



BONSAI NEWS & NOTES

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

March 2016

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.

Marching into March by Lee Vanderpool

March is probably the finest month of the year in northern Florida. Temperature as well as humidity is up but not too hot or too damp. Azaleas, quince, crabapples and other spring blooming plants are in flower while deciduous trees are just beginning to wake up and show some green. Pine candles are sprouting at a prodigious rate but junipers are still waiting for the correct time to begin growth. Much of your repotting should be completed while tropi-

Haiku

The sleet so soft and fine

Falls lightly down upon the cliff

And on the sturdy pine.

Ryosetsu



Photo by Ed and Lynn Fabian

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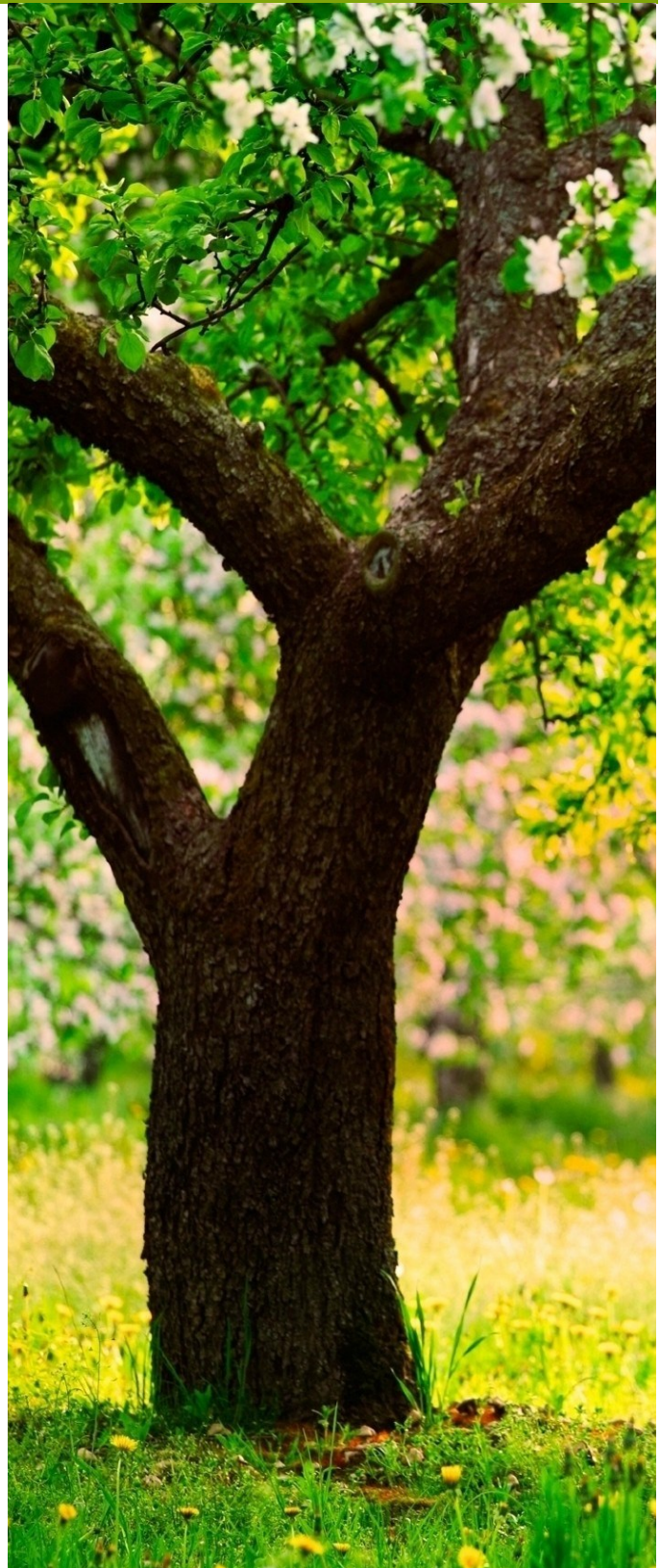
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-cals and maybe some junipers and azaleas are left to finish off during this month. Now is the time to increase watering frequency, begin to spray with fungicide and make the first application of fertilizer to your bonsai. Trees and shrubs in pots may get full strength fertilizer. About the middle of March is the normal last frost date - but beware.

The odd cold night could still happen. Most of your trees should be back on their shelves by March 15th and enjoying the spring sunshine. Again, be careful. If a tree has spent the past couple of months in your house or in a greenhouse, introducing it to the direct sun can result in very rapid sunscald. Introduce your tender plants to the sunshine gradually, moving from complete shade to partial shade over about a week.

Azaleas will need trimming and repotting after they flower if you did not repot in early spring. Pines require only to have their candles trimmed if they become too long. Leave small, weak candles to form new branches since they develop into smaller branches. Watch for spider mites on evergreens. Although they are small, the amount of damage they can do to a tree is all out of proportion to their size. Apply miticide to rid your trees of these pests. Also watch for aphids on new, tender growth, especially on apples, crabapples and pyracantha.

A strong water spray will dislodge them easily. Do not let them get ahead of you. You should have spent at least part of the winter season sieving, washing and mixing soil so now is the time to put it to good use repotting those pot-bound plants. Keep after it until each one has been repotted into fresh soil and is back on the shelf in its proper place. You will be happy you did later in the year when the tree is developing normally in its pot. Enjoy this time of year. Your trees are probably at their best.





Fort Walton Beach

Bonsai Society

Visit the Club web-
site for more infor-
mation.



Dates to Remember:

There will be no meeting on March 17.

BCI Convention in Vilnius, Lithuania, has been cancelled.

Come to the March 1 meeting and assist in potting small plants for sale at the spring show. This turned out to be a great hit last year and we hope to build upon that by offering moss balls, small ficus and some bonsai.

The Ted Matson workshop on March 21 will begin at 7:00 PM. We will have an evening meal with Ted at Slick Mick's, 19 Eglin Parkway S, Ft Walton Beach, FL, 864-5577, at 5:00 PM. Slick Mick's is a sports bar and has excellent soup, sandwiches and salads at reasonable prices.

The club auction is the primary fund raiser for the organization and sustains us during the year. There will be bonsai, pre-bonsai, tools, pots, books and other bonsai related items up for auction. This is an economical way to augment your bonsai collection, expand your knowledge through reading and add to your tool collection. Plan on coming out for this festive event on June 11 at the Extension Annex, 127 W Hollywood Blvd, Ft Walton Beach. More information to be provided in next month's newsletter.

2016				
March 1 Meeting, Activity will be potting plants for sale at the spring show. Refreshments: Ed Lippincott	March 21 Ted Matson workshop, Club will provide refreshments.	March 26-30 BSF convention at the Florida Hotel.	May 21 Club Spring Show, Meridian (formerly Westwood) atrium, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM.	June 11 Ft Walton Beach Bonsai Society, Inc, bonsai auction.

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.

902 Middle Dr, Ft
Walton Beach FL
32547

Lee Vanderpool,
Editor



Photo by Ed and Lynn Fabian

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 243-5815 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/>