



ANNOUNCING THE PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

(see more information under Jan meeting notes—ed.)

This year, as our new president, Ed Lauer has created the President's Awards, to acknowledge outstanding bonsai in our members' collections. If the simple recognition isn't enough, there's extra motivation in the form of prizes. For the tree designated as the "Best Bonsai", the owner will receive a stamped and signed Tokonoma pot. The winner of the "Best Beginner Bonsai" will also receive a Tokonoma pot. A framed plaque will be awarded for every bonsai chosen for the 2006 display in Asheville. An additional "surprise" award is yet to be determined by the president.

Ed hopes that this will trigger some friendly competition, excitement, and increase your bonsai knowledge. Don't miss out! What's to lose – just something to gain! Please bring some of your trees to the upcoming TBS meetings for advice and help as you need, and get them ready for the official judging prior to the Asheville symposium. Good luck!

February Meeting

TBS is pleased to welcome Colin Lewis as our guest artist for the February 19th meeting. Colin is internationally known, originally from southern England, although now based at Bonsai West in Littleton MA. He is one of the few full time professional bonsai artists in the US. As the founder of the Ho Yoku School of Bonsai, Colin travels extensively, teaching seminars, including an on-going program here in the Triangle. His initial interest (some 30 years ago now) was in shohin, and with that in mind, Colin will be styling a collect shohin-sized yew, with a 3-inch trunk. In addition, he will be discussing the virtues of collecting our own trees as part of the journey to create that "specimen" bonsai in our own collections. Don't miss this one!

January Meeting

We began the meeting, welcoming our new TBS president, Ed Lauer. Many thanks for a job well done to Jim Stivers, who stepped down from the presidency, having assumed that role for the past two years. Jim will continue working for the club as his new position on the board of directors. Ed Lauer provided some preliminary results from the member survey gathered from the December 2005 auction (if you still would like to participate in the survey, please send your response and comments to Ed at elauer@nomaco.com):

1. What level of bonsai workshop would you like to see in 2006?
Novice 16% Intermediate 53% Advanced 31%
2. What type of workshops would you like to see in 2006?
Bring your own 53% Plant material provided 47%
3. Would you prefer 1/2 day workshops or full day for better, more expensive material?
Full day 73% Half day 27%
4. What are you willing to pay for a workshop?
\$50 half day-27%; \$100 half day-40%; \$100 - \$200 half or full day 27%; more than \$200-6%
5. What is your favorite plant material?
Tropical -8% Flowering -8% Elm-8% Fruit bearing-8% Trident maple-8% Azalea-16% Black Pine-8% Japanese maples-36%
6. What plant material would you like to see in a workshop?
Deciduous-35% Conifers-18% Tropical-12% Whatever we find-35%
7. What other comments do you have?
We need more marketing; More info on collecting; No tropical trees; Want to have visiting artist for home study; Get new artists; We have done a great job; Get more into the community; More demos

Ed announced the newly created President's Award to recognize outstanding bonsai in our club members collections. A panel of judges (minimum of three) will be selected by the board of directors to judge these bonsai. There will be three winners: "Best Bonsai", "Best Beginner Bonsai" (criteria to be defined later), and a third prize to be determined later. The owner(s) of the bonsai must be willing to have their tree displayed at the Asheville show to be eligible to win, although it is not guaranteed that the award winning trees will be selected for the club display in Asheville. The winning bonsai will not be allowed to re-enter the president's competition for two years, but may be included in the club's Asheville display at any time. The winners

of the "Best Bonsai" and the "Best Beginner Bonsai" will each receive a Tokonoma pot. Please bring your potential entries to the upcoming club meetings for help and ideas from other members and our guest artists. The official judging will probably be at the time of the September meeting.

The meeting continued with Steve and Cherie Cratty from Plant City Bonsai just north of Atlanta. They brought some excellent specimen trees and pre-bonsai for the club members to purchase. If you didn't see them at the meeting, or if you want more, contact Steve directly via his web site www.plantcitybonsai.com and I'm sure he can find a wonderful specimen for you. Steve also brought tools, books, magazines, and other bonsai related material. Cherie provided us with some beautiful pulp paintings that she has done since we saw her last year. Steve announced workshop days to be held at his nursery in Clermont, featuring Warren Hill on Feb 18, and Dana Quattlebaum on April 22; each will conduct half-day sessions (9-1 or 2-6) for \$65/session, working on one of your own trees, or one you can purchase from Steve.

Afterwards, Steve Ziesel gave a presentation on making fertilizer, based on a recipe from Bill Valavanis. The recipe is shown below... This one adds Sevin insecticide to prevent insect larvae from developing in your fertilizer, and uses some liquid fertilizer ingredients instead of water.

DRY INGREDIENTS

3 parts each: cottonseed meal
1 part each: bloodmeal, bonemeal, agricultural lime*

LIQUID INGREDIENTS

Fish Emulsion
Peter's 20-20-20 mixed with water according to directions

OPTIONAL INGREDIENTS

Superthrive
Sevin Insecticide

Directions: Mix dry ingredients thoroughly, then add in the liquid fertilizers to bring the mix to a paste-like consistency. Add in some Sevin insecticide (or Bayer Tree & Shrub systemic insecticide) and Superthrive. Spoon onto waxpaper to dry in the sun, and cut into squares when nearly dry, or use a scoop to form into balls.

*Add lime to keep pH from becoming too acidic. If the fertilizer balls are to be used for pines or azaleas, then do not add lime.

March Meeting

Please mark you calendars now, since there are only two weeks after the Colin Lewis program until our next TBS meeting on March 5 with Arthur Joura. Arthur will be conducting a "bring-your-own-tree workshop in the morning, and performing a demo in the afternoon. Workshop registration forms will be forthcoming.

Points of Interest

- **It's a new year, and time to re-new your TBS membership. You can find applications on the web home page, so please get your money to Helen, either by mail, or at the upcoming meeting. Single \$35, Family \$50, Senior \$25, and Senior couple \$40.**
- **Be sure to check out the "Links" on the web page. If any of you have other favorites that should be included, just let Keith know.**

Upcoming TBS Events

Feb 19	Colin Lewis demo	1:30-5:00
Mar 5	Arthur Joura BYOT workshop	9:30-12:00
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Apr 1	Ted Matson workshop	9:00-12:00
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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

TBA	Workshops and Classes, Bonsai Learning Center, Randy Clark (Charlotte NC)
Feb 18	Warren Hill workshops at Plant City Bonsai (Clermont GA)
Mar 3-4	Pine maintenance workshop, Growing Grounds, Marc Torppa (Cherryville, NC)
Mar 25	Matsu Momiji bonsai Madness, Steve Pilacik (Fuquay Varina, NC)
TBA Mar	Classes at the Growing Grounds with Marc and Don Torppa (Cherryville, NC)
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	Amerian Bonsai Society (Saratoga Springs, NY)
Jun 22-25	MidAmerica Bonsai Alliance—MABA (Milwaukee, WI)
Nov 2-5	GSBF convention XXIX (Sacramento, CA)

Jim Easterbrook