

NORTH FLORIDA BONSAI CLUB

January 2025

NFBC Bonsai Events

- January 13th NFBC Meeting @ 7pm
 - Celebrate Chinese New Year with a conversation on Penjing
 - Bring a Penjing inspired tree to share
- January 18th - Participation in the 2nd Annual Camellia Festival
 - Saturday 9am – 2pm
 - Ortega Methodist Church 4807 Rosevelt Blvd
- February 10th NFBC Meeting @ 7pm
 - Selecting Bonsai Material
- **Special Event** February 16th (Sunday)
 - Field Trip to Richard Turners Bonsai Nursery, Vero Beach
 - Carpool for a 10-2 plant buying event



Elm Forest Penjing on display in the Chinese section of the US National Arboretum in Washington DC.

Other Bonsai Events

- Multi-Club Auction & Picnic
 - January 25th in Cocoa FL
- Joy of Bonsai
 - February 7-9th in Deland FL
 - Guest artists Mark Arpag and Chris Cosenza
- Forest Bonsai Club (Ocala)
 - Feb 1st meeting with Chicago Botanical Garden Curator Chris Baker
 - Club Show April 26th
- BSF Annual Convention
 - May 23-25th in Orlando FL
 - Work on your creative submission for the exhibit that Rob talked to us about

REMINDER

新年快乐
HAPPY CHINESE
NEW YEAR
2025
YEAR OF THE SNAKE

**2025 MEMBERSHIPS
ARE DUE NOW**

January Meeting

Enjoy our first meeting of the new year on Monday January 13th. In honor of Chinese New year we will be conducting a focus on the Chinese tree artform of Penjing. For those who may be unfamiliar, Penjing is an ancient Chinese art form of creating landscape scenes on a miniature scale. It uses stones, wood, and plants to make the landscape. The two miniature tree art forms (Bonsai and Penjing) are similar except that Penjing is more likely to incorporate landscape elements. In Penjing you see a lot of Rocks, cliffs, water landscapes and even figurines.

The year 2025 Will be the Year of the Snake, which is said to be mysterious, intelligent and intuitive. After this meeting you can eliminate some of the mystery around Penjing so we can all be a little more intelligent and intuitive... see *what I did there with the year of the snake reference...corny and silly but now you are going to remember it.*



As we explore some aesthetic differences between Bonsai and Penjing, everyone is encouraged to bring in a tree that they feel most embodies the art of Penjing so we can reflect on the concepts we discuss.

2nd Annual Camellia Festival - Signup

We are looking for volunteers to represent NFBC at the 2nd Annual Camellia Festival. This will be a new event for NFBC. We heard good things about the first event and expect it to be a lot of fun. We will have signup sheets out at the meeting for those who are able to help.

Date: January 18th (Saturday)

Time: 9am-2pm

Setup volunteers (8:30-11am)

Closing volunteers (11-2:30pm)

Location: Ortega Methodist Church 4807 Rosevelt Blvd

NFBC Event Coordinator – TBD

Members are encouraged to bring material to display and sell

Help Desperately Needed

I am not going to sugar coat it; the NFBC needs new leadership. I am not speaking ill of any of my peers but rather, I speak on behalf of them. Every current Board Member has been involved for many years. During that time we have all had increasing personal responsibilities. With all that we have going on outside of bonsai we are running out of steam to help the club and need to step down. We need others to step up and carry on the torch.

The NFBC Board



Board members are in charge of the regular operations of the club. **You do not need to be an experienced bonsai practitioner to be on the board.** In fact, the NFBC appreciates the diverse, non-bonsai skillsets that its members bring to the board.

Current and past board members will make themselves available as mentors to new members taking on these roles. If you are interested in volunteering or want to learn more, please send an email to joshuareubenbrown1@yahoo.com. The club thanks you for your help!

10th Annual Multi-Club Picnic and Auction

The Auction is held at the F. Burton Smith Regional Park (7575 W. King Street Cocoa, FL) on **Saturday January 25th**. The event is held under a huge pavilion with a lot of picnic tables. Bathrooms are readily accessible and there is easy access to parking right by the pavilion.

There will be a potluck also so please bring a dish to share.

This is a great event and opportunity to meet members of other clubs. There are lots of bonsai related items at very reasonable prices. As with any auction, you never know what you will find.

Bonsai Nursery Field Trip

Now you can relive your favorite days of elementary school with a FIELD TRIP!!!! Ask for extra pocket money because on Sunday February 16th we will be

visiting a 3-acre bonsai nursery owned and operated by Richard Turner in Vero beach.



This is not an advertised nursery or one that is generally open to the public. Although Richard has a ton of bonsai trees for sale, this is still a side-project for him. He opens his nursery one Sunday a month for a workshop and we will be going down as a group to enjoy

the program and buy material.

There are all kinds of trees available to purchase but, being in central Florida, there is a heavy focus on tropicals. Mr Turner has a lot of trees and some trees haven't been getting a ton of care over the last few years, so they will need a little TLC to get back to full health. However, there are some fantastic trees to be had at very reasonable prices.

Logistics

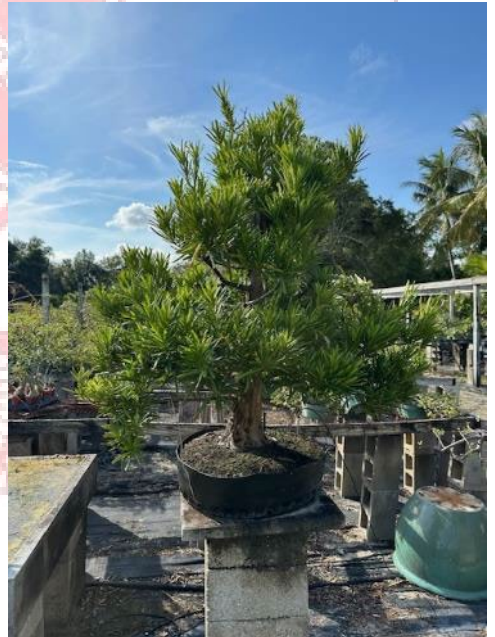
Richard Turner's nursery is located in Vero beach so we will meet at Buc-ees Saint Augustine (200 World Commerce Pkwy) to carpool down.

Richard's weekly workshop normally starts at 10am so we will leave Buc-ees at 7am since it's about a 3hr drive.

- Plan to meet at Buc-ees around 6:40 to sort out travel buddies and buy snacks/drinks.
- If you plan to drive separately text me and I can send the address

We can stay as long as we would like but the workshop normally lasts from 10-2 which would get us home around 5pm.

FYI – Richard is not a formal business so **BRING CASH**. He might accept checks but to my knowledge does not take any electronic payment methods or credit cards.



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19th Annual Joy of Bonsai 2025

Registration available now Joy of Bonsai at [Joy of Bonsai | Kawa Bonsai Society Joy of Bonsai](#)

The event is being held at Schley's Bonsai. If you have not been before this is a fantastic opportunity to combine a trip to a great bonsai nursery along with a wonderful event.

The event includes everything you would expect from a bonsai exhibition with demo's, workshops, vendors, and an exhibit of high-quality trees. The admission price has always been incredibly reasonable. See you there.

December Meeting

Our annual holiday celebration was fantastic. The tree decorating contest is always a crowd pleaser and we were fortunate to be able to have a big potluck again this year. There was a little something for everyone and it brought joy to our hearts and stomachs.

Apologies to the holiday tree decoration participants but we were negligent during the meeting and did not learn who owned our winning tree display while everyone was there. The voting was close but the Willowleaf ficus forest, dressed up for Florida winter, was our winner. Please reach out if you know who created this composition so they can collect a prize!

Secondly, and selfishly, can the owner of the Pickle-dip recipe please reach out to me. I don't even like pickles, but I need that recipe in my life!





2025 Membership

NFBC will submit our 2025 roster to BSF following the January meeting. Please see Bruce at the meeting if you have not already renewed your membership for the year.

A huge thank you to Bruce. He looked through our financials and recognized that our reserves are healthy. As a result, we will be lowering dues in 2025 to \$15. This represents the amount owed to BSF for your state membership and means your membership to NFBC is essentially free for 2025! Thank you Bruce.

The following members have paid their dues for 2025. If your name is not on the list but you have paid your dues, please contact me at JoshuaReubenBrown1@yahoo.com so we can get it corrected.

Bruce Washington

Joseph Stumpf

Mary Ohm

Chuck VanArsdale

Josh Brown

Matt Ray

John Grizzard

Michael Allan

Steve Davies

Sponsorship

NFBC is sponsored by Florida Bonsai Nursery & Supply and Sunway Landscape Services. We encourage you to visit these sponsors.



Alex told me he has new stock including both pre-bonsai and as well as larger trees and pots.

Seasonal Advice

January is normally our coldest month and a quiet month for bonsai. With cooler weather, water needs will diminish, and trees should be watched to prevent the roots from staying too wet.

Tropical Trees - We shouldn't be doing any work on tropical trees. Our primary goal this month is protecting trees as temperatures drop below 45 for our most sensitive species (i.e., buttonwood, black olive, etc.) or the low 40's for other tropical trees. A frozen tropical tree will sustain serious damage that is sometimes fatal.

Deciduous Trees - These species need a winter dormancy period to remain healthy. Once deciduous trees have gone fully dormant it is a good time to do structural pruning since you can see the full winter silhouette and identify potential areas for improvement.

Conifers and Broadleaf Evergreen Trees – These species need a winter dormancy period to remain healthy. It is also time to begin preparing for repotting. Make sure you have the pots, soil, tools, you need once the repotting window begins later in the month.

Bonsai Classifieds

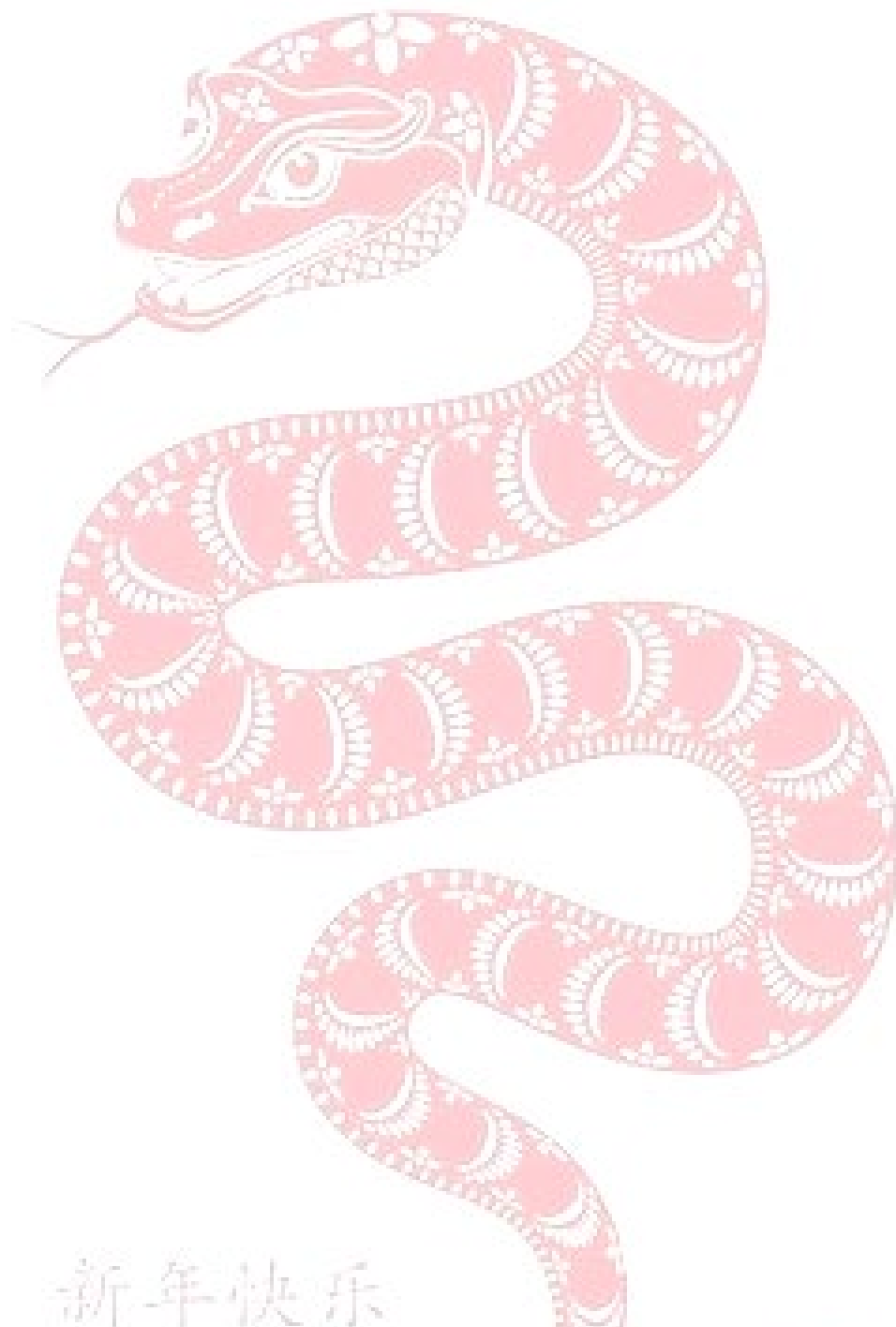
If you have something you are interested in buying/selling, please send contact information for inclusion in future newsletters.

NFBC Membership

- Membership is discounted to \$15 for the 2025 year
- Visitors are always welcome at meetings and events

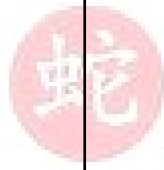
Soil

- The cost is \$25 for a five-gallon bucket. (**Currently out of stock**)



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NFBC Officers

Tristan Kincaid	President
Bruce Washington	Treasurer
Jami Kincaid	Secretary
Noel Reforma	Website
Josh Brown	Newsletter
Joe Stumpf	BSF Board Member