



Bonsai

News & Notes

Fort Walton Beach Bonsai Society Newsletter Vol. XXXI, No 3

March 2019

Club Happenings

Please sign up for host and tokonoma. This is the only way we can have snacks at each meeting and distribute the logistics evenly among the members. If you do not have appropriate trees, accent plants, stones or backdrops for the tokonoma, ask one of the older members to assist you. Most of them have the necessary materials to make a good

Club Library

Take advantage of the club library. There are wonderful bonsai books with beautiful pictures for examples to style bonsai and more advice than you can use in a lifetime. New books and CD's have been added to the club library so check them out. Email Lynn to request a specific book.

March...

Maintenance Work Begins in Earnest

Lee Vanderpool

With most of your repotting finished for the year, now is the time to begin development and maintenance on your bonsai. As soon as the leaves on elms, maples and other deciduous trees are hardened off, you may defoliate to promote ramification and smaller leaves. Elms may be defoliated several times during the summer as long as they are fertilized regularly but maples and sweet gums should only have their leaves removed once a year.

It is nearing time to decandle or reduce the length of candles on pines so be sure they are healthy enough to withstand the pressure. Needle plucking of older needles can continue on pines to aid in needle length reduction. Japanese black pines, like deeper pots than other bonsai so be sure the pot you choose is sufficiently deep to allow the tree to

*Fresh from the land
of dreams
I raise my sleepy
head. but ah!
How cold the
morning seems.*

RAIZAN



Jim Doyle

Photo by R. Voelker

(Lee, con't)
survive comfortably.

Junipers, need constant attention so their new growth does not get out of control. There are two schools of thought on juniper foliage maintenance. The older method is to pinch new growth on junipers to prevent brown tips on the twigs but a newer idea is to prune the new foliage with scissors which gives a more even cut. Whichever method you choose, constant vigilance to prevent new growth from growing too long is needed.

Two other maintenance items cannot be stressed too much for this time of year...the first is watering. Even if it rains today, you need to check your bonsai for sufficient moisture. This is best done by inserting your finger into the pot to the first joint. If the soil is moist at that depth, there is no need to water. If not moist, water immediately. New growth on trees can be severely damaged by just a few hours of dryness so be vigilant. If your plant gets so dehydrated that it actually wilts, do not overwater it immediately. Instead, remove the plant from the bench and water lightly to allow the leaves to regain turgidity. After the leaves are rehydrated, you may water heavily or set the pot into a container of water to saturate the soil before returning the bonsai to the bench.

Fertilizing is the other item and is equally important. Trees not receiving sufficient fertilizer will likely be stunted in growth and can die if not given enough fertilizer to take them into the hot season ahead. Whether you use organic fertilizer or inorganic, liquid or solid, the most important thing is continuity of fertilization. Many people apply fertilizer to their trees every two weeks during the spring and summer while reducing and ultimately eliminating it during fall and winter. Get into the habit of fertilizing on a certain day, using a calendar to keep track if, like me, you cannot remember when you last fertilized.

Enjoy your bonsai during this time of rapid growth but be careful that you provide it with all the things required for its health.



Jim Doyle

Photo by R. Voelker



Nancy S

photo by R. Voelker

Dates to Remember

March 5 - Workshop on accent plants led by
Rose Marie, Host: Olya

March 21 - Club workshop; plants provided
Need Host!!

American Bonsai Society Convention in Houston,
TX

April 11-14, 2019

See ABS website for more information

Mobile Bonsai Show at the West Mobile
Library, 9:00 am
April 13, 2019

May 4 - FWBBS Spring Bonsai Show
more info to come next month
Start thinking about what you want to show
and work to bring it to perfection!

May 11 - Workshop with Russell Coker

May 24-26, 2019 - Bonsai Societies of Florida
annual convention in Orlando. See BSF
website for details

June 4 - FWBBS Bonsai auction

Sep 17, 2019 - Bonsai Clubs International
Convention
begins in Guizhou, China.
The convention will have a follow-on tour to
Mongolia for stone collection

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Ft. Walton Beach Bonsai Society, Inc website:

<http://www.bonsai-fwb.com>



Doyle & Ed H with Juniper



'learning to wire using cord'

Meetings

Fort Walton Beach Society - 1st
Tuesdays and 3rd Thursdays, County
Extension Annex Building
across from the VW dealer
127 Hollywood Blvd - Board Meeting at
7 PM, Membership Meeting at 7:30 PM.

Pensacola Gulf Coast Bonsai Society:
2nd Thursday, Pensacola Garden
Center, 1850 9th Ave, Board Meeting at
7 PM, membership Meeting at 7:30 PM.

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