



March 2006 Newsletter

www.trianglebonsai.com

March Meeting

Arthur Joura will be returning to TBS on Sunday, March 5. For the first time, he will be conducting a workshop—a “bring your own tree” session--allowing members to have some one-on-one time with the bonsai curator at the NC arboretum! Due to scheduling conflicts, the workshop will be on Sunday morning from 9:30 until noon, instead of the usual Saturday time; cost is \$25. If you haven’t already registered, additional forms are available through a link on the web site home page under “meetings/workshops for 2006.” Let Helen Davis know ASAP. Beginning at 1:30, Arthur will do a Japanese maple forest demonstration, which should be both entertaining and instructive.

February Meeting

Ed Lauer opened our meeting reminding us about the President’s Awards, and asked that we bring in prospective trees to our upcoming meetings for encouragement and ideas. Remember, the beginner award is partly based on improvement over the year, so we need to see the initial stages, too. Ed then presented the group with a draft of a mission statement for TBS: “The mission of the Triangle Bonsai Society is to enhance the skills and knowledge of the art of bonsai among our members and to promote the appreciation of bonsai by the general public.” Hopefully all members will think about our mission, and help craft the final words at the next meeting. Ed also discussed TBS participation in a spring gala event at Homewood Nursery in north Raleigh March 25 from 10am to 3pm. Preliminarily, Steve Zeisel has volunteered to do a demonstration; Hope Sylvain and Milos Novak have offered to assist, but Ed is still looking for more volunteers—if you’re interested, let him know.

Colin Lewis then entertained us with a discussion of developing collected bonsai, followed by the initial styling of a shohin-sized yew, which he had collected several years ago. Colin Lewis not only has almost 52 years for bonsai experience – he is also a great bonsai teacher and author of several published bonsai books. First, Colin laid

out a time-line for tree collection and development. The initial years (3-5) involve finding the proper material, and then preparing the tree for harvesting. He will often cut back the trunk one year before the actual dig (typically done from December through February), allowing back budding and new leaf growth to power up the roots over the next growing season. At the time of digging he makes sure to get rid of almost all of the native soil and debris, although mentioned that it is not necessary to be overly compulsive, in order to leave some beneficial organisms around the roots. Then he allows the tree to become established in a training pot—which may take only one year for maples or elms, but at least two years for slower, less vigorous trees, such as rocky mountain junipers or hawthorns. Once the new roots are establish, only then does he start to “improve” the material with identification of basic branch structure and some initial design, but always leaving some extra options (i.e. branches, etc.) when possible.

Which brings us to the demonstration yew..... In his words, he came to anti-demonstrate--not to dramatically change a raw plant in several hours to a semi-looking bonsai—which, he emphasized, is not how an artist works on his/her plants. Colin just let the tree tell him what direction it had already gone, and worked diligently under “time-pressure”. He first cleaned the bark, and felt the trunk for the live veins (which indicate viable channels up the tree). He then began meticulously stripping the dead-wood and branches, allowing the bark and cambium to tear naturally, separating from the live tissue. If Colin is worried that a tear may extend too far into a live branch, only then will he use a knife to cut the bark and limit the stripping. For the most part, he is opposed to using power tools, since they invariably leave an artificial look, do not strictly follow the grain of the wood, and often will cut into the live veins. That being said, he did use a dremel, with an array of bits, to some add depth and perspective. The tree will be staying in the Triangle, and Colin will be continuing to work on it when he returns as part of his Ho Yoku study group; we can all monitor its progress at future meetings!

For those of you who haven't visited yet, Colin's web site is <http://www.bonsaiforum.com> where he has quite a few interesting articles in the reading section.

Points of Interest

- It's a new year, and time to re-new your TBS membership. You can find applications on the web page, so please get your money to Helen, either by mail, or at the upcoming meeting. Single \$35, Family \$50, Senior \$25, and Senior couple \$40.

- **Be sure to check out the “Links” on the web page. If any of you have other favorites that should be included, just let Keith Smith, our webmaster, know.**
- **Also, please forward any photos of your trees to Keith for publication on the web site. Be sure to include any details about the individual bonsai, such as species, years in training, etc.**
- **If you need soil or tools from Keith, please give him advance warning to make sure he can get the order filled, and has enough time to get the supplies to the Triangle, in case he isn’t personally attending any given meeting.**

New Members—Welcome!

Keller, David Edward

Cormican, Dan

Upcoming TBS Events

Mar 5	Arthur Joura BYOT workshop	9:30-12:00
	Arthur Joura Demo	1:30-5:00
Apr 1	Ted Matson workshop	9:00-12:00
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Apr 2	Ted Matson demo	1:30-5:00
Jun 3	Jim Vanlandingham workshop	9:00-12:00
	Jim Vanlandingham workshop	1:00-5:00
Jun 4	Jim Vanlandingham demo	1:30-5:00

Other Bonsai Events

TBA	Workshops and Classes, Bonsai Learning Center, Randy Clark (Charlotte NC); information has just become available on Randy’s site for events throughout the year! Beginner through advanced; BYOT to specimen-available workshops.
Mar 25	Pine maintenance workshop, Growing Grounds, Marc Torppa (Cherryville, NC)
Mar 25	Matsu Momiji bonsai Madness, Steve Pilacik (Fuquay Varina, NC)
Apr 21-23	MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies (East Hanover, NJ)
Apr 22	Dana Quattlebaum workshops at Plant City Bonsai (Clermont GA)
May 26-29	Bonsai Societies of Florida--BSF 2006 (Gainesville, FL)
May 26-28	Brussel’s Bonsai Rendezvous (Olive Branch, MS)
Jun 15-18	Amerian Bonsai Society (Saratoga Springs, NY)
Jun 22-25	MidAmerica Bonsai Alliance—MABA (Milwaukee, WI)
Nov 2-5	GSBF convention XXIX (Sacramento, CA)

Jim Easterbrook