

NBS Links

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

Upcoming Events

July Meeting

7/10/2018, 6:30pm-9pm
@ Cheekwood

NBS Annual Show

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

August Meeting

8/14/18, 6:30pm-9pm
@ Cheekwood

Meetings

2nd Tuesday of every month
@ Cheekwood, Massey Hall

2018 Dues

\$30 per member
or
\$40 per family

Blog Roll

[Bonsai Tonight, Defoliating JM](#)

[Bonsai Tonight, Removing Branches](#)

[Crataegus, Double Helix](#)

[Crataegus, Needle Cast or Overwatering](#)

[Valavanis Bonsai, New York Exhibition](#)



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

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is July, 10th. Bring a tree to show and discuss, or to ask for help. Our show is July, 21st, so we will be discussing various aspects of show prep. We'll look at pot cleaning, moss preparation, etc. As always, meetings are free to the public.

June Recap

Michael Ryan Bell was our honored guest at our June meeting. He spoke about the history of bonsai pots and shared a ton of knowledge about how to identify which era a pot might have been made in. He also had some very nice pots for sale.



Don't forget to check out his website, as well.

[Japanese Bonsai Pots](#)



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.

Mentorship 102

Our June class was a blast. We created a few kusamono (weeds in a tray), played with formal displays and mossed our trees in anticipation of the club show. We also worked on a few trees, probably for the last time this summer. Because our trees are in the development stage, we want to keep their foliage to generate trunk caliper and develop lots of roots. The saying goes, “roots mean shoots and shoots mean roots.”

Our group decided to take a one month vacation. Not much work is happening in our bonsai collections. Japanese Black Pines are dropping their 3rd year needles. This is another indication that the new needles have hardened off. The juniper are beginning to move into their summer dormancy. We will need to watch their water needs carefully because of their fine roots. Not to wet, not to dry. A tricky dance that reminds me of the Hokey Pokey. Fertilizing is tapering off until the heat of summer passes.

We will meet the first Saturday in August from 10-2 at John's.

Display of the Month

We updated our Display of the Month agenda item in June. We wanted to incorporate more discussion and feedback around the display. Every month we will have a judge who will score the display and provide their reasoning to the group.

This month Zach Kent put up the display and Owen Reich did the judging. The tree was a cork oak and scored an 82 of 100. Owen suggested a few branches that could be removed to create a more open canopy. He also gave some ideas on how to drastically improve the design of the apex, which is the least developed portion of the tree.



We also looked at some alternative accents and one smaller tree. The general consensus was that a grass type accent may have been a more suitable choice, this would have created a little more variety in the display.

John Cole will have the Display for July.



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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.

On July, 21st, will be hosting our annual NBS Club Show. More details can be found in our special article this month.



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Notes for July

The heat is ON...

Summer Work

Over the years, I've noticed that I tended to do major work on the trees in the wintertime, but during the summertime, I wasn't advancing the trees as they grew. I am working on a Zelkova that I cut back to 15" from a 48" "finished" tree a few years ago. I let the branches go for several summers, cutting it back hard in the winter, and looked back to see that I really hadn't gotten anywhere. This year, I decided to stay on top of it; pinching every shoot from 5 leaves back to 2 leaves. Anytime a shoot stretched out to 5 leaves, I nipped it back to one or two. This year, the tree has responded with growth so rampant, that every day it needs a little attention, and it's getting quite full. It's still a few years away from a "finished" state, but had I worked on it this way a couple years ago, the tree would be further along.

Summertime work is just as important as the major operations that are carried out in the wintertime. Usually it's as simple keeping a pair of scissors on the bench and tidying up the trees as part of daily watering.

Here are some July 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 twice-daily chore now, and you'll want to move tender trees into more sheltered locations. Beeches, hornbeams and azaleas that appreciated lots of sun up until now will start to wither in our heat.
3. Pines candles are mostly open by now, candle-cutting starts at the beginning of the month for Black Pines by removing ALL weak candles...found on lower and interior branches. Those branches get a head start putting out the second flush of growth before removing medium-strength candles 10 days later. Watch water needs now, we want them on the dry side as new growth emerges. 20 days after removing weak candles, remove the remaining, strong candles. Feed well and watch the tree put on a new flush of tiny needles!

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

TUPELO BONSAI

Bonsai Garden of Owen Reich

Madison, Tennessee

Private Instruction / Group Events

Material Acquisition/ Brokering

Rough Stock, Pre-bonsai, and Refined Trees

Bonsai Containers

Collection Purchasing

Exhibition Preparation

Bonsai Demos and Japanese Garden Presentations

|



Visits by Appointment Only Please

NBS Annual Club Show

Our club show is this month 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 are almost out of 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/trees 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

Photo Booth Open: 12pm-4pm

Workshop: 1pm-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. The workshop is full! 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](#)

If you have not already, please email Mike to sign up for a display. Our goal this year is to be even bigger than last year where we had 45 displays and 400+ visitors.



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