

# BONSAI SOCIETY OF THE CAROLINAS

## March 2017 Newsletter



### March Meeting Information:

#### **Bonsai 101 Workshop**

Saturday, March 11, 9 – 12 AND 1 - 4  
Bonsai Learning Center  
142 Hidden Harbor Rd  
Mooresville, NC 28117

by Gene Martin

The March meeting will be a new-member introduction to the ancient art of bonsai. BSC Vice President Carl Maxwell and Past President Bob Hampel will begin each session with a presentation on the basics of bonsai, followed by hands-on work with a Juniper. Both sessions will take place at the Bonsai Learning Center.

There are two sessions on Saturday, each limited to 10 participants. Experienced BSC members are needed at each session to assist the students as they learn to clean up, choose a design, select branches and wire a bonsai.

If you can attend one of the sessions, please contact Carl or Bob ASAP.

The BSC Executive Board will not meet after the March meeting. Members are always invited to attend.

### 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 – Rock Planting Workshop

June 10 – Picnic & Member Tour

June 23-25 – US National Shohin Bonsai Exhibition

July 8 – Arthur Joura

Aug 12 – TBD

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

### February Meeting Recap

#### **Soil, Pest Control & Plant Science**

by Gene Martin

Bonsai Learning Center Sensei Brad Russell talked about all the secret ingredients of good bonsai soil. Secret ingredients notwithstanding, his message was that your soil must be

compatible with your watering practices, the environment your trees live in – a holistic approach. Figure out what works for you, document any diversions/experiments and stick with it.

New members Jennifer Bueno and Tip Reburn, both employed by Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens, gave a presentation on common bonsai pests and how to combat them. They cited many examples of natural solutions, as well as more aggressive chemical ones.

Many thanks to Brad, Jennifer and Tip for sharing valuable info with the club.



*Jennifer and Tip brought samples of some of the products discussed during their talk and donated them to the Raffle.*



*If you discover bagworms on your bonsai or landscape plants, immediate action is required.*

---

## Crape Murder

by Gene Martin

I'm sure you're all familiar with Crape Murder and what an ugly landscape tree it creates. But have you thought about air layering one of those Crape Myrtle "knots"? Rodney Clemons recently posted (1/17) the following picture on Facebook, with the caption "An example of a Crepe Myrtle bonsai that came from a layered Crepe-murder knot. ... Easy to layer and tells a good story." Another reminder to keep an open mind, look around and think outside the box. Inspiration and interesting bonsai come from some of the most unusual places.

If you've spotted the perfect spot to air layer a crape murder, please let us know. We'd like to follow the progress and see the results.



*Crape murder air layer. Photo by Rodney Clemons. Reprinted with permission.*

Ken Buechele  
John Farrell  
Ron & Tammy Bates  
Hubert & Carol Duprez  
Richard Blanton  
Colette Greene  
Martin Sweeney

Mike Brawley  
Jennifer Bueno  
Jim Hall  
Ken McLaurin  
Mike Stelzer  
Jim Hanley

The trees displayed this year were beautiful and



*Ken Buechele's Shimpaku forest*

impressive. Here are the trees from this year's exhibit (the pictures do NOT do them justice!

## Other News

Bill Valavanis is producing a **US National Shohin Bonsai Exhibition**, June 23-25, at the NC Research Campus in Kannapolis. If that venue sounds familiar, it is the home of the Winter Silhouette Exhibition! Visit Bill's [blog](#) for information about the Show and how to register and/or submit a tree.

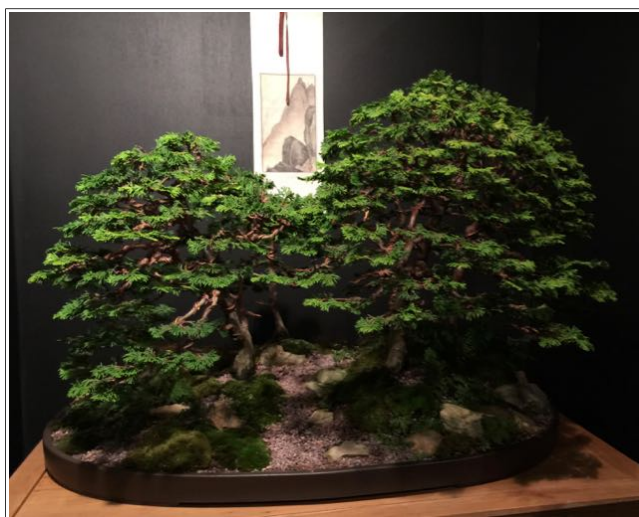
## Southern Spring Show

The 2017 **Southern Spring Show** is now history. I hope you were able to visit the Bonsai Exhibition and enjoy the rest of the Show.

BSC Members who worked the Show are listed below. You have our heartfelt THANKS for your support!

Bob & Pam Hampel  
Mireille Cantin

Lois Lechleider  
Carl Maxwell

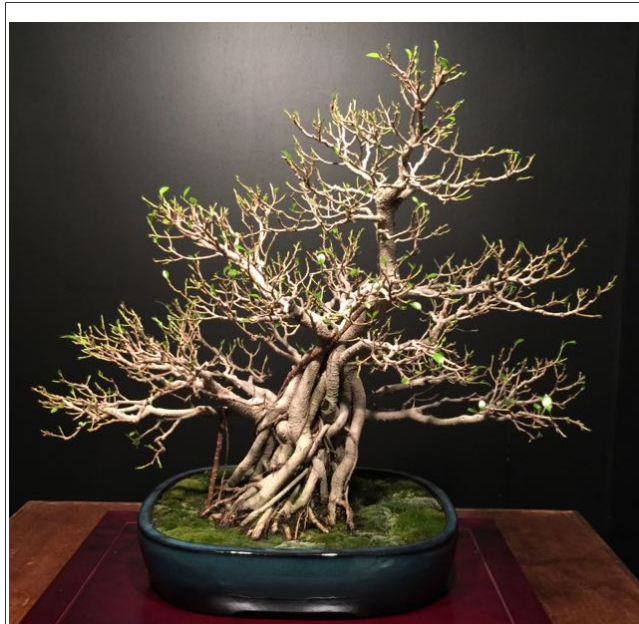


*Pam Hampel's Golden Hinoki Cypress forest*





*Brad Russell's Blue Alps Juniper*



*Ken Duncan's Narrow Leaf Ficus*



*Shimpaku Juniper with Azaleas by John Geanangel*

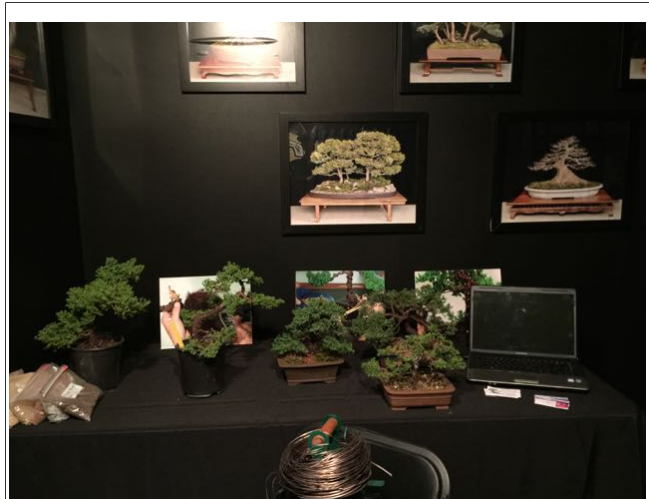


*Japanese Maple by Arthur Joura (NC Arboretum)*





*Dwarf Jade by Carl Maxwell*

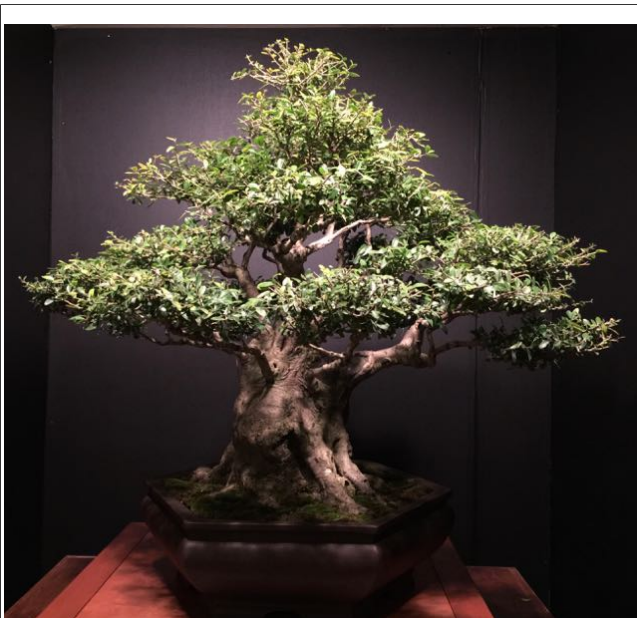


*This year's Display Central provided room to show off some tools of the trade and samples of beginner bonsai*

Many thanks to artists who displayed trees and to those who worked the Show!

## Raffle Reminder

The March meeting **will not** include a Raffle – save your Raffle items and a few bucks for tickets next month. The February Raffle added \$81 to the BSC Treasury. Thanks for your support!!



*Brad Russell's Yaupon Holly*



*A small sample of the Raffle items available last month!*

## Special Announcement

Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens in Belmont, is hosting a Chinese Lantern exhibit later this year. Part of the build up to that event is an agreement with the BSC to display trees at DSBG starting in April.

This is an outstanding opportunity to display our trees and educate the public about bonsai. Details are still being worked out, but you should already have received a letter from Carl about making trees available for the display.

Oil up those pots and slap on a layer of moss – get ready to show off your years of hard work!

### ***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](mailto:GeneMartin@carolina.rr.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication in the following newsletter.