



## Letter From The President

It is amazing how fast a year flies by. About a year ago at a board meeting we came up with the idea to create a formal Triangle Bonsai Society school for intermediate as well as advanced students. Just recently we finished our first year of classes. At the beginning, some students may have been skeptical at how much more they could possibly learn, but we were all in for a surprise at how much more is out there. I personally have had a good amount of bonsai instruction from teachers in the States as well as in Europe, but never have I learned so much in such a short amount of time as this year with Warren Hill, the instructor for the TBS School. Warren is the type of person that can work with beginners all the way to masters, in a manner that can be understood at every level.

Topics covered in 2008 ranged from making your own soil to displaying your trees in a major show, and most everything else in between.

For 2009 we will continue this program. Those of you really serious about Bonsai, I urge you to join the classes before they fill up - you will not regret it.

We do not yet have a final program for 2009. We have received your input regarding your interests which include: grafting, seasonal care, in depth study of different styles, fruiting and flowering trees, pests and diseases, show preparation, accessory plants, specific tree species, pine management, wiring, pruning, propagation, tropical trees, multiple trunk, and open workshops. Obviously this is a lot, and we will not be able to cover everything. This is simply a summary of the survey we conducted. Tina, Harold and I will work with Warren to come up with the most meaningful program which we will share with you in the next few weeks. Over the next month we will get serious about the 2009 school since the preparation and coordination take a lot of time. At this point a tremendous *Thank You* is in order for Tina and Harold Johnson for organizing all of this without any hiccups.

## 2008 Upcoming TBS Events

**Sept. 7**

Art of Display  
Prepare for Asheville  
Expo

**Sept. 13**

Club Display at the  
JC Raulston  
Arboretum

**Oct. 4**

New Talent  
Competition

**Oct. 5**

Winter Care - BYOT

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Some excitement is also building about the upcoming Triangle Bonsai Society show at the J. C. Raulston Arboretum in September. Currently we have about 60 trees committed.

We also will have 2 live demonstrations about creating a Bonsai from scratch. The end of the show will feature the presentation of the annual President's Award, in which the public will have a chance to participate this year. Tom Waldo will also be on the lookout for the trees to be displayed at the Asheville show in October. As you know, Dan Cormican and Ken Hallatt are organizing the J. C. Raulston Arboretum event and you will hear from them shortly with all the details. So at this point the only thing for me to say is get your trees, pots, accent plants, scrolls, stands, and anything else ready and good luck

~Ed Lauer~

## August Meeting Minutes

Attendance = 31

Ed Lauer began the meeting by welcoming new members and visitors. Ed mentioned the head start and mentor programs that TBS offers to help new members get started in bonsai. Ed acknowledged and thanked Helen Davis for her decades of service to the club. Helen is available for private bonsai lessons.

TBS will create the new position of Auditor by the end of 2008.

TBS will have a public display of bonsai at the JC Raulston arboretum in Raleigh on September 13, 2008. Dan Cormican and Ken Hallatt are coordinating the event. We need to get as many club members to show their trees as possible! We need volunteers to set up the display, conduct demos, distribute flyers, answer questions from visitors, etc. Please contact Dan or Ken if you can help out.

Ed Lauer announced that he will be having a bonsai sale at his house on August 9-10.

Harold Johnson introduced Arthur Joura, bonsai curator at the NC Arboretum in Asheville NC.

Arthur brought a *Juniperus virginiana* (Virginia Juniper or more commonly know as Eastern Red Cedar) for his demo. Arthur said that most bonsai have two histories: the history revealed in the bonsai (or the story the bonsai tells) and the history of the bonsai (the trees origins, who styled it; its caretakers or owners).

Most collected material have long leggy growth with little growth or budding in the interior of the plant. To develop collected material into bonsai, we need to create compact, dense foliage. The first step is to push the growth in towards the trunk. Prune the tips of the branches to stimulate back budding. Stop peripheral growth, fertilize heavily, and remove some growth to open the interior of the plant to sunlight. Give the plant as much full sun as it can tolerate.

It can take years or even decades to grow a good bonsai.

How do you know what to keep and what to remove? Always observe the plant and think about what are its good points and bad points. Study the tree; seek other peoples' opinions. It's a process of elimination - once you are certain that a branch is not necessary to the design of the bonsai, it can be removed.

Picking a front is determined by:

- angle of the trunk coming out of the ground
- changing tachiagari (the space between the surface roots and the first branch): this is more difficult than changing the apex
- scars on the trunk (downplay negatives, emphasize positives)
- view of the trunk movement (What is the most appealing view of the trunk?) This is essential to the bonsai
- surface roots (nebari)
- focal point of the bonsai (where is the eye drawn to first?)
- branch placement

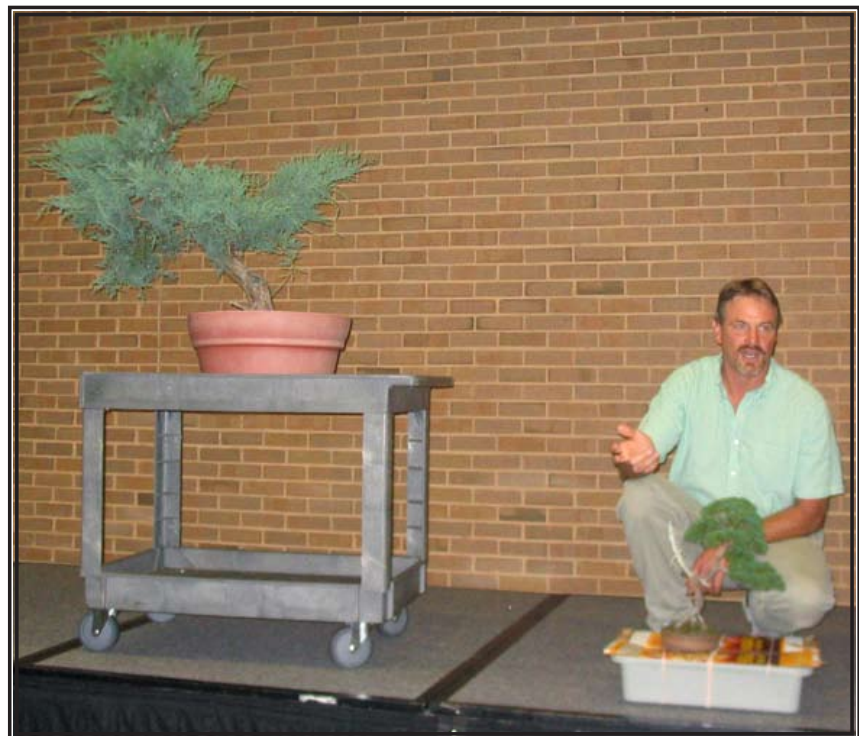
A good branch has branching (or ramification) close to the trunk. A branch viewed from above would look like the trunk of the tree. Branches should be mounded with the foliage on top of the branch. Branches should have taper (thicker near the trunk, thinner at the tip) like the trunk. The branch should not have foliage growing on the underside.

Work large, then small. Work on the largest design elements first. Fullness or density of the foliage is secondary to establishing the structure of the bonsai.

The apex of the bonsai can be difficult to develop. It is usually the last part of the bonsai to be developed.

DON'T FORGET THE 13TH CAROLINABONSAIEXPOATTHE NC ARBORETUM IN ASHEVILLE NC OCTOBER 11-12, 2008. HOPE TO SEE Y'ALL THERE!

~Merritt Barnett~



## Fair! Fair! Fair!...

It's time to start getting organized for the 2008 NC State Fair. This year the Fair will run from October 16 (Thursday) through October 26 (Sunday). For the first time in several years, the Fair does not conflict with the Carolina Bonsai Expo in Asheville, which should make things a little easier. As in past years, we'll need about 6 trees along with people to staff the booth and do demonstrations. More on this later, but please begin thinking about whether you can help out and on what days.



Of more immediate concern, we need help in getting the booth spruced up. This year's tasks

include putting a new roof on the booth, hanging new lights, repairing some of the bamboo latticework, and minor painting. I anticipate that this is a two- or possibly three-day job.

Sonny Poche has agreed to be in charge of the lights, but I'm in need of carpenters and painters. Please let me know of your interest right away (deadline Friday, August 29), and I'll set up a separate email list of volunteers and we'll figure out a convenient time to get started. My email address is [bmccrodden@hydrologics.net](mailto:bmccrodden@hydrologics.net)

~Brian McCrodden~

## Triangle Bonsai Expo

We are very quickly approaching the Expo at JC Raulston Arboretum and I wanted to make sure I got everyone the latest update on what we still need, when the event will be, when to arrive, etc.

First, I will start off with what we still need:

1. **Trees** - We are still a few trees short of my goal for a minimum number of trees to show. So far, about 15 members have sent me information on trees they would like to show. If you have any interest in showing a tree at this year's show, please let me know via e-mail ASAP. I know from my few years of membership that we have some very talented and dedicated enthusiasts. We routinely have members in the Joshua Roth New Talent Competition, so I have no doubt we not only have the talent to show some very nice trees, but the ability to share some wonderfully relevant experiences with the general public who may be overwhelmed about the idea of trying Bonsai.

2. **Demos** - We will have Demos at 1 & 3 PM during the Expo. We are still looking for people who want to conduct these. If you ever wanted to try giving a demo, this is a great opportunity. If you are nervous about presenting, which is perfectly natural, perhaps you may want to present with someone else. Presenting or teaching a subject to others is a great way to strengthen your own knowledge

and get a different perspective on what you do all the time. If you have a tree you want to work on in the demo, feel free to bring it. Otherwise, the club will make sure you will have appropriate material to work on.

3. **Carts** or dollies (and I don't mean Barbies) - We can get pretty close to the auditorium at Raulston, but having some carts will mean the difference between one trip to your car to move all of your trees or 3 or 4 trips to move them. Plus, a lot of backs will feel much better Sunday if owners don't have to carry some of the larger trees by hand.

4. **Trees** - See #1 above

Now for some of the logistics of the show.

We now have access to the auditorium from 9 AM to 7 PM with the show running from Noon to 5 PM.

If you are bringing trees, please arrive between 9-11 AM to allow adequate time for your items to be brought in and placed in the display area. If you choose not to stay for the show, please return before 5 PM so that you can retrieve your trees and we have time to clean up after the show. The front parking lot will be open from 9-11:59 AM and from 5-7 PM for loading and unloading of trees. After you have unloaded your trees in the morning, please park out on Beryl Road (and try not to park immediately in front of the Arboretum, as I'd like to have closer parking available for the general public.).

Additionally, if you want your tree considered for the President's Award, you will be given a number for your tree. We will do our best to spread these trees throughout the display area. The public will then have the opportunity to vote for their favorite tree. The public consensus will count for 1 vote, with Ed and Harold providing the other 2 votes.

The President's Award will be given at approximately 4:45 PM in the main show area. So everyone should be sure to be present for the ceremony.

A few practical things to consider if you are showing a tree:

1. Can the number of trees you stated you can show all fit in your car for one trip? If not, let me know and perhaps we can find someone else local who can chauffeur a tree or two for you (We probably can't do this for some of our more remote members, but we may be able to do this for people more central to the Triangle).
2. Do you have a stand? An accent plant? Do you have a few extras you can bring to help the displays of some of our less established members?
3. Clean your pot. Pick any dead leaves or debris that have fallen onto the surface of your soil or moss. Moss your tree so that it looks it's best. Clean the outside of your pot so that it can also look its best.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 13th of September at JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University.

Go to: <http://www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum/index.php> (we're listed right on the front page) for Directions.

~Dan Cormican~