



# KAWA BONSAI SOCIETY

## MONTHLY NOTES

JUNE 2020

Check out our website -- [KawaBonsai.com](http://KawaBonsai.com)

July 1, 2020

Hello Again Everyone,

**Mike Rogers**, KAWA President, called our meeting to order.

Highlights of our meeting include the following:

**Gerry and Mary Lou DeVane**, outgoing Treasurers, advised the Webmaster that the website has been paid for the upcoming year.

**Mark Ceskavich** is officially, this month, taking over as KAWA's Treasurer.

Mike advised that the National Bonsai Exhibition scheduled in Rochester, NY this fall, might be cancelled. (NOTIFICATION CAME THRU TODAY THAT IT IS BEING POSTPONED UNTIL SEPT 2021. PLEASE REFER TO E-MAIL SENT WITH THIS INFORMATION EARLIER TODAY AND TO OUR WEBSITE).

The need for our Club to increase our treasury was discussed at length. It was decided to have a **barbecue and auction** at our August meeting. This event will be open to members of other clubs. It was recommended that the person providing the item for auction can identify it as total proceeds to go to KAWA, or receive 80% of the selling price and KAWA 20%. There will be no entry fee to persons attending, however, \$5 a plate will be charged for the food. Suggested barbecue items included pulled brisket, ribs, hamburgers. KAWA members will provide side dishes and dessert. Planning will be finalized at our July meeting. Some committees were identified.....

**MaryLou DeVane - will organize the donated side dishes/desserts** —PLEASE CALL HER ASAP TO LET HER KNOW WHAT YOU WILL BRING or you may find her asking you to bring something else because others have already signed up to bring your first choice!

**Darryl Padget - set up of the picnic and auction areas**

**Sharon Christian - set up, clean up, and serving.** Gerry DeVane has already signed up to help serve.

**Mark Ceskavich - Auction. He will also serve as auctioneer**

Please be prepared at the July meeting to sign up to help on one of these committees or any others that may be identified.

**THE BSF DISTRICT TRUSTEE AWARD WAS PRESENTED TO GERRY AND MARY LOU DEVANE in Appreciation of their Excellence in furthering the Art of Bonsai while Promoting the Mission of BSF.**

Gerry and Mary Lou were chosen from the more than 150 members of the three clubs in our district! Congratulations Gerry and Mary Lou from all of us for you dedication to KAWA, BSF, and the Bonsai Community!





I was honored as the recipient of the **BSF Societies of Florida Trustee Volunteer Award for my service as a Volunteer with KAWA Bonsai Society in both 2019 and 2020**. The 2019 award was presented by our former BSF Trustee, Joe Stump, and the 2020 award by our current BSF Trustee, Mark Ceskavich. I am proud and humbled. Thank you.

These awards are generally distributed at the BSF Conventions, which was cancelled this year because of the Coronavirus.

### Other Accolades

**Mike Rogers** has been interviewed as a Bonsai Expert for a documentary being made here in Florida about Bonsai.

**Benjamin Lorber** was also interviewed for the documentary as a youth in Bonsai and what the future has to hold.

**Jason Schley** is one of the Administrators for the Facebook site - Bonsai Auctions.

**Chris Denton** is the founder and one of the Administrators for the Facebook site - The Rookie Bonsai. This site now has international participation.

**Mike Rogers and Sharon Christian** had Bonsai trees accepted for display at Epcot which unfortunately was only for a little over a week because of the Coronavirus, but the honor of being chosen remains.

**And then we have our members**, enthusiastic, willing to learn and share, friendly, that result in so much camaraderie during our meetings all of whom make our club a wonderful one to belong to.

During our meeting's "Show and Tell", Mike showed us trees that he had grown from airdropping 10-25 years ago. (Pictures available on our website.)



The educational segment of our program was a very detailed demonstration of airtlayering by Mike Rogers. He used aluminum foil and clear wrap to protect the affected area. Kevin Richardson showed us two other ways that he “wraps” his air layering. Pictures of Mike airtlayering and Kevin’s alternative methods of “wrapping” are available on our website.

Mike stressed the importance of using a sharp knife with a short blade and clean tools - he uses lysol and water in equal proportions for cleaning tools; he stated that rubbing alcohol is also good. He also stressed wearing gloves when working with sphagnum moss to avoid irritation of the skin from bacteria.

---

**Benjamin Lorber** has provided us with a few highlights from this demonstration:

How to Airtlayer:

1. Designate an area that you want to be airtlayered off. Take a knife and score the top and bottom of that area. This area should be about 1-2" depending on the size of the tree and trunk.
2. Remove cambium layer of that area.
3. Apply sphagnum moss (you should wear gloves!!)
4. Wrap with tinfoil and Saran wrap.
5. The time you leave it on there depends on the species. If you see roots coming out of the tinfoil, it's probably ready. Make sure you check the airtlayer every once in a while.

Note: you should not airtlayer multiple things on the same branch. You should also try to leave some growth below the desired airtlayer spot.

Some of the easiest species to airtlayer are Premna and Brazilian Rain Trees. Note that not every tree can be airtlayered successfully.

Why airtlayer: some trees have a better success rate of becoming a new tree by using the airtlayer method rather than trying to take it as a cutting. If you were just going to cut the branch off and throw it away, what do you have to lose by trying an airtlayer!

---

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 18th. As usual, pizza will be available for \$5/ person. We will have two demonstrations - Forest Slab demonstration by Kevin Richardson and July Pine Care by Jason Schley. The Forest Slab demonstration is designed to utilize the talent of every member of the club. Each club participant will learn and have a hand in executing the steps required to complete this project. **Anyone who participates is asked to wear safety glasses for protection as rock will be being chipped.** These can be obtained at any of the box stores for a nominal fee. This slab will be an auction item at our August event.

For those of you that have not attended the last few meetings we are following the CDC guidelines for the Covid virus. We are maintaining social distancing and many of us are wearing face masks. You will be notified if there are any other requirements put in place for Volusia County and/or Deland itself.

Respectfully,  
Jeanne Florio - KAWA Secretary