



Triangle Bonsai Society

Raleigh, North Carolina

April 2017



UPDATE FROM THE TBS PRESIDENT

Thanks to everyone, especially **Harold**, who made the **Art in Bloom Bonsai Exhibit** a success last weekend.

REMEMBER:

April 30th, 1:30 PM.

Picnic and auction at Lake Crabtree

It's time for a serious discussion within the club. What is it that we want from the Triangle Bonsai Society? I hope that all of you will provide input into the discussion. It is especially important as **Harold** transitions out of the role as program director and vice president and **Gabriele Monetti** takes this role over. In addition, in January a new club president and slate of officers will take over.

1. What should the monthly program look like? This year we had a number of guest artists (so far **Bill Valavanis** and **Boon**) flown in at our expense. They give workshops on Saturday and a demo at the Sunday meeting. The workshop fees help to defray some of the cost, but we usually spend more than we recoup. Are these what you, as members, want? Why has the sign up for the workshops been less than expected? Are different artists desired?

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Upcoming Events

Event: **Spring Picnic and Auction**

Date: **April 30th @ 1:30**

Location:

Lake Crabtree Park

1400 Aviation Pkwy

Morrisville

(919) 460-3390

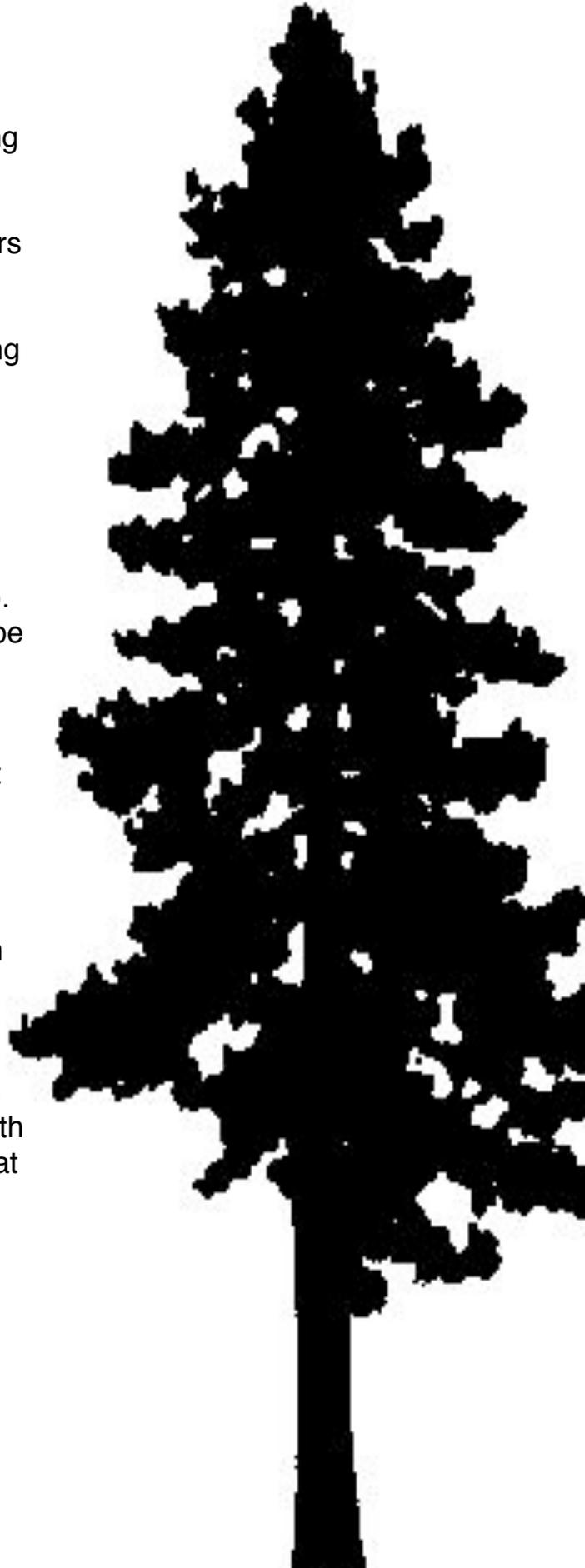


2. Should we have more demos and presentations by our members?
3. Should we have more bring your own tree workshops run by senior members of the club? Do you want more of these on Saturday before a meeting or rather do this at the Sunday meeting?
4. Should we organize collecting trips for members to get trees from the wild? From nurseries?
5. Is the 3-tree critique at the start of each meeting something you want to see continued? How could it be improved?
6. Should the club continue to display in the current number of shows (Art in Bloom, Duke Gardens, State Fair, Asheville? (Kannapolis is not a club display but rather individuals in the club display). If you like the opportunity of these shows, what can be done to involve more members in organizing and making them go well?
7. The club offers a club library (I use it but forgot to return my book last month). Why is it so lightly used? Can it be improved?
8. What else would increase your interest in the club? Chances to buy and sell bonsai stuff, tool loan for special tools,

I hope that you will think about these questions and your answers. E mail me (stevenzeisel@gmail.com) and copy **Gabriele Monetti** (monetti@gmail.com) with some of your thoughts. We will start the discussion at the picnic and again at the May meeting.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Picnic.

- Steve



U.S. National Shohin Bonsai Exhibition

June 23-25, 2017

North Carolina Research Campus
Kannapolis, North Carolina

Exhibition
Demonstrations
Workshops
Sales Areas



As mentioned at the last meeting that North Carolina (Kannapolis) will be the site of the **US National Shohin Bonsai Exposition** on **June 23-25, 2017**. This is a national show featuring the best trees under 8 inches tall (with a few >12 inch trees as well).

Guest artists will be **Suthin Sukosolvisit, Kathy Shaner, John Romano, Sean Smith, Michael Lebanik, Mark Arpag, Michael Ryan Bell** and **William Valavanis**. There will be workshops (for a charge) offered by several of these artists who are nationally well known for their work on smaller trees.

Friday Workshops

9:00am - 12:00 pm

Workshop 1 Suthin Sukolovisit
Imported Sargent Juniper **\$475**

Workshop 2 Michael Lebanik
Collected European Olive **\$200**

1:00 - 4:00 pm

Workshop 3 Kathy Shaner
Imported Root-over-rock Satsuki Azalea **\$400**

Workshop 4 John Romano
Japanese Black Pine **\$275**

Find out more at <http://www.internationalbonsai.com/page/493925678>.

This show is a great opportunity to buy stuff and learn more about bonsai. Many of us spent a lot of money to fly to Rochester to see the US National show for larger trees, now we can drive nearby and get the same experience. You should try to set aside the time to attend. Having a national show in our State does a lot for increasing the stature of bonsai in our region.

Triangle Bonsai Society Library

This month I would like to feature a relatively new addition to our library, "**Modern Bonsai Practice: 501 principles of good bonsai horticulture**" by Larry Morton. Larry has a BS in ornamental horticulture, lives in North Carolina, and is a bonsai enthusiast. To quote Amazon, this book provides "common sense bonsai answers separating myth from fact with depth and detail." This is not a design nor an artistic book, but is a comprehensive guide for keeping your trees healthy. I think it is safe to say that without a healthy (much less living) tree, there is little point in addressing bonsai design. I would direct this book to the intermediate and advanced members, due to the fact that this will challenge the basis for many of our bonsai practices, and will probably be a bit confusing for novice members. Walter Pall has written in the forward, "If one tries to find out about the 'truth' in bonsai horticulture, one has to wade through an enormous sea of information and often misinformation. Whatever someone claims to be true will be answered by someone who claims the opposite. So to whom do you listen? Well, most will listen to whomever they think are the experts. Unfortunately, way too often, the assumed experts are just repeating what they know from hearsay." Walter goes on to say that we should listen to those who offer scientific proof and have actual bonsai experience—someone who gets "the best results over the longest period of time."

For those of you that read this book, you will definitely be challenged about your horticulture practices, and who knows, maybe even end up with healthier and happier trees! Book club/study group anyone?

Published 2016, hardback, 341 pages

- Jim

April To-Do's

Here are some of the key activities for April. These activities are for the central Carolina area, Zone 7b/8a, but remember the micro-climates in your backyard may vary. You can find more complete monthly care guides at Triangle Bonsai Society Monthly Care or seek out an experienced member to answer your questions.

This month continues with potting, root pruning (if necessary), trimming and pinching new growth as well as wiring for shape and design. Keep a close check on any trees that are wired, as their tissue will begin to swell rapidly and wire must be removed before the bark is damaged. As the temperature warms up insect activity will start up. Check on pest activity frequently and take appropriate action.

The following can be transplanted and root pruned:

- Bald Cypress when new buds begin to show leaf color
- Crabapple - as buds begin to appear
- Pine - black/red/cork bark
- Azalea, Beech, Birch, Boxwood, Cedar, Chamaecyparis Hinoki, Cotoneaster, Crape Myrtle, Cypress, Ficus, Hornbeam, Juniper, Persimmon, Pomegranate, Privet, Spruce, Yew

It is also time to do some branch pruning on the following:

- Azalea after flowering
- Bald Cypress - prune branches ONLY when in active growth; new leaves out to the tip or when dormant if the branch is at least ½" diameter [pinkie size]; if in doubt - don't prune
- Crabapple after flowering
- Apple, Boxwood, Cotoneaster, Ficus, Fir, Privet

It is also time to do trim or pinch the following:

- Azalea - pinch/trim new soft growth until end of June
- Bald Cypress - only when in active growth (see above)
- Crabapple - pinch/trim new shoots
- Holly - All
- Hornbeam elongated shoots to desired shape until summer
- Maples - All
- Pines Cork bark/Red
- Pomegranate - trim new long soft growth
- Birch, Boxwood, Cedar, Chamaecyparis Hinoki, Crape Myrtle, Cypress, Elm, Ginkgo, Juniper, Chinese Quince, Spruce, Yew, Zelkova

The following may be wired:

- Hackberry - after shoots harden
- Weeping Willow - only heavy branches before buds come out
- Bald Cypress, Cedar, Cotoneaster, Crabapple, Elaeagnus, Pomegranate, Privet, Pyracantha

If you fertilize before the 20th of this month use a weak water soluble solution or a very low or 0 nitrogen fertilizer to avoid early top growth which could be damaged by late frosts which are common in zones 7/8 prior to about April 20.

Remember for a more complete list of activities check out the Monthly Bonsai Care at TBS Monthly Care or ask one of our more experienced members.

Date	Artist / Presenter	Theme	Location
April 30	Picnic & Auction		Lake Crabtree Park
May 20	Owen Reich	Workshops 1 - Kusamono 2 - BYOT	To be determined
May 21	Owen Reich	Club Meeting	Wake County Cooperative Extension Building
June 11	Ron & Sharon Lang	Bonsai Pots	Wake County Cooperative Extension Building
July 5-10	TBS Expo	Member Bonsai Display	Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Durham
August 5	Jim Easterbrook & Ken Hallatt	Ficus Workshop Material Provided	Wake County Cooperative Extension Building
August 6	Jim Easterbrook & Ken Hallatt	Club Meeting	Wake County Cooperative Extension Building
September 10	To be determined	Club Meeting	Wake County Cooperative Extension Building
October 1	To be determined	Club Meeting	Wake County Cooperative Extension Building
October 13-15	Club Display	Carolina Bonsai Expo	The NC Arboretum - Asheville
October 19-29	NC State Fair	Member display & judging	The NC Fair Grounds
November 5	Arthur Joura	Club Meeting	Wake County Cooperative Extension Building
December 2-3	Winter Silhouette Show		Kannapolis, NC
December 10	Holiday Party & Auction		Wake County Cooperative Extension Building