



Bonsai

News & Notes

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 looking tokonoma.

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

April - The Month of Spring

Lee Vanderpool

April will probably give us our first taste of warm - or hot - weather of the year. This is the transition month between winter and summer in north Florida, what passes for spring. March was mostly cool and the trees loved it! Azaleas bloomed, camellias brought out their finest flowers, wisteria burst forth with glowing blue or white panicles - even leaves of deciduous trees and shrubs appeared with reddish tones before they turned green. The spring flush of color is mostly over although there are still some trees and accent plants which will bloom through the spring and into summer. Major repotting should be completed - pine and juniper potting or repotting should be finished soon. Now is the time to look forward to a summer of leisurely pinching junipers and elms almost daily! Leaves of deciduous trees

*Far across hill and
dale
The blossoms of the
plum have cast
A delicate pink veil*
Kiho



Juniper by Charles
Photo by Rosemarie

and shrubs will harden off around the middle of May and, until then, there will be tremendous growth of twigs and branches. Keeping all that growth under control may be a monumental task. Check to see if you have any wire remaining on your bonsai. A piece of wire missed on a twig or branch can cause scarring in just a few days with the rapid growth spurts. Watch your Japanese black pines for overly long candles and trim them back 1/2 their length if they get too long. Remember, we have three candle growth periods here in north Florida so you must be careful that the candles do not take over and cause excessive growth in the top of your pines. With the dry weather, you need to keep an eye out for red spider mites, especially on junipers and boxwoods although other plants are susceptible. Spray immediately with a miticide or super fine oil as soon as you see tiny webs on your plants. Spider mites can cause discoloration of foliage and possibly death to twigs or leaves. Time to begin fertilizing your bonsai on a regular schedule. Light fertilization every other week is recommended whether you use water soluble fertilizer or an organic product. Best not to over fertilize you trees but it is important to give them nourishment on a regular basis. Lay cascade pots on their side with the cascade facing up to strengthen the cascading branch. Return the pot to upright to water. Apply fungicide at least twice during this transition month and drench roots to prevent root rot. Do not apply fungicide to Japanese black pine or other tree which has beneficial mycorrhizae. Enjoy the spring. This is the best time of year in north Florida!



Photo by Rosemarie

Reflections on a Juniper

Well, all I can say is it was a sticky night!! And thanks to Andy who pointed out it was easier if you wore gloves. I suppose I was so wound up in the material I didn't see the obvious.

At our last FWBBS meeting, we had an evening of juniper styling and everyone had a chance to get their hand in...some even managed two trees.

I noticed that Lee spent the least amount of time on his first tree by staking his 'tree' as an upright juniper. I should have thought of that!!

In addition to our starter trees, several members brought beautiful, developed junipers for us to enjoy. To encourage the troops, I suppose. My poor specimen has a long way to go and needs all the encouragement I can find for it!!

Thanks to the board for hunting down the material we worked on. And thanks to Charles and Andy who took the time to tell me how to improve the health of my old juniper. Now we wait and see...

I can guarantee there will be a juniper or two at the next FWBBS auction. Come find your new 'diamond in the rough'.

(Check the calendar for the next FWBBS auction)

Dates to Remember

April 2- Regular meeting. Discussion about conifers led by Lee. Bring your junipers back or bring another conifer that you have questions about. Rosemarie is host. Thank you...

American Bonsai Society Convention in Houston, TX. April 11-14, 2019
See ABS website for more information

April 18 - Show preparation led by Rosemarie. Also heat stress on bonsai - Ed Fabian. No host has come forward.

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

May 4 - Ft Walton Beach Bonsai Society, Inc
Spring Bonsai Show
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 1 - FWBBS Bonsai auction

Sep 17, 2019 - Bonsai Clubs International Convention begins in Guizhou, China.
See BCI website for more info



Kishu juniper, Ed F



Lots to work on!!

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Ft. Walton Beach Bonsai Society, Inc website:

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



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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