

NBS Links

[NBS Website](#)
[NBS Facebook](#)

Upcoming Events*June Meeting*

6/12/2018, 6:30pm-9pm
 @ Cheekwood

NBS Garden Tour

6/30/18, Time TBD

July Meeting

7/10/18, 6:30pm-9pm
 @ Cheekwood

NBS Annual Show

7/21/18, 10am-4pm
 @ Cheekwood

Meetings

2nd Tuesday of every month
 @ Cheekwood, Massey Hall

2018 Dues

\$30 per member
 or
 \$40 per family

Blog Roll

[Bonsai Tonight, Defoliating
Maples](#)
[Bonsai Tonight, Cutback on
Ume](#)

[Nebari Bonsai, Tosho
Trimming](#)
[Nebari Bonsai, Making
Accents](#)
[Nebari Bonsai, Itoigawa
Refinement](#)

[Valavanis Bonsai, Rough Bark
JM](#)



Hello to all the Members and Guests of the Nashville Bonsai Society!

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is June, 12th. Bring a tree to show and discuss, or to ask for help. We have a special surprise agenda item that everyone will enjoy! As always, meetings are free to the public.

May Recap

Our May meeting was very informative! Eileen did a wonderful job explaining the new judging format we will use going forward for our Display of the Month. This will help push each of us to make the most refined display and tree that we can produce. She also covered some of the finer points of display.

Raffles

For 2018, we will be raffling off donated items at every meeting. Bring some cash for raffle tickets! The item will always be bonsai related but may vary (pots, books, trees, etc). Ticket price will vary based on the value of the item but will generally be \$1-5 a ticket.

If you have some items you would like to donate, please bring them to one of the meetings.

Bonsai 102

Our class met at the home of John Cole the first weekend of May. We discussed foliage management and treatment for needle cast on pines. We also talked about what to watch for in our maples as the leaves harden-off. Our next class is June 2nd at John's.



Maple leaves emerging



Maple leaves expanding

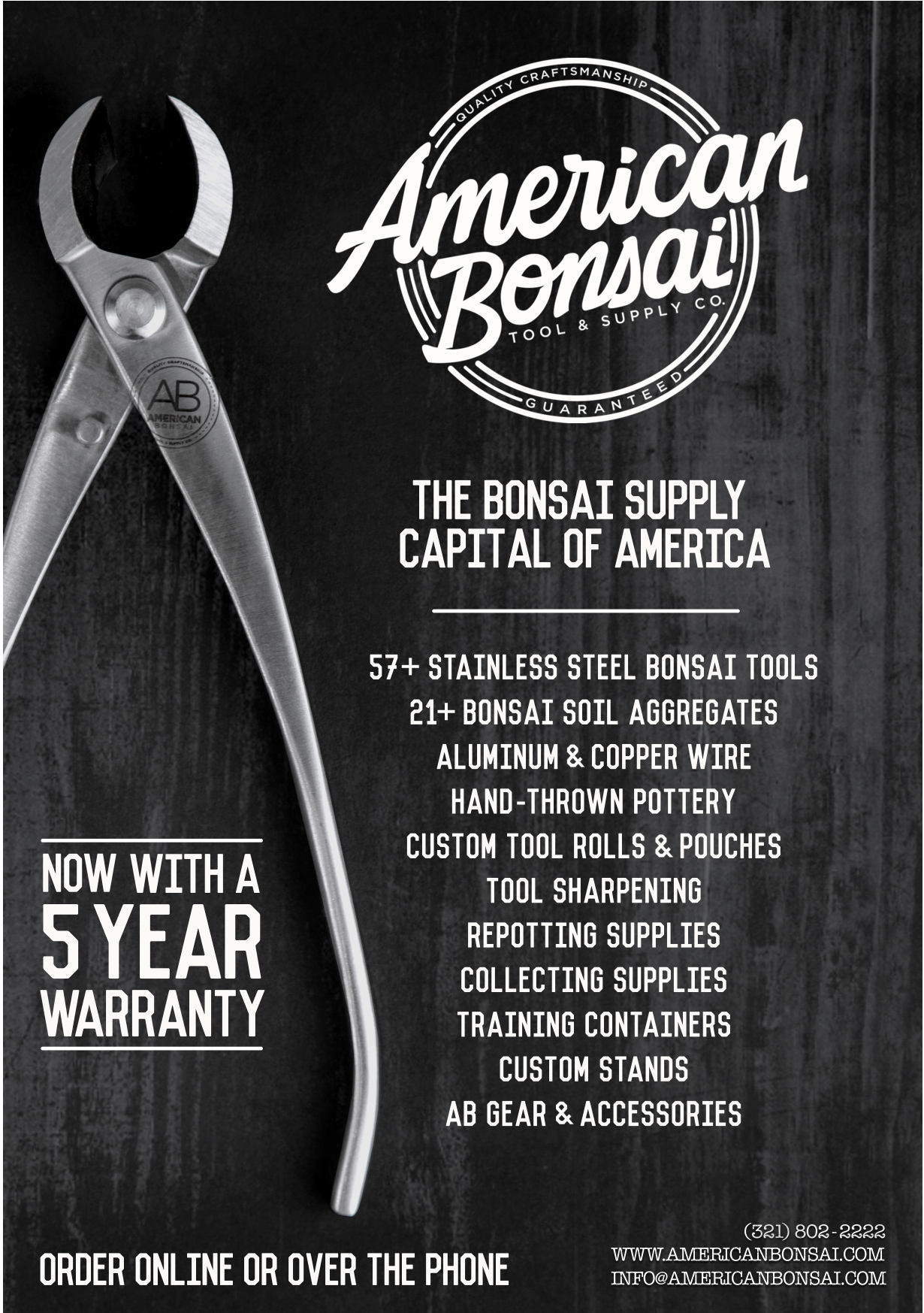


Maple leaves fully opened and protected from most diseases by their waxy cuticle. We call this 'hardened-off.'

Upcoming Events

Don't forget to check the "Upcoming Events" section on the first page every month.

On June, 30th, will be having our annual NBS Garden Tour. This is an event where we tour a few gardens and bonsai collections of our members who are gracious enough to open their homes. This is a member's only event. Details on the time will be sent out soon.



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Notes for June

Getting Warmer...

Spring came and went, leaving us pining for the fleeting azalea and dogwood blooms, and the exciting growth that spring delivers. Now what? By now, we know all of our collected and transplanted trees are through the woods, our feeding programs are in full-swing and the trees are growing like weeds. Here are some June tips:

1. Feed well, using plenty of Nitrogen and supplement with foliage drenches of fish or kelp fertilizer, add new cakes if necessary.
2. Watering becomes a daily chore now, and we start to pay close attention to those trees that we decided to push one more year, rather than repot in the spring. Make good mental notes on the trees that are drying out faster than others. You'll want to plan for a shadier location soon.
3. Look for pests. Red spider mites are active on junipers now, so are aphids on just about everything. They like the tender, juicy new growth and aren't too tough to spot, since they multiply quickly; you'll rarely see just a few!
4. Pines candles are mostly open by now, candle-cutting starts at the end of the month. Feed pines heavily to prepare them for the coniferous equivalent of defoliating.

*June Bonsai Care from [Nebari Bonsai](#)



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Bonsai Containers

Collection Purchasing

Exhibition Preparation

Bonsai Demos and Japanese Garden Presentations



June Events and New Items

Thanks to all who picked up containers at John Wall's open house. It was a great event.

I'll be working at Superfly Bonsai, Osiga, Meehans Minatures, The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum in DC, in Cincinnati, Columbus, St. Louis, and Eastern Tennessee this month. If anyone needs bonsai moved or is looking for specific bonsai, please let me know.

Visits by Appointment Only Please

NBS Annual Club Show

Our club show is under two months away on July, 21st. Some trees and accents can take a while to be “show ready”. If you don’t have the stands, slabs, etc. you can use this time to acquire or make what you need. Displaying trees is for members only, the show will be open to the public, of course.

Every member can show one display and one single tree. Second displays will be open on a first come first serve basis. We have a crew of volunteers that will be there on Friday evening to do the set up of the room. Display set up will begin at 7am on the 21st and needs to be completed by 8:30am. Please see below for a detailed agenda.

Display Set-up: 7am-8:30am

Judging: 9am-10am

Show Open: 10am-4pm

Tear Down: 4pm-6pm

We have a few other special items that are new this year. John Wall will be hosting a bring-your-own-tree during the show for a cost of \$60/person. This will be open to 6 people. We will also have a photography table that will be open to anyone who wants a nice photo of their displays without worrying about backgrounds, people in the way, etc.

Finally, we will be raffling off another tool set this year during the show. This year we purchased a Series 7 (shohin) Tool Set from American Bonsai.

[American Bonsai, Shohin Tool Set](#)

Mike will be sending out all of the details shortly, stay tuned.

ABS “Gateway to Bonsai” - Author: Mike Brown

The American Bonsai Society held their annual show “Gateway to bonsai” in Collinsville, Illinois from April 19 – 22nd. Each year the ABS show is held in a different city – next year in Houston and Milwaukee in 2020. The event is spread over 4 days with around 300 attendees and a variety of activities. If you follow the bonsai community on social media it was a fun chance to meet some of the big names in bonsai like Marc Noelanders, Tony Tickle, Ryan Bell, Bjorn Bjorholm, Jonas Dupuich, Matt Reel and Andy Smith, among others. These pros were offering workshops and seminars at the show in addition to some being vendors.



There was a formal judged show with NBS members Amy Blanton and John Wall both taking home awards among some tough competition. Perennial winners Dave Bogan, Barbara Bogan and Mark Fields were also recognized for their great work.

The vending area was impressive with everything to offer in the world of bonsai. Items like pots and trees were available from the most common and inexpensive to the most exquisite and costly. Andy Smith from

broken arrow bonsai had a large collection of material collected from the Rocky Mountains at very reasonable prices.

Banquets on Friday and Saturday evening featured live and silent auctions plus the installation of Mark Fields as the new ABS president. Friday night Marc Noelanders and Bjorn Bjorholm stood side by side on the stage for 2 hours while styling a Rocky mountain juniper and a Ponderosa pine. They spoke alternately, and it was impressive seeing them work quality material like that in such a short time. The trees were auctioned off Saturday selling for \$1200 and \$1100.



On Friday, I was fortunate enough to take part in the Joshua Roth New Talent Contest for artists with less than 10 years experience practicing bonsai. Four of us spent all day Friday styling a mature Procumens juniper in a nursery pot. The finished pieces were displayed all day Saturday to allow the public to vote for their favorite and to be judged by three professionals. When the winners were announced that evening I won second place after which our trees were auctioned off.

On Saturday, I spent the morning in a free seminar by English professional Tony Tickle discussing his specialty, collecting Hawthorn in the English countryside. Tony also conducted the live auction Saturday night with his wit and good nature making the event a lot of fun.

Saturday afternoon I took a workshop with Marc Noelanders styling a Shimpaku juniper. The workshop was limited to 6 participants giving us all lots of time with Marc who was very friendly and engaging. It was interesting watching a professional evaluate the 6 raw trees giving his vision for their future and I came home with a juniper that will eventually be a premier piece in my collection.



This was my first experience at national level bonsai show and it was completely worthwhile. It was 3 days of bonsai fun and undoubtedly increased my own skills and level of bonsai awareness. Credit should be extended to the ABS board and the members of the St. Louis club for all their hard work in putting on such a successful event.

Greg Brendan Display Analysis - Author: Owen Reich

Main Display Element: Southwestern White Pine

The tree has been styled to have multiple triangular pads, breaking up what was likely a rounded globe-like canopy. This helps keep a feeling of power in the trunk, which is not thick, but strongly directional. A heavier canopy would make the tree appear unstable. The lichen and moss on the soil surface add to the feeling of age of the tree, and hide distracting small pieces of soil like lava rock and pumice.



The container was custom made by Ron Lang, with the appearance of a cliff face or rock spire. *As a personal opinion, a container that was 4-6" shorter in height would make the display more dramatic, and also necessitate a much taller display table;* likely raising the current container rim height up 6 inches, but making the container much smaller. This would fix the issue noted later on cactus height. There may be some limitations in container depth due to the root system of the pine. A much taller stand with the current container would not be effective, as the visual weight of the container higher off the main table surface would be too much mass and too strong of a vertical line with stand and pot being the same width.



The supporting element, a cactus, is an excellent addition to set the tone for the natural environment this southwestern white pine. The burl wood slab could be made from Manzanita wood (native to the American Southwest). It may be, but that detail is unknown. The container for the cactus has a nice warm, muted color without being distracting. The cactus itself is too tall for this display. Supporting elements are not supposed to rise above the display table height, unless it is a single flower stalk or seed head on a Kusamono. Even this can be too much if the display elements are too close together as is the case in this display. It's possible the owner had more space to display these elements, but condensed the display for photography. A smaller cactus would be better no matter what; the main tree being so close to the display surface. Something like a sagebrush would be too much blue-grey in the display, but a good contrasting texture to the needles of the pine.

If space allowed, the cactus could be pushed way back to the backdrop and bring the pine closer to the viewer on the display surface.

Overall, the elements are very well chosen. A look at the display without color better shows the visual weight of each element.

The lack of negative space under the canopy of the pine bothers me though. The pine and stand could be displayed on a tall pillar, with the cactus appearing on a much shorter pillar three feet away to the right. Would there be a nice feeling in this display if the cactus wasn't involved? If so, the display element is not necessary or is in the wrong place.



Greg is a wonderful artist that I've had the pleasure of meeting and corresponding with. He's pushing boundaries.

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