submit a tree especially the beginners, members with less than five (5) years' experience. We will have a table specifically for beginners so please submit your tree.
- You are responsible for delivering your tree to the exhibit area, placing it where directed, and picking it up at the designated time Sunday afternoon. Times will be clarified as we approach the exhibit date.
- We expect your tree to be delivered following these criteria:
 - Pot is clean and weed free with ground cover, i.e. moss. We suggest you start now during the rainy season to collect moss, place it around your tree and allow it to grow into the pot.
 - No noticeable wire. It is distracting and detracts from your tree.
 - Place your tree on either a table or jita slab.
 - A stand/jita and accent plant should accompany the tree to tell the story of your tree.
 - A scroll is optional. Some tables in the center of the exhibit room do not have a wall and unable to hang a scroll. Final location of your tree is at the discretion of the exhibit group.
 - If you choose, you may water your plant or spray it as you choose. We will not be watering plants.
- You are asked to make up to submit a maximum of 3 choices, if you choose. We may only need one, but it is advantageous to be able to call on people if we fall short.
- Finally, if you do not want your tree judged, please check "no" where applicable on the form. Any tree can be critiqued for possible improvements while not being judged. A tree that has not been judged is not eligible for an award but is eligible for the People Choice Award.

Click picture for full submission requirements

Click picture for tree submission form

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE SENT BEFORE OCTOBER 1

A recap from August

Our instructor was **Jesus Brito — Master Bonsai Artist**

Venezuelan-born bonsai artist Jesús Brito shared his thoughtful approach to tropical styling using a Buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*). He introduced the species' unique traits—its tolerance for saltwater and its suitability for expressive deadwood—and walked members through how to read a tree's structure with clarity and intention.

Jesús encouraged starting with the tree's strongest features, identifying areas that distract from the design, and looking for natural opportunities to incorporate deadwood. He emphasized creating a sense of movement from the base to the apex so the tree tells a cohesive story. His demonstration offered a clear, practical look at how careful analysis leads to a refined final composition.

Don't forget! The winning ticket for this tree will be drawn at the December 19th Holiday Party!!



Pictures from Angel Vega

Martha's Corner - Sea Grape

Kino, Platterleaf, Pigeon Plum

Botanical: *Coccoloba uvifera*

Family: *Polygonaceae*

Zone: 10-11

Origin: Tropical regions.

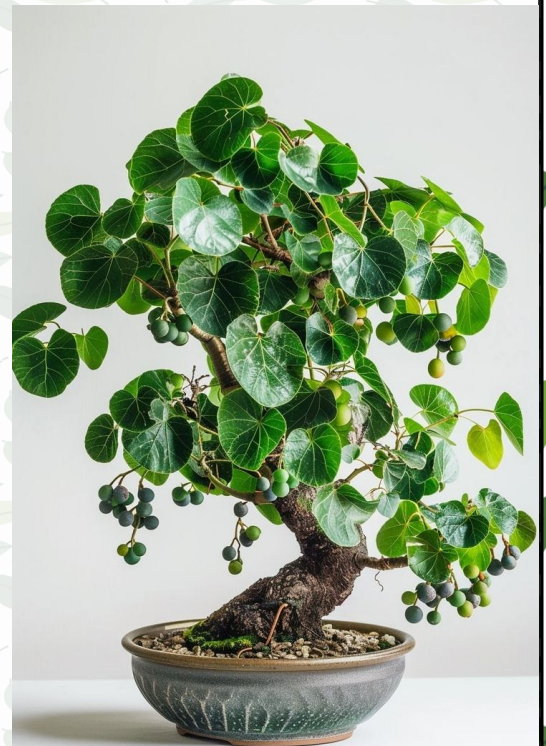
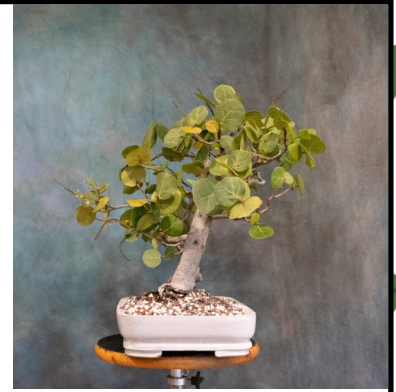
Native to coastal areas throughout Florida and the Caribbean, the Sea Grape is a tropical favorite known for its broad, leathery leaves and striking reddish bark. Its natural tolerance for salt and wind makes it an excellent choice for local growers, and its large leaves reduce beautifully with careful pruning.

In bonsai form, the Sea Grape offers a bold, sculptural look—its smooth trunk and rounded canopy create a sense of calm strength. With patience and consistent shaping, it develops character quickly and rewards attention with a graceful, mature presence that captures the essence of the tropics.

Flower/fruit: The Sea Grape produces long spikes of white flowers followed by fruit that turns purple when mature. The production of grapes gives it its name. The fruit is edible when mature.

Repot: Minimum night temperature: Low 70°'s. Repot only when root bound in the spring once night temperatures are warm, consistently at 70°F or above. It usually needs to be repotted once every few years.

[Read more here!](#)



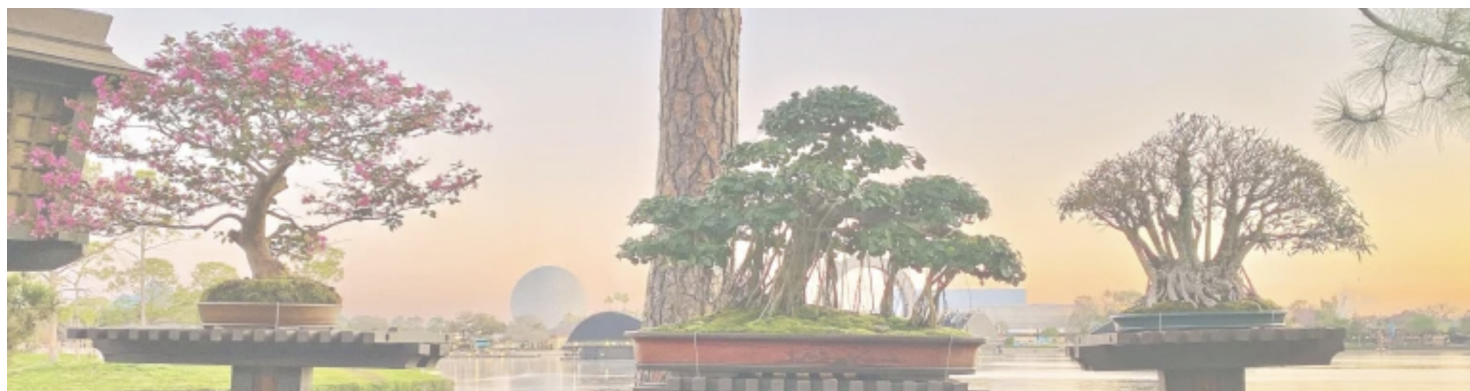
Pictures from Google search

A quick note -

If you did not receive the BSF Magazine, please let Martha know.

You can find it here: [BSF Fall 2026](#)

The magazine would have come as an email attachment, not a hard copy. Check your email. It would have come from BSF Publishing.



Volunteers for September meeting:

Display: Jim Gehring

Hospitality: Christina Barrow

Clean-up: Norm Nesbitt & Jay Sarrinen



VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

We still have spaces available for Display and Hospitality and Cleanup Crew. For Display, this is a great way to learn 'how to.' Basically, you need a tree, a stand for the tree, and a complimentary plant or item on a stand. The club will provide the tablecloth and backdrop. For Hospitality, the club provide all paper products and all supplies needed for coffee. You would provide the food. We usually have around 30-40 people. The Cleanup Crew is not responsible for your individual table. You must do that. Hospitality will take care of the kitchen. The Cleanup Crew makes sure the trash is taken out and the floor is clean and all things are put back in order.

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

**When the bank closed,
the tree started its
own branch.**



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

