



October 2007 Newsletter

www.trianglebonsai.com

From the President

Yes it would be nice if we all lived right next to the European Alps where we could collect the most wonderful mugho pine yamadori (natural stunted old tree from the wild) or in the southern part of Europe like Italy, Spain or Portugal where we would find hundreds of year old olive trees, wild rosemary, junipers etc. Those were the majority of the bonsai we saw at the Gingko bonsai exhibition in Gent, Belgium last year. Actually an old Olive tree won the most prestigious bonsai award in Europe--the Gingko award. It's too bad that this was most likely the last Gingko bonsai event for the near future; the trees on display, as well as those in Danny Use's (owner of Gingko Bonsai nursery) private collection, are some of the best in the world and only challenged by the major exhibits in Japan.

While I was living in Belgium, I would travel 600 miles to the Alps 3-to-4 times a year, and about 1,000 miles to southern Europe about once a year. Yes, it is even further to the Rockies, but let's look a little closer to home. We do have swamps around us with wonderful cypress trees. Believe it or not, a lot of Europeans have contacted me to find out how to get their hands on "our" trees. In fact, some bald cypresses were actually shown at the Gingko exhibition. Also we have access to the Blue Ridge and Appalachian mountains with at least one peak over 6,000 feet, and in our own back yards we have American hornbeam, Virginia pine, wild hawthorn, mulberry, and red cedar etc.

So I challenge our club to take advantage of these resources, since nature can create the most wonderful designs. We just have to look for it. Not everybody can climb to 6,000 feet and carry a 150 pound load, but we could create a team composed of:

- Researchers (find a good area)
- Politicians (get the permission for harvesting)
- Bodybuilders (who do the digging)
- Master gardeners (who make sure the trees survive)
- Designers (who help in the creation of the Bonsai later on)

So those of you that like a little challenge, are good on teams, and interested, please talk to me and we see what we can organize during the winter months.

On a completely other subject I hope that our beginners (with 5 year or less bonsai experience) are busy studying the books on design as well as practicing wiring etc, since we will have our new talent competition on October 6th starting at 9am sharp. So make sure we see you on time and I wish everybody good luck.

We are finally done with our Asheville display. No matter how well we do at the event, I must say that I'm proud of what we have accomplished and thankful for the many members and nonmembers that helped create it. The only challenge that remains is how to get all the "stuff" to Asheville, but I'm sure we will find a way. So again, many thanks to everybody, and I hope that I see a lot of our club members in Asheville to support the Triangle Bonsai Society.

Ed Lauer

October 6-7 Meeting(s)

Saturday, October 6th is the day for TBS members with five or less years of bonsai experience to display their abilities in the TBS new talent competition. Ten of our members have committed to participate. There will be four hours of intense study of material and carrying out the intended design with pruning and wiring.

The following day, all other members will be involved during the Sunday meeting when you will cast your ballot for the tree you think shows the most talent and skill in the final bonsai. Show your support of one of the TBS programs designed to develop members' bonsai skills.

Sunday, October 7th is also an opportunity for you to receive help with your trees, with a "Bring-Your-Own-Tree" format. You might want advice on design, pest or disease control, maybe ideas on choice of container for spring repotting. Start searching this winter for the perfect pot for your prized tree.

TBS School

The 2008 TBS School has already received registrations for the Advanced and Intermediate Classes. Better not wait until the last minute to register as there is a limit of 7 in the Advanced Class and 10 in the Intermediate Class.

Still not sure if the class is a good value for your tuition dollar? Investigate other multi-session classes from a world-class instructor. Look at the tuition, driving time and cost, and then add motel/hotel expenses. TBS is providing a service by bringing the school to the club.

Nominating Committee Report for 2008 Election of Officers

The nominating committee has discussed the duties and responsibilities for each office and has received confirmation that the nominated individuals will serve. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the November meeting if anyone else is interested.

Two returning directors:

Brian McCrodden (2006-2008)

Tom Waldo (2007-2009)

Two new directors nominated to fill the expiring terms of Jim Stivers and Jim Easterbrook:

Sonny Poché (2008-2010)

Ken Hallett (2008- 2010)

The following positions are 1 year terms:

Webmaster – Keith Smith

**Newsletter Editor – David Sabio
Secretary – Merritt Barnett
Treasurer – Helen Davis
Vice President – Harold Johnson
President – Ed Lauer**

Harold Johnson

September Meeting Minutes

There were 22 people in attendance.

Ed Lauer made the following announcements:

- Felton Jones passed away in August. He was a founding member of Triangle Bonsai Society.**
- The display background for the Carolinas Bonsai Expo has been completed.**
- TBS first new talent competition will take place on October 6, 2007. Ten participants will have four hours to create the best bonsai possible from stock plants provided by TBS. The trees will be judged at our October 7th meeting. Members will vote on best tree, along with two judges.**

Brian McCrodden talked about the NC State Fair:

TBS needs volunteers to: perform demos at the fair, assist with cleaning and preparing the display area before the fair, set up the display on October 11th, at least one volunteer per day to water the bonsai and talk to fairgoers, and tear down the exhibit after the fair.

Contact Brian McCrodden if you want to volunteer or need more information. Volunteers will get free admission tickets and parking passes to the fair.

Harold Johnson talked about the new TBS Bonsai School starting in 2008:

Ten intermediate students: cost = \$300

Seven advanced students: cost = \$625

Tuition must be paid by December 2, 2007 payable to Triangle Bonsai Society; Enrollment will be on a first come first served basis. Classes will meet four weekends during 2008. Saturday session: morning lecture for all students; afternoon session for intermediate students only. Sunday session: advanced students only. Contact Harold Johnson for more information.

David Keller will be available to take photos of members' bonsai. Photo quality pictures can be purchased for \$10, payable to TBS. Digital pictures will be available in .jpg format at no charge. David gave a very informative discussion of the basics of photography.

Merritt Barnett

North Carolina State Fair Update

The State Fair is one of TBS' main outreach efforts of the year, and it is fast approaching. It runs from October 12 through October 21. We've arranged for the trees to be displayed and gotten commitments to do demonstrations, but we are still in need of volunteers to do the following:

1. **Set Up Thursday, October 11.** We'll be setting up the display some time on Thursday. All of the cleanup work will have been done, so there shouldn't be much to this, but if you'd like to have a hand in the arrangement of the display, please let me know, and I'll organize a time for us to meet.

2. **Greeters.** Perhaps the most important thing we do at the Fair is engage the public by answering their questions. If you are available to spend a few hours "manning" the booth, it would be very helpful -- and fun, too. Entry to the Fair and parking within 30 yards of the display are provided. It would be great if we could have someone there part of each day. Because the number of visitors to our display drops off considerably after dark (more exciting things on the midway?) the hours from 10 to 6 are best. Please let me know which day(s) you might take a turn, and I'll develop a schedule. For my turn, I plan to bring one of my unfinished trees to talk about.

Brian McCrodden

Latest News about the Asheville Expo

As the manager of the Carolina Bonsai Expo, I am acutely aware of how much time, effort and expense you, the exhibitors, invest in this show. You work hard to organize your club's participation, choosing trees and deciding how best to build your displays. You then cart your materials over long distances, paying ever higher gas prices to do so, painstakingly set up your exhibits, put yourselves up at exorbitantly priced hotels and pay to eat out all weekend. You do this uncomplainingly. The quality of the displays you provide is excellent, and somehow manages to improve each year. Your efforts, your contributions, have made the Expo the premier annual bonsai event of the Southeast. It's an amazing accomplishment, and well worth celebrating.

What I'd like is for the Friday night before the show opens to be that celebration. I'd like it to be an opportunity for all of you, who come for a common purpose from distances hundreds of miles apart, to get together, relax, have fun and get to know one another a little better. I'd also appreciate the opportunity to briefly speak to you all at once, welcome you, tell you what's been going on with bonsai at the Arboretum, pass along information about the weekend, and generally kick off the show. The Carolina Bonsai Expo is an exceptional, once-a-year occasion, that brings together some of the nicest people I know. I'd like to make the most of having all of you together at one time.

Here's what's planned for this year, Friday night, October 12th: Beginning at 6:00 p.m. and continuing until 8:00 p.m., we will have a private reception in the Bonsai Garden. This will be open only to members of bonsai clubs participating in the Expo. You can wander through the garden at twilight, see all the changes that have taken place since last October, talk about the trees on display, maybe say hello to someone you've seen before but never spoke with. There will be drinks (non-alcoholic; sorry) and snack food provided. There will be a live band playing under the pavilion, a 5-piece acoustic bluegrass outfit called "Buncombe Turnpike", and boy, are they good! (Check them out at: <http://buncombeturnpike.homestead.com/>) There will also be a special silent auction of bonsai materials that came from our late friend and mentor, Felton Jones. Items include pots, books, magazines, VHS tapes, a bonsai stand and even a plant or two. This is separate from the traditional Sunday afternoon auction, available only to those who attend the reception and everything will leave with somebody. There will be brief

welcoming comments, as mentioned earlier, and that's it. It's nothing elaborate, just casual and fun, but I think it will be a good thing for us to do.

Please let me know how many people from you group will attend the reception. This will help me in planning for the event and purchasing food and beverages. As with all things done at the Expo, we'll try it out and see how it works. I'd appreciate your help in making this a successful addition to an already great weekend. (ed. note: If your going, please let Harold Johnson or Ed Lauer know NLT Oct 7, so they can keep a count)

Arthur Joura

In Memoriam

The N&O recently reported that longtime club member K.D. Kennedy recently died. I'm not sure how many of the current club members ever met K.D., since he lived in Wilson, and had not been to a TBS meeting for some time. But he was one of our "founders" and has always been a supporter of our club. Thanks to Brian McCrodden for passing this information along. We have certainly lost a lot of bonsai friends this year.

Points of Interest

- Check out Randy Clark's web site for numerous classes being held throughout 2007 at the Bonsai Learning Center in Charlotte. There's plenty going on for beginners and advanced bonsai students: <http://www.bonsailearningcenter.com>

Member Update!

For details see e-mail attachment; personal information not posted on the web

NEW MEMBER! David Rosado

Murry Handler has changed his e-mail.

2007 Upcoming TBS Events

Oct 13-14 2007 Asheville bonsai expo
Nov 4 Workshop followed by lecture/demo with Arthur Joura
Dec 2 Holiday Party and auction

Jim Easterbrook