

# NORTH FLORIDA BONSAI CLUB

## February 2025

### NFBC Bonsai Events

- February 10th NFBC Meeting @ 7pm
  - We are holding our Club styling competition
  - We will be having conversations about Selecting Bonsai Material to prepare everyone for our fieldtrip
- **Special Event** February 16<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)
  - Field Trip to Richard Turners Bonsai Nursery, Vero Beach
  - Carpool for an all day plant buying event
- Exciting 2025 schedule items to be released soon.
  - The incoming Executive Board has already been hard at work contacting guest artists and scheduling events!



Winter weather can have you down sometimes. It is important to add seasonal interest to your garden. Nothing puts on a winter show quite like a Camellia. This large Camellia is located at D&L nursery and stands about 5ft tall.

“The process of looking for pre-bonsai can differ from person to person depending on one’s interest in growing bonsai. You can select trees that give you an opportunity to work on skills you want to improve or buy a tree with great potential that requires a significant amount time to develop. In either case, the goal is typically the same: to find the best trunk possible (the tree with the greatest potential) that’s within your budget.”

Jonas Dupuich of Bonsai Tonight

### Other Bonsai Events

- Joy of Bonsai
  - February 7-9<sup>th</sup> in Deland FL
  - Guest artists Mark Arpag and Chris Cosenza
- Forest Bonsai Club (Ocala)
  - Club Show April 26<sup>th</sup>
- BSF Annual Convention
  - May 23-25<sup>th</sup> in Orlando FL
  - Work on your creative submission for the exhibit that Rob talked to us about. Submissions are due by March

## February Meeting

We will be pulling double duty at our February meeting on Monday the 10th.

### Part 1) Styling Competition

The North Florida Bonsai Club will host our styling competition during the February Meeting. Alex is obtaining material and if you are interested in participating please signup via this link <https://northfloridabonsai.com/club-styling-sign-up-form/> so Alex can get a headcount and guarantee your spot.

We will be using some 3-gallon junipers for the competition. Contestants will have up two hours to style their material. NFBC will provide the trees and wire. Participants need to provide their own tools and other supplies. Judging will be done by the club president (or designee), the district trustee, and a people's choice vote.

Whoever wins our contest will represent District 3 and participate in the finals at the 2025 BSF Convention. Winners will act as "apprentices" to the various instructors and artists during the Convention, assisting with wiring, defoliation, etc. during workshops or demonstrations. The first-place winner at the convention receives \$1,000 towards the study of bonsai or related arts.

Even if you are not participating, come to encourage your peers, see the marvelous transformations and cast your vote for people's choice.

### Part 2) Demonstration/ Discussion on Material Selection

Alex will also be leading us on a discussing on how to select bonsai material. The goal will be to maximize your knowledge and allow you to be selective when we go on our field trip.

If you have never been to a dedicated bonsai nursery it can be overwhelming and, like a kid in a candy store, you want everything. It is extremely easy to get caught up in the moment. The goal of this presentation is to help everyone come home with awesome trees on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Speaking of which...

## 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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

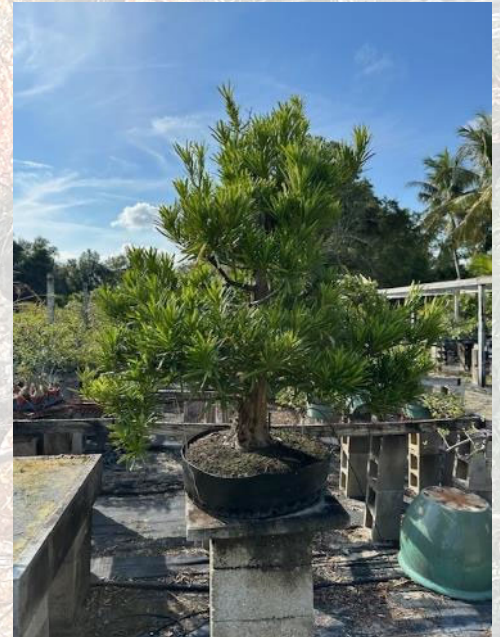
Richard Turner's nursery is located in Vero beach so we will meet at Buc-ees Saint Augustine (200 World Commerce Pkwy) to carpool down.

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

- We will have a signup sheet to try to plan for drivers and passengers at the February meeting.
- 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.



## Elections – NFBC Executive Board

A big thank you to those who have volunteered to step-up as members of the club executive board for the next two years. In accordance with club by-laws, the election of the NFBC executive board shall be presented by the below written ballot.

President	Alex Stanford
Vice President	Kelly Harrison
Treasurer	Tina Mattucci
Secretary/Newsletter	(open)
Webmaster	Noel Reforma
District Trustee	Joe Stumpf

These leaders will be elected by simple majority. These candidates currently run unopposed and will be assumed to be supported by membership votes barring anyone else volunteering for a position either by emailing me at [joshuareubenbrown1@yahoo.com](mailto:joshuareubenbrown1@yahoo.com) or by expressing an interest in person at the February meeting.

Thank you again to these representatives for your future service to our club. The energy and enthusiasm of these new leaders should lead to exciting new idea and opportunities for NFBC.

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<sup>19<sup>th</sup></sup> 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 is incredibly reasonable and well worth it. See you there.

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## Sponsorship

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



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



Call or text 904-274-YARD and mention your membership in the bonsai club to receive a 15% discount on landscape design and enhancement projects from Sunway Landscape Services

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## Seasonal Advice

Winter is still upon us in early February even though it does not always feel like it. There have been some cold periods mixed in with some mild Florida temps. Trees may get confused and start to wake up early. Keep an eye on your trees to prevent new growth being damaged during cold nights.

**Tropical Trees** – Just keep waiting...We should not be doing any work on tropical trees. Our primary goal is protecting trees as temperatures drop. A frozen tropical tree will sustain severe damage. Just ask my buttonwood which looks like absolute garbage even in a heated greenhouse!

**Deciduous Trees** – These may start showing signs of “waking up” from winter. You will soon see buds beginning to swell and open for spring. That is your sign that the trees balance of energy has moved out of the roots and back into the core of the tree. Once this happens it is a great time to repot most deciduous trees.

**Conifers and Broadleaf Evergreen Trees** – These trees can now be safely repotted, trimmed and wired. If you do any real aggressive bending it is a good idea to protect the trees if temperatures drop below freezing. However,

protection should not be necessary after a normal repotting and routine trimming.

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## 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. The domestic pumice supplier is having a permitting issue that as limited production. We are trying to navigate through this.)

### Trees & Supplies

- Alex Stanford runs Florida Bonsai Nursery and Supply in Jacksonville. The nursery has a wide variety of trees, soil, pots and more. Ongoing specials for NFBC members.



For up-to-date hours and contact information See [Florida Bonsai Nursery & Supply](#)

- Josh Brown also has bonsai and pre-bonsai available. Please contact him at [joshuareubenbrown1@yahoo.com](mailto:joshuareubenbrown1@yahoo.com) for information.

## Meeting History

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>January</b>		Pesticides, fungicides and fert	Juniper	Styling Competition	Guest artist Jeanne Cosenza	Guest artist Andrew Giles	Penjing
<b>February</b>		Repotting	Root over Rock	Wiring	BYOT	Styling Competition	Material Selection & Styling Competition
<b>March</b>	Convention Prep	Guest artist Adam Lavigne	Azalea	Guest artist David Cutchin	Azalea	BYOT	
<b>April</b>	Guest artist Adam Lavigne	Azalea	General care basics	Convention Prep	Tree Documentation	General Discussion	
<b>May</b>	Ficus Propagation	Ficus Styling	Air Layering	Ficus & NFBC Club trees	Mame size	Raintree	
<b>June</b>	Red Maple	Buttonwood	Ficus & NFBC Club trees	Black Pine	Ficus & NFBC Club trees	Guest artist Abner Cruz	
<b>July</b>	Beginner Workshop	Beginner Workshop	Black Pine	Summer Maintenance	BYOT	Guest artist Adam Lavigne	
<b>August</b>	Wiring	Beginner Workshop	Guest artist David Cutchin	Air Layering	Beginner Workshop	Guest artist Robert Kempinski	NFBC Styling Challenge Ends
<b>September</b>	Find the Front	Guest artist Reggie Perdue	Beginner Workshop	Guest artist Robert Kempinski	Beginner Workshop	BYOT Topicals	
<b>October</b>	Dia de Los Muertos	Help trees recover	Bring your favorite tree	Beginner Workshop	NFBC Club tree & BYOT	BYOT Wiring	
<b>November</b>	Styling Competition	Winter Prep	Pot Selection	Styling Competition	Juniper Trim & Thin	NFBC Styling Challenge Starts	
<b>December</b>	Holiday Party	Holiday Party	Holiday Party	Holiday Party	Holiday Party	Holiday Party	Holiday Party

### NFBC Outgoing Officers

Tristan Kincaid	President
Bruce Washington	Treasurer
Jami Kincaid	Secretary
Noel Reforma	Website
Josh Brown	Newsletter
Joe Stumpf	District Trustee