



Gainesville Bonsai Society

Newsletter – February 2008

President – Jerry Benefield

Treasurer – Lucy Skelley

Vice President – John King

Secretary – Brian Rybak

Next meeting: Saturday, February 16, 2008
Kanapaha Botanical Garden – 9:30 a.m.
Repotting trees (see President's message below)

President's Message:

Greetings! Spring is moving along fast, so get busy on repotting those deciduous trees before the buds open. (If only I would practice what I preach, I'd be in much better shape right now!). Speaking of repotting, at our next meeting (Saturday, February 16) we'll be repotting the giant Trident Maple for our Kanapaha exhibit. This is the tree that Ben Oki worked on in a demonstration last year. Lucy Skelley has generously kept and cared for this tree at her house since that time. This Saturday, we'll repot it in a large cypress growing box that Lucy has built. We'll also repot the large Yaupon Holly that is currently in the exhibit. So, don't miss out on the fun. It's a good chance to help out the club with the maintenance of "our" exhibit, and also a chance to learn a lot about repotting if you're new at it. If you have a tree (other than tropicals) that you need help repotting, bring it to the meeting (please bring your own soil, if possible).

Remember the Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival is next month. We'll be doing some planning for that at this Saturday's meeting. Please help out as much as you can. Also, we have the Ted Matson workshop in March and the Michael Hagedorn workshop in April. Two great chances to bring a tree to work on and get help and advice from extremely talented bonsai teachers! If you don't want to bring a tree to participate in the workshop, feel free to come and observe. You'll learn a great deal either way.

So, keep on bonsaiing, monitor the watering, watch out for freezes and repot, repot, repot! See you this Saturday!

Meeting notes from January's meeting – Brian Rybak

The January 2008 meeting was called to order by our new president, Jerry Benefield, at 9:45am. The treasurer's report presented an outstanding balance for the club of \$9952.62.

Announcements followed the treasurer's report and included a possible UF dig, the brain child of our past president Jay Beckenbach. He reported on various species to be dug including Oak, Trident, Beech and Cypress with an average trunk size of 1-3". It was proposed that the dig take place next month, but a final date has not been set as of yet.

Bettianne announced a soil making workshop to be held on Saturday the 10th and a sign-up sheet was distributed among the members.

Following announcements Jerry gave a presentation on soil making entitled "What is Bonsai Soil and How Do I Make It?" The presentation took about 20 minutes and covered various principles of soil selection, mixing ratios and particle size. The presentation ended with a discussion of locally available bonsai soil components, as well as what types of soil to use on trees grown in our area.

The final activity was Bring Your Own Tree (BYOT) in which members presented their trees to the club for advice and constructive criticism.

The February meeting will be focused on re-potting procedures, and re-potting the large club Trident.

Refreshment Calendar – Edna Hindson

Thanks to Sally Schmidt for bringing refreshments to the January meeting, and to Jerry and Bettianne for snacks at the soil making workshop. Refreshments will be provided by the following people for the next three month period:

February - Jay Beckenbach

March - Edna Hindson

April - Joann Gunnoe

See you at the meeting!