



BONSAI NEWS & NOTES

Fort Walton Beach Bonsai Society Newsletter Vol. XXVIII, No 2

February 2015

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.

Lessons in Maple Forest Planting by Lee Vanderpool

Edgar gave us good tips for planning the construction of a trident maple forest at the first meeting in January. He used illustrations from popular bonsai books to show his points and gave us a very comprehensive narrative on the use and placement of various numbers of trees to complete the forest planting.

We had chosen eleven trident maples from Joe Day's extensive collection and had a choice of two planting containers; one was a cement slab

Haiku

Come out! Come out with me!

'Tis worth a tumble in the snow

The wondrous sight to see.

Basho



Photo by Rosemarie Voelker

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with legs and a very shallow rim while the other was a Joe Day-made stone slab.

Mr Rodney Clemons from the Stone Mountain, Georgia, area and proprietor of Allgood Bonsai was chosen to actually put the planting together. At the second meeting in January, Rodney weighed the attributes of both planting containers and, after much discussion, chose the Joe Day slab to hold the forest.

Affixing wires to the slab to tie the trees in place proved to be a chore not anticipated fully. After trying fast drying epoxy (which proved to be too slow) to hold the wires, we ended up using quick-set cement to complete the job. After putting nine tie-down wires on the slab, Rodney began selecting, trimming and root pruning the trees. He formed clumps of trees by tying two or three together and placing them strategically on the slab. After tree placement, muck was used to form a perimeter around the planting and that was covered with several kinds of moss, chosen to vary the texture of the ground covering. Rodney created a small island at the distant end of the planting which was also covered with moss.

The entire evening was very entertaining and the audience was involved throughout the process. We ended with a beautiful, well planned and well planted forest.

Our thanks to Rodney and to Edgar and to all the members who participated in the planning and construction of the forest. The planting will be maintained by Rosemarie and we are anticipating displaying this wonderful forest at the spring show.



February - Busiest Time of the Year by Lee Vanderpool

February is normally the time to be spraying for fungus, scales, mites and other critters which overwinter in litter or on your trees. This February, however, looks like it is going to be another kind of month when most trees, shrubs and other plants are actively growing and many trees are in leaf or flower. There may still be time before the weather gets too warm to spray with dormant oil to control scale and with a miticide to control red spider mites. Each of these sprays should be applied to appropriate plants twice, two weeks apart, to be most effective. The key to spraying, especially for scale, is to do so on a dry evening when the temperature is not over 70 degrees.

The dormant oil used to control scale must remain on the plant as long as possible to be effective. It is also important to drench with a systemic fungicide a couple of times in an attempt to control root rot which may have set in during the winter. Root rot is usually not noticed until the tree does not leaf out in the spring or puts out only a small amount of leaves. Those indications usually come too late to be of much use in control; the tree is normally on decline and control is not of much use. Fortunately or unfortunately for us, we do not seem to get enough



Photo by Rosemarie Voelker

Fort Walton Beach

Bonsai Society

Visit the Club website for more information.



Bonsai Pots



chill temperature to cause apples, crabapples or peaches and cherries to set fruit. Most of them will flower but fruit will not develop. I always threaten to appropriate some space in the refrigerator to store a crabapple over winter but have yet to do so. I would like to see if the chill would cause fruit set as I have been told. I do know that people in Hawaii store their elms in refrigerators over winter to give them their dormant period.

Some azaleas, elms and pines began to return to active growing during January this year. Repotting may be somewhat risky if the leaves on deciduous trees are too well developed before repotting is attempted. If you are inclined to try to root hardwood cuttings, now is about the last time to take material and get it set in perlite or sand before the hot weather comes. If you are going to attempt to graft pines this year, you may already be too late.

Hit the nurseries during the coming active selling period. Sometimes you can find good deals on trees left over from last year that the nurseryman wants to get rid of at a bargain price. Enjoy spring!

Dates to Remember:

2015

<p>February 3</p> <p>Fertilizers and fertilizer cakes. Host: Edgar. Tokonoma: Rosemarie</p>	<p>Feb 19</p> <p>Maples by Ed, Lynn and Olya.</p>	<p>March 21</p> <p>Mobile Bonsai Society Day of Bonsai, West Regional Library Branch, 5555 Grelot Rd, Mobile, AL 36609</p>	<p>April 25</p> <p>Ft Walton Beach Spring Show, Westwood Atrium, Westwood Retirement Community, 1001 MarWalt Dr., Fort Walton Beach, FL</p>	<p>May 21-24</p> <p>Rendezvous 2015, Brussel's Bonsai Nursery, LLC, 8125 Center Hill Road, Olive Branch, MS</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:

Society:

2nd Thursday, Pensacola Garden Center, 1850 9th Ave, Board Meeting at 7 PM, membership Meeting at 7:30 PM.

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Fort Walton Beach Bonsai Society Inc.

902 Middle Dr, Ft

Walton Beach FL

32547

Lee Vanderpool,

Editor



Maple Forest

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/>