



Bonsai

News & Notes

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

January 2018

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.

Beginning of Winter and No Cold!

Here it is the very end of December as this is written and we have seen a negligible amount of cold or even cool weather. We need at least a few days of cold to put our trees into dormancy - some of my elms still have last summers leaves, green as ever. My Japanese maples which had not lost their leaves turned crimson last week after one night of just-above-freezing temperatures. This is the time to do all those things we put off doing the rest of the year - clean pots, mix soil, mix muck and the other mundane chores which are necessary for successful completion of the chores of the very busy season which will follow shortly. Don't forget to apply dormant oil spray to your trees on a day when the temperatures are above 40 degrees Fahrenheit to destroy insects and their eggs which are wintering over in the cracks of bark on your trees.

Winter is here, and low
Droop the frail narcissus
leaves
under their weight
of snow
BASHO

FWBBS Christmas Dinner



Photos by R Voelker

Russell's MidWinter Workshop



Photo by L Fabian

Dates to remember...

January 2 - Elm lecture by Ed Hund

January 18 - Elm workshop lead by Lynn with club participation.

This should be done twice about two weeks apart to ensure good coverage of the entire plant. Fungicide spray is also essential right now since roots are basically not working to keep the tree functioning and wet feet may allow root rot to get a foothold. Again, spray a couple of times with different fungicides to ensure complete coverage. Do not spray pine trees with fungicide since they thrive with a beneficial fungus on their roots and fungicide will destroy that fungus. Speaking of pines, check pine needles for small gray bumps during the winter. If they are present, you have scale and should apply a systemic scalcicide and follow that up with foliar spray when the weather turns warmer. This is particularly important since pines may be killed by needle scale. This is not my favorite time of year but necessary. Enjoy the holidays! by Lee V



Photos by L Fabian

Making Muck

Recipe for making muck: mix equal parts of mushroom compost and good quality top soil with enough water to create a slurry. Mix well then add enough composted cow manure to thicken the slurry to a paste. I have drillers mud which I add in small quantities but this is not necessary, just makes the mixture more sticky. Mix again. Store in a sealed container for several weeks to several months. Keeps indefinitely. Use to build "dams" on slabs to retain soil or to adhere stones and other objects to containers. Long fiber sphagnum may be incorporated into the muck to help stabilize it and, to some extent, prevent washing away.

Fort Walton Beach Bonsai Society

Visit the Club web
site for more
information

<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.

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

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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Jean C Smith's Jaboticaba 2017 at the National
Bonsai and Penjing Museum in Washington, DC

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Ft. Walton Beach Bonsai Society, Inc website:

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