



BONSAI NEWS & NOTES

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

January 2015

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.

The National Bonsai Foundation, Inc.

NBF is hosting the "National Bonsai Pot Exhibition" throughout 2015. In 2016, the museum will celebrate its 40th anniversary. In order that the foundation can continue to provide educational outreach and expand its educational reach, they are soliciting larger contributions from members during this period. For a tax-deductible gift of \$250 or more, you will receive a bonsai desk calendar with images of trees housed at the museum. For a gift of \$500, you will receive a copy of the NBF's new video, "Window

Haiku

The river winds blow,

A single stream across the plain

White with the fallen snow.

Basho



National Bonsai Foundation

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in Nature: the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum." You may send a check or go to their website at www.bonsai-nbf.org to make an electronic contribution.

January - Let's Start Out Right in the New Year

by Lee Vanderpool

So far this year, we have had some chilly temps, some wind, some rain - nothing too extreme yet but the winter is young. If a sudden very cold or very windy surge of weather hits us, there are things you must do to protect your bonsai from the elements. The first and easiest action is to set the pots on the ground, preferably along the southern side of a fence, building or even under bushes. Additionally, extra protection can be provided by raking leaves or pine straw around the pots and over the tops of smaller trees. If Mother Nature really gets nasty, you can dig trenches or holes and bury the pots up to the rims and mound leaves or pine straw around the trees.

The main things you are trying to do, of course, is to keep the pots and root systems of your trees from freezing and to prevent the foliage, twigs and buds from drying out and being damaged or killed. Two of the critical things to watch is that the soil of your trees does not dry out to the point where roots can be damaged nor should it become waterlogged so that fungus can attack the roots. Just as at any other time of the year, you should water when your trees need it; check the soil moisture with your finger periodically. If the soil is crumbly and dry, water. If the soil can be formed into balls between your fingers, avoid watering for a few days and let the soil dry out.

Your tropicals should be in a greenhouse or inside your house where they can be protected from the cold. You need to watch these, too, during the winter since the dry conditions in a house can encourage spider mites, several types of aphids and scale while the lack of air circulation in the typical



Photo by Rosemarie Voelker

greenhouse promotes molds and fungi which may attack the leaves or roots of trees. Tropicals in northern Florida normally suffer some damage during the winter but from different causes from that suffered by outside trees. They should be sprayed with fungicide or insecticide as required to maintain their health. This is an excellent time of year to do several of the mundane jobs which everyone procrastinates in doing: clean and sharpen your bonsai tools, mix soil to prepare for the repotting season just ahead, clean up pots which have been stored in the garage for several years. There are other things which need to be done, too, and with the winter weather upon us, now is the right time.



Photo by Manuel Alejandro

Fort Walton Beach

Bonsai Society

Visit the Club web-site for more information.

Dates to Remember:

There will be two very interesting programs in January. The program for January 6th will be forest planting planning and strategy by Edgar then, on January 15, Rodney Clemons will do a planting on a slab using 11 trident maples which we purchased from Joe Day. These programs are both free to everyone and should give us all ideas on how to construct multiple tree plantings.

Rumor has it that Bob McConnell, a former FWBBS member, will be downsizing his collection in the near future. Let's hope he invites us to his "downsizing gala"!



Photo by Rosemarie Voelker

The National Bonsai & Penjing Museum



2015

January 23

Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society will host Arthur Joura, curator of the North Carolina Arboretum, for a presentation on natural styling of bonsai.

January 24

Arthur Joura will host a Japanese maple workshop. All GNOBS activities take place at the Marine Corps League Hall, 2708 Delaware St, Kenner LA. See their website at www.gnobs.org for more

March 15

Peter Tea, a new face in the bonsai world, will conduct a workshop for FWBBS. More information to come.

March 21

ACBS Day of Bonsai. More information to come.

April 25

FWBBS Spring Bonsai Show at Westwood Atrium. More information in the February newsletter.

Meetings:

Fort Walton Beach
Society – 1st Tues-
days and 3rd Thurs-
days, County Extension
Building, 127
Hollywood Blvd,
Board Meeting at 7
PM, Membership
Meeting at 7:30 PM.

Hama Matsu: One
day a month at a
members home.

Pensacola Gulf
Coast Bonsai

Society:

2nd Thursday, Pen-
sacola Garden Cen-
ter, 1850 9th Ave,
Board Meeting at 7
PM, membership
Meeting at 7:30 PM.

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Bonsai Pot

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Ft Walton Beach Bonsai Society, Inc website:

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