



March 2007 Newsletter

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From the President

Just a few weeks more and we all are going to be really busy with the upcoming repotting season. One thing I do before my trees go into winter storage, I spray with a mild solution of lime sulfur and water mix, and I will do the same before repotting to keep the insects as well as fungus at bay. If you do this, do not spray any Azaleas and do not let any of the liquid drip into the soil since it may harm the roots. For those of you who reuse old pots, make sure also that they are clean; if not wash them with a mild solution of water and bleach. As they say: **PREPARATION IS 90% OF SUCCESS.**

One other thing I have been doing over the last month is to make some artificial slabs in order to save my back from the heavy lifting of natural stone (artificial ones can be made much lighter). I will bring one to our next meeting for you to see. The slabs work extremely well for forest plantings as well as for Bunjin type trees. Up until a month ago I have always been intimidated to try this until Steve Zeisel came up with a recipe to make them out of a wire frame, chicken wire, fiberglass, polyester resin, and concrete combination. It sounds complicated but really is pretty easy to fabricate and you can really go wild making all kinds of shapes. Maybe at a later date I will give a little presentation on this, but in the meantime don't be afraid to ask me or Steve for instruction.

I'm really excited about our new "HEADSTART" program where our more experienced members will donate 4 hours of teaching time to every beginner and new member of the Triangle Bonsai Society going back to January 2006, and I'm sure if some of us would have had such an opportunity when we began, we would be much further ahead by now. So don't be shy, if you are interested contact Helen Davis to get paired up with somebody in the club.

Wow! Didn't Steve Cratty bring a lot of trees with him from Georgia! We almost ran out of space to display them. Thank you Steve and Cheryl for the long drive up here, but it certainly got us in the right frame of mind to start off the new bonsai year. There was of course one other fellow who had even a longer drive (his license plate say's Mr. Bonsai) driving through 2 snowstorms to get here from Rochester, New York: none other then Bill Valavanis. Bill just got back from Japan's Kukufuten--the most prestigious Bonsai exhibition in the World--and brought some nice trees with him. Bill gave a nice slide show on the upright style then styled an upright Cryptomeria for us before we started the workshop.

So there are a lot of things going on at TBS, and I'm looking forward seeing you all again with a lot of trees on March 11th for a BYOT and the tree selection kick-off for Asheville and 2 other shows.

Ed Lauer

March will be a busy month for TBS members!

Not only will it be time to repot many of our trees but it is also a month full of learning opportunities. The meeting usually held on the first Sunday was rescheduled this year to the second Sunday so you would have an extra week to reflect on all that you learn from Bill Valavanis during the February 25th lecture, demonstration and workshop.

On Sunday, March 11th you will have the first of several opportunities to bring trees that may be ready for showing this year at the Expo in Asheville or the NC State Fair. Styling and grooming a tree for a public showing is not an overnight task for most of our trees.

If you want advice on how to continue the development of one or more trees to a show quality bonsai, this is the time to bring them. This is not the time to be timid. If you leave your trees at home, you will never know if they can be developed and shown at one of our display opportunities. Also, listening to the observations and suggestions for each of the trees will be a learning experience for you, even when it is not your tree.

Saturday morning, March 31st will give TBS members two opportunities to work with Ted Matson. In the morning, from 9:30am until noon, Ted will lead a bring-your-own-tree workshop. See the attached registration form to sign up for this workshop. Believe me, Ted is one of the few bonsai teachers who is conversant on almost any material you can bring. Since the first of this year Ted has been the guest artist for the Atlanta club, where his workshops were filled. Attesting to his popularity around the country, later this year Ted will be the guest artist on the Florida club circuit as well as one of the headliners for the Mid-Atlantic annual conference and the 50th California Bonsai Society. These are only some of the events where Ted will share his skills and knowledge this year.

Saturday afternoon, March 31st, from 1:30pm until 4:00pm TBS members have the opportunity to work with material never before included in a TBS workshop – *Stewartia monadelpa*. This a graceful, hard-to-find tree with smooth, exfoliating, beautiful bark. There are white flowers during July and August. Participants will design a 5-tree group and then pot in plastic bonsai trainer pots. TBS is making every effort to provide good plant material for workshops. Better material is more costly than something from the big-box nursery department, but it also shortens the time to progress from initial styling to a bonsai you can be proud of. Who needs another small procumbens juniper? The registration form for the workshop is attached.

Sunday, April 1st at 1:30pm, Ted's program will include styling of a powerful juniper that will be auctioned off later in the year. The resulting bonsai should be a tree we all would like to add to our collections. Ted always provides many useful tips and information via his excellent teaching skills. Don't miss this meeting.

Harold Johnson

Points of Interest

- The 2007 ABS meeting will be held in Virginia Beach June 21-24, 2007. Start making plans now for what will be a premiere event. Visit the ABS website, or click on <http://freeplone2.openia.com/abs/abs-seminars>
- The MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies meeting will take place April 20-22 in East Hanover NJ. For more information: <http://midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com/fescurr.htm>
- 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. And be sure to notice the summertime workshop, picnic, and open house featuring Jim Doyle June 15-17!: <http://www.bonsailearningcenter.com>

Member Update!

New Members: none

Changes: Merritt Barnett's e-mail and Fred and Lorrie Smith's address; see the e-mail attachment you have already received, or the updated roster coming in next week or two.

2007 Upcoming TBS Events

Mar 31	Workshops (2) with Ted Matson: 9:30am to Noon, and 1:30pm to 4:00pm
Apr 1	Lecture/Demo with Ted Matson at 1:30pm
May 6	Picnic; member sale and TBS auction
May 19	TBS Display at NC Botanical Gardens
Jun 2	Workshops with Jim VanLandingham
Jun 3	Lecture/Demo with Jim VanLandingham
Jul 8	Novice Focus
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