



# Bonsai

## News & Notes

Fort Walton Beach Bonsai Society Newsletter Vol. XXXI, No 1

January 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 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 so check them out. Email Lynn to request a specific book.

## January - A Busy Time for Bonsai

Lee Vanderpool

Many routine activities in preparation for the upcoming bonsai year must begin this month. With repotting and up-potting beginning later this month, soil should be prepared, muck mixed so it can age, pots purchased or, if used, scrubbed, tools cleaned and sharpened, wire purchased and a thousand other things.

This is the time to locate and dig native shrubs and trees, with permission, of course, and to keep your eyes peeled for potential bonsai subjects on the curb or in a dumpster. Yours or your neighbors' yard are also potential sources of good bonsai material. Small bald or pond cypress, Florida red maple, sweetgum, hackberry, eleagnus, podocarpus, boxwood, small leafed ilex, azaleas, camellias and many other yard plants are suitable for bonsai training. Remember, you can never have too many potential bonsai plants!

*The snow fell in the  
night,  
And people wake  
each other up  
To see the lovely  
sight.*

RANSETSU

Anne Singleton, a longtime member of the Ft. Walton Beach Bonsai Society, passed away on December 5, 2018.

Anne was a vivacious, joyful person, always upbeat and optimistic, a pleasure to be around.

Although she was in ill health for several years, she always tried to attend special bonsai occasions.

She will be truly missed.

(Lee-con't)

Later this month or early in February begin looking for suitable potted plants to use as accent plants and in accent plantings. Small plants or miniature varieties are suitable for this use and may include small flowering plants such as violets or ferns, small herbs like thyme or other plants which will remain relatively small for the upcoming season.

Lots of work this month will make the ensuing months much easier. Take advantage of the cool weather and get those mundane chores done early.

### **Recipe for muck.**

Use the material which falls through window screen.

1 quart of sifted good quality potting soil.  
1 pint of sifted pine bark fines  
3 tablespoons of drillers mud. If drillers mud is not available, powdered cornstarch may be substituted but cornstarch will break down much more quickly than drillers mud.  
Water sufficient to create a thick slurry.  
Mix all dry ingredients together then add water slowly. Warm water will absorb more quickly than cold water. Create a slurry just thinner than a paste. Put in a bucket or other closed container and let stand for a day. If the mixture is too dry after sitting, add more water and blend again until a suitable consistency is achieved. Work the mixture until smooth to the touch. Let sit for several days; the longer the better. Use to temporarily hold trees in place when constructing group plantings, to build "dams" around small plantings and as the basis for planting accent plantings.

With Lee's permission, these 'Recipes' will also be on the FWBBS web site.

## **Bonsai Soil Mix for the Ft Walton Beach area**

### **For medium or large bonsai:**

Material should be that which remains on top of rat wire.

3 scoops of sifted flower rock (7 lb bags available from the club for \$1.00 each)

3 scoops of sifted turface (available in 40 lb bags from Ewing's on Lovejoy Rd, Ft Walton Beach)

1 scoop of sifted pine bark fines  
(available from most big box stores)

### **For small or miniature bonsai:**

Material should be that which remains on top of window screen.

2 scoops of turface

1 scoop of pine bark fines

## **Dates to remember...**

### **January 1 - No meeting**

January 17 - Regular meeting and meeting of record. Camellia workshop, Rosemarie and Lee. Lee will provide refreshments.

**January 26 - Camellia grafting workshop and camellia plant sale sponsored by the Pensacola Camellia Club,  
Location is YMCA on Langley Ave,  
Pensacola, 9 AM-12 PM.**

February - Jim Doyle, BSF visiting teacher, has been requested for a workshop.

### **May 18 - Spring show**

June 4 - Bonsai auction



Photos: R Volker



## Officers

Rosemarie Voelker, President 850-932-4548  
[rvoelker243@gmail.com](mailto:rvoelker243@gmail.com)

Edgar Hund, 1st Vice President 678-7553  
[shed58@cox.net](mailto:shed58@cox.net)

2nd Vice President—Vacant

Ed Lippincott, Treasurer 651-8998  
[ednjody1962@cox.net](mailto:ednjody1962@cox.net)

Lee Vanderpool, Secretary 850-974-2707  
[leev4@cox.net](mailto:leev4@cox.net)

Lynn Fabian, Past President 897-2622  
[elfabian@cox.net](mailto:elfabian@cox.net)

Ft. Walton Beach Bonsai Society, Inc  
 website:

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

## Fertilizer Cakes

3 lbs cottonseed meal  
 1 cup bone meal  
 2 tablespoons blood meal  
 1 teaspoon powdered minor elements  
 1 cup all purpose flour  
 Water (add fish emulsion if desired)

Mix dry ingredients then add water until a stiff slurry is achieved. Seal in a bucket or other container and let stand for 24 hours. If the mixture is too dry after standing, add more water until mixture reaches a dough consistency. Spread in a 3/4 inch layer in shallow pans and set in the sun until semi-dry. Cut into one inch cubes then let dry completely. Store in a sealed container until used. Set cubes on the surface of the soil in bonsai pots and let it slowly dissolve as your bonsai is watered.

WARNING: the mixture will create an odor as it decomposes in your pots. Protect from consumption by wild or domestic animals.

## 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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**Lee Vanderpool, Editor**