

BONSAI SOCIETY OF THE CAROLINAS

February 2016 Newsletter



February Meeting Information:

Grafting & How Trees Work

Saturday, February 13, 10 – Noon
UNCC McMillan Greenhouse
9090 Craver Rd, Charlotte, NC 28262

by Gene Martin

This month the BSC has for you a multi-pronged, multi-speaker, interactive program! Nurseryman and bonsai grower and BSC member Larry Morton has written a book on plant science as applied to bonsai. You may remember that Larry was one of our hosts for the Member Tour last June.

Larry will be our first speaker on Saturday, spending about half an hour on how trees grow and prosper, especially bonsai. Larry expects his book to be published in the next week and copies may be available for purchase after the meeting.

In the second half of Saturday's program, Larry will be joined by BSC member Ken Buechele and President Bob Hampel to discuss and demonstrate improving bonsai by grafting. Following that, Larry has a large juniper for club members to practice approach grafting.

The BSC Executive Board will NOT meet before the February 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 – Bonsai Basics Workshop
Apr 9 – Bonsai Garden Roadtrip
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

January Meeting Recap

Bonsai Begins with Wire

by Gene Martin

One attendee described the meeting thusly...
“About 15 members were present. There was a wide variety of trees, including one that “stumped” members as to the variety: a Florida tropical called Parrots Beak. The meeting was about wiring techniques. A video of wiring techniques was shown as well as a lot of hands-on help from senior BSC members for everyone that brought trees. Although wiring was the focus,

there was also a lot of guidance on pruning and shaping. Many of the trees needed both and some light pruning was required before wiring could even begin. A good meeting overall.”



No better way to spend a Saturday afternoon than wiring trees in the company of fellow bonsai artists. Photo by Tammy Bates



Good wiring is all about the details. Tedious, but necessary! Photo by Scott Telk

Many thanks to Scott Telk and Tammy Bates for photos of the meeting.



Creating natural looking deadwood requires practice. Photo by Scott Telk

Southern Spring Show 2016

The Spring Show is only a few weeks away. We need YOU to help staff the Show. Duties include answering basic questions about bonsai and the BSC, distribute flyers and SMILE.

The Show happens the last weekend of February and the first weekend of March. Shift schedules:
Fri 10-2, 2-5, 5-8
Sat 10-2, 2-5, 5-7
Sun 10-2, 2-5

Shifts are still available. Please call Mike Brawley at 704-258-6453 to sign up. This is one of the few times the BSC asks for member participation – be a part of the solution!

Raffle Reminder

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

Other News

Sweden claims to be the home of the world's oldest living tree. Check out the [article](#) and judge for yourself.

John Geanangel has a video on YouTube showing the construction of a [bonsai birdhouse!](#) And recent Bonsai Bark posts ([here](#) and [here](#)) show a Bonsai Hedge of cotoneaster. Folks, creativity is alive and well in the bonsai world!!

Rick Ellis sent me a link to a story about “[levitating](#)” bonsai. Who knew technology could be applied to an age-old art?

February Monthly Care Highlights

- No fertilizer yet
- Good month to prune fruit-bearing and deciduous trees
- * Cuttings can be started from now thru May
- Grafting on deciduous trees can begin this month, but conifer work should be wrapping up.

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

Dues Reminder

BSC dues for 2016 are \$50 and are due NOW. Please bring a check to the January 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. 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.
