



BONSAI NEWS & NOTES

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

February 2014

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.

Ben Oki's 2014 Tour Across the Gulf Coast

Ben began his final tour of Gulf Coast bonsai organizations in Louisiana, continued through Alabama and completed his trip in Florida.

He arrived in Ft Walton Beach on January 18, 2014. After lunch with the members of the Ft Walton Beach Bonsai Society, the group went to the meeting place where BSF President Mike Knowlton was on hand to present Ben with a plaque, apron and certificate of appreciation from the Bonsai Societies of Florida. Ben has spent over 40 years giving dedicat-

Haiku

morning ritual

I bow to the tree

it leans toward me.

Davina Kosh, "brushstroke"



Photo by Rosemarie Voelker

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ed service and teaching expertise to the members of BSF. Rosemarie Voelker, President of the Ft Walton Beach Bonsai Society, presented Ben with a commemorative picture inscribed with a thank you note for his service. This ceremony was followed by a birthday greeting and cake and ice cream celebrating his 86th birthday.

Following the formalities, he conducted two member workshops. Ten members of the Ft Walton Beach Bonsai Society participated in the workshops, working on various species of trees including Japanese black pines, junipers, elm, podocarpus and others.

After spending an additional day conducting private workshops, Ben was taken to Tallahassee where he instructed that bonsai club with a workshop. On his final day in Florida, he visited the Raiford Correctional Facility where he gave a workshop to inmates. He has visited the prison every year for many years and has provided the prison with one of its main rehabilitation programs.

Ben will not be touring Florida after this year. He is the curator of the bonsai collection at Huntington Gardens in California where he spends many hours each week maintaining that impressive collection and will dedicate his energies to that task.

Out of state visitors for the Ft Walton Beach programs were BSF President Mike and Luneta Knowlton, Mr and Mrs Lowell Tilley from Louisiana. We thoroughly enjoyed their attendance to this happy occasion.



February - Preparing for the rush by Lee Vanderpool

Now is the last chance to get your pots washed, soil mixed and make final selections for potting or repotting before the hectic days of repotting begins. Elms, maples, hornbeams and other deciduous trees should be your first priority. They should be potted/repotted when the buds begin to swell. Pines and junipers are next and should be done by March 15. Flowering trees such as azaleas or camellias are usually repotted as or just after they finish blooming. Pick off buds or flowers before repotting. All trees should be trimmed and wired before potting/repotting. Some bonsai artists advocate for no hard trimming or extensive wiring at this point but I have never found that either of these activities have a bad effect of the newly potted plants if proper aftercare is given. After replacing the soil or putting into new soil, bonsai should be protected from direct sun and from wind for a couple of weeks. During this time, new growth may become evident. Water sparingly but do not allow the new bonsai to become completely dry.



Photos by Rosemarie Voelker

Fort Walton Beach
Bonsai Society

Visit the Club website for more information.

After a couple of weeks of protection, gradually move your tree to more sun until, after a few more days, it may be returned to your bench. When putting your bonsai into a bonsai tray, ensure that the plant is wired into the pot securely to prevent movement which may damage fragile new roots. Good care following potting/repotting of even the most delicate tree should give it a good chance for survival. Enjoy the early spring - summer will soon be here!

Bonsai Pots



Dates to Remember:

2014			
<p>February 4</p> <p>Tools - Ed Lippincott. Host and tokonoma - Fabians.</p>	<p>Feb 20</p> <p>Japanese Black Pine update - Lynn Fabian. No one has volunteered for host.</p>	<p>March 22</p> <p>ACBS Day of Bonsai - "Bonsai On the Rocks" at the West Regional Library, Mobile. Guest speaker is Rodney Clemons.</p>	<p>May 22-26</p> <p>BSF Convention, May 22-26, 2014, Orlando. See: http://bonsai-bsf.com/ for information and registration.</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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Japanese Garden

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Ft Walton Beach Bonsai Society, Inc website:

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