



# Lighthouse Bonsai Society



Next **meeting** Sat. August 26, 9:00– 12:00 at Boca Raton Community Center 150 Crawford Blvd. **Please bring something wonderful and great for the raffle table!! No Snacks Today!!**

## Program Schedule for August Meeting

**9–9:30 A demonstration of pots and pot selection. What style and colors go with what.**

**How to decide what's best for YOU with Bob Holechek.**

**9:30–9:45 will be Raffle time and we hope you find something perfect for your Bonsai garden.**

**We leave at 9:45 for H&F Imports to pick from the incredible array of pots that Andy Shi has available at incredible prices. John Evans will bring his Van if enough people want to ride down with him. We always chip in for gas when we ride with John (between \$2 and \$3.50). Please e-mail John directly if you want to ride with him (johnevans111@mac.com)**

**Maybe you already have enough pots!!!**

**No problem!!**

**Just come on Saturday, bring a tree to work on and enjoy a Tree Work Day with Bob Holechek!**



**Tree Talk  
by Scott Durgee  
Collecting Trees  
or The Tools of Tree  
Root Success.  
How to collect the  
trees you want for  
your collection**

Collecting field specimens for bonsai trees requires the proper tools in order to keep your tree happy and healthy. The most important tool, in my opinion, would have to be a blunt-nosed shovel(1) or landscape shovel sharpened with a die grinder. This shovel cuts the roots cleanly without fraying. By cleanly cutting the roots, there is less damage done to the tree itself and the roots are still able to effectively absorb water and nutrients this is part of the first step of preparing a bonsai specimen.

Loping shears (2) and hand clippers (3) are mostly used to shape the Root ball, the second step of the bonsai preparing process, and continue

cutting the roots more precisely after the specimen has been removed from the ground. These supplies are used to repair the roots that have been accidentally frayed in the removal process.

Hand or root saws(4) are also recommended in cutting roots. I personally use a hand saw (sawzall) because it allows me to keep the feeder roots as well as the surrounding soil so that I don't bare-root the tree in the first two steps. These three types of tools are what I have found to be most effective in Florida's sandy soil.

An important tip to remember is to make sure that the root ball is proportionate to the size of the trunk. For example, juniper and cyprus trees need a root ball that is at least two times the size of the trunk to start. Ficus shrubs may be cut half the size of the trunk. This is just a basic size guide and should be sufficient to start the downsizing of your trees. Once removed from the ground, I usually put ficuses and bouganvillas as well as many other species, in a bucket or wheelbarrow full of water with Superthrive for anywhere from 1-3 days after being removed, mostly because I'm lazy and I want them to be preserved until I find time to plant them.

Downsizing of the root ball to begin life as a bonsai tree starts about a year after the tree has been taken from the ground. I have found that cutting the tap root on certain trees needs to be followed by applying root tone to the wound so that the tree will produce new roots from where you cut it. When cutting the nebari roots, I personally apply root tone and try to cut them at a 60 degree angle instead of squaring them off so that the new roots have more flare.

Root trimming is a continuous process, and there are many different ways to approach it; this is just my specific take on how to simply and effectively shape roots and make the transition from ground to pot as clean as possible .



Blunt Nosed

Loppers

Hand Clippers

Sawzall

Hand Saw

Root Saw

**COLLECT AND ENJOY!!!!!!!**