

BONSAI SOCIETY OF THE CAROLINAS

March 2016 Newsletter



March Meeting Information:

New Member Workshops

Saturday & Sunday, March 12/13, 1-4
Bonsai Learning Center
142 Hidden Harbor Rd
Mooresville, NC 28117

by Gene Martin

The Southern Spring Show was again an excellent source of new BSC members. Workshops will be held Saturday and Sunday for them. Existing BSC members can take the workshop for \$25. Please contact the BLC if you wish to register as there are a limited number of seats. Workshop participants will leave with a bonsai and instructions on how to keep it alive.

Existing BSC members are strongly urged to attend the workshops and assist with the classroom instruction and workshop.

The BSC Executive Board will NOT meet before the March meeting. These meetings are open to all Society members.

2016 At A Glance:

Jan 9 – Bonsai Begins with Wire
Feb 13 – Grafting & How Trees Work
Feb 26-28 & Mar 4-6 – Spring Show
Mar 12/13 – Bonsai Basics Workshop
Apr 9 – Bonsai Garden Road Trip
May 14 – Master Workshop
June 11 – Member Picnic
July 9 – Arthur Joura
Aug 13 – Carving
Sept 10 – Member Workday
Oct 1 – Auction
Oct 8-9 – Bonsai Expo, Asheville
Nov 12 – Collecting Trip
Dec 10 – Holiday Party

February Meeting Recap

Grafting & How Trees Work

by Gene Martin

BSC President Bob Hampel gave a slideshow program on improving trees with grafts. He touched on pocket grafts, approach grafts, thread grafts and gave a demonstration of a thread graft.

Member Larry Morton talked about his upcoming book *Modern Bonsai Practice – 501 Principles of Good Bonsai Horticulture* (not yet available). He talked about the benefits, limitations, challenges and logistics of grafting and demonstrated on a large Juniper. After the meeting, members were invited to practice grafting on Larry's tree.

Until Larry's book is available, Bob recommended Harry Harrington's [Bonsai4Me](#)

website. A search for “grafting” turned up 5 pages of articles!



*Have a dynamite tree with bad foliage?
Use grafts to replace it!*



*Need a branch on the "other" side of a tree?
Thread graft is one way to solve the problem.*



*Approach grafts can sometimes be a colossal challenge!
How's he going to water that?*

Many thanks to Larry and Bob for shedding light on grafting.

Southern Spring Show 2016

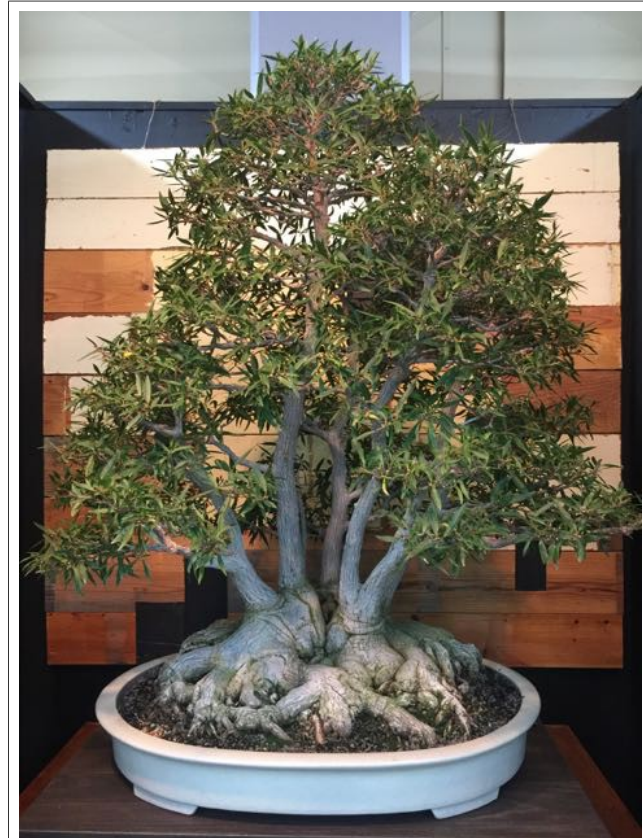
The Spring Show is now history. As usual, thousands of folks saw some excellent trees and a few stopped to ask questions. A few shared their bonsai stories with us! Eventually they all end up with a dead tree. A timely reminder to all of us that these are not house plants that can be ignored.



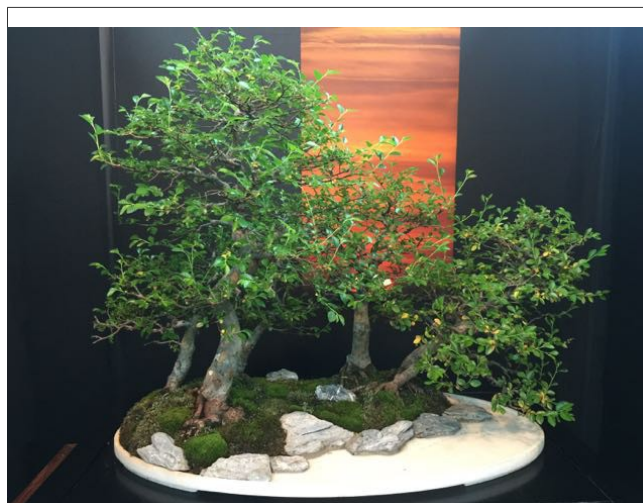
Brad Russell's Shimpaku Juniper



Creighton Bostrum's Blue Star Juniper



NC Arboretum's Narrow Leaf Fig



Ken Duncan's Chinese Elm forest. Note the new growth in just the last week!

The BSC is tremendously grateful to the eight folks who displayed trees AND to the many volunteers who faithfully guarded them, answered questions about them and handed out brochures! Officers of the BSC appreciate your dedication

and participation!



Ken Buechele's Chinese Elm



Martin Sweeney's Wisteria



John Geanangel's Native Oak - winner of the People's Choice Award

John published a YouTube video on the treehouse construction. Check it out [here](#).



Bob & Pam Hampel's Shimpaku Juniper

Monthly Care Highlights

- Repot
- Remember to provide extra protection for repotted trees.
- Begin planning for air layers.
- * Cuttings can be started thru May
- Grafting on deciduous trees can continue this month, but conifer work should be wrapped up.

The April “meeting” will be a road trip to John's and Ken's digs in the Columbia area. Overall plans are to be at John's at 10 and Ken's at 1. Details in the next newsletter. Talk to other members about carpooling.

John and Ken will be in Charlotte for the May meeting. Details to follow.

Executive Board of the Bonsai Society of the Carolinas

President – Bob Hampel
Vice President – Mike Brawley
Treasurer – John Farrell
Secretary – Tammy Bates
Show Chairman – Brad Russell
Newsletter Editor – Gene Martin

Raffle Reminder

The March meeting on Saturday WILL include a Raffle – bring your Raffle items and a few bucks. Thanks for your support!!

Other News

Mike Brawley will host a “Learning About Bonsai” class at his home on Friday, March 11. There is no charge, but registration is required. Contact Mike at 704-258-MIKE. Class begins at 1:00.

Member Dave Hull still has plastic bonsai pots available. If you would like his spreadsheet of sizes and prices, please let me know.

Dues Reminder

BSC dues for 2016 are \$50 and are due NOW. Please bring a check to the March meeting or mail it to Treasurer John Farrell, 18020 Lochcarron Ln, Cornelius, NC 28031-5218.

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. Unless otherwise noted, photos are by Gene. 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.
