

February-March Newsletter Triangle Bonsai Society



NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY February 25, 2018 regular meeting

1:30 PM to 4 PM

Japanese maples - Kotohime, Kotohime Propagation, and Pots for Kotohime
also High Quality Japanese and Chinese Containers.

Guest artist - **Matt Ouwinga**

CLUB MEETING location:

Agric Extension Bldg 4001-E Cary Dr Raleigh, NC 27610

also remember

SUNDAY March 4, 2018 regular meeting

Tree Refinement and Show Preparation

Guest Artist - **Bill Valavanis**

WORKSHOPS

Saturday February 24, 2018 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Beginner Class (all club members)

No Registration Needed, but Class is limited to TBS members

Saturday March 3, 2018 8:30 AM (must register online)

Bill Valavanis Workshop - Momo No Haru Azalea

Saturday March 3, 2018 1:00 PM (must register online)

Bill Valavanis Workshop - BYOT

Link to Signup for workshops

(<https://www.trianglebonsai.com/so/cM5dhQtw/click?w=LS0tDQo1YWQxYWNiOS0xZDIiLTRkYmUtMDdkNS0yMmE1ZmQxYWUwMjQNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRyaWFuZ2xlYm9uc2FpLmNvbS93b3Jrc2hvcC1zaWdudXANCi0tLQ>)



From our VP- Program chair Gabriele Monetti

2018 kicked off with a resounding success. The Pottery Workshop led by **Ken Hallatt and Dean Bulluck** on January 6th was very well attended and a lot of fun; playing with clay brings out the child in all of us! Every attendee completed at least 3 pieces and some of us (like the Italian guy in charge of programs..cough.. cough..) built a bunch. I believe most attendees got a chance to try their hand at pinching, building, and throwing. I can't wait to see the results of the firing process.

Later in the month, on January 27th **Harold Johnson** led the first of two workshops for the folks who decided to take advantage of the State Fair Membership Special. It was great to see so many new faces, a sign that the art of bonsai and TBS have not lost any of their appeal. We started with a "Bonsai 101" presentation followed by a presentation from **Jim Easterbrook** focused specifically on Ficus. Harold, Jim, and a few helpers (thank you, Barbara and Don!) proceeded then to help the new members with the pruning, wiring, shaping, and re-potting of their new trees. The second and last session for new members is scheduled for Saturday, February 10th.

February will also mark the first of a series of five classes for Bonsai Beginners; on March 24th **Ken Hallatt and Harold Johnson** will provide much deeper information for beginners than we could in the new members workshops. The class is open to any member, but obviously it is highly recommended that folks who were in attendance at the two new members workshops attend as many as they can to start strengthening their knowledge of the both the artistic and horticultural aspects of the art.

At our upcoming regular meeting on February 25th, we will host the premier US-based dealer of quality bonsai containers, **Matt Ouwinga**; this meeting will also represent a chance for all our members to acquire a much needed, quality bonsai container from Japan. Matt will offer a presentation on the topic: "Kotohime, Kotohime Propagation, and Pots for Kotohime." As many of you know, Matt is one of only two Americans to show a tree in the prestigious Kokufu-ten exhibit in Tokyo. As a matter of fact, Matt will join us just a few days after his return from another trip to Japan for Kokufu-ten. A great opportunity for everybody to ask questions about the latest buzz from the world of bonsai in Japan, purchase seedlings (potted and bareroot), and ask any question about authentic Chinese and Japanese bonsai containers.

The **Bill Valavanis** workshops the first weekend of March are almost full! Based on the great response to the Momo No Haru Satsuki Azalea workshop, Bill agreed to expand the number of students from 10 to 15; we still have a couple of spots open. We also have one lonely spot left for the BYOT workshop on Saturday afternoon; if you are interested, don't wait too long.. If you can't get into a workshop, please join us for Bill's presentation to the club with the topic "Refinement and Show Preparation" on March 4th.

The collecting trip with **Ed Lauer** on March 10th is more than full! If you are still interested, please sign up online and you'll be added to the waiting list, in case any fellow member decides to drop off at the last minute. Members who have received confirmation of their enrollment in the collecting trip must attend the orientation session at noon on Feb. 25th.

Wow, that's a lot of activities! Just a glimpse of what's coming in April: **Rodney Clemons**, the king of Kingsville boxwood bonsai is coming to town. On April 7th he will lead a Kingsville workshop and a BYOT workshop; he will also present at the club meeting on April 8th. Be on the lookout for workshop signups on the TBS website!

TBS will be at
ART IN BLOOM March 22–25, 2018
at the NC Museum of Art
2110 Blue Ridge Road Raleigh, NC 27607-6494

Art in Bloom features Triangle Bonsai Society bonsai as well as more than 50 floral masterpieces created by world-class designers inspired by art in the Museum's collection. During the four-day festival, participants can attend our bonsai exhibit, as well as other flower presentations and workshops. Proceeds from Art in Bloom support Museum programming and exhibitions.

Museum entry fees are:

\$13 Members

\$18 Nonmembers

Free for children 6 and under

Thursday 9 am–9 pm

Friday 9 am–9 pm

Saturday 9 am–5 pm

Sunday 9 am–5 pm

Harold Johnson is working hard planning the TBS exhibit at 2018 Art in Bloom. Up to 12 box-type stands will be available for displaying bonsai. Ed's bald cypress group displayed in the pond was a hit last year and hopefully will be available for 2018.

The pre-opening night event for dignitaries will be held in the garden where our bonsai are displayed so we want to make a memorable impression with our display.

Printing of the Museum-quality labels will begin in advance of the event so the Museum is already asking for a list of what bonsai we might be exhibiting. The Museum would rather create labels for bonsai that aren't exhibited than have a bonsai exhibited without the Museum standard label.

If you have a bonsai that might be showable during the March dates, please send Harold Johnson the common name, botanical name and years in training as a bonsai (as best you know). Please include the approximate pot dimensions in order to plan for appropriately sized stands.

Harold appreciates your participation in this important art event.

TBS Bonsai Library

Link to the TBS LIBRARY
(<https://www.trianglebonsai.com/so/cM5dhQtw/click?w=LS0tDQpiMTU1MTkxYS00ZmFILTRiN2EtZjc1OC1iZjUzYTY3Mjc1NDkNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRyaWFuZ2xIYm9uc2FpLmNvbS90YnMtbGli cmFyeS0yDQotLS0>)



This month, instead of featuring material from our own TBS library, I'd like to pass along some information that came my way via Wayne Schoech of Stone Lantern (www.stonelantern.com

([https://www.trianglebonsai.com/so/cM5dhQtw/click?](https://www.trianglebonsai.com/so/cM5dhQtw/click?w=LS0tDQowYWZmZDFkYy1mMDgwLTQ2M2UtMmNiMS0zYWE0NWYxZWlwZTENCmh0dHA6Ly93d3cuc3RvbMVsYW50ZXJuLmNvbQ0KLS0t)

[w=LS0tDQowYWZmZDFkYy1mMDgwLTQ2M2UtMmNiMS0zYWE0NWYxZWlwZTENCmh0dHA6Ly93d3cuc3RvbMVsYW50ZXJuLmNvbQ0KLS0t](https://www.trianglebonsai.com/so/cM5dhQtw/click?w=LS0tDQowYWZmZDFkYy1mMDgwLTQ2M2UtMmNiMS0zYWE0NWYxZWlwZTENCmh0dHA6Ly93d3cuc3RvbMVsYW50ZXJuLmNvbQ0KLS0t))). The Bonsai Society of Portland has posted 8 videos from Ryan Neil. They are excellent, professionally produced, and best of all, they are FREE! Just go to their site

(<https://www.portlandbonsai.org>

([https://www.trianglebonsai.com/so/cM5dhQtw/click?](https://www.trianglebonsai.com/so/cM5dhQtw/click?w=LS0tDQowYWZmZDFkYy1mMDgwLTQ2M2UtMmNiMS0zYWE0NWYxZWlwZTENCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnBvcnRsYW5kYm9uc2FpLm9yZw0KLS0t)

[w=LS0tDQowYWZmZDFkYy1mMDgwLTQ2M2UtMmNiMS0zYWE0NWYxZWlwZTENCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnBvcnRsYW5kYm9uc2FpLm9yZw0KLS0t](https://www.trianglebonsai.com/so/cM5dhQtw/click?w=LS0tDQowYWZmZDFkYy1mMDgwLTQ2M2UtMmNiMS0zYWE0NWYxZWlwZTENCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnBvcnRsYW5kYm9uc2FpLm9yZw0KLS0t))), click

on "Mirai Videos" at the top, and choose your topic. Ryan leads you through 1.5-2 hours of instruction per video, primarily directed at bonsai horticulture (if you can't keep your tree healthy and alive, you probably don't need to worry about styling). Of course, if you want more of Ryan's instructional videos, they are available for purchase. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to become better educated, and I highly recommend everyone in our club take a look at these videos. Some information may seem a bit confusing, and even contradictory to other instruction you may have had. But that should encourage us to ask questions, and just maybe in the long run, we will all be wiser!

Jim Easterbrook, Club Librarian

Sketching Your Bonsai (PART 1)

by Gabriele Monetti

Did you ever want to sketch your bonsai to document your vision for the tree, the stages of the evolution of your design, or simply to look at your tree in a different way? Do your sketches of bonsai look like the equivalent of stick

figures for trees? Do you feel like dropping the pencil in favor of the concave cutter within minutes of starting a new drawing? You are not alone! We love to work with our trees, we enjoy most bonsai activities, we are always ready to talk to fellow bonsai lovers, but when it comes to drawing our trees many of us feel like our skills are not adequate or, even worse, it's just a waste of time. Neither is true.

I first realized the importance of a quality sketch as an essential tool for proper design a couple of years ago at the famous Crespi Nursery in Italy. Crespi hosted the 11th International Bonsai Gathering and the visiting master was Shinsaku Yamahata, third generation proprietor of Ryoku-zan-en nursery. Master Yamahata was working on a beautiful taxus and he started by polling the attendees for styling suggestions; he indulged us for a good 10 minutes, turning and tilting the tree to show different fronts and trunk angles. At the end, he said: "alright, thank you. Let me show you what it's going to look like" and he unveiled this:



Wow!

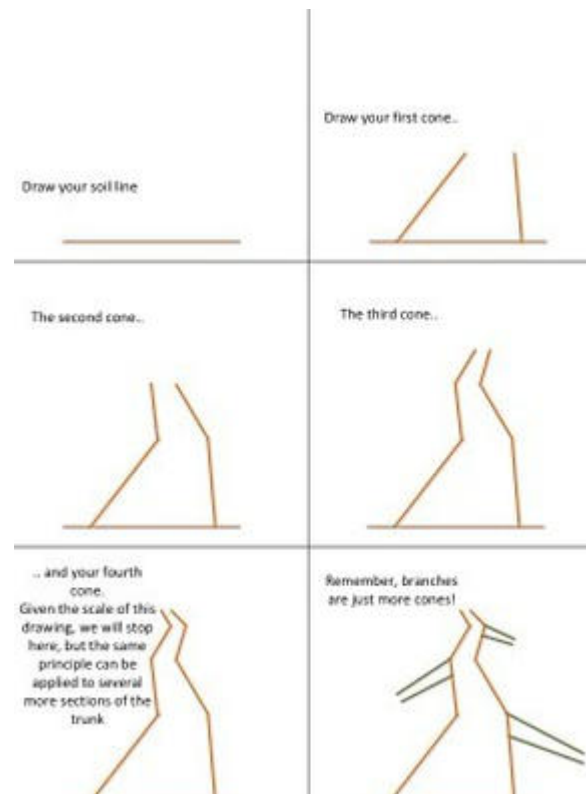
He didn't just grab a concave cutter; his first tool was a set of colored markers. He started his styling process by drawing, in very minute detail, his long term vision for the tree's three-year journey to

kokufu-ten to guide every decision along the way.

I realize that very few of us ever have a chance of working on a tree of that quality, but why shouldn't we apply the same principle to our own bonsai? Why not invest a little bit of time upfront to envision and document the final creation? Why not have a roadmap to facilitate all major decisions along the way, not as a stifling directive, but rather as a compass showing us the true north every time we deviate from the plan?

Because drawing is difficult, you say? Nonsense. A bonsai artist is first and foremost.. an artist. We just need a few basic guidelines and a small set of very basic, inexpensive art supplies. You also need to decide how complex or sophisticated you want your drawing to be: a simple monochromatic sketch or something closer to Mr. Yamahata's work?

For a very simple sketch, just define your soil line and use the "cone method." Each section of the trunk, and each section of each branch, is simply a section of a cone, where the base of each cone is of the same size of the top of the previous cone. If you want to follow the traditional rules of Japanese bonsai just make sure that each section is shorter than the one below (possibly using the Fibonacci sequence) to achieve the proper taper. The relative angle of each cone determines the degree of movement and it is influenced by the style of the tree you have chosen. Here is an example of an informal upright sketch.



Pretty simple, right? For a more complex and detailed drawing, just keep adding cones to the trunk (more movement and a better apex) and more cones to the branches (more ramification). What if I want a more realistic and sophisticated representation of my tree? Just stay tuned for Part 2 of this article in next month's TBS Newsletter.

Check out the new TBS website → (<https://www.trianglebonsai.com/so/cM5dhQtw/click?w=LS0tDQo2MzcxZmlwNS1hNTg4LTRhMzAtZWZiNy1hMTliZTNIY2Q5OGENCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRya>)