

Triangle Bonsai Society November Newsletter

Check out what is happening this month



Next club meeting is Sunday November 5, 2017 1:30 PM to 4 PM

Our guest artist is Arthur Joura, Bonsai Curator at The North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville. Arthur maintains one of the best bonsai collections in the country, and he focuses on use of American trees and styling.

At this meeting you will also elect new officers for 2018. The slate of officers as of today is:

President -Ken Hallatt

VP and Program Chair - Gabriele Monetti

Secretary - Barbara Holmes

Treasurer - Harold Johnson

Past President - Steve Zeisel

Director-

Colin Lickwar (2017-2019)

Meriritt Barnett (2018-2020)

Don Kimball (2016-2018)

? new Director (2018-2021)

Identify yourself at the next meeting if you are interested in being a TBS officer.



From the President

I am very happy to tell you that the club won the ribbon for BEST IN SHOW DISPLAY this year at Asheville. Don Kimball led the effort and worked with Gabriele Monneti and the owners of the trees (including his own) to create the ward winning design. Thank you Don.

The bonsai exhibition at the State Fair also went very well, Many of you assisted, but Michael Markoff did an exceptional job in setting the event up and we all owe him our thanks. This was a judged show (thanks to Owen Reich) and prizes were awarded. Harold Johnson will announce the winners at the November club meeting.



What Can Bonsai Teach You?

Gabriele Monetti

Bonsai is art. Bonsai is horticulture. Bonsai is love of nature. Bonsai is also a teacher. A teacher, you say? You bet. We train bonsai, but the little trees teach us a lot about life. We give our trees a lot of tender and loving care and they reward us with beauty, joy and great life lessons.

Here is the curriculum from Prof. Bonsai:

Sense of Responsibility – Caring for living beings is a great responsibility. Your own needs are no longer your top priority. The bonsai lover learns very quickly that a tree in a pot is defenseless, powerless to face less than ideal weather conditions without human help. The bonsai lover waters his trees before breakfast. The bonsai lover checks on her trees first thing upon returning from a long weekend. A bonsai that has been in your collection for years, and embodies your vision for living art, is a family heirloom and it is treated as such.

Attention to Details – A bit of a cliché, but none the less very true. Asking a practitioner what makes a great bonsai is a seemingly futile endeavor; one will never get a final answer. That doesn't prevent us from recognizing, however, that details are very important, even when there is little agreement as to which details are most important. As a tree matures and becomes more refined, the details come to the forefront of the design process; a few key details can make a difference between a good bonsai and a great one. As in all key activities of one's life, attention to detail separates the advanced practitioner from the novice.

Being Proactive - Knowing what to do is only half of the equation. Knowing when to do it is the other half. Proper timing can reduce a 20 year process to ten years. It's not just about the now. In a sense, Bonsai is like chess; being able to think, or imagine, 5, 10, 20 moves ahead can prevent many potential issues from becoming actual problems. That is true for pruning, styling, and shaping. Needless to say, being proactive in our disease management approach saves us a lot of aggravation and loss.

Patience – A master once said: “You only need patience for things you don’t love.” Yet, unwiring a large juniper is a labor of love. So is defoliating a large maple. But the great lesson bonsai teach us is that we can’t hurry quality, that 10 small steps cannot be replaced by two large ones, that many tasks can only be performed once a year or once every two or three years. Nothing is more enlightening than watching a video of Kimura show the deadwood on one of his junipers, finally starting to look natural after 25 years. A love of delayed gratification is key to happiness with the art of bonsai.

Humility – Life has a way to put us back in our place. For a lover of the art of bonsai, few things are more humbling than the feeling one gets from losing a tree, or just an important branch. Much like the tree is powerless without our care, we are powerless in the face of nature taking its course. We take every precaution, we follow the book, we buy the best supplies, we gather the recommendations of the best professionals, and yet. Mother Nature loves to remind us that she is still in command. Still proud of your trees? A fellow bonsai lover will take care of that with his free and sharp critique of your precious masterpieces; there is no perfect tree and bonsai people have an uncanny ability to find even the most subtle flaws. Do you want to enjoy bonsai to the fullest? Come to terms with the fact that you are not in charge.

Sense of Belonging – The world is full of Bonsai Clubs and Organizations one can easily join. Or not. I met great friends and found great support as a member of the Triangle Bonsai Society; it’s easy to feel at home when everybody shares the same passion and experienced bonsai artists freely share their knowledge and experience. On the other hand, some may not enjoy the attention (and the critique of one’s trees) that comes with belonging to a club. Beginners may feel intimidated by very experienced members. Even so, I like to think that we all belong to the fellowship of bonsai, a bond that is rooted in the efforts of those who came before us, those who believed in the art of bonsai as an agent of peace, friendship, and shared joy. In this fellowship we rejoice; for those pioneers, we are thankful.

FROM THE TBS LIBRARIAN

I find it hard to believe, but I still occasionally hear from members that they don’t know about our library! If you haven’t yet visited the site, please do so in the near future. The library is one of the many benefits of club membership, and provides some great information for beginners as well as advanced enthusiasts. It’s a very easy process. You can just follow the link at the bottom of this entry. Or if you want to

access the library and don't have this newsletter, go to www.trianglebonsai.com (<https://www.trianglebonsai.com/so/9LyBOHSP/click?w=LS0tDQozNWM1Yzk0Yy1mYmFjLTRINzYtOTkzYi02ODE3N2Y3ZjBkYzMNCmh0dHA6Ly93d3cudHJpYW5nbGVib25zYWkuY29tDQotLS0>), click on "club stuff" and then click on "TBS library." From that page you can view the library materials, decide on something you might like to read (or watch), enter your request(s), and click "send." Check out one or two at a time. Pretty simple. I will bring the materials to the subsequent TBS meeting for you to take home. If something is more urgent, I'm sure we can work out an earlier exchange (I live in Cary). Returns are due at the following monthly meeting. And please—if there is something that any member would like to see added to the library, I would be very interested to hear about it!

Jim Easterbrook



Use the TBS Bonsai Library

This is a great place to borrow books or DVDs to learn more about bonsai. You reserve a book online, pick it up at the next meeting, take it home and the return it at the following meeting.

Link to the TBS LIBRARY>>
(<https://www.trianglebonsai.com/so/9LyBOHSP/click?w=LS0tDQowZDY4NWVIZC05Yjg2LTQ5MWItMmFkNy01YTc3NzRIYjk3ZGQNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRyaWFuZ2xlYm9uc2FpLmNvbS90YnMtbGlicmFyeS0yDQotLS0>)

Check out the new TBS website  ([https://www.trianglebonsai.com/so/9LyBOHSP/click?
w=LS0tDQoyMWZINjZINC1hODI1LTRjOWQtZjUxYy1jYTVlZmFjY2YxNTYNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRyaW](https://www.trianglebonsai.com/so/9LyBOHSP/click?w=LS0tDQoyMWZINjZINC1hODI1LTRjOWQtZjUxYy1jYTVlZmFjY2YxNTYNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRyaW))