

## NBS Links

[NBS Website](#)

[NBS Facebook](#)

## Upcoming Events

### *Club Tree Work*

9/7/19, 10am-2pm

@ Eileen Knox's Home

### *September Meeting*

9/10/19, 6:30pm-9pm

@ Cheekwood

### *Cheekwood Moon*

#### *Viewing*

9/22/19, 2:00pm – 5:30pm

@Cheekwood, Arboretum

Lawn

## Meetings

2nd Tuesday of every month

@ Cheekwood, Massey Hall

## 2019 Dues

\$30 per member

or

\$40 per family

## Blog Roll

[2019 42nd Midwest Bonsai  
Exhibition - Part 1](#)

[2019 42nd Midwest Bonsai  
Exhibition - Part 2](#)



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

### *August Recap*

August was a hot one! Hopefully everybody was able to keep their trees well - watered and happy through the worst of the month. We had several great club activities including our monthly club tree work, our August club meeting, and a workshop with Andy Smith from Golden Arrow Bonsai! With September on the way, we are closing in on fall where we will get to appreciate the beautiful colors our trees will offer and get some wire on our conifers.

### *August Meeting*



We had an excellent August meeting and learned a ton about pots from John Cole and Zach Kent. John kicked off our meeting with education on how bonsai pots are planned, built, and fired. He spoke about the different stages of firing a bonsai pot as well as the meaning of vitrification and cones. Afterward, Zach put on an informative presentation

about some basic rules for pairing trees with pots. They both answered lots of questions and everyone walked away with much more knowledge about the potting process.





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### September – Care Calendar

Evenings cooler	Tree Talk:	How to Respond:
<p>Avg. Low 61° Avg. High 82° Record Low 36° Record High 105°</p>	<p>Temperatures begin to drop and daylight shortens. The trees begin to take up more water. As the trees move from summer dormancy into their fall vascular growth, we will to see wounds healing and branches fattening quickly.</p>	<p>Water needs are increasing so check trees often. Apply 1st round of fall fertilizer when water uptake increases. Check wires weekly as branches add girth. Allow most foliage to grow unchecked. Good time to work juniper.</p>

## Pine Workshop with Golden Arrow Bonsai



NBS hosted Andy Smith from Golden Arrow Bonsai ([www.goldenarrowbonsai](http://www.goldenarrowbonsai)) this month for a two part Pine workshop. Andy brought some fabulous material to work with and was an excellent and patient teacher. Everyone had a great time with these bendy Ponderosa Pines. It was a treat to have material that was so easily pliable to reach a great finished vision. Andy did a great job instructing both classes and gave good attention to everyone in attendance. Sometimes he would gently nudge participants in a direction, and others he would jump right in there, shears in hand, and get a tree moving in the right direction. NBS wishes to extend Andy a big round of thanks for his time and his expertise. We are all looking forward to the next workshop!



## **Mentorship 101**

We are getting really excited about the beginning of our Mentorship 101 course. This year there will be two classes of 10. A big thank you to John Cole for stepping into the Mentor Role and our returning graduates. Mentorship 101-A will meet on the first Saturday of each month (except December) and Mentorship 101-B will meet on the second Saturday of each month (except December) We will start at 10:00 and finish around 2:00. Place TBA

NBS Members who have previously registered for this course will have received emails detailing our dates and syllabus. We will have a Waiting List sign up at the September meeting.

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 portion of the class where we work on the 'Tree of the Month' using our newly developed skills. A big thank you to our returning graduates who will be serving as mentors for this year's class; Albert Kolbe, Sara Hopson, Cole Lowery, Lisa Nielson and Ken Wyatt. The \$20 tuition is payable at the beginning of each class. This 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's and Richards home. 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 Silent Auction. We will have tables available for you to place your items upon. 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. We are hopeful this will be fun and help our newer members upgrade the quality of 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, 2pm-6pm	N/A	<b>No Events Planned</b>	
Mentorship	<b>Tree Work</b> 9/7/19, 10am-2pm	<b>Mentorship 101-A</b> 10/5/19 10am-2pm <b>Mentorship 101-B</b> 12/12/19 10am-2pm	<b>Mentorship 101-A</b> 11/2/19, 10am-2pm <b>Mentorship 101-B</b> 11/9/19 10am-2pm	<b>No classes</b>	

## Branching Out

Here is part 2 of Eileen Knox's writeup on her Bonsai beginnings. Here she talks about her first Bonsai study group and the importance of sourcing good trees.

*As I look back on my bonsai education, I see it in phases based upon my teacher of the time and my gradual commitment to the art. This article looks at phase two of my journey, which is defined by Mike Hagedorn. After joining the Bonsai Society of Portland, I went to all of their mentorship classes. I would attend all of their functions, following the senior members around with a cup of coffee in hand asking all of my questions. And, once most of my trees quit dying, I felt pretty good about taking my next steps.*



*I was told there was an opening in Mike Hagedorn's monthly study group. I called him and was invited to come over for a garden visit. For those of you who may not know Mike, he is a bonsai artist of the highest caliber. His trees are amazing. His garden is so thoughtfully designed and maintained, you would think you were in Japan. Mike is a student of Shinji Suzuki. The magazines "Bonsai Tonight" and "Bonsai Empire" have some great video on YouTube of their gardens. Mike now trains bonsai professionals himself. I believe he is on his 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> apprentice. People come from all over the world to study with him, not only because of his artistry but because he is an exceptional human being. We joke a lot about the fact that I wanted him to marry my daughter. For some reason they were never as keen on it as I was.*

*Well, after a delightful visit with Mike, I was invited to join his monthly study group. I showed up for my first day with every tree I owned. I didn't know what kind of work we would be doing or what trees I could use. Mike, thankfully, helped me unload my truck. Then he asked me to bring one into the workroom. I, of course, selected a juniper. Since it was August, he suggested we work on creating some jin and shari (create some deadwood). I had no tools, but he generously loaned me his. Unfortunately, I found most of his tools in my tool box the next day. Hummm. Wonder how that happened? I quickly gave him a call and drove over with a box of apology donuts. Being Mike, he laughed, shrugged and asked if I would like a cup of tea with my donut.*

*During our ongoing conversations, he recommended I graduate from starter trees and \$10 nursery stock. We sat down together with his Kokufu Ten books. Page by page we went through the pictures talking about what I saw and what he saw. And what was desirable in a bonsai and what wasn't. That was probably the most important hour in my bonsai education. From then on, I started looking for INTERESTING TRUNKS. We can usually build the branches and other desirable aspects of a bonsai. It takes lots of time to grow good trunks.*

*Around this time, BSOP starting having silent auctions at their monthly meetings. Members would bring in trees, pots, tools, scrolls and all sorts of different bonsai stuff. I discovered that I could bid on a tree with a great trunk and sometimes I got it. Mike suggested I visit other bonsai places to find better material. So, a girlfriend and I drove over to Randy Knight's. Randy is one of the premier yamadori collectors in America. I couldn't afford many of his trees, but I did score on a \$40 Juniper Procumbum.*

*In Nashville we are particularly fortunate to have so many professionals from whom we can buy good trunks and learn how to grow them into great bonsai. I was so encouraged to find these talented individuals when I moved to Nashville. We see, perhaps, 2% of what they have to offer at our meetings. I contacted them asking for garden visits. I was delighted to find so many wonderful new species. Here, in alphabetical order, by first name, (because I couldn't think of a better way) are contact emails.*

*Arthur Leago's Music City Bonsai [musiccitybonsai@gmail.com](mailto:musiccitybonsai@gmail.com)*

*Bjorn Bjorholm's Eisie-en Bonsai [www.bjornbjorholm.com](http://www.bjornbjorholm.com)*

*John Cole's Creekside Bonsai [john.cole3829@comcast.net](mailto:john.cole3829@comcast.net)*

*John Wall's Turnbull Creek Bonsai [johnnywall777@gmail.com](mailto:johnnywall777@gmail.com)*

*Michael McDaniel's Blue Mountain Bonsai [bluemountainbonsai@gmail.com](mailto:bluemountainbonsai@gmail.com)*

*Owen Reich's Bonsai Unearthed [owenbonsai@me.com](mailto:owenbonsai@me.com)*

*I quickly discovered that by paying a little bit more, I was able to buy much better trunks. What I was actually paying for were the years and years the tree had grown. I also found my "fun factor" went through the roof. I could have seen this coming, as I knew how much more I enjoyed playing piano after I bought my Steinway.*

*This brings me to our Fall Picnic on October 26th. NBS will hold our first annual silent auction at the picnic. Save your money so that you can buy a few good trunks and/or pots. Our bonsai professionals are all donating items for the auction. I have four trees that I want to sell. Look through your bonsai stuff. Are there items you would like to convert into bonsai bucks? Sellers will be able to indicate their lowest acceptable bid. The club will keep 10%.*

*The bottom line is, once your trees quit dying so often, consider putting a little more into your purchases to get even better trunks. Who says we can't buy time?*

*Smiles,  
Eileen*



## *September Meeting*

Our September meeting will center around the topic of Junipers, with Eileen presenting. We are approaching a great time of year to work and wire Junipers as the bark will not so easily tear off with manipulation. Everyone has a Juniper somewhere on their bench and this would be a great meeting to bring one that you'd like to discuss or need help working on! One fantastic thing about our NBS meetings is the sheer volume of knowledgeable bonsai artists right there in one room who are willing to take a look at your trees and answer questions in real time. Bring a tree, bring a tree, bring a tree!

## *September Tree Work*

September will be our last month for open invite club tree work on the first Saturday. After that the new round of Bonsai 101 will begin which require prior signups. The tree workshop will be at our usual time and will be hosted at Eileen Knox's and would be a great time to bring several trees to get help with. Its also a great opportunity to get to know fellow club members and get comfortable asking questions. Please email Eileen if you need the address [eileenknox@me.com](mailto:eileenknox@me.com)

## *Cheekwood Moon Viewing*

Cheekwood is holding their 5th annual Japanese Moon Viewing event on Sept. 22. You can find more info here: [Cheekwood 5th Annual Japanese Moon Viewing](#) NBS will be putting up a display of a few trees and we will need 2 volunteers for the event. This is a great opportunity to help educate the public on our hobby and also to attend this unique cultural event! Anybody interested in volunteering should get a hold of Zach Kent at [zachkent29@gmail.com](mailto:zachkent29@gmail.com)





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