

**NBS Links**[NBS Website](#)[NBS Facebook](#)**Upcoming Events***Mentorship 101*

10/5/19, 10am-2pm  
@ John Cole's Home

*October Meeting*

10/8/19, \*\*6:00pm-9pm  
@ Cheekwood

*Fall Picnic*

10/26/2019, 12pm-4pm  
@Eileen Knox's Home

**Meetings**

2nd Tuesday of every month  
@ Cheekwood, Massey Hall

**2019 Dues**

\$30 per member  
or  
\$40 per family

**Blog Roll**

[Bonsai Tonight: Tips For  
Applying Liquid Fertilizer](#)

[Valavanis Bonsai Blog: A  
Visit to the Pacific Bonsai  
Museum](#)

[Michael Hagedorn: Too  
Many Bonsai?](#)



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

*September Recap*

We had another warmer than average September, with temperatures heading up into the 90's. This resulted in a lot of water uptake but also some nice Fall growth in many of our trees! We are waiting on the weather to cool and for those brilliant Fall colors our trees display in the month of October. This is always a favorite time of year for Bonsai artists and hobbyists.

*September Meeting*

The September meeting featured an educational talk on Junipers by our own Eileen Knox. Eileen discussed her philosophy on growing Junipers and outlined her growing plan for each year. We

learned the times of year where work on Junipers would be most appropriate. We also had a lively discussion on fungal issues that can affect these trees, and how to go about treatment and avoidance of those issues.

Eileen also brought in some beautiful specimens from her collection to inspire us.



As always, we were well fed by our refreshments volunteers and our local vendors showed up with lots of trees and pots to pick from.





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### October – Care Calendar

<p>First frost Temp. dropping Daylight shortening</p> <p>Avg. Low 49° Avg. High 71° Record Low 26° Record High 94°</p>	<p>Tree Talk:</p> <p>We are seeing the tree's foliage change color. The trees are really putting on vascular growth now as they begin to store carbohydrates and sugars for winter hardiness and next spring's growth in their entire vascular system. By late October water use begins to slow again.</p>	<p>How to Respond:</p> <p>Give the 2nd application of fall fertilizer. When the maples have reached their peak fall color change, the trees have reabsorbed the chlorophyll, sugars and starches. If we make big branch cuts on our deciduous now, we will see rapid healing. The trees will not move into dormancy for another 4-6 weeks. A healthy bonsai can probably tolerate 26°-32° right now. Check wires weekly. Resume minor foliage maintenance.</p>
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## September Club Tree Work



We had our last round of monthly tree work for the year at Eileen Knox's home this month. This monthly slot will be taken up by the Mentorship 101 program to finish out the year. As usual, we had a good turnout and everybody had a great time. Club members brought some trees to work on and got good guidance from Eileen and the other mentors on site. This is a great free event hosted by the club and the perfect opportunity to get some direction on trees that you are working on or having trouble with. We encourage all club members to attend

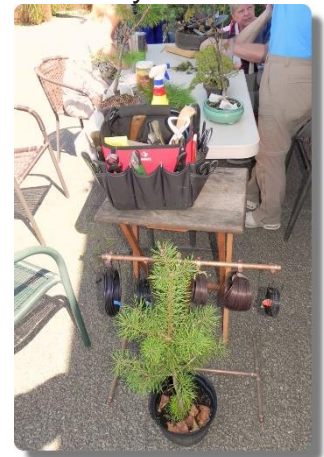
these work days when they start back up in 2020!

## Mentorship 101

We are getting really excited about the beginning of our Mentorship 101 course. Due to conflicting schedules and shifting sands, we will have one mentorship group this year instead of the two. Mentorship will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month (except Dec.) beginning in October at John Cole's home. NBS Members who have previously registered for this course will have received emails detailing our dates and syllabus.

Each month we will begin the class with a lecture/discussion centered around key bonsai concepts. This will be followed by a practical skill development time when we work on the 'Tree of the Month' using our newly developed skills.

We will have one mentor for every two students. A big thank you to our returning graduates who will mentor this year's class; Albert Kolbe, Ken Wyatt, Ray Fuller, Sara Hopson, Cole Lowery, Lisa Nielson, Teri Schultz and Arthur Leago. The \$25 tuition is payable at the beginning of every class. Your tuition helps defray the club's cost for trees and bonsai supplies.



## Fall Picnic & Silent Auction

Our Fall Picnic will be held on Saturday, October 26th from 12-4 at Eileen & Richard's home. Their address will be emailed to club members. Bring your favorite chair and sun shade. The club will provide hotdogs and hamburgers with all the fixins'. Club members will bring their favorite side dish or dessert. The Hospitality Committee will be reaching out to help organize all of this soon. So, watch your inbox for that.

The Fall Picnic will launch our first Annual Silent Auction. We will have 'For Sale' tables available for you. You can list your minimum acceptable bid price on the auction sheet. Convert your unwanted bonsai, tools, pots, etc. into bonsai bucks. The club will keep the first 10% and send you a check for the rest. Our local professionals are bringing items to donate to the auction. Thank you Bjorn, Owen, John Wall, John Cole and Arthur. We are hopeful this will be fun for all and help our members add to their bonsai collections.





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## 2019 Calendar

All events in the “Other Event” and “Mentorship” categories are member’s only events. All monthly meetings are open to the public.

	January	February	March	April	
Monthly Meeting	N/A	Topic: <b>Collecting Trees</b> 2/12/19, 6:30pm-9pm	Topic: <b>Repotting Demo’s</b> 3/5/19, 6:30pm-9pm	Topic: <b>Deciduous Demo w/ Owen R</b> 4/9/2019, 6:30pm-9pm	
Other Event	N/A	<b>Lawn &amp; Garden Expo</b> 2/28/19-3/2/19, 8am-5pm	<b>Lawn &amp; Garden Expo</b> 2/28/19-3/2/19, 8am-5pm	<b>Member Garden Tour</b> 4/27/19, 10am-2pm	
Mentorship	<b>101 Class</b> 1/5/19, 10am-2pm	<b>101 Class</b> 2/2/19, 10am-2pm	<b>101 Class</b> 3/2/19, 10am-2pm	<b>101 Class</b> 4/6/19, 10am-2pm	<b>Pines (SF) Class</b> 4/13/19, 10am-2pm
	May	June	July	August	
Monthly Meeting	Topic: <b>Deciduous Discussion</b> <b>**@ Eisei-en**</b> 5/14/19, 6:30pm-9pm	Topic: <b>Crepe Myrtle Discussion &amp; Show Prep</b> 6/4/19, 6:30pm-9pm	Topic: <b>Bald Cypress Demo w/ John W</b> 7/9/19, 6:30pm-9pm	Topic: <b>Bonsai Pottery</b> 8/13/2019, 6:30pm-9pm	
Other Event	<b>Open House, Turnbull Creek Bonsai</b> 5/4/19, 1pm-5pm	<b>BYOT Workshop w/ Owen R</b> 6/1/19, 8am-12pm	<b>NBS Annual Show</b> 7/13-14/19, 10am-4pm	<b>Workshop: Andy Smith – Golden Arrow Bonsai</b> 8/22/19 Session 1: 8:30am – 12:30pm Session 2: 1:00pm – 5:00pm	
Mentorship	N/A	<b>Pine (MF) Class</b> 6/15/19, 10am-2pm	<b>Tree Work</b> 7/6/19, 10am-2pm	<b>Tree Work</b> 8/3/19, 10am-2pm	
	September	October	November	December	
Monthly Meeting	Topic: <b>Juniper Discussion</b> 9/10/19, 6:30pm-9pm	Topic: <b>Demo with Adam Jones of Tree House Bonsai</b> 10/8/19, 6:00pm-9pm	Topic: <b>Conifer Demo w/ Bjorn B</b> 11/12/19, 6:30pm-9pm	<b>No Meeting</b>	
Other Event	<b>Cheekwood Moon Viewing</b> 9/22/19, 2:00pm – 5:30pm	<b>Fall Picnic</b> 10/26/19, 12pm-4pm	N/A	<b>No Events Planned</b>	
Mentorship	<b>Tree Work</b> 9/7/19, 10am-2pm	<b>Mentorship 101</b> 10/5/19 10am-2pm	<b>Mentorship 101</b> 11/2/19, 10am-2pm	<b>No classes</b>	

## Branching Out

In part 3 of *Branching Out* Eileen discusses the importance of continuing education on one's Bonsai journey.

*The heart of this article is the value of investing in learning more about the art and science of bonsai. We can spend \$5.00 for a tree or \$5,000.00. If we don't understand our art, they will both look pretty much the same in 20-40 years. A sizable portion of my bonsai bucks and time have always been budgeted for education. Learning is fun, exciting and rewarding for me. Maybe that is why I am a teacher? LOL.*



*So, the third leg of my bonsai journey centers around Ryan Neil. Most of the 'how, what and when' we use in our Mentorship 101 course comes directly from Ryan. The information, format and timing parallel his intensives. The Mentorship 101 isn't based on my information. It is Ryan's. Why am I so committed to what I learned from Ryan? Because it works and it makes the most sense.*

*I found early in my journey that I would get a different answer for the same question every time I asked a different person. This made no sense to me. 2+2 should always equal 4. Right? I found that there is so much information out there that is dated, flawed or just plain wrong. Ryan put it all together so that I understood the hard science behind our art. He gave us practice exercises to help build our bonsai skills. He explained and showed us the inner thought processes for creating bonsai based upon basic artistic principles.*

*My experience as one of Ryan's students was transformative for me. I learned a process for how to move a tree from rough stock toward a quality bonsai. Fortunately, I still have a really lot left to learn. I will say it directly, Ryan is one of my all-time heroes. And, yes, I am in love with Ryan Neil. Fortunately, my husband understands my passion for learning and tolerates my hero worship. Ryan didn't teach us to follow. He taught us to "think bonsai". He taught us how to ask ourselves the deeper questions when working with our trees. Once we understood the horticulture behind our art and the artistic principles behind the beauty we perused, we were able to move our trees forward with predictable results.*

*Ryan spent six years as an apprentice to Mr. Masahiko Kimura in Japan before returning to Oregon to open his garden. Mr. Kimura is widely acknowledged as THE leading authority on conifers. Ryan brought his passion for bonsai, his brilliant mind, years of quiet contemplation of the trees in the Rocky Mountains and a degree in horticulture with him into Mr. Kimura's two-acre bonsai garden. The pairing of these two dynamic talents would forever change my bonsai journey.*

*I was good friends with some of Ryan's first year students. The rapid improvement in their bonsai was impressive. I was able to secure a spot in his second year Pines One intensive. Studying with Ryan was like trying to catch a strong wind in my hands. We would start our day with a lecture followed by working on skills and trees. Often, we worked late into the night. The information was organized, focused and non-stop. After the first day of class, we all realized we could never retain this much new information without some assistance. So, most of us showed up the next day with recorders, phones, computers and video equipment. I would spend my time between classes transcribing my video +*

*audio + written notes into a format that I could review and learn. I would practice my skills during commercial breaks on TV. Ryan gave us an expectation that we could and should know what was covered in previous classes. I had no interest in becoming a professional. I just wanted to do bonsai as well as I was capable of doing it.*

*Many of the folks in my Pines class were semi-professionals with years of experience and study. A few of us were relatively new to the art. Ryan was able to work with each of us where we were on the experience scale. He was open to interruptions and questions while still being able to return to his curriculum. I have been a teacher for almost all of my adult life. I have a Master's Degree in Pedagogy (the art of teaching). Ryan's skill as a teacher blew me away. I had never experienced a teacher of his caliber before. It was amazing. I would go home each night exhausted, dazed, awed and scared I was going to mess up the next day. We were working on trees in his collection that were hundreds of years old or heritage trees from John Naka and Ben Oki. We were repotting ancient yamadori into pots costing thousands of dollars.*

*The next year I continued with Pines Two and added Junipers One. The following year I was studying, Pines Three, Juniper Two and Elongating Species One. That was the year we ate a lot of Mac & Cheese and Split Pea Soup. These intensives were extremely expensive. Some of the horticulture was similar (although each species was unique), some of the skills were repeatable (my wiring improved slowly but surely) but many of the artistic considerations were different. What always stayed constant was the process.*

*Where this leads me is to invite you to go online to YouTube and watch some of Ryan's videos. Or better yet, subscribe to his online Mirai Live Educational Programing. Each week he does a new two-hour video. These are organized by skill level and species in the Archives. Be ready to take notes. Your mind will become overwhelmed with the amount of information and it will 'check out' after 20 minutes. I encourage us all to invest some of our bonsai bucks and time into learning more about the art and science of bonsai.*

<https://live.bonsaimirai.com/>

*Smiles,  
Eileen*



## *October Meeting*

### **\*\*\*The October Meeting Will Begin Early – 6:00PM\*\*\***

We have something special in store for our October meeting. Due to a partnership with the Japanese Consulate, NBS will be hosting a Bonsai demonstration by Adam Jones, owner of Tree House Bonsai (<https://www.treehousebonsai.com/>), the only Western-owned Bonsai garden in Japan! We will be getting our club business handled in the first part of the meeting, and from 6:30 until the end we will be treated to Adam's demonstration. This is not a meeting you will want to miss!



## *Hospitality*

Thank you so much to our Hospitality Committee; Carol Evans, Susan Hagenau, Libby Jackson and Ken Wyatt. They are looking for a few more folks to help. If you feel you would like to learn more, please contact Carol Evans [cevens.email@yahoo.com](mailto:cevens.email@yahoo.com) Many hands make light work.





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