



# BONSAI NEWS & NOTES

Fort Walton Beach Bonsai Society Newsletter Vol. XXIX, No 4

April 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.

## Ted Matson

The Ted Matson workshop went very well. We had a capacity crowd with several newcomers attending as well as a contingent from the Pensacola club. A large variety of trees were styled or critiqued.

Haiku

The evening mist hangs low.

and through the cross beams of the bridge

The slanting sunbeams show..

Hokushi



Photo by Rosemarie Voelker

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## April - Another Busy Month by Lee Vanderpool

April activities include: spraying insecticide if any critters are spotted feeding on the new growth of your bonsai or fungicide if black spots suddenly appear on the new leaves of your trees. Spraying your trees with dormant oil spray is still a good idea. It will keep some insects at bay such as aphids and thrips.

We had a warmer than usual winter then, when spring finally arrived, the weather turned cooler. Trees are still confused with azaleas blooming out of season and leaves which should be fully formed still in the swollen bud stage. Maybe by the time summer arrives, things will be straightened out and tree development will be on track.

Ted Matson gave a new slant on juniper development. It seems that current thinking on pinching and pruning junipers has changed to pinch out ALL immature foliage and leave only mature foliage on the trees. This will theoretically force the tree to put out only mature foliage and any immature foliage generated should be eliminated. It is worth the time to see if this procedure works for you. Try it on one or two of your junipers and, if it works, continue with the remainder of the junipers.

Fertilizing your trees is of major importance right now. Most trees are developing the major portion of their yearly growth and it should be encouraged by applying a balanced fertilizer or applying organic fertilizer balls or cakes to each pot.

Watering is also of major importance. Although wet weather has predominated this spring, once warmer weather arrives and spring rains end, you must very carefully observe the water



Photo by Rosemarie Voelker

needs of your trees. If a bonsai misses being watered even for a single day and hot, drying winds occur, the bonsai is in jeopardy of losing its viability. If a tree becomes wilted from lack of moisture, do not drench it with cold water. Instead, sprinkle it with warm (not hot) water a few times for a couple of hours then water thoroughly. Shocking the plant with abundant cold water while it is not capable of taking the water into its tissues may seriously damage the plant. Slow, methodical resuscitation is the preferred method of treatment.

Remember, this is a critical time of the year for your bonsai. Take care of them now and they will reward you for the rest of the year.



Photo by Rosemarie Voelker

Fort Walton Beach

Bonsai Society

Visit the Club website for more information.



## Dates to Remember:

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.

BSF Convention, May 26-30 at the Florida Hotel in Orlando.

5th US National Bonsai Exhibition at Rochester, NY, 10-11 September

2016				
<p><b>April 5</b></p> <p>Program: Air Layering, Lee and Edgar, Host: Nancy Stewart Tokonoma: Ed Lipincott</p>	<p><b>April 21</b></p> <p>Program: Branch Enhancement, Edgar, Host: No one volunteered</p>	<p><b>May 21</b></p> <p>Club Spring Show, Meridian (formerly Westwood) atrium, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM.</p>	<p><b>May 26-30</b></p> <p>BSF convention at the Florida Hotel.</p>	<p><b>June 11</b></p> <p>Ft Walton Beach Bonsai Society, Inc, bonsai auction.</p>



### Meetings:

Fort Walton Beach Society – 1st Tuesdays and 3rd Thursdays, 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, Pensacola Garden Center, 1850 9th Ave, Board Meeting at 7 PM, membership Meeting at 7:30 PM.

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Photo by Rosemarie Voelker

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