



BONSAI NEWS & NOTES

Fort Walton Beach Bonsai Society Newsletter Vol. XXVI, No 6

June 2013

Club Happenings

Please volunteer to bring trees for tokonoma for the first meeting of each month or to host a meeting. Sponsoring the tokonoma gives you a chance to show off your trees to the club and acting as host gives you a chance to show off your culinary skills; both are important functions of monthly club meetings.

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.

Bonsai Exhibit

The club sponsored a small bonsai exhibit at the Mary Esther library from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM on May 4, 2013. Two medium sized trees and several small and miniature trees were shown. Many children and their parents viewed the exhibit and asked questions of the six members who volunteered to sit with the trees.

Thank you to the personnel at the library for their assistance and hospitality. They have also asked us to return in the fall for another program.

Haiku

This life is but a dream ,

o'er which the cherries blossoming.

Is casting their enchanting gleam.

Sute



Photo by Ed and Lynn Fabian

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Russell Coker Workshop

After a pizza lunch with salad and wonderful dessert, the Russell Coker Annual Mothers' Day Workshop was held on Saturday, May 11th at the Extension Building. Nine members presented trees for Russell to style or give advice about. Although azaleas were the main focus of the workshop, ficus, junipers and pines were also styled. As usual, Russell gave good information about each of the plants and did a superb job at styling. Thanks, Russell.

FWBBS, Inc. Auction

The auction will be held at the Extension Building, 127 Hollywood Blvd, Ft Walton Beach on Saturday, June 1, 2013. Items will be available for viewing at 1:00 PM and the auction will begin promptly at 2:00 PM. We have pots and trees on auction from the collections of two former members who have, of necessity, given up bonsai. Several hand crafted pots from Max Carey's collection along with many Chinese and Japanese pots and some unusual trees to accompany them will be available. Rich Kopf donated his entire collection of trees and pots when he relocated to a new home. With the donations expected from current members of the club, we expect to have a rich selection of both pots and trees for your enjoyment. Come and celebrate with us.



Photo by Manuel Alejandro

June, July and August tips

Although the club will be on hiatus during the hot months of July and August, bonsai chores do not stop for its members.

Fertilize all your bonsai on a regular basis, usually recommended for every two weeks at half strength. Water as needed but, during the windy hottest and longest days of summer, this will usually mean at least once each day. I have preached for years that summertime dessication kills more trees than all other reasons combined. If your tree wilts from lack of water, DO NOT plunge it into a bucket of cold water. Instead, water it sparingly with room temperature water, wait 30 minutes or so then water it again. If it is not too far gone, it should begin to regain its turgidity within an hour then it may be watered normally. If it does not revive within a couple of hours, place it in shade and water periodically over the next day. As soon as it begins to revive, move it back to your bench and treat normally. If root damage has been too extensive from dryness, the tree may only partly survive. After the dead material becomes evident, prune it away and you may have the beginning of a new tree.

Beginning in June after most deciduous temperate trees have hardened off their spring growth, defoliation and hard pruning for shape and ramification must be continued. Pinching new soft foliage is much simpler than trimming with scissors later after the growth has lignified. Unless you want longer branches, keep the new foliage pinched to one or two new leaves.

Junipers must also be pinched assiduously during June since they put on most of their new growth during the first warm days of summer. As the season progresses, growth will come in spurts when a cool day or several days of rain occur. A "new" philosophy on keeping junipers under control is to let the foliage grow an inch or more then prune with scissors instead of pinching. This will supposedly avoid the browning of the twig tips.

Fort Walton Beach
 Bonsai Society
 Exhibit at the
 Mary Esther
 Library



Photos by Ed and Lynn Fabian

As the temperatures get warmer, all growth slows and eventually comes to a halt during the hottest part of the summer. Not much trimming during August unless you possess a large wisteria. August is the recommended time to prune wisteria hard to force new growth in time to set buds for next years' bloom. Within two weeks of trimming, the wisteria should push new growth and will need to be pinched to two leaf sets several times before it settles down and quits making new growth.

Now is the time to trim, defoliate, pot, repot, wire and generally care for your tropical trees. Warm weather is required for most ficus, sea grapes, bougainvillea, buttonwood and other tropical trees to start their yearly growth cycle. After they break dormancy, they should be trimmed for shape and wired to refine style. If possible, keep buttonwood in shallow trays of water to provide enough moisture to simulate their natural habitat.

Enjoy your summer vacation! Enjoy your trees!

Lee Vanderpool



Bonsai Exhibit



Informal Bonsai Tree

Dates to Remember:

2013

May 23-26

BSF convention, Lake Mary Marriott, Orlando. See <http://bonsai-bsf.com> for registration from.

June 1

FWBBS spring auction.

June 4

No meeting.

June 20

Regular meeting, Program: Slide show and narrative on Vietnam, China and Japan tour with Rosemarie Voelker. Host: Rosemarie Voelker.

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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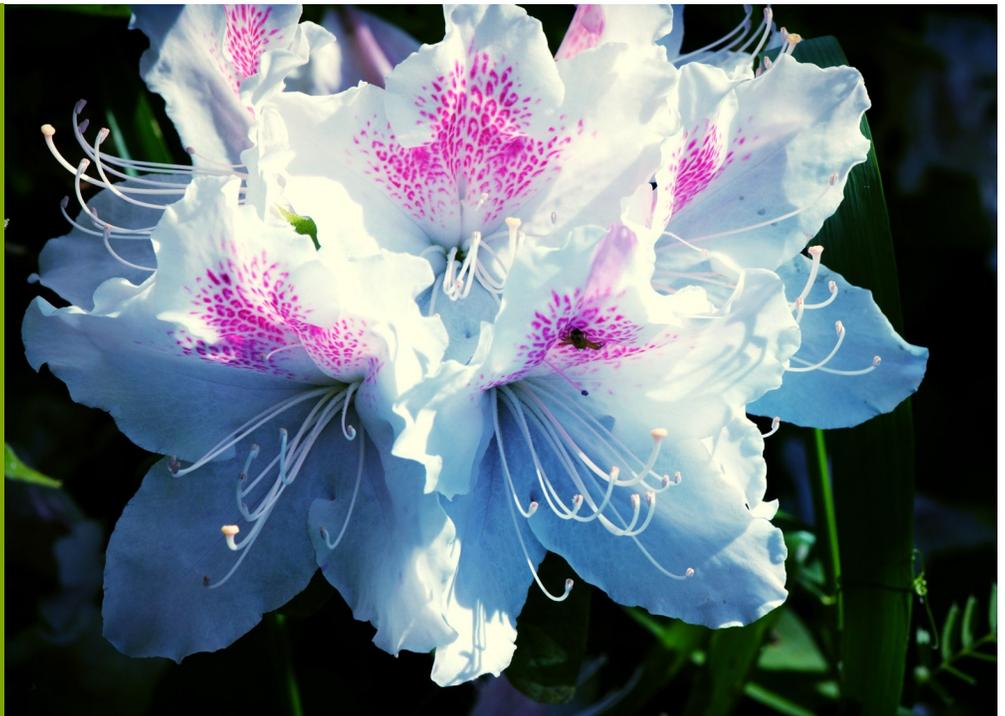


Photo by Rosemarie Voelker

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