

BSF MEMBER BENEFITS SUMMARY

Overview of advantages offered to valued members



BSF'S MISSION & HISTORY

Founding and Purpose

BSF was established in 1973 to unite bonsai clubs and bring a global bonsai convention to Florida, achieved in 1975.

Community Building

BSF fosters a strong community of bonsai practitioners across Florida through clubs and collaborative events.

Education and Promotion

BSF promotes bonsai art and science via educational programs, workshops, and cultural celebrations.

This is the original tree by Joseph N. Samuels that inspired the BSF logo.



**Bonsai Societies
of Florida**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Bonsai Societies of Florida (BSF) is a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt educational organization providing supportive services and activities to encourage and promote the traditional art of bonsai throughout the state, as well as neighboring states in the Southeastern section of the United States.

Club dues support the larger vision to promote bonsai throughout all of Florida (BSF costs include: webhosting services and software, liability insurance, storage, etc.)

HOW TO BECOME A BSF MEMBER

Both clubs and individuals can be BSF members

Club Membership

Clubs elect to be part of BSF on an individual basis

There is no cost for a club to be part of BSF, instead, clubs pay BSF membership dues for each of their club members

Individual Membership - there are two ways to be a member

Dues paid by your BSF club pay for your BSF membership

At-large-member (if you are not affiliated with a specific club).

Individual membership cost is \$15 per calendar year:
(paid by club or at-large)



MEMBER BENEFITS

CURRENT BSF BENEFITS

Annual Convention

BSF hosts one of the largest bonsai events in the US, featuring workshops, exhibitions, and networking opportunities for members. Member clubs who actively volunteer to help plan and execute this annual event share in any profits earned.

Epcot Festival Partnership

The partnership with Epcot Flower & Garden Festival allows members to showcase bonsai to a wide and diverse audience numbering over one million .

Online Hubs

The BSF website and Facebook pages serve as a central platform for news, events, and club information managed by dedicated volunteers.

(the website provides a list of all BSF clubs, their links, their meeting times, and contact information to help future bonsai enthusiasts find a local club)



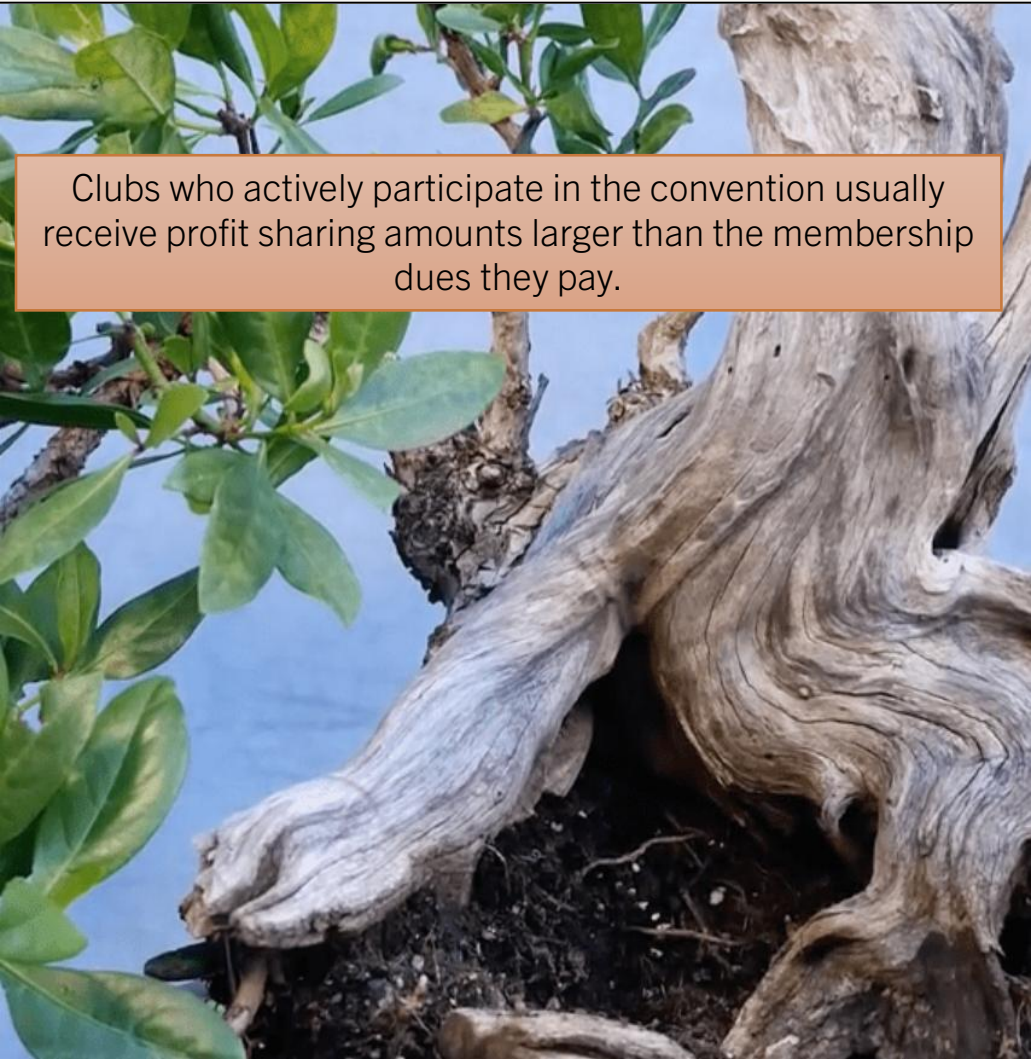
BENEFIT SUMMARY

BSF fosters a welcoming community of bonsai enthusiasts and experts who share knowledge and support.

“If you want to learn, join a club!”

Benefit	Club	Individual
Convention	• Clubs receive profit sharing based on convention role and volunteer hours • Club night competition • Club tree submission	• Membership perk gives access to one convention workshop or program • Participate in the styling competition to potentially win \$1000
Epcot	• Club notoriety	• Display your tree at Epcot if selected
Website	• Club contact info and events displayed on website	• Access to local club information and links

CONVENTION PROFIT SHARING FOR CLUBS



Clubs who actively participate in the convention usually receive profit sharing amounts larger than the membership dues they pay.

Title	Split	Duties
Chairman	10%	Oversees and coordinates all activities listed below, both pre-convention and during.
Program	10%	Books artists, negotiates fees, designs full weekend schedule, manages materials & scholarships.
Registration	10%	Tracks all registration data, creates name tags, reports to Chair and Finance.
Vendors	6%	Recruits vendors, handles communications, plans vendor room layout, manages logistics.
Exhibit	10%	Solicits submissions, forms selection committee, designs layout, provides docents.
Raffle	20%	Manages daily raffle; proceeds split among contributing clubs.
Support	20%	Tracks and coordinates volunteer hours per club during the convention.
Hospitality	4%	Arranges meals, transport, and care for visiting artists.
Finance	10%	Maintains complete financial records for all convention-related income and expenses.
	100%	

PAST AND FUTURE



PAST PROGRAMS

BSF Magazine Development

BSF Magazine shifted from print to digital format before ceasing publication; all driven by increasing expenses and evolving reader preferences toward short-form content on the internet.

Visiting Artist Initiative

This program invited bonsai specialists to clubs but was suspended because of limited club participation, logistical difficulties and scheduling conflicts within clubs.

Venue Insurance

Many years ago, a blanket BSF liability insurance policy for clubs was discontinued due to increased cost and lack of club use.

Educational materials

BSF maintained old film and photo slideshow programs and books for use by members. This has been discontinued because of the vast amount of content on internet.

These programs did not stand the test of time;
new ideas are being considered.

CHANGE & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Adapting to Shifts

All bonsai clubs in the US must evolve alongside cultural and demographic shifts to remain relevant, especially as the younger, resilient, and understandably busy generation takes on the bonsai artform.

Visiting Artist Program

BSF wants to improve the Visiting Artist Program with an approach that appeals to more clubs and broader audiences.

Club Restructuring

BSF is considering how to improve club benefits to meet member club dynamics and needs.

How to specifically improve their benefits?

How do clubs pay as member clubs?

How best do clubs stay involved?

Change is coming, and we need your support!





WHAT'S NEXT AND WHAT CAN YOU DO

Exciting ideas are being considered now:

- Increase social media outreach for bonsai throughout the state
- BSF “give back” approach to financially improve member club investments
- Extend availability of educational materials to enhance member club involvement
- Update the website to improve convention registration process
- Revisit the visiting artist program to make more appealing to clubs and non-members
- Improve the membership tracking and payment process
- Hold targeted meetings to discuss areas of improvements
 - Membership management for clubs
 - Treasurer best practices for clubs
 - Program and demonstration planning ideas
 - What’s working, What’s not?

Member Participation

BSF encourages both clubs and individual members to share ideas and actively participate in shaping our future.

Not everyone can volunteer time – donating good ideas helps.

LEADERSHIP & CONTACT

Committed Leadership Team

The BSF Board members are volunteers who provide direction and oversight for the organization's activities and long-term goals.

Promoting Member Involvement

Members are encouraged to raise questions, offer suggestions, and take part in BSF projects to promote bonsai throughout Florida.

Are You a Sender or the Sent?

BSF understands that not everyone is able to volunteer time. As a BSF member, you contribute to BSF through both financial support and with your expertise.

If you have ideas, or want to volunteer, please go to the newly created Suggestion Box on the BSF Website (under "Contact Us")