



July 2007 Newsletter

[www.trianglebonsai.com](http://www.trianglebonsai.com)

### From the President

While I am writing this, the outside temperature indicates close to 100F (in the shade) and it seems that the spring hectic is over, but now it is also time to decandle the pines as well as defoliate the deciduous trees. If anybody has already done so, please be careful not to over water; although it is extremely hot, there is much less transpiration going on after the decandling and defoliating.

A week ago we held a TBS board meeting. While we had several members on site I showed them the progress on the Asheville. However we recognized that there is still a lot of work to be done in order to get the display finished for October. We are looking for some volunteers who can help us out for a few hours (finish painting the stands etc...). Please contact Harold if you are able or willing to help. This also leads me telling you – get your trees show ready: if not for this year, then for next year, or the year after. Part of our mission is to share our art with the general public, so we would like members to be proud of what they are doing, and be willing to support the club by showing one or more of their trees.

What you can do now to get ready:

1. Make sure the tree is healthy
2. Make sure the tree is well groomed and trimmed
3. Large wires should be removed
4. Now is the time to lime sulphur the jins and sharis
5. Pull weeds and start planting moss
6. Remove any water salts from the pots or find an ideal show pot
7. Write a little history of your tree including the correct spelled botanical name
8. Get help and critique from other members

The board also discussed the 2008 elections, and formed the search committee for the new board. This is a very important issue –the TBS succession planning. The three members are: Tina Johnson, Sonny Poche, Steve Zeisel. Their responsibility will be to suggest replacement candidates for the upcoming vacancies (Jim Easterbrook is finishing his 3<sup>rd</sup> year as board member, Helen Davis has served many, many years as treasurer, and I am finishing my 2<sup>nd</sup> term as TBS president). The position of newsletter editor is also available.

This is your chance! You can be a president, board member and or a treasurer – believe it or not! You can do it – I was very reluctant at first to become a board member and even more so to become president. I did not know what to expect, but there were members to help and support me – it is/was very rewarding, I must say. You do not have to be a

**bonsai expert; you just have to have an interest in the TBS club--its activities and its future. You must be willing to express an opinion and work with the members so that a team decision can be reached. It is a wonderful feeling to be able to say to you "Hey, I did this – I was part of the board, of a decision, change and or success." So anyone interested in the club activities and would like to make a difference in 2008 and beyond please see or call Tina, Sonny and Steve to get a better understanding of the responsibilities. Of course you can call me anytime you want – for anything!**

**Stay cool!  
Ed Lauer**

## **June Meeting**

**Ed Lauer opened the meeting with some announcements: TBS needs volunteers for the NC State Fair exhibit in Raleigh October 12-21 and for the Carolinas Bonsai Expo at the NC Arboretum in Asheville October 13-14. See below for more information. Also, TBS needs volunteers to bring refreshments to club meetings, for which you will be compensated up to \$30; please sign up at the next meeting if you can help. Two new members were introduced; there were approximately 25 people in attendance.**

**Ed then introduced the guest speaker, Jim Van Landingham, who styled a Pond Cypress while discussing his process for selecting and styling trees. He considers:**

- ROOTS – These anchor the tree and provide water and nutrients. Since roots take the most time to develop, don't forget to address them as the first step. If you remove the soil around the base of the tree, you may find better roots to use.**
- SPREAD - Nebari, or surface roots, should spread out from the base of the trunk. The spread and roots are very important in choosing the front of the tree for the initial styling.**
- TRUNK TAPER - The thickest part of the trunk should be at the base, gradually and progressively narrowing as it rises to the apex.**
- TRUNKLINE - find the trunkline from the base to the apex. Look for trees with good movement. The apex should lean forward or bow towards the viewer to be more welcoming.**
- TRIANGULAR SHAPE - The tree should have an overall triangular shape from branch placement and ramification. The triangular shape keeps the upper branches from shading the lower branches.**
- BRANCHES – While branches can always be added later, it's always easier to look for trees that have a good selection of branches to work with. The 2 lowest branches should be growing slightly forward, as if to embrace the viewer. Jim called these "huggy branches." Compactness of the branches magnifies the taper of the trunk, which creates the illusion of an old tree.**

**Merritt Barnett**

## **July Meeting**

**This is one of the TBS meetings where you, the member, is the focus. July is your opportunity to bring a tree or trees to the meeting and consult with others on styling,**

health, re-potting needs, pest/disease problems or anything else that you question. July is an ideal time to repot tropical trees, such as ficus and buttonwood. Bring your tropical trees and ask about timing, soil mix, etc.

The meeting will begin with a short question and answer period about summer fertilizing: the do's and don'ts of fertilizing during Carolina summers.

### **Bonsai Expo in Asheville**

TBS always welcomes any members who attend the Expo in Asheville to help in the set-up of the display. The help we need ranges from bringing materials to Asheville for the display, getting the trees from the parking area to the exhibition hall, helping to erect the display and, then on Sunday, dis-assembling the display, moving everything to the parking lot and loading for the trip back home. The more helpers, the easier the job. So PLEASE, if you know you're going to the Expo, and could offer a hand, please contact Harold or Ed, so they can start organizing a schedule.

### **Wake County Master Gardeners**

The Wake County Master Gardeners invited Harold and Tina Johnson to present a program on bonsai for their annual awards luncheon, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Over 100 master gardeners attended the event and proved to be a most attentive audience.

To illustrate a bit of what bonsai is about, Harold gave a short slide show that included slides from his 2002 trip to Japan, and practical design elements we use when transforming a nursery plant into a bonsai-in-training. To illustrate design principles and bonsai techniques, there were two procumbens junipers on display: one just as it came from the nursery section of a big-box store and the other after a few minutes of pruning and wiring.

To give an idea of the range of plant materials that can be used for bonsai, a shohin display of trees and accent plants was set up. In addition, there were trees of intermediate size, as well as a large juniper. As usual, the bonsai had many admirers but the accent plants won their share of the attention as well.

Soil and wire samples were passed around the room when those aspects of bonsai were presented. The audience asked a wide range of questions about all facets of bonsai, and the hour went by very quickly. Perhaps we will see some of the Master Gardeners develop an interest in bonsai and join TBS.

Harold Johnson

### **It's Time To Think About The State Fair**

Even though it's still several months away, we need to start organizing our participation at the State Fair October 12-21. This is one of TBS' major outreach activities -- every year our exhibit is seen by tens of thousands of people. We learned last year that our efforts to engage the public are more successful if we have an attendant at the display to answer questions. It is unrealistic to expect that we could man the booth every hour that the Fair is open, but the more time slots we can fill, the better. And it is actually a lot of fun to chat with people about our hobby. So if you'll be around any during the Fair's run (remember that the Asheville Expo is the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>), please think about taking a turn at

the display. Tickets and parking are provided, so if you're going the Fair anyway, this removes a lot of the hassle and cost. You could work all day or just a few hours.

Again this year we will have an opportunity to do several demonstrations. The Fair pays each demonstrator \$50, which you could apply to the cost of a tree to work on. I will be coordinating the demonstration schedule with the Garden Club this summer, so if you would like to do a demonstration (or several), please tell me so I know how many slots to ask for.

Of course, the trees need to be checked and watered every day. And then there is set up and take down. I know it's early too early to commit, but if you think you might be able to help out, please call or email me. I'd like to start assembling a list of potential volunteers. I'll take care of the detailed scheduling and logistics as we get closer to October. Thanks.

Brian McCrodden

### **Joshua Roth New Talent Update!**

Congratulations to Merritt Barnett for participating in the Joshua Roth New Talent contest at the ABS meeting in Virginia Beach on June 21<sup>st</sup>. As the (un)luck of the draw would have it, Merritt ended up with a difficult tree, but made the most of it. Although it was certainly in the running, the judges didn't think it was as wonderful as did the other TBS members in attendance, and, in spite of our opinions, Merritt didn't win the competition. However, he did bring the tree home with him, and hopefully he will allow us to watch its progress over the next several years. For those of you in at the convention, the #2 tree was the winner.

### **In Memoriam**

I'm paraphrasing a letter sent by Hope Sylvain; Hope, thanks for keeping us all informed:

In case you hadn't heard, Ron Martin died last month. Ron found out about his lung cancer the beginning of May. A few days after his first chemotherapy treatment, he developed pneumonia. A CT scan showed that his tumor was compressing his airway, and had metastasized to his liver. He died 3 days later.

We will all certainly miss Ron, who had been a TBS guest artist several times in the past, and had been serving as the co-chair of the last week's 2007 ABS meeting in Virginia Beach.

### **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 Members:**

David A. Sabio

Spenzi & Caroline Pugh

## 2007 Upcoming TBS Events

**Aug 5**      **Final selection of Expo trees**  
**Sep 9**      **Expo display setup**  
**Oct 7**      **BYOT and new talent**  
**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**