



BONSAI NEWS & NOTES

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

April 2017

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.

April - Spring is in Full Swing by Lee Vanderpool

With the longer spring days, trees and shrubs will be growing at a prodigious rate. Care must be taken to closely observe any wire which was placed onto your bonsai during the fall and winter - it can make wire marks in just a couple of days. Bonsai will be growing so rapidly that, for some species, trimming or pinching must happen two or three times a week. Have faith - this will only

Haiku

A heavy cloud hangs low,

A cloud of blossoms o'er the land,

Pink like the sunrise glow.

BUNDO



Photo by Rosemarie Voelker

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last until the first really hot days of early summer.

Trees should be settled into their new soil now if you repotted and fertilizing must be rigorously attended to. Remember: bonsai in their small pots can only be as healthy as the fertilizer you provide to them.

Another critical activity this time of year is a strict watering regime. When the soil in the pots of your trees is dry one inch down into the pot, it is time to water, even if you have just watered a few hours before. Desiccation is a major contributor to the loss of bonsai, especially during the late spring through early autumn.

It is getting a little late for repotting anything other than tropicals although junipers and a few other late beginners may be moved if no root work is done. This would usually be when moving to a larger container but also applies when a pot is broken or during other emergency conditions.

Japanese black pines will have long candles now but, according to Ben Oki, the candles should not be removed until the end of May. With the extra mild winter this year, though, that will more than likely happen sooner than usual.

Tropical repotting will begin at the end of April and last into July so you need to get pots and soil prepared for that job. Although not as critical time wise as when working with temperate species, tropical bonsai still have dormant times and other times when they grow rapidly. Buttonwoods are dormant during the hottest part of summer and should be trimmed, styled and repotted then. Other species such as ficus and *Bucida spinosa* may be worked any time during the heat of late spring into summer.

Remember, you only get improvements to your trees during the warm and hot weather so you must make the best use as possible during that time. We are lucky have such a long growing season here along the Gulf coast so we should have advanced trees compared to other locations.

Enjoy this wonderful time of the year with your trees



Photo by Rosemarie Voelker





Photo by Rosemarie Voelker



Fort Walton Beach

Bonsai Society

Visit the Club web-site for more information.



Dates to Remember:

2017

<p>April 4</p> <p>Club meeting. Program is preparing show plants with club participation. Host and tokonoma is Rosemarie.</p>	<p>April 20</p> <p>Carving by Ed Fabian. Ed Hund will provide refreshments. Anyone needing advice on trees they plan to show at the April 29 club show, please bring them so others can give advice.</p>	<p>April 29</p> <p>Spring show at The Meridian at Westwood.</p>	<p>May 26-28</p> <p>ABS/BSF Convention—Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando, FL.</p>	<p>June 10</p> <p>Club spring auction.</p>
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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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Ft Walton Beach Bonsai Society, Inc website:

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