

BONSAI SOCIETY OF THE CAROLINAS

April 2017 Newsletter



April Meeting Information:

Bonsai 201

Saturday, April 8, 10 – 12

Bonsai Learning Center

142 Hidden Harbor Rd

Mooresville, NC 28117

by Gene Martin

The April meeting will be a follow on to the March Bonsai 101 class. Bonsai Learning Center Sensei Brad Russell will lead the discussion of techniques slightly more advanced than those covered in the Bonsai 101 Workshop.

The topics discussed will be appropriate for new BSC Members as well as experienced Bonsai practitioners. There will also be ample opportunity to work on trees, so bring your tools, wire and a tree or two to the workshop.

If you have a tree for the DSBG Display (see article later in the Newsletter), please bring it to the meeting or at least contact VP Carl about it.

The BSC would like to Welcome new members, especially those who recently completed the recent Bonsai 101 Class. We sincerely hope you enjoy the art and practice of Bonsai for the remainder of your life!

The BSC Executive Board will not meet after the April 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

March Meeting Recap

Bonsai 101 Workshop

by Gene Martin

BSC Vice President Carl Maxwell and Past President Bob Hampel began each session with a presentation on the basics of bonsai. After exposure to the basics, newbies moved on to the

hands-on portion of the program. Each person received a Juniper to clean up, prune and wire. Care instructions went home with each tree.

The BSC expresses tremendous thanks to Carl and Bob for their leadership on this event and to BSC Members who assisted with the Bonsai 101 program.

DSBG Display

by Carl Maxwell

The Display Committee would like to ask for your help by agreeing to display one or more of your bonsai specimens at the new Bonsai Display Area at the Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens. The Display Area opening day is Saturday, April 15th, so we have less than 2 weeks to get trees ready for the display. We will be building wooden display benches that are 8 feet long and 20 inches wide and they will sit approximately 42 inches high, which should be near perfect viewing height. The benches will be mounted on both sides of the East Pergola, directly behind the Garden Entrance and Main Building. The Pergola is about 100 feet long. We will start with four benches and three to four trees per bench, so we need 12 to 16 trees. We have about 7 trees pledged so far, so we need your trees to meet our minimum.

Your tree does not have to be a “masterpiece”. In fact, we will have a section for “beginner trees” to show what a tree is like when it is first styled and beginning training. So the display is open to all age groups, and experience levels, and virtually any type of tree. You can specify how long you are willing to loan your tree to the display, but we suggest a minimum of 30 days so that we are not constantly having to find replacements. The gardens staff will be watering and fertilizing the trees based on your specifications in the loan agreement. They will also monitor them for pests and disease, and advise you of any treatment they think is necessary.

We are holding a tree review and “spruce up” session at our meeting on April 8th at the Bonsai Learning Center. We ask that you bring any tree to the meeting that you want to loan to the Gardens so we can get a feel for the type and size of trees we will have for the display. If you cannot come to the meeting with your tree but want to loan it for the display, please take a few pictures and send them to me along with the Tree Loan Agreement and the Tree & Owner Information forms. I will call you to arrange for getting the tree to the Gardens on setup day on Friday, April 14th (Good Friday and Easter Weekend!)

On the BSC website (bonsaicarolina.org) you will find the “Tree Loan Agreement and the Tree & Owner Information Form” in MS Word format. You will need to fill out one of each of the forms for each tree that you want to display. There is also a version in Adobe PDF format if you do not have MS Word. The Society, the Gardens, and you will all retain copies of both forms so there is no question about the care specifications. Our new members, Jennifer Bueno and Tip Reburn, along with Gene Martin and myself, will be checking on the trees and the displays on a regular basis. And you have the option to go and check on and maintain your own tree any time you like. We will provide you with a Membership Identification Card that will get you free entry into the Gardens to work on your tree.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss loaning your tree for the exhibit, please do not hesitate to email me or give me a call on my cell phone anytime at (757) 575-9913. Thanks in advance for your help and I hope to see you at our meeting on April 8th.

Learning More

Are you new to bonsai? Do you want to learn more about what good bonsai is and how to create

it? Bonsai Mary has an article you might enjoy – “Ten Steps to Good Bonsai” - check it out [here](#). As with most topics, there is a ton of bonsai advice available on the internet, but much of it is junk. View and read everything with a critical eye and reach your own conclusions.

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.

Raffle Reminder

The April meeting **will** include a Raffle – bring your Raffle items and a few bucks for tickets. The February Raffle added \$81 to the BSC Treasury. Thanks for your support!!



A small sample of the Raffle items available in February!

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 April 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.
