

# **BUTTONWOOD BONSAI CLUB NEWSLETTER**

[www.buttonwoodbonsai.org](http://www.buttonwoodbonsai.org)

**March 2016**

## **Club meeting location:**

Whispering Pines City Park  
Inverness, FL

## **Minutes** from our February 27 meeting:

Meeting began 9:30 AM 11 members in attendance

Mary Madison will be our speaker at the April 23 meeting. Mary is very well known for her buttonwood bonsai. It was decided that we will ask her to bring a small selection of buttonwood trees that day for members to purchase. We can have our space for 2 more hours(if needed) for the speaker. Members may want to plan for a longer meeting.

The Club reviewed the 2016 Club activities. The 2016 activities can be seen on the Club's website. We are looking for a place to have our Nov-Dec holiday party/meeting. We can have it at a member's home or look into securing a date other than the 4th Saturday in December at Whispering Pines. If you have any ideas, bring your idea to the next Club meeting.

Many members are interested in collecting trees from a large property or park. Virginia knows of a place and will inquire as to whether we would be permitted to collect trees there for a day. Members should let us know if they know of someone that would let us do this.

A sign-up sheet was passed around for hosting refreshments for the rest of the year. The refreshment schedule is located on the Club's website <[www.buttonwoodbonsai.org](http://www.buttonwoodbonsai.org)>

June 25th meeting will be a trip to Cliff Pottberg's nursery. Cliff is going out of business due to his health. I was there a year ago and he had a very large amount of trees. It's going to be a great opportunity to get trees. Directions will come at a later meeting.

The March meeting will be **MAKING OUR OWN SOIL** and **REPOTTING**. Members will be able to purchase the soil. We will be making the soil outdoors. Spring time is fast approaching and this is a topic that should be of interest to all who have bonsai. Members, bring in your trees for repotting.

Our President reported that the website person is a little behind setting up our site due to a car accident. She will be working on updating the site over the next few weeks.

The URL for our website has been transferred to Treasurer, Rosemary, for purpose of making payments. Buttonwood Bonsai Club now owns the website name.

Rosemary volunteered to bring a coffee pot to the meetings. Whispering Pines has an extra room where we may be able to have a cabinet after they clean it out.

They charge the club \$5.00 per meeting. Rosemary announced that we are paid up at Whispering Pines for all of 2016.

Treasury report: \$1,609.77

If we don't get a cabinet, we need a person to keep our T-shirts at their home and bring them to the meetings. The same goes for library books.

We had a new member sign up today. Welcome, Keith Dunn.

The demo by Bob began at 10:15. It was a large slab of forest including Japanese cedar and boxwood. There were 3 distinct forests on the slab. Bob has a latex mold to lend to anyone that wishes to make the same slab. Look for the pictures on the website or Facebook.

Meeting adjourned 11:35 Submitted by Wendy McCarthy

## **PH OF YOUR SOIL**

### **From D&L Nursery's February Newsletter.**

One thing you don't read a lot about in bonsai books is pH of the soil. This is very important, especially when you are growing trees in such a limited amount of soil, with very little or no organic material. When I have a tree showing signs of a deficiency the first thing I do is check the pH of the soil. Sometimes adjusting the pH will correct the problem in a short time. If your soil is either too acidic (low pH) or too basic (high pH) the trees ability to absorb nutrients will be diminished. A pH of 6.5 is optimum for most trees. Your Azaleas, Pines and some other trees prefer a more acidic soil.

Most pH imbalances comes from either your water or by using too much chemical fertilizers. Check the pH of the water you use. You can increase the pH by using ground limestone or dolomite. Do not use hydrated lime because it will burn the roots. To lower the pH use superfine dusting or wettable sulfur. Be very careful using these products, do so very sparingly and only as a last resort. Most times simply re-potting the tree will do the trick. Using rain water and more organic fertilizers might help. Adding or decreasing the amount of organic material in your soil will help also. So there you go, yet another tool you need to get, a pH meter.

## **RAFFLE TABLE**

One of the special activities the Club does and a way for the Club to make a few extra dollars is the raffle table. Please bring in bonsai related items (plants, pots, material, books, tools, etc.) as a donation. If you are donating a plant, please identify the plant that you are donating. During the meeting we will be raffling off the donated items. Previous donations have been greatly appreciated and you are asked to continue to donate worthy items. Please remember that the club benefits 100% for each donation provided.

## **SHOW AND TELL TABLE**

Show and tell gives Club members and opportunity to showcase bonsai they are working on. It's also a great opportunity to get advice. Please bring in some finished bonsai or something that you are working on so that it can be shared with everyone. Some that are in different

states of being a finished bonsai can be a good work tool for everyone.

## **ADDITIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER**

If you have any information or articles that could be of interest to our members, please contact Jim Meister so that he can place them in the newsletter for everyone to read.

### **Officers for 2015**

President	Jim Meister (352) 586-0582 <a href="mailto:jms_meister@yahoo.com">jms_meister@yahoo.com</a>
Vice-President	Bob Eskeitz (352) 587-4215 <a href="mailto:bonsaibobs@hotmail.com">bonsaibobs@hotmail.com</a>
Recording Sec.	Wendy McCarthy (352) 228-4367 <a href="mailto:wmccarthy12@tampabay.rr.com">wmccarthy12@tampabay.rr.com</a>
Treasurer:	Rosemary Anderson (352) 447-2112 <a href="mailto:arods@bellsouth.net">arods@bellsouth.net</a>
Newsletter:	Jim Meister (352) 586-0582 <a href="mailto:jms_meister@yahoo.com">jms_meister@yahoo.com</a>

### **Classifieds**

One free ad pertaining to plants, books bonsai, etc. will be allowed to each active club member per issue. Contact Jim Meister (352) 586-0582.

- 1) Bonsai tools for sale; Shears, concave cutters, wire cutters, knob cutters and others. Contact Bob Eskeitz for information and prices. (352) 587-4215 or [bonsaibobs@hotmail.com](mailto:bonsaibobs@hotmail.com).