

BONSAI SOCIETY OF THE CAROLINAS

June/July 2017 Newsletter



July Meeting Information:

Arthur Joura

Saturday, July 8, 10 – 12

UNCC McMillan Greenhouse

9090 Craver Rd

Charlotte, NC 28262

by Arthur Joura

Time flies like an arrow, so the saying tells us, and fruit flies like a banana. There are a lot of fruit flies around right now because it's summer, and summer means it's time for me to visit again with my bonsai friends in the Charlotte region. Summer has all sorts of associations, some good (peaches) and some not so good (blistering heat), and I'll leave it to you to decide where my 23rd annual visit to the Bonsai Society of the Carolinas fits on that spectrum.

This trip I will be reconnecting with a bit of our earlier shared history. I will be bringing back a bonsai planting first done on my second visit to your club, which was in 1996. At that time I put together 3 willow-leaf ficus I had grown from cuttings, to form an arrangement that was meant to be presentable from a multitude of perspectives. That is, I was trying to make a group planting that did not have a formal viewing "front". The ficus trees were quite young and not

very big. I planted them in a round container, and so small were they that I was obliged to plant 3 sizable stones in the middle of them. At the time of the planting, the stones had more visual presence than the 3 trees, but they were used as a temporary device to create interest. A few years later and the ficus had grown to the extent that there was no longer any room for the stones, and so they were removed. Since then the 3 ficus have remained together in the same configuration in which they were originally planted and have continued to grow and develop. In fact, they have actually grown together. The bases of the trees have fused together to form one large mass that will likely not ever be undone. The great mass of self-grafted roots that form the base of the planting is one of its best features. Also, the general development of the 3 trees has been good, in terms of comprehensive branching and substantial ramification. All in all, I have to say it has gone well with this planting.

And yet... I am not happy with it. In a word, it is boring. Or I should say, it is boring in the context of the rest of the Arboretum's collection. Nothing about this planting makes it stand out. We have other willow-leaf ficus bonsai that are older, larger, and better developed, and this one gets lost in their collective shadow. Also, when this particular ficus planting is in full leaf (essentially all the time) the 3 trees present as one big, green, shaggy mop with 3 legs. Our primary object in bonsai should be to create something worth looking at. This ficus group, as it currently exists, comes up short in that regard. I want to make it more interesting.

How? That, friends, will be this year's program. If you want to know what's next for this planting, with its self-grafted roots so entwined with your club's history, please come to the July meeting and find out for yourself! Hope to see you there...



Current picture, leaf stripped, so Art can see how it is put together.

The BSC Executive Board will meet after the July meeting. Members are encouraged to attend. Topics to be discussed:

- Dates/topics for 2018 meetings
- Update from Carl on meeting at DSBG
- Discussion of Expo displays
- Financial report from John

2017 At A Glance

Jan 14 – Dog Swap
 Feb 11 – Soil, Pest Control & Plant Science
 Feb 24-26 & Mar 3-5 – Spring Show
 Mar 11 – Bonsai 101 Workshop
 Apr 8 – Bonsai 201
 May 13 – Member Workshop
 June 10 – Picnic & Member Tour
 June 23-25 – US National Shohin Bonsai Exhibition

July 8 – Arthur Joura
 Aug 12 – Bonsai 101 Workshop
 Sept 9 – Design Challenge
 Oct 7 – Auction
 Oct 14-15 – Bonsai Expo, Asheville
 Nov 10 – Collecting Trip
 Dec 2 & 3 – Winter Silhouette Show
 Dec 9 – Holiday Party

June Meeting Recap

Picnic and Member Tour

by Gene Martin

As expected, Bob and Pam Hampel were excellent hosts for this year's Picnic and Member Tour. They deserve an even bigger thanks when I tell you they stepped up at the last minute!



Several nice Japanese Maple forests and a Mondo grass.



Bob made this display stand for small bonsai. Nice!!



Healthy accent plants!



Can you tell Bob likes Azaleas?

Everyone had a great time!! Thanks, Bob & Pam. BTW, almost everything is for sale, so let them know if you saw something you'd love to take home.

August Bonsai 101 Class

by Tammy Bates

New members who did not participate in the March classes should reach out to me by phone 980-621-8177 or by email tammy.bates@usfoods.com to signup. Class size is limited.

September Meeting Tease

This will be a Senior Member Style Off. If you'd like to participate, contact Tammy. Slots are limited. This will be at the Bonsai Learning Center.

Other News

BSC member Dave Hull has a couple of shipping containers of large pots and pumice. If you need either one, contact him at www.BasicBonsaiSupply.com.

Raffle Reminder

The July meeting **will** include a Raffle – bring your Raffle items and a few bucks for tickets. The May raffle items included several pre-bonsai plants and some beautiful begonias. Thanks for your support!!

Dues Reminder

2017 BSC Membership dues are overdue. If you've been enjoying the benefits of BSC Membership and have not paid your dues, you should correct that situation immediately. Bring a

check to the June meeting or mail it to Treasurer
John Farrell.

Executive Board of the Bonsai Society of the Carolinas

President – Tammy Bates
Vice President – Carl Maxwell
Treasurer – John Farrell
Secretary – open
Show Chairman – Brad Russell
Newsletter Editor – Gene Martin

BSC Meeting Information

Monthly meetings are held at the McMillan
Greenhouse on the campus of UNCC unless otherwise
noted. Directions and parking information can be
found on the [BSC website](#).

The BSC Newsletter is compiled and created monthly
by Gene Martin. Contributions and feedback are
welcome. Please email submissions or comments to
GeneMartin@carolina.rr.com by the 20th of each
month for publication in the following newsletter.
