

# **BUTTONWOOD BONSAI CLUB**

## **NEWSLETTER**

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/346343302221765/>

**September 2016**

**Club meeting location is Whispering Pines Park, Inverness, FL.**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month starting at 9:30 a.m.

**BIG NOTICE!!!** The November 26<sup>th</sup> Club meeting presenter will be Clay Gratz who will talk about his hobby of mixing models (cars and trucks) with bonsai.

Welcome to our newest member, Ken Bruckner.

I'd like to have a meeting in December, maybe some type of Christmas holiday meeting. We do have the building rented for December 26. Let me know.

Facebook: I post pictures and Newsletters to the Facebook site. If you are not on Facebook, that is you don't have a Facebook account, you will not be able to see it. Solution, set up an account on Facebook. It's very easy. You don't need to use the account but by logging into Facebook, you can then access the Buttonwood Bonsai Facebook page. On your first time accessing Buttonwood Bonsai Facebook you will have to request permission from Clay. I'm sure he will grant you access. From then on you will be able to see pictures, newsletter plus all the other posts on that site.

A big THANK YOU to Evelyn for the Bougainvillea. Bob auctioned it off and we made \$30.00 for the Club.

Clay brought in two Crape Myrtle. One was his from 1995 with a really interesting twisty-turny trunk. The other was a cutting which we could see how much it progressed since 2007.

We had an excellent variety of trees, soil, magazines, and some pots for the raffle. Keep bringing your Bonsai related items for our meeting raffle table. This is a very good way for the Club to raise money and for Club members to get additional items at a very low cost (if your are lucky).

At each of regularly scheduled Club meetings refreshments are provided by a Club member(s). Following is the remainder of 2016 refreshment schedule.

***September – Rosemary & Andy Anderson***

***October – Wendy McCarthy***

***November – need a volunteer***

David VanBuskirk of D&L Nursery was our guest speaker gave a fantastic program. He brought some his trees for discussion. Members brought in some trees and we had trees from the raffle to open up plenty of discussion. David emphasized the trunk line of bonsai trees, where to cut, and where and how to expect a tree to grow. We got some very detailed and excellent information.

September's Club meeting will be a workshop presented by Bob Eskeitz. The cost will be \$12.00. The Club will provide soil, wire, and trees. Members are to bring their own tools. Even though you have worked on Bonsai for several years, this is an excellent opportunity practice those skills and maybe show the Club some of your skills. We always want to learn.

## October Care (from the Bonsai Club of Central Florida

(<http://centralfloridabonsaiclub.com/bonsai-care/october-care/>)

**WATERING** – With October's shorter days and possibly cooler temperatures, plants will not be needing as much water. As a result, keep a close eye on the plant's water requirements making sure they are not over watered in order to prevent root rot. Additionally, when plants need to be watered it is a good idea to water them early in the day so the leaves will be dry when going into the night hours, thus decreasing the chance of any leaf fungus.

**FEEDING**– The growth and activity of plants will begin to slow down this month because of shorter days and possibly cooler temperatures. Therefore, fertilizing requirements will need to change as well. Try to use a fertilizer with little or no nitrogen because a high nitrogen fertilizer encourages new tender growth. Fertilizers with higher levels of Phosphorus and Potassium will prepare the tree for the colder months ahead. Always read the application rate carefully and then cut the rate in half in order to avoid "burning" the roots of the plants with too much fertilizer.

**WIRING** – Even though it is fall with shorter days and possibly cooler temperatures, Florida has a longer growing season than other states. As a result, the cambium layer will continue to thicken but probably at a slower rate. Thus, continue to inspect the wire on all the trees in the collection to see when it's time to remove it. Leaving the wire on the plant for too long will disfigure the branches; therefore, remove the wire if the branch remains in the desired position or if the wire is cutting into the cambium.

**PESTS AND DISEASES**– Hopefully, the presence of harmful insects is beginning to decline. However, continue to keep a close eye on the plant collection and look for anything unusual such as curly, stunted new growth; blotchy or spotted, white or pale yellow areas on the leaves; white, cottony patches; spots of brown on the leaves; and insect excrement. Use environmentally friendly treatments such as the encouragement of beneficial insects, spraying the plants with a hard stream of water, hand picking larger harmful insects, and/or the use of soaps and oils. Always remember to test spray a small branch with any chemical in order to make sure there will be no phytotoxic reaction to the plant from the soap and oil spray. An example of a plant that will drop all of its leaves if sprayed with soaps and oils is Funkien Tea.

\***Phytotoxicity** is an adverse response in plants due to chemicals applied to the leaves or soil.

**TRIMMING**– Keep trimming your plants if they are still growing. When the branches get too long and lanky, they may shade out the lower or inner branches, thus leading to their decline. Always have a pair of scissors in your hand when inspecting your plants. After allowing the new growth to produce about four to six leaves cut it back to about two or three leaves. The result of continually trimming your tree will be twiggy branches, thus producing a more refined bonsai.

**PRUNING**– With cooler temperatures around the corner major pruning should be discontinued. The removal of large branches may encourage new, tender growth that will not be able to withstand freezing temperatures. In addition, plants probably have begun to slow down in growth or are no longer growing. Consequently, the cambium will not heal over the wound because of lack of growth, thus exposing the cut to insects and diseases for a longer time period.

**LIGHT** – Sunlight is not as intense as during the summer months. For that reason, gradually move the more sun sensitive plants such as maples, azalea plants and shohin (small bonsai) back into a full sun location. Additionally maintain rotating your trees on a weekly basis, thus preventing them from becoming one sided.

**TEMPERATURES** – With any luck, the temperatures will begin to cool off this month, but there should be no need to bring any tropical plants to a protected location.

**REPOTTING** – Just like with major pruning, repotting should be discontinued. This will allow the plants to become well established in order to better withstand the stress of cooler/cold temperatures. Collecting native or established landscape material is just around the corner. Therefore, keep eyes wide open for any potential plants that may be good bonsai material. Always ask permission from the owner before digging up a plant. About a month or two before actually digging it out of the ground, cut a circle around the plant by using a shovel to encourage more fibrous roots closer to the trunk. Wait until the end of January or February before actually digging it out of the ground in order to make sure the material is dormant.

## **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 2016**

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

Newsletter: Jim Meister  
(352) 586-0582  
[jms\\_meister@yahoo.com](mailto:jms_meister@yahoo.com)

### **Classifieds**

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

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).

**Green Gate Nursery** 6881 W. Mina Lane, Dunnellon, FL 34433 352-563-2202 or Cell 352-220-9713. [facebook.com/greengatenurseryfl](https://www.facebook.com/greengatenurseryfl). Great selection of plants and trees.