

NORTH FLORIDA BONSAI CLUB

October 2017

NFBC Officers

Josh Brown	President
Open	VicePresident
Bruce Washington	Treasurer
Ron Price	Secretary

October News

- We have soil! If you need soil contact Mike bettsmike@hotmail.com, and please return your empty buckets.
- 2016 / 2017 membership dues now due. Cost is \$36 for the year. This includes membership in BSF and the BSF electronic magazine.

Meeting Agenda

Tools: Sharpening and Maintenance

Lots to discuss as fall approaches. Although judging by the temperatures, you would never know it. Our night time temps are still in the mid 70s and during the day upper 90s. Seems more like summer. Something more subtle is sunlight. We have passed the equinox and the day light hours continue to decrease. The plants notice and act accordingly. Leaves are beginning to turn colors and growth slows.

For the rest of this narrative, I will plagiarize from **David of D & L Nursery** no point in reinventing the wheel.

MONTHLY CARE TIPS AHHH, OCTOBER... is here! Can you feel it? At the start of October we see average highs of upper eighties, by the end of the month low eighties, and usually by the second week of November we are in the seventies. October's average lows start at low sixties

to upper fifties tapering to fifties into November, which doesn't include the freak cold snap that can come anytime by the end of October. I have seen a night or two in the thirties in October. The cooler nights mean that the growth of your tropical trees will slow down. Your deciduous trees are preparing for dormancy. Now we can

enjoy their fall colors. If you have a tropical tree in need of repotting it is too late, unless you have a warm greenhouse or somewhere to keep it warm at night. Once the nights get into the fifties root growth stops. Now you should be looking at your deciduous and evergreen trees that will need to be repotted this winter. Be looking at your pots, might be a good time to start hinting to family members about that pot you might want for Christmas, for that special tree, oh, did I mention we just put a bunch of new pots on the shelves?

TOWARD THE END OF OCTOBER... we get to look forward to fall foliage. Here in Florida we don't get a lot of color, but there are areas in Central and Northern Florida that are still pretty spectacular in their own right. The Sumacs with their bright red foliage are the first and then the Maples, Elm, Sweetgum, Beech and Sassafras to name a few. We can expect some color on our deciduous bonsai trees also. Since fall is generally a dry season, I have found that keeping my Maples more on the dry side, starting at the end of the month, enhances their color. If you have wire on any deciduous trees check that they aren't getting too tight. Deciduous trees and especially Pines tend to swell going into dormancy. Leave your cold hardy trees outside; they need the period of dormancy.

TIME TO THINK... about winter protection for your tropical trees. The days are shorter so they will need to stay outside as much as possible to get the light they need to keep the leaves small and not to lose any small twigging. What tropical trees don't like are big differences in temperatures, which unfortunately we get quite often here. In one day we can have a 30 - 40 degree temperature variation when there is a cold night and then a warm day. Some tropical trees aren't accustomed to this and will react by yellowing and dropping of their leaves, so it is best to keep temperatures as moderate as possible, no colder than in the low 50's. If any of your tropical trees get shocked going into winter, do not try to water and fertilize them back to health. Keep them slightly damp, depending on how bad the leaf loss is. Trees without leaves cannot transpire water, which means their roots cannot breathe and they will rot. They may not respond until we start to go into spring.

WATERING... As the days are much shorter and the nights cooler our watering requirements are less. I will start going from watering every day to every other day and on into winter every third day, this is for general watering at the nursery. Daily check on your trees and individual hand watering is always best. Tropical trees will require a little more than your dormant trees. Watering in the winter it is just as important not to overwater as it is not to under water in the summer, although winters low humidity can dry a tree every bit as quick as the heat.

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FERTILIZING... All nitrogenous fertilizing of your deciduous trees should be stopped by now. Applying a little phosphorous fertilizer now will help p All nitrogenous fertilizing of your deciduous trees should be stopped by now. Applying a little phosphorous fertilizer now will help promote healthier roots, and they will flush out better in the spring. Bloodmeal is a good slow-release fertilizer that can be used. You should fertilize your tropical trees only to maintain health, not to promote new growth. (JJS Bone meal is also a good organic phosphorus fertilizer to help promote root growth. In addition a 0-0-10 fertilizer also promotes good root growth.)

From Josh Brown:

I was contacted by a homeowner familiar with bonsai who is looking to remove some boxwoods from his yard. He has seven plants that he would allow our club to collect from his yard free of charge. These are old boxwood specimens and you can see from the very white smooth bark that they have a lot of age and subtle character. According to the homeowner they have been in his yard for 20+ years and they have developed very slim graceful trunks. I have taken a look at these trees and believe they might be some sort of dwarf species given their age and the slim size; however, they is purely speculation. These would make interesting literati or bunjin specimens.

If anyone is interested in collecting these trees to add to your collection please let me know. The tentative plan is to collect the Boxwoods one weekend in November, after the weather cools off, to give them a better chance for survival.



WORKSHOP Dec 14 Place TBD**Rodney Clemons**

Rodney Clemons spent his formative years in the Florida panhandle, moving to Atlanta, GA when he was thirteen. He was captivated by bonsai in 1973 when he saw a Trident maple forest that struck chords in his heart and artistic nature. Bonsai has been his passion since that time. Rodney is a bonsai artist and instructor, specializing in Japanese gardens and natural water features. His work has developed his sensitive eye and skill with rock and plant placement which adds realism to his bonsai creations. He studied with E. Felton Jones and enjoyed workshops with many visiting artists like John Naka and Yugi Yoshimura. His style has been formed by studying nature, drawing heavily on childhood memories of coastal Florida. Rodney excels in capturing the tension in nature and

stranslating it into bonsai. He is best known for his unique “rock plantings” and his love of “Kingsville” boxwood. When teaching his remarks are delivered with a liberal dose of humor. He has been an invited speaker to numerous Bonsai societies meetings and conventions. A few of the highlights are: 1987 BSF Convention, Fort Walton Beach, FL; 1989-1997 Southeast Bonsai Conferences, Atlanta, GA; 1993 World Bonsai Convention, Orlando, FL; 1996 ABS Convention, Hershey, PA; 1997 International Bonsai Convention, England; 1998 International Bonsai Symposium, Rochester, NY; 2001 Mid Atlantic Convention, Newark NJ; 2002, 2005 and 2009 Brussel’s Rendezvous, Memphis, TN; Expo 2005, Ashville, NC; He has spoken at four BSF Conventions, the last one was Gainesville, FL in 2006. Rodney has been President of the Atlanta Bonsai Society three times since joining the organization in 1973. He was President of Phoenix Bonsai Federation in 1999. Phoenix hosted a convention with Masahiko Kimura as the exclusive speaker. Rodney continues traveling, teaching, judging shows and critiquing collections. He leads a study group at Smith Gilbert Gardens in Kennesaw GA, where he is the curator of their collection. He also is the curator of the collection at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers GA. At present he is applying his talents at his nursery, Allgood Bonsai, designing trees and teaching advanced workshops. Rodney enjoys the opportunity to share and express his love of nature and bonsai with people in the hops that he can influence them in a positive way.



Shady Side Bonsai

Sharpening Services

Put a fine edge on all your bonsai tools!

For a long time Shady Side Bonsai has offered sharpening and alignment services to our local customers. We have decided to expand that service to all our customers near and far.

A sharp clean edge on a bonsai tool is essential for you to do the correct job. Not only is it horticultural sound but it is a must for aesthetic reasons. A dull or misaligned tool can minimize all the hard work you put into your tree. This valuable service will extend the life of your tool and protect your investment as well.

The service is a simple and basic one. Shady Side will sharpen, align, buff and polish any bonsai related tool that you send us. Each tool is evaluated individually for what needs it may require. Such as filing, sharpening, honing, and alignment of tools. After the cutting edges are serviced all tools are buffed with jewelers rouge to rid the tool of rust and bring back its original luster. The final step is to oil each tool to protect it from the elements.

PRICING

1 through 5 tools \$9.50 (each)

Anyone tool after 5th \$6.50 (each)

Free return shipping via priority mail on any service request of 8 tools or more. Otherwise include \$9.00 dollars for return postage.

For service, package your tools and include a check or money order payable for the correct quantity of tools and postage if applicable to Shady Side Bonsai. (example: 4 tools x 9.50 = 38.00 + 9.00 return shipping for a total of \$47.00) Include a note with your return address, email, and phone number. Include all these items in your package which should be addressed to:

**Shady Side Bonsai
2435 Valley Road
Glen Rock, PA., 17327
Attn: Sharpening Dept.**

Turn around time averages approximately a week on this service. If you have any questions or are unsure if a tool is repairable please [contact us](#).

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