



Kawa Bonsai Society



March 2011

www.kawabonsai.com

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The Next Meeting

We will be having our regular meeting at the Flagler Extension Office on March 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 "Tool Care". Each member can bring one tool to be sharpened and cleaned after the program. We will be shown how to use a water stone to sharpen your tools and how to clean them after. We will also talk about how to store them after each use.

News from D & L Nursery

Hello everyone, a friendly reminder about this coming Saturday, March 5th BYOT workshop. Because there is usually a lot of work needing done to our trees in spring we will be doing another BYOT this month on the 19th. It is going to be a beautiful spring day. We have some new material for you to pick from. We are looking forward to it and hope to see you. 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, within reason. 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.

Calendar of Activities

April 15 Demo by Mike Feduccia, the 2010 BSF Scholarship second place winner. The demo material will be raffled off at the end of the meeting.

May 27 **note change in the date** companion plant care. Workshop on the companion plant care through the summer months, pruning to keep healthy, fungus, insect care and when to divide or take cuttings. Everything to keep your companions healthy and happy.

June 17 Repotting Tropicals: Each member should bring in one tropical plant for repotting. We will show how to clean the bottoms of the plant as seen on the Boon DVD. Please bring in soil, pots and your trees.

July 15 Conifer and winter hardy tree care in the summer months. Pines, Junipers and any other hardy trees need special care during the summer months. This program will show how to protect trees from scorch, how to candle prune and how to care for Juniper during our hot months. Insect and disease care will be covered and product lists of things safe to use on your trees during the summer months will be given.

August 20 A Day with Erik Wigert. Material TBA. This will be our summer picnic and lunch will be provided to the membership.

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 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 9:00-3:00. We have set up an area where we can take before and after pictures of the trees we work on. If you want us to, we can e-mail your pictures to you.

Officers for 2010-2011

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Tips for March

Root prune and repot deciduous plants before they sprout new growth. Pot or repot the other material in the following order: bamboo, maple, hinoki cypress, pine and then junipers. Tropical plants may be repotted any time of the year. Pot or repot blooming and fruiting varieties after they bloom but before new leaves sprout. Prune winter damage when it appears that the last frost has occurred. Unwire any plants which were wired last fall. Increase watering as temperatures increase and growth begins. Begin half-strength fertilizing every two weeks. Begin an insect and fungicide preventative

Goodies

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

Goodies

March No one has signed up yet. I will bring something.



In the process of repotting.

D & L Nursery

Well, lets hope that winter is over, don't get me wrong I am not rushing summer, just don't want another freeze. Everything here is budding out and soon will be in its spring glory. This time of year is my favorite, with all the trees budding out in that spring green color. The maples start with their red samaras, then the native Plums, Red Buds, Dogwoods bloom, next is the Azalea show. I noticed all the local Osprey nests are full, maybe a good sign for a better year ahead. A good time to take that nature drive through NW Marion County, beautiful countryside with little foals running in the pastures and some great trees to get inspired by. Take your camera.

WHAT'S NEW... Will be bringing out some Winged Elms, Tridents, Cypress from small to huge, Sugarberry, also pruned back and root pruned some very sweet Crepe Myrtles. I am talking some 3"-5" trunks with great character and nebari, they will be ready soon as they flush out. We had a little snag on shipping so the first order of pots will be in by mid March and the second by May. Can't wait. We finally bit the bullet this year and cut some trees down in the center of the nursery, wait till you see the sky opened up there, it made a huge difference in the amount of sunlight getting through. We are putting up rows of benches for more pre-bonsai so we can have more of a selection for you to chose from.

POTTING... You should be getting done potting all your deciduous trees, once they start leafing out it is too late. Don't get in too much of a hurry to do your tropicals, they can be done all summer.

I often am asked " How do I know my bonsai needs the soil changed or transplanted?"

Transplanting from one pot to another is generally done for aesthetic reasons, but soil changing is necessary for the health of the tree. Some rapidly growing trees should have their soil changed annually. Some trees can go two, maybe up to three years. Slower growing conifers and some evergreens may not need their soil changed more than every three to five years. A younger tree, still in development, will need it sooner, where an older tree less often. You also must consider the size of the pot. However, the best indicator of a need for soil change is not time, but the condition of the tree. A vigorous, healthy tree does not need its soil changed and should not be disturbed.

FERTILIZING... Do not feed your deciduous trees until the leaves have hardened off, that means not until all of the leaves are out and branch tips are starting to grow. If you feed them too early you will get a big flush of growth which translates to long internodes and larger leaves. You could literally waste a season getting them back. You can start feeding your tropicals once the night temperatures are staying in the 60's. Use a balanced fertilizer such as: Miracle Grow 20-20-20 or equivalent. Too much nitrogen will go to the leaves and not the roots, hence too large of leaves. You fertilize bonsai for optimum health, not for growth per say like other plants. The fertilization program I discuss in these newsletters is just a basis, you still need to tailor a fertilization program based on your trees individual needs.

PRUNING... You should have already taken a good look at your trees over the winter, now knowing where you want to go with them. With this burst of spring growth we want to pay careful attention to every branch. If you have a branch or apex you want to thicken, try to divert more energy to it by keeping your other branches trimmed back and letting that one grow. If all your main branches are good, then work on your ramification by pruning your secondary and tertiary branches back. Always prune in front of the bud that is growing in the direction you want the branch to grow.

If any of the internodes towards the tip of any branch are spaced farther apart, then towards the beginning of the branch (closest to the trunk) prune back to where that elongation begins.

A branch should be styled just like a tree, the self any of the internodes towards the tip of any branch are spaced farther apart, then towards the beginning of the branch (closest to the trunk) prune back to where that elongation begins.

Secondary branches on a main branch should get smaller and closer together as you go towards the tip. The tertiary branches on your secondary branches should do the same. Doing this will help create proper ramification and taper.

Proper directional pruning of your bonsai is a must, to increase ramification and for good taper. Anybody ever say bonsai was easy? But that is what makes it challenging and fun. Anyone can grow a topiary, we want to create a bonsai.

EVENTS... It's spring and you know what that means, spring garden festivals.

March 12th & 13th is the Master Gardeners Spring Festival at the Ocala Agriculture Center. We will be vending there along with many other growers. A great spring outing that always brings out lots of people and even more beautiful flowers. 2232 NE Jacksonville Road 352- 671-8400

March 26th & 27th is the Kanapaha Spring Festival. This year the theme is bonsai. The Gainesville Bonsai Club is doing a bonsai exhibit and there will be bonsai presentations both days in the main building. I will be doing a demo Saturday and Sunday afternoon with other presentations throughout the weekend. We also will be vending there.

March 30th 31st & April 1st the Marion Bonsai Club will be doing an exhibit at On Top of the World with presentations and demos each day.

THIS MONTH'S BYOT... We will be doing TWO BYOT'S this month, the first one on the 5th and the second one on the 19th. We are doing two so we can better accommodate everyone. 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.

Minutes of the Last meeting

February 25, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Rogers at 7:29PM.

The treasurers' report indicated that we had \$4,514.23 in the Vanguard account and \$3482.24 in the checking account. Motion made to accept and passed. Glenn read the minutes which were also accepted.

Louise reminded everyone about the BSF conference in June, and to see Jane regarding volunteer time. A thought about making a T-shirt order for Kawa and once again a pin design that was approved many meetings ago was mentioned. Also, in April, a bonsai may be exhibited in the Garden Club presentation in Flagler, on the 29th and 30th.

Louise reported that despite the costs of the "Joy of Bonsai" that were about \$6000. We did make a profit of over \$400!

A DVD by Boone showing a technique for repotting was shown and several members repotted their plants.

In April, we will have a speaker Mike Feduccia who will do a demo on a Juniper. Next month will be a workshop on the care and cleaning of bonsai tools.

The meeting concluded at 9:15 PM.

Submitted, Glenn Partelow Kawa/Secretary



Peggy and Jane did a showing of their collections of Kusamono.



Mike working on repotting while other members worked on theirs.

Landscape convention

While Glenn and I were visiting Frank and Kathi Maisano several weekends ago, Kathi shared some photos with me from the Miniature Landscape Convention she went to, north of Tampa. Since Mike Rogers was one of the presenters I thought you would like to see some of the work done that weekend.





Mike hollowed a channel in the lava to place the trunk and larger branches to be hidden.



He then pulled the smaller branches around and treated them like small trees on the mountain.



And the finished project. The trunk and larger branches were covered with muck.



The attendees got a chance to work with the presenters in workshops.



Thank you Kathi for the great pictures.

Demo Tree for Mike Feduccia

