



TBS Newsletter January 2025

Next meeting: Jan 5th – Eli Akins on Bonsai Pots



From the President:

This is my second chance to serve as president of TBS. I look forward to continuing the great work that Gabe and Kat did to create the wonderful club that we have today.

I joined TBS IN 1998 and learned most of what I know about bonsai from members of the club. At that time, I was a professor at UNC and spent most of my working hours thinking about science. I was looking for a hobby that might keep me interested when I retired in about 20 years, that was relaxing, and that used other areas of my brain other than the science parts. What I found at TBS was not only that hobby, but also friends with interesting backgrounds, often different from my own. Bonsai, to me, is a combination of sculpture and horticulture. About 13 years ago I noticed that December was a dull month for bonsai hobbyists. My trees were put away and there was not much to do. I thought that a bonsai show in December would be appreciated and started the Winter Silhouette show. It gave me a chance to meet a much larger community of bonsai enthusiasts, and I hope it does the same for all of you. Looking at great bonsai in 3-dimensions is one of the best ways to develop your own eye for what you are aiming for in your trees. In 2025 the show will occur on Dec 6 and 7th. Mark your calendars.

In 2025, the club is going to spend a bit more time at meetings discussing and helping you with your trees.

1. At the start of each meeting, we will spend ten minutes each discussing the future of 3 trees (brought in by members who want the help). After a 1 minute intro to the tree by its owner, an experienced member will be asked to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the tree and suggest how to advance its development in 9 minutes or less. My own experience is that I often can't see things in my own trees until someone with new perspectives opens my eyes. I hope this will help all of us to become better bonsai artists. If you have a tree you want to bring to a meeting,

please email me at stevenzeisel@gmail.com and tell me. We can only talk about 3 trees, so apply early. I will find a senior member to do the critique.

2. In addition to the above, TBS will have two meetings (June and September) where members can bring trees that they need help on to the club and more experienced members will give them hands-on help. We will divide into smaller groups and spend the entire meeting working together.

I am very interested in receiving suggestions as to how to improve member-experiences with the club. Please email me. What do you like? What should be changed? Does the website work for you?

Hoping we all have a great year.

Steve Zeisel



From the Vice President

I joined Triangle Bonsai Society in 1998. Since then, I have been active in the club, serving on the board of directors and several club officer positions. I have seen TBS evolve from a good club to a great club! We have a lot of passionate and dedicated members. I look forward to serving TBS.

2025 looks to be another busy and productive year for TBS! A pottery workshop in January with Eli Akins of Waldo Street Pottery. Matt Ouwinga visits in February, offering high quality Japanese and Chinese pots, as well as an assortment of seedlings. March will be a very busy month for us: Matt Arpag, March 1-2 (we have some nice shohin size Japanese Maple "Kashima" for one of his workshops), Art in Bloom at the NC Museum of Art in Raleigh March 19-23, and the TBS Expo, March 29-30 at the NC Botanical Gardens in Chapel Hill. Young Choe is our guest in April, our club picnic in May (this year it will be at the Beech Shelter at Lake Crabtree Park near RDU Airport), Suthin Sukosilvisit will be here in July (we have some nice hinoki cypress for one of his workshops). Mauro Stemberger will be our guest in November (we have black pines for one of his workshops).

Don't forget, The US National Bonsai Exhibition and the American Bonsai Society Learning Seminars will be in Rochester NY the weekend of September 12-14, 2025. The Winter Silhouette Bonsai Show in Kannapolis NC and our TBS Holiday Party in December! I'm looking forward to seeing y'all next year!"

Merritt Barnett