



Late March and April 2006 Newsletter
www.trianglebonsai.com

TBS has added a BONUS Meeting on March 19th!!!

TBS members asked for it, so here it is.

How should I style this tree?
What's wrong with my tree? It doesn't look healthy.
Is it time to repot this tree?
What size, color, and glaze of pot should I use?
What's a good soil mix for this kind of plant material?

These questions and more will be answered for members who bring their trees to a workshop on Sunday, March 19th at 1:00, the usual meeting place, The Commons Building, Wake County Office park.

While it was great to have Arthur Joura provide advice on trees, not everyone could attend and even those who attended couldn't bring all the trees they wanted. Sunday, March 19th is your opportunity to talk with other members about all those little questions we all have. Experienced members are encouraged to come, to help the newer members.

Don't miss this opportunity - the balance of the year's programs will not have time dedicated to answering your questions on your individual trees.

New Talent Award

As discussed by Ed Lauer at the opening to the March 5th meeting, he is creating this award to recognize and promote new Bonsai talent within the TBS Club. The March 19 meeting would be a perfect time to bring in your potential trees for advice, and so others can see your starting point. This is NOT meant to be intimidating; always remember Arthur Joura's comments about the 50/50 rule (that only about half of what you hear will actually work for you), and that if your bonsai looks good you, then it's OK! If you can't make it to that meeting, then be sure to bring them to the April events. Just remember that you need to start now; the judging is based on the progression over the year, with the award this fall. Even if you don't qualify as "new" talent, please bring in some of your trees for display, and some advice—if so desired.

- "New Talent" defined as members with less than 5 years total bonsai experience.

- **Qualifications/Requirements:**
 - Before and after pictures
 - Origin of Bonsai (history – found in nursery, Bonsai nursery, collected, club auction etc.)
 - Quality of wiring (basics)
 - Overall health of Bonsai (disease free is a must)
 - Future of Bonsai - 3 years from now (Story, drawings, goals etc.)
 - Can be planted in pre-bonsai container

- A minimum of 3 judges will decide, and explain their decision.

March Meeting

Before discussing Arthur's presentation, very special thanks needs to go to Nick Ruotolo for his ongoing generosity to the club. Nick donated some wonderful azaleas and an assortment of pots that went for auction. He also gave a beautiful book of masterpiece Japanese bonsai that will be auctioned at the summer picnic.

As always, Arthur provided an entertaining meeting. He initially imparted a bit of general philosophy and some basic styling principles, using three examples he brought with him, including a gray-owl Juniperus Virginiana (which he had initially styled at the JCRA in Raleigh July 2004), a large Chinese Quince (originally from Felton Jones), and a "Mother-Daughter" Japanese Maple composition. He also encouraged members to bring in their trees to the meeting for discussion and comments to better improve our trees and our bonsai skills.

He then turned his attention to the Japanese Maple forest demo, using young trees; he was not worried about the lack of branching/ramification—those can be developed over time. Wanting to develop some elevation in the planting, he used a combination of muck, rocks, and moss to give the perspective of height, yet enough stability to tolerate future watering, without soil erosion. Since he had no dominant tree for a focal point, Arthur clustered several trees, and thereby creating a "mass" to draw the viewer's attention. After planting and stabilizing, Arthur did some basic pruning, but then wanted the trees to grow freely until (approx) June, in order to allow better root development. Just so we all know, the forest is now under Harold's care, and will be available for purchase at an upcoming TBS auction.

April Meeting with Ted Matson

Ted Matson returns to TBS, with his effective style of teaching. This will be the third year that Ted has brought his talents to TBS. Ted has chosen a shohin-size juniper for his demonstration on Sunday, April 2nd.

Ted counts among his bonsai teachers Warren Hill (former curator of the bonsai collection at the National Arboretum), Jim Barrett, John Naka and many other California leaders in bonsai. He has appeared on many bonsai convention and conference programs, and had one of his bonsai selected to appear in a Japanese bonsai publication featuring the top bonsai in the world. As a member of several of the talent-laden clubs and study-groups in California, Ted has learned from the best. Ted brings incredible experience and talent to TBS.

Harold and Tina have hand selected quality material for two workshops (remember those photos that were sent out; samples were also present at the March 5 meeting). Saturday morning, April 1st, Ted will conduct a workshop featuring flowering crabapple. Each is a named variety with at least a one inch trunk caliper. They should develop into nice bonsai over the next several years.

Saturday afternoon two sizes of Japanese and Korean hornbeam will be the workshop material. There are trees with approximately one inch diameter trunks as well as trees with at least one and a half inch diameter trunks. These trees offer a good selection of branches for styling and should develop into nice bonsai in just a couple of years. The workshops are filling fast so don't delay going to the website, completing your registration and forwarding to Helen Davis.

The two workshops will be held in the building adjacent to the Commons Building, Wake County Office Park, 4011 Carya Dr., Raleigh but we'll return to the Commons Building for the Sunday meeting.

While at the California Shohin Conference this year Ted selected a juniper for his TBS demonstration on Sunday, April 2nd. It is shohin size (finished tree less than 8 inches from soil to apex) and will require carving as well as other styling techniques to pull the bonsai from within the material. As always, Ted will provide explanations of each step as he creates the bonsai.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the Ted Matson workshops and all of you at the Sunday meeting, April 2nd.

Harold Johnson

Points of Interest

- TBS will be demonstrating its bonsai skills in the community at several different locations this spring/summer:
 - March 25 from 10-3 at Homewood Nursery in north Raleigh, featuring the styling skills of Steve Zeisel, and with assistance from Milos Novak and Hope Sylvain. If you can help, contact Helen Davis.
 - May 5 and 6 at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens, conducting demonstrations from 4-6 on Friday (setup 1-3:30) and again on Saturday from 9-2 (setup 7:30-8:30). Harold will need lots of help on this, so please check your calendars and see if you can participate!
 - July 8 at the NC Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill—an afternoon workshop led by Harold Johnson; he is looking for volunteers, so contact him if you're available.
- Jim Vanlandingham will be visiting the Triangle in early June, and can be available for private and/or group sessions on June 6 or 7. Jim has been working intimately with Jim Smith for the past four years (see www.jimsmithbonsai.com to see the material he has been recently styling). If interested, contact Jim directly at jimvanlandingham@vero-online.net or me (Jim Easterbrook) for more information.
- Please forward any photos of your trees to Keith for publication on the web site. Be sure to include any details about the individual bonsai, such as species, years in training, etc.

- If you need soil or tools from Keith, please give him advance warning to make sure he can get the order filled, and has enough time to get the supplies to the Triangle, in case he isn't personally attending any given meeting.

New Member—Welcome!

Sledge, Robin

Upcoming TBS Events

Mar 19	BYOT meeting	1:00-4:00
Apr 1	Ted Matson workshop	9:00-12:00
	Ted Matson workshop	1:00-5:00
Apr 2	Ted Matson demo	1:30-5:00
Jun 3	Jim Vanlandingham workshop	9:00-12:00
	Jim Vanlandingham workshop	1:00-5:00
Jun 4	Jim Vanlandingham demo	1:30-5:00

Other Bonsai Events

- Ongoing** **Workshops and Classes, Bonsai Learning Center, Randy Clark (Charlotte NC).**
 There are too many events to individually publish. For details, please visit
www.bonsailearningcenter.com
- Apr 21-23** **MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies (East Hanover, NJ)**
Apr 22 **Dana Quattlebaum workshops at Plant City Bonsai (Clermont GA)**
May 26-29 **Bonsai Societies of Florida--BSF 2006 (Gainesville, FL)**
May 26-28 **Brussel's Bonsai Rendezvous (Olive Branch, MS)**
Jun 15-18 **American Bonsai Society (Saratoga Springs, NY)**
Jun 16-18 **Bonsai Learning Center Open House, including Brussel Martin workshop Jun 16**
 (Charlotte, NC)
Jun 22-25 **MidAmerica Bonsai Alliance—MABA (Milwaukee, WI)**
Nov 2-5 **GSBF convention XXIX (Sacramento, CA)**

Jim Easterbrook