



September 2007 Newsletter

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

### From the President

Today's message is one of sad news. I learned that Felton Jones passed away the night of August 19, 2007. It was a great loss to the bonsai community. For those who never met Felton, he was one of the early members of the Triangle Bonsai Society and had presented several programs for TBS. Felton first learned about bonsai in California where he moved after attending Duke University and studying botany. His first bonsai teacher was Frank Nagata but when Mr. Nagata thought Felton was ready, arranged for Felton to study with the legendary John Yoshio Naka until the fall of 1960, at which time Felton returned to North Carolina. In Matthews N.C., Felton started the Little Pines Bonsai Nursery, later to be called the Sho-Ko-En School of Bonsai. As a result of showing five of his "little trees," folks who had been pursuing bonsai without a teacher contacted Felton and it was that group of bonsai enthusiasts who became the Bonsai Societies of the Carolinas in Charlotte. In 1967 he moved to Atlanta, GA to design and supervise the installation of the Bonsai Garden (later renamed the Japanese Garden) in the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Following a number of years in Atlanta and a brief time in Florida, Felton returned to make his final home in Durham in 1984. During his teaching career Felton appeared as lecturer and guest artist at many national conventions and symposiums. In July 1975 the American Bonsai Society presented Felton with a Master Teacher Certificate in recognition of his dedication to teaching bonsai. Felton's last public presentation was for the Triangle Bonsai Society on the subject of the design and creation of bunjin, one of his favorite styles. We of the Triangle Bonsai Society are sad to have lost such a pioneer and "sensei" to our bonsai community.

Ed Lauer



## September is Photo-rific

David Keller has graciously agreed to bring his professional camera set-up to the September meeting and take photos of any bonsai brought by members. Here is your opportunity to have a photo of your favorite bonsai whether it is young in the training process to compare what the tree looked like early in its life vs. how it will have developed over the years. David will provide electronic versions of your tree at no charge. However, if you want a large color print there is a charge, but David is donating that to the club. While David is photographing everyone's bonsai, you can work on your trees with the helpful advice of other members. The club wire will be there for your use, but bring your tools along with your trees.

OK, here is a recap – bring trees to be photographed and worked on during the meeting. It might be the same tree or different trees. If you just want advice on a tree, this meeting is a good time to bring it.

Harold Johnson

## August Meeting

Ed Lauer began the meeting, with 23 people in attendance. Club information and business were discussed, with more details in other sections of this newsletter:

- Ed encouraged people to attend the Carolinas Bonsai Expo in Asheville October 13-14. The Expo is free for TBS members, including free parking.
- TBS needs volunteers for our exhibit at the NC State Fair October 12-21. Contact Brian McCrodden for more information.
- TBS will conduct its new talent contest October 6th.
- The News and Observer will publish an article about bonsai featuring Ed Lauer.
- TBS will start its Bonsai School next year, with Warren Hill as our teacher. Advanced and intermediate students will meet on four weekends during the year. A lecture will be held for the entire group of students on Saturday mornings. Saturday afternoon instruction is for the intermediate students, and Sunday sessions will be for the advanced students. Contact Harold Johnson for more information.

Merritt Barnett

## New Talent Competition

The event date is Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Competition begins promptly at 9:00 AM so in order to have the full 4 hours to work on your tree, be on time. It will be held in the usual meeting room in the Wake County Office Park on Cary Blvd. There are a total of ten competitors, five in each of two groups based on experience, but all ten competing for the same prize, a handsome Tokoname container. The club will furnish aluminum wire and the tree, of course. Competitors need to bring tools and a turntable if desired. At the meeting the next day, without knowledge of who created which tree, members will vote by secret ballot. The member's choice will count as one vote, and be added to the judges' choices. It promises to be fun and educational. Please contact Harold if you have questions.

## TBS School

Full details of the curriculum for the school will be available by the time of our September meeting. But in the meantime, the dates have been set, with the classroom having been reserved, and our teacher, Warren Hill, having scheduled his time as follows:

Intermediate and Advanced class – All day January 19th  
Advanced class – All day January 20<sup>th</sup>

Intermediate and Advanced class – AM April 19<sup>th</sup>  
Intermediate class – PM April 19<sup>th</sup>  
Advanced class – All day April 20<sup>th</sup>

Intermediate and Advanced class – AM June 28<sup>th</sup>  
Intermediate class – PM June 28<sup>th</sup>  
Advanced class – All day June 29<sup>th</sup>

Intermediate and Advanced class – AM August 16<sup>th</sup>  
Intermediate class – PM August 16<sup>th</sup>  
Advanced class – All day August 17<sup>th</sup>

The fee for the Intermediate class is \$300  
The fee for the Advanced class is \$625

### **Bonsai Expo in Asheville**

Arthur's announcement was sent out earlier this month to all members. But just as a reminder, keep checking on the arboretum site for updated information; it's especially important if you want to get in on the workshop(s), since those typically are filled early on; registration is in sometime September!

[http://www.ncarboretum.org/Horticulture/Bonsai/2007\\_Bonsai\\_Expo/2007\\_carolina\\_bonsai\\_expo\\_brief\\_intro.htm](http://www.ncarboretum.org/Horticulture/Bonsai/2007_Bonsai_Expo/2007_carolina_bonsai_expo_brief_intro.htm)

### **North Carolina State Fair Update**

Brian McCrodden is organizing the TBS participation at the State Fair October 12-21. He is looking for volunteers to set up/take down the exhibit, water, man the booth during Fair hours, and do five demonstrations. Participation is very rewarding and also a good way to spread the word about bonsai. Tickets and parking are provided for volunteers. If you're available to take a turn (or two), please let Brian know at the next meeting, contact him via e-mail, or call him.

### **TBS Officers Election**

Please remember that elections for the TBS officers will take place this fall, with openings for President, Treasurer, 1 board seat, and newsletter editor. Tina Johnson is heading the nomination committee, with members Steve Zeisel and Sonny Poche; so if you're interested in serving in any of the positions, please contact one of them.

### **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>
- Thanks to Merritt for providing the following information: Raleigh recently imposed watering restrictions on its residents and towns that buy water from Raleigh. If you are affected by these new restrictions, you might consider buying a rain barrel for your

bonsai and yard watering needs. There are many rain barrels to choose from. The most affordable one that I have found can be purchased from the town of Cary for \$82. It has a capacity of 55-60 gallons. The barrel is placed under a downspout to catch the runoff from the roof of your house. Installation of the rain barrel was pretty easy. I had to shorten the downspout by cutting it with a hacksaw. Two spigots were screwed into holes in the barrel bottom and a runoff tube was connected. I placed the barrel on top of cinder blocks in order to access the spigots. A garden hose can then be attached to either of the spigots. However, the spigots are gravity fed, which means the nozzle of the hose must be lower than the spigot in order to work. There are three places to buy a rain barrel in Cary. They are:

Bond Park Community Center, 150 Metro Park Drive, (919) 462-3970

Herbert C. Young Community Center, 404 N. Academy St., (919) 460-4965

Middle Creek Community Center, 123 Middle Creek Park Ave., (919) 771-1295

Make sure to call in advance to see if they have any in stock!

### **Member Update!**

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

Change David Sabio's e-mail.

### **2007 Upcoming TBS Events**

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**