



Kawa Bonsai Society



February 2011

www.kawabonsai.com

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The Next Meeting

We will be having our regular meeting at the Flagler Extension Office on February 18 at 7:30 PM. As always you can use the half hour before the meeting to discuss problems with your trees or just for "show and tell".

The program for the next meeting will be titled "The importance of Repotting" both Mike Rogers and Louise will be conducting the program. Club members can bring one tree in for repotting help but must bring their own soil and pots..



Pictures from Joy of Bonsai

Calendar of Activities

February 18 "The importance of Repotting " Presenters Mike Rogers and Louise Leister

News from D & L Nursery

NEXT BYOT... Is on February 19th. As usual Linda will have coffee and something delicious for the early birds, fruits and snacks for the munchies with soda, water and pizza for lunch if you want it. Pizza is \$5.00 Some people pack a lunch. And who knows what delectable thing someone might bring for us. The cost is only \$25.00 for the workshop including soil and wire. If you are more experienced and just want styling ideas or help with wiring or potting you can bring up to three trees. If you are a novice and want to learn how to create a bonsai we recommend you concentrate on just one tree, it takes awhile to completely style a tree. Newcomers are not yet capable of doing much of the hands on work themselves, and we like to take the time to explain what we are doing as we do it. This is not only good for them, but it helps even the more experienced learn more tips on wiring, styling and such. As people gain experience we want them to do more of the work themselves, then we will assist them in styling the tree. This is a workshop for you to learn how to, not for us to do all the work for you. Experience is the best teacher. Our desire is to help you learn the art of bonsai. Pre-bonsai trees and all supplies will be available. Observers are welcome, so come spend the day or just a few hours. You can come anytime between the hours of 9:00-4:00. We have set up an area where we can take before and after pictures of the trees we work on. If you want we can email them to you.

WORKSHOPS... Starting in March and continuing in April and May we will be doing two BYOT's a month in order to better accommodate everyone.

[More news on D & L's Website](#)

Officers for 2010-2011

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Tips for February

Continue monitoring the weather for any severe cold that would damage trees which have started budding and continue the other care given during January. Root prune and repot plants which are about to sprout new growth, then protect them from severe weather after being repotted. Check fertilizer, pesticide and fungicide supply and buy any items which will be needed for the coming growing season. Get the necessary components for soil mixes and make enough of the various soil mixes to supply repotting needs. Clean pots and the potting area. Finish shaping azaleas and maples and any other trees which are dormant.

Going out on a Limb

By Mark Estes of the News Journal

Goodies

February 18 Carol Partelow

Goodies

Time to sign up for goodies for the coming year. Please email me GPartelow1@cfl.rr.com or Louise at mysecretbonsai@me.com.

For those of you who changed our email address to GPartelow1@att.net please change us back to the Brighthouse address of GPartelow1@cfl.rr.com They made us an offer we couldn't refuse. The change should be finished by 3 PM Monday tomorrow, Thanks, Glenn and Carol

Let's get small" could have been the theme at the Flagler County Extension Office this past weekend as the Kawa Bonsai Society had its Ninth Annual Joy of Bonsai Show. And there was plenty of small to see -- varieties of pines, junipers, hornbeam and ficus were displayed on specially designed risers, and even the trees in the "large" category didn't exceed much past 3 feet in height.

At about 30 members, the Society is a relatively small bonsai club, but the general consensus is that they put on a "really big show."

Friday night featured an opening reception and judging of the various entries submitted by members and other enthusiasts from Miami to Savannah. David Easterbrook, curator of the Montreal Botanical Garden's bonsai collection since 1982, was the show's featured expert. He judged the various entries and provided a critique on Friday, and gave several demonstrations each day during the weekend on species of pine and juniper.

"Some clubs are very small like this and some are very large," Easterbrook said. "This show is very good for a small club. There are a wide variety of plants and the quality can be very professional. I think people will be inspired by the professional displays."

Club members were joined by people who traveled from as far as Boston to attend the show. Louise Leister, vice president of the club and show co-chairwoman, said they had more than 200 people attend last year and expected the same this year.

One large draw is the various workshops and demonstrations offered by experts from around the continent. In addition to Easterbrook, Kora Dalager of California offered demonstrations and a workshop on Kusamono, which can fit in the palm of the hand.

Originally consisting of herbaceous plants combined as an accompaniment to the woody bonsai in formal Japanese style, Kusamono is also appreciated on its own merits. Mike Carteret, a vendor at the show and owner of Palm Beach Bonsai, also offered demonstrations during the show.

President Mike Rogers, who also owns Rogers Nursery in DeLand, and David VanBuskirk, owner of D&L Nursery in the Ocala National Forest, combined their skill and knowledge to present a workshop on bonsai forests.

"Our workshop is on creating a seven-tree forest," said Rogers. "There are many trees in the same pot so it's a simulated forest. We're going to use hornbeam, winged elm and hackberry."

The bonsai on display in the show and by the vendors had a siren song for some of the visitors, such as Sally McGee of the Palatka area.

"I came with my friend and her husband, who does bonsai," McGee said. "These are beautiful, aren't they? I haven't seen bonsai arranged before," she said. "I love the accents that they add. I love the seasonals as well the deciduous trees without their leaves. I said to myself I have to buy one of these, but then I was told that you have to cut the roots and wire the plants."

The greatest expression of bonsai may be pure art, but Easterbrook says the beginner should not be intimidated.

"The professional sellers will present a large specimen of the species they sell and the customers will like it and buy a small one because everyone likes to dream that someday theirs will be like that," said Easterbrook. "It's not really that hard. It's just simple horticulture skills, and then there's an artistic side. Not everybody has a natural artistic side, but people can produce nice bonsai just by studying, attending regular classes, going to shows and reading the books to become very proficient. Not everybody can be a bonsai artist but everybody can grow bonsai."

Not all trees can be successfully used as bonsai, particularly if you want to reduce the leaf size.

"Most trees leaves you can get down to one-third normal size, some you can get smaller," said Easterbrook. "But some trees with very large leaves like sugar maples or tulip trees, and trees with several small leaflets on a stalk are hard to reduce. Generally we don't do that. But if someone says you can't do a certain tree, I generally try it just to prove them wrong."

