

BONSAI SOCIETY OF THE CAROLINAS

July 2016 Newsletter



July Meeting Information:

Master Demo – Arthur Joura

Saturday, July 9, 10-Noon

UNCC McMillan Greenhouse

9090 Craver Rd, Charlotte, NC 28262

by Arthur Joura

Everyone knows maples work well as bonsai, right? It seems just about everyone who has a bonsai collection has at least one maple, and usually more than that. Of course, those are almost always Japanese Maples or Tridents, maybe a random Amur Maple here and there. What about our native Red Maple, the most common maple species in North America? Do you know anyone who has a Red Maple bonsai in their collection?

In my travels about I have come across Red Maple bonsai, but not very often, and those I have encountered are typically in some earlier stage of development. When I try to conjure up a mental image of a nice Red Maple bonsai that someone has spent some time developing and brought to a high level of refinement, the best I can do is remember the Red Maple forest in the National Collection in Washington, DC (put together by Vaughn Banting back in the 1970's). But when it

comes to a single-tree specimen, I cannot think of one. How can this be? The answer must be that Red Maples really are not very good bonsai subjects. That answer seems logical in the face of the evidence, and lord knows there are countless bonsai people who will confirm it if you have any doubt, but as it turns out that answer is incorrect. Red Maples are good bonsai subjects; however, they are not easy bonsai subjects.

I can make the above statement with some degree of authority, because no one I personally know has spent as much time working with Red Maple for bonsai as I have. That sounds immodest, but I believe it to be true.

In my upcoming program for the Bonsai Society of the Carolinas, my 22nd such annual visit, I will share with you the information I have learned over the years. Although not the easiest of trees to work with, Red Maples have many traits that make them worth the effort, and few species are so readily available to bonsai enthusiasts in our region. My program will take the form of an illustrated lecture, with lots of useful information and many colorful images. If anyone in the club currently has Red Maple they are growing as bonsai, or for eventual bonsai use, I encourage you to bring your trees to the meeting. Of course I will bring a couple of my own.

Ahh, Charlotte in July! I get damp just thinking about it!



Acer rubrum forest from the NC Arboretum collection. Photo by Arthur Joura

June Meeting Recap

Member Picnic & Swap Meet

by Gene Martin

Ron and Tammy Bates were kind enough to offer their backyard as Plan B for the Member Picnic and Swap Meet. Due to a mix up in schedules, the Bonsai Learning Center was not available that Saturday.

About a dozen BSC members assembled in Ron and Tammy's backyard. Yes, it was hot, but there was plenty of shade and lemonade to keep everyone alive, if not comfortable!

We had many great conversations about their bonsai and landscape trees, as well as Ron's automated sprinkler system.



Host Ron giving Hubert the grand tour.

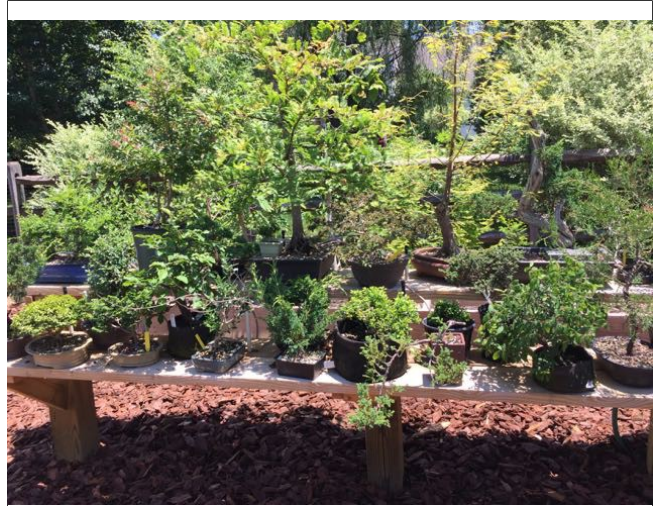
The BSC Executive Board will not meet before the July meeting.

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 – Masters' 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 3 & 4 – Winter Silhouette Show
Dec 10 – Holiday Party



Detail view of Ron's very well-built display bench



A small sample of Ron and Tammy's collection



We've previously noticed how weed-free some gardens are. Yet another great example!



A close-up of one of Ron's automated watering setups. Ron is obviously an advanced craftsman, using zip-ties rather than Duct Tape for holding everything together!



Emitters deliver much needed water to thirsty trees.

Many thanks to Ron and Tammy for hosting the picnic, ordering box lunches, and offering tea and lemonade. And thanks to the members who attended.

All photos provided by Gene Martin.

August Meeting Tease

Carving Workshop

by Gene Martin

Learn to carve something other than your initials on bonsai (although that would be cute). Local bonsai artists will share their experiences and techniques. Bring your carve-able trees and tools.

Due to other events at the Greenhouse and BLC, we do not have a venue for the August or September meetings. If you have a suggestion, please send an email to Bob (rwchampel@gmail.com). And yes, Arthur, we would consider the Arboretum Greenhouse.

The venue would require power and be appropriate for the sawdust and woodchip mess that will ensue. September is a BYOT event and requires only tables and something to sit on.

Other News

Election of officers will be held this fall. Terms are 2 years and we will need candidates for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you're interested in any of these positions, please contact a member of the Board.

Steve Zeisel's 2016 Winter Silhouette Show website is up and running. Logistics and Registration information can be found [here](#). Guest artists this year are Bill Valavantis, Owen Reich, Rodney Clemons and Adam Lavigne. Quite an impressive list.

Obviously you should be prepping your trees **now** for the December show.

The Atlanta Bonsai Society has revamped their [website](#) with new style and content. Facebook links are now provided; it is more readable from a phone; and other improvements.

Raffle Reminder

The July meeting will NOT include a Raffle – Save your Raffle items and a few bucks for the August meeting. Thanks for your support!!

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

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.
