



November 2006 Newsletter

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From the President

WOW - October was a busy month!

1. First class Demo with Warren Hill

We had the pleasure to welcome Warren Hill as our guest artist to TBS in October. Warren was the curator of the National Bonsai Arboretum in Washington, DC and has many years experience with bonsai. He demonstrated his unique skills on a wonderful old San Jose Juniper, which is probably one of the finest trees we ever had as a demo tree in our club. (I can't wait to see what the tree will bring when we auction it!).

2. 2007 TBS program complete

Our Vice President Harold Johnson has been working feverishly on the 2007 program. He has contacted many of his bonsai friends across North America to give TBS the most interesting and educational program for every talent level in the Southeast. To give you all such a program I want to thank you for your financial support—not only with your annual dues, but also with donations to the club for our yearly picnic and Christmas party. Otherwise, all these programs would not be possible.

3. State Fair

"We are back!" And not only is TBS happy about this, but also every person I talked to at the fair. A big thank you for the great help in organizing the event, showing your bonsai, setting up, and the daily care for the trees.

4. NC Arboretum

This was supposed to be the THE year we were hoping to win with our display. I personally felt that we had the best display in Asheville, but the judges felt otherwise. This is OK since we can learn from it. However, everybody did agree that it was the best display we ever had, and next year we will just try to make it better. For the first time in the 11 years of the event, a TBS member has won the "The People's Choice Award" -- it was given to Tom Waldo for his magnificent ficus. In addition, Harold Johnson's juniper received honorable mention. And the winner of the 2006 President Award (chosen in Asheville by Bill Valvanis) is..... Well, you have to come to the November meeting to find out.

5. 2007 Demo Trees

I hope that you were impressed with the quality of the San Jose Juniper at the Warren Hill demo. I am pleased to announce that we have purchased 3 more high quality trees for use in 2007, so I hope to see all TBS members for the wonderful programs we will offer next year. Thank you for all your support.

Ed Lauer

TBS Back at the State Fair

After a hiatus of several years, TBS once again had an exhibit at this year's NC State Fair. With Fair attendance approaching a half million visitors, this exhibit is seen as one of the major ways of advancing our public education mission.

The exhibit was housed in the Garden Club building in a prominent site near the main entrance. The public's response to the exhibit was terrific. I estimate that at least 10 thousand people walked through or past the TBS booth. The exhibit consisted of eight trees and several accent plants on loan from the collections of David Keller, Ed Lauer, and Don Kimball. In addition, as part of the Garden Club's program of lectures and demonstrations, Steve Zeisel and Jim Easterbrook did hour-long demonstrations with a maple and a juniper, respectively. For those who couldn't attend the Fair, photos of the exhibit will be posted to the TBS website in the near future.

My thanks to those who volunteered to set up or take down the exhibit, water, or otherwise man the booth during the Fair's 10-day run. They included: TBS President Ed Lauer, Sonny Poche, David Keller, Merritt Barnett, Hope Sylvain, Martin Evans, Shari Lakin, RB Goforth, Dan Cormican, Milos Novak, David Fowlkes, and Jeanne Hiesel. A special thanks to Jim Easterbrook and Steve Zeisel for doing the two demonstrations.

Brain McCrodden

November 5th Meeting

New Talent Contestants

The time is finally here! Ed has been telling us about this since February, and has been encouraging all members with five or less years experience to have been preparing and grooming their trees for this contest. You'll be vying for the prize of a Tokonome pot. So please get those trees ready, and bring them to our November meeting. Arrive a little early in order to receive instruction as to where to place your tree for display. If possible, also bring a picture of the original material, so we can all see what you have been able to accomplish over the past year. Obviously the tree is most important, but there will also be consideration as to how you display it: for example, clean soil, accent plant, background, stand, and the pot in relation to tree. A panel of judges will determine the winner of the New Talent Award.

Selection of 2007 officers

First, thank you to Pete Wilson for his two years as board member and to Charlotte Carroll for her two years as secretary. To fill their vacancies, there will be an election at the November meeting. The nominating committee has proposed Tom Waldo as the new board member and Merritt Barnett as the new secretary. Both Tom and Merritt have agreed to serve. Nominations will also be taken from the floor if others are interested in serving on the board.

BYOT

The main part of the November meeting will be a bring-your-own-tree format. This is a wonderful chance to share ideas, get help with problem bonsai, and discuss styling issues. This is definitely a great way to get your trees to the next level, no matter how

much experience you have. So please make sure you bring in plenty of trees to keep yourself busy, whether you work on them now, or just get advice for next spring.

Preview of the December Party

Dust off those bonsai pots that you haven't used and probably won't use. Bring them to the Holiday Party: you'll help the club, make another member happy, and clear some shelf space so you can bid on that container you really want. If you have some bonsai or pre-bonsai material that you no longer covet, donate it to the TBS auction. Do you have duplicate copies of bonsai journals or books on bonsai? Bring those to the Holiday Party. The more we all bring to the auction, the more fun we'll all have and the more we'll help the club to bring in outstanding bonsai artists and provide excellent demo material.

You'll also need to bring your checkbook or cash and be ready to bid on items offered in the best bonsai auction in the Triangle. The shohin-size juniper styled by Ted Matson earlier this year will be available; it is well on its way to becoming an outstanding bonsai – and one that anyone can carry. And finally, get out your cookbook and start planning the dish you'll bring Sunday, December 3rd.

Harold Johnson

Points of Interest

- Ed Lauer sends a reminder that there is a 10% discount on any purchase at the Painted Lady in Wilmington by mentioning his name.
- Our own Keith Smith is retiring from the bonsai business, in order to have more time with his family and his real job. For any of you, or anyone you know, that might be interested in the production and distribution of bonsai soil for many of the major bonsai outlets up and down the east coast (and including Puerto Rico, I understand), contact Keith at youkoubonsai@youkoubonsai.com. The business includes an automated mechanical sifter, mechanical mixer, chipper, raw materials, and customer list.
- The 2007 ABS meeting will be held in Virginia Beach June 21-24, 2007. Start making plans now for what will be a fantastic event in our own backyard. Visit the ABS website, or click on <http://freeplone2.openia.com/abs/abs-seminars>

Member Update!

New Members:

Wells, Barbara

Lindholm, Betty

Hesner, Charles

Kimmel, Wendy

Patti and Martin Kopecky

And welcome back to:

Ginsberg, Martin

Email changes: none

Upcoming TBS Events

Dec 3 Holiday Party and Auction, 1:30pm

Jim Easterbrook