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Upcoming Meeting

Date: Sunday, February 21

Time: 1:30pm

Location: [Zoom](#)



Matt Ouwinga : [Kaedebonsai-en](#)

The leading US provider of seedlings and vintage bonsai pottery

Matt Ouwinga visits TBS virtually to discuss vintage Japanese and Chinese bonsai containers



Find all **TBS virtual lectures** in our [teachesyouhow ARCHIVE](#)

Message from the President



Dear Members and Friends of TBS,

Allow me to start by thanking all of you for the trust you placed in me to guide TBS for the next two years. We elected a very strong slate of officers with whom I am looking forward to working with over the next two years:

Michael Ring, VP

Marianne Lauer, Treasurer

Katerina Tripp and Harold Johnson, members at large

Ken Hallatt, Past President

Existing Secretary Assunta Rosler and Members at large Drew Leonhard and Jon Biggers continue for the remainder of their term.

We already had our first Board meeting and I can confidently say that the enthusiasm is palpable. We have big plans for 2021-2022. Michael is already hard at work setting up a series of events that include both classic and innovative opportunities to build our expertise and cultivate our love of bonsai. Michael Hagedorn's Zoom presentation was the first such opportunity for 2021 and, having just finished his fantastic book "Bonsai Heresy" I can say that many of the new notions and points of view put forward by Michael hold great potential for helping us take the art and the practice to the next level.

That being said, one of the key tenets of TBS is that it is "owned" by the entire membership. The club cannot fire on all cylinders without everybody's contributions; you are strongly encouraged to be open about any suggestion you may have for new programs or initiatives or, frankly, about things we could do better. Please keep your feedback coming!

While our trees are resting during winter it is time for bonsai lovers to do a few things. I have been preparing for re-potting season by making soil mix and preparing containers. Obviously we wouldn't be bonsai practitioners if we didn't take the chance to augment our collection of containers at this time: there is always room for another pot, whether we need it or not! Unfortunately our

more detail for you. On the topic of re-potting, Jonas Dupuich has recently published three very good articles on the topic on his blog: [Bonsai Tonight](#). Always great, well researched and well presented information from Jonas!

On the topic of bonsai education, I would like to bring to everybody's attention a fantastic opportunity to learn from one of the leading bonsai practitioners in the country and a long time friend of TBS. As most of you know, Arthur Joura is the Curator of the permanent bonsai collection at the NC Arboretum in Asheville, NC. Between January and June he is holding a series called "Bonsai At the North Carolina Arboretum: More than Meets the Eye." Here is the description from the Arboretum's site:

ONLINE Thursdays, February 25, March 25, April 29, May 27, June 24; 4 to 5 p.m.

Bonsai is a much favored feature of the Arboretum's identity, and not without reason. Bonsai Curator Arthur Joura presents an in-depth look at bonsai at The North Carolina Arboretum in a new series of monthly online talks. If you are among the many who are enchanted by what you see in the Arboretum's bonsai garden, you will want to experience this revealing glimpse of the philosophical foundation upon which our bonsai program is built.

For more information you can go to: [Bonsai At the North Carolina Arboretum: More than Meets the Eye](#)

Happy bonsai'ng!

Gabe

Message from the Vice President



No doubt the world has changed in the past 11 months. How do we operate as a club? How do we support bonsai artists and vendors? Can we inspire TBS

only a click away from the comfort of our homes and gardens.

Michael Hagedorn, of [Crataegus Bonsai](#) in Oregon, virtually visited TBS in January. Through comedy, science, and intelligent quirkiness, Hagedorn held open discussion about topics from his new book [Bonsai Heresy](#). Breaking down 56 bonsai myths using science and tradition, Hagedorn explores the notion that bonsai is on its own island horticulturally and that the accepted “rules” of design require deeper exploration of why we have the “rules” in the first place. Hagedorn teaches us how he unwittingly did bonsai wrong for many years. TBS is fortunate for being able to discuss such topics with an artist of Hagedorn’s caliber. May lessons he learned the hard way lead to longer lived and more refined trees in all our collections. In case you missed this event, the lecture is archived at <http://tbs.teachesyouhow.com/>.

After reading [Bonsai Heresy](#) and having a better understanding on the horticulture of repotting season, next up is to gain a better understanding of bonsai pottery from **Matt Ouwinga**. [Kaedebonsai-en](#), Ouwinga’s bonsai business, is the US’s foremost vendor of seedlings and vintage [Japanese and Chinese bonsai containers](#). Exclusive to TBS, we will be hosting this meeting virtually. If you’ve ever questioned “what makes this pot more valuable than that pot,” or “what style tree goes in this pot,” then this meeting is for you. The beauty in virtual meetings is that you have the chance to ask these questions in real time. We look forward to working with Ouwinga every year right before repotting season.

Moving forward this year, we’re being mailable in providing top notch programming. Look forward to hearing from [Bill Valavanis](#) on exploring the Japanese bonsai world for our March meeting. In August, [Young Choe](#) is booked for a presentation on kusamono and hopefully we’re going to have a hands-on workshop with her. There is so much talent and expertise in our own club that we’re excited to do interactive virtual garden tours this year with our experienced members. These are the folks who know about handling and developing bonsai in our specific climate. Contacting bonsai museums, US and international artists, and exploring new opportunities, I look forward to booking events that keep us inspired and further our education.

At this point in time, it looks like venues are preparing to host in-person shows, starting in June. [Art in Bloom](#) has moved from late winter to two weeks in June

[Gardens](#) is going to host our TBS bonsai show. If there is a State Fair this year, we will be there representing the bonsai world. We've traditionally held two auctions a year and this year we're consolidating that into one auction happening in August. There is no substitute for experiencing bonsai in person and our fingers are crossed to see bonsai in person this year.

Michael Hagedorn's books can be purchased from [Stone Lantern](#). You can also keep up with his current and past projects by frequenting his [Crataegus Blog](#). He's also teamed up with [Jonas Dupuich](#), [Andrew Robson](#), and [John Eads](#) to bring us the [Bonsai Wire Podcast](#), roundtable discussions around bonsai.

Support **Matt Ouwinga** by visiting his website for bonsai suitable seedlings, [Kaedebonsai-en](#), and his [Ebay Store](#) for the largest selection of vintage Japanese and Chinese bonsai pots. Join us on February 21 for an exploration of vintage Japanese and Chinese containers.

Grow,
Michael Ring

Preparing a Bonsai Pot with Recycled Wire

It's that time of year we still have long nights, but the days are getting incrementally longer. It's time to start planning your tree & pot combos and preparing pots. I like making use of used 16 gauge copper wire because it's the perfect balance of strong and easy to work with. I start by straightening out all the copper wire & cutting out my drainage screens. The *most efficient* and *cost effective* method of securing drainage screens is by using the **staple** method.



Take the full length of the wire & measure your bends using the drainage holes. Make a staple with good 90 degree angles by pressing the wire against the pot to the right size. Always **test** for a perfect **fit** so you won't rip & waste screens.

Place drainage screen on the inside side of the pot & insert staple. Push staple with your thumb until you feel it lock in place & hold. With other hand, set wire on the outside.

To lock in, peel back & lock down wire. This wire has been previously work hardened up to three times now & is **locked in tight** to the pot...no worries of that pesky soil getting up under your screen when you have a tree ready to get potted.

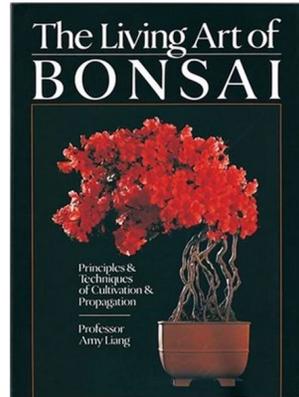


~Michael Ring

With all this cold wet weather, it's a great time of year to build your knowledge. The more we learn, the more creative we become.

Look over our [TBS Library](#) and discover out of print books, Kokufu books, and a wide variety of specific topic books..

Recommended reading:



Amy Liang's *The Living Art of Bonsai* is an all encompassing book on bonsai; covering inspirational photos, horticulture specific to bonsai, forest and rock plantings, collecting, and so much more.



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