



BONSAI NEWS & NOTES

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

January 2014

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.

Ben Oki by Rosemarie Voelker

After 40 years on tours to bonsai groups in Florida, Ben Oki will give his last workshop for us on Saturday January 18, 2014. The president of the Florida Bonsai Societies, Mike Knowlton will come to Fort Walton to present to the master a Life Time Award of Appreciation for valuable services to Florida. Ben Oki was introduced to Florida by John Naka, as his student and has been greatly appreciated in the state in all these years. At 1pm we will have a small ceremony for this occasion at the County Extension meeting.

Haiku

The world has turned white,

Snow all over the pines,

Christmas Star shinning so bright.

Rosemarie Voelker



National Bonsai Foundation

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Black Pines with Lawrence

by Ed & Lynn Fabian

Several meetings back FWB had the pleasure of hearing Lawrence LeClaire's take on how to care for Japanese black pines. While living in California, he and other bonsai enthusiasts had figured out how to time the work required to produce great black pine bonsai. Two hours was just not enough time to absorb all the techniques Lawrence mentioned.

Short needle development is all about timing. In the San Francisco area near the cold Alaskan ocean current, the group was able to take advantage of two, or sometimes three dormant periods each year. These needle plucking, candle cutting sessions each year resulted in some beautiful short needles on black pines! Lawrence is trying similar timing in our NW Florida climate, hopefully using our hot summer dormant period to get a second 'annual' growing season each year. We'll see.

Fast forward to early December. Lowell Tilley of Louisiana Bonsai asked Lawrence to begin a year long 'class' to help us learn how to bring our pines to their top form. Three sessions are scheduled through 2014 to take our trees through an entire growing cycle. The first session had lots of information on how pines grow and what to expect (much of what he told FWB a few meetings ago). The first class was in December and the major exercise was needle plucking, our normal time for this. Pick up your tweezers! These are individual needle pairs we are removing!

There were trees available for purchase by folks who were just getting started with pines.

It will be interesting to see how some of these will develop as some were wildly overgrown,



Photo by Rosemarie Voelker

leggy or sparse ... maybe even all three in the same tree! Then there were the trees that Lawrence said would be show trees in 5 years. First come, first served. Guess we will all have to do the work and wait and see.

The sessions are being held in Baton Rouge which isn't exactly next door so it is a commitment to attend all of them. Attendees were mostly from Louisiana and Mississippi.

Stay tuned. We are hoping for great and wonderful things to happen to our pines this year. Oh? I have to go out and work on our other ten now? Oh, well. In for a penny, in for a pine?

January - A New Beginning by Lee Vanderpool

Happy New Year to you all! Hope you had a Merry Christmas and got a lot of cool bonsai things. Although we still have about two months of cool but unpredictable weather until the mellow spring breezes of March begin to blow, now is the time to think of repotting. This is a perfect time to wash pots for

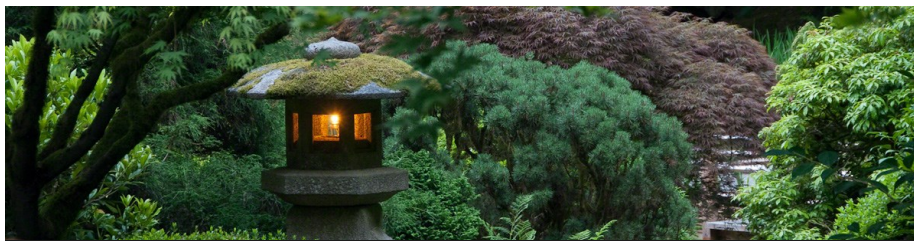


Photo by Manuel Alejandro

use in the repotting process as well as mixing soil and those other jobs we tend not to think of during most of the year. Repotting will get underway from the end of January until the end of March for temperate trees. Pines, elms, junipers, boxwoods, maples, cypress, hornbeams and all those other cool weather trees that we love are all candidates for repotting during the early spring. The deciduous trees should be repotted just as the buds begin to swell, for some maples, this is as early as late January. Pines and junipers may be left until late February or early March. Any tree which has not been repotted for over two years should be checked for root growth and, if the pot is filled or the roots are circling the bottom of the pot, now is the time to replace most of the soil and to root prune. This is historically one of the driest periods of our year and care must be taken to water enough to keep your trees from being dried out by winds but not so much as to encourage root rot. This can be a fine balance. Each pot should be checked individually since different pots will dry at different rates, depending upon their location on your benches and the size of the pot as well as the composition of the soil in the pot. This is also time to spray with dormant oil to kill scale and overwintering aphids which will attack new foliage with a vengeance. Be sure to spray with oil or other insecticide when the temperatures are not too cold - above 50 degrees Fahrenheit is recommended. This is a perfect time to drastically prune or reshape dormant trees and pines since you do not have to worry about bleeding. Maples are the exception; they should be actively growing before they are pruned hard since they bleed profusely if cut during their dormant season. Watch tropical trees either in your house or in a greenhouse for aphids, whitefly and scale. If you see evidence of these pests, spray or apply systemic insecticide right away. Enjoy these lazy days of winter - you will soon be knee-deep in bonsai chores!

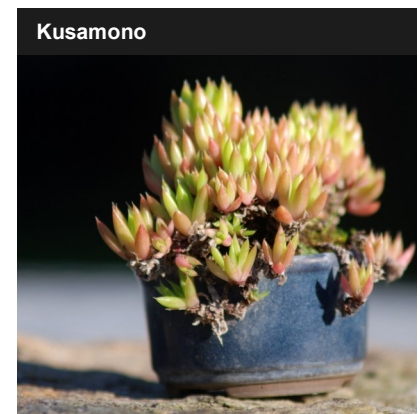
Fort Walton Beach

Bonsai Society

Visit the Club website for more information.



Photo by Manuel Alejandro



Kusamono

Dates to Remember:

2014

January 6	January 18	January 17-19	March 22
Regular meeting, program is repotting demo by Lee and bonsai container section by Rose-marie. Host and tokonoma is the Fabians.	Ben Oki workshop and celebration. Club will provide refreshments.	"Joy of Bonsai" sponsored by Kawa Bonsai Society at the Flagler County Extension Office, 150 Sawgrass Rd, Bunnell FL. Sean Smith, Mike Rogers and other Florida artists.	ACBS Day of Bonsai - "Bonsai On the Rocks" at the West Regional Library, Mobile. Guest speaker is Rodney Clemons.

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 Society Inc.

PO Box 224
Shalimar FL 32579-
0224

Lee Vanderpool,
Editor



Officers

- Rosemarie Voelker, President 850-932-4548 rvoelker243@gmail.com
- Edgar Hund, 1st Vice President 678-7553 shed58@cox.net
- Guy Streeter, 2nd Vice President 2435815 GLStreet@aol.com
- Ed Lippincott, Treasurer 651-8998 ednjody1962@cox.net
- Lee Vanderpool, Secretary 862-7592 leev4@cox.net
- Lynn Fabian, Past President 897-2622 ELFabian@cox.net

Ft Walton Beach Bonsai Society, Inc website:

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