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### **Calendar of Events**

- September 9 - MSGCBS meeting, Multi Ed. Bldg., Long Beach, 6:30
- September 12 – Basic Bonsai Classes, GHS, Gulfport. Contact Editor for details.
- October 10, 11 – 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Carolina Bonsai Exposition, Asheville, North Carolina.
- October 17 - ACBS ( Mobile ) Annual Auction, St. Lukes Church Hall, Mobile.
- October 21 - Jim VanLandingham presentation. This date is tentative.

### ***Next Meeting***

Program Director Buck Lawrence announced the setup for the meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>. it will be a "Bring a Tree" program. This time with a twist. It's requested each member also bring a sketch as to what the owner sees as the future of the tree. After each presentation a group discussion will follow. *pl*



# 2009 Carolina Bonsai Exposition

WHERE □ ASHEVILLE NORTH CAROLINA  
WHEN □ OCTOBER 10 AND 11

## ***Bonsai in the Autumn***

For some of us this stepchild of ours (bonsai enmeshment) in the almost last season of the year will see little excitement save an auction or two.

A few growers will inventory needed supplies for next year's spring – pots, soil ingredients, wire and such. Fewer still are those resolving not to collect more trees than can be cared for. I'd like to meet one, well, for inspiration.

In September all of us on the Gulf Coast are watching the tropical weather announcements - the next T. wave, depression, named storm, the projected tracks through the Caribbean and the Gulf. Category 1? ...2?... 3?... 4?...Don't even mention 5.

By mid October we're looking for a diversion. The distraction of a bonsai auction is attractive and necessary on several levels. The Azalea City Bonsai Society in Mobile schedules one each October. Just recently the president of ACBS, Joe Kuhn, announced the 2009 auction date- October 17<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday.

Also in October, in another state to our east, is the 14<sup>th</sup> Carolina Bonsai Exposition. This year the mid month event takes place on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. I expect to be in Asheville, N.C. soaking up this different bonsai happening. Instead of individuals exhibiting trees, six clubs display and compete for prizes. The next article by Arthur Joura describes in detail how a Carolina

Exposition operates. The permanent bonsai collection is one of several must-sees at the 434 acre arboretum. Sixty-five of those acres are cultivated gardens.

Not sure if the timing of mid-October is coincidental with the popular show of fall colored leaves across that area of North Carolina or it's serendipity. Either way I see it as a welcome break from three plus months of hurricane weather watching, more months than that of wearing humid Gulf Coast air and a shot in the arm when annual interest in bonsai is somewhat waning. Again, my thanks to Arthur for taking the time out to fill us in on this October Bonsai happening.

The event is some 606 miles from my house in Diamondhead, Mississippi. According to MAPQUEST the drive is about 10 hours for the average, careful driver. HmMMM.

Wanting to learn more about a free bonsai "convention" I contacted Arthur Joura, Senior Bonsai Curator, at the North Carolina Arboretum. Sort of. I called and left a message, he called and left a message. Finally, we communicated successfully by email. With his permission this is Arthur Joura's response to my inquires. *pl*

## ***A Message from Asheville***

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Subject: Bonsai Exposition

“ Patrick, Thanks for your message and your interest in the 2009 Carolina Bonsai Expo.

Let me tell you a little about the event – this is the 14 CBE, the first one having occurred in 1996. The Expo is a “homegrown” affair, as is the NC Arboretum’s bonsai collection and its attendant program. From the very beginning, my intent has always been to have a bonsai event that was not like all the other bonsai events I have attended, and so the thing is referred to as an expo and not a convention. The great majority of people attending the CBE are members of the general public. On average, over the course of the 2-day event (9AM to 5 PM on Saturday, 12PM to 4 PM on Sunday) we will draw about 3, 500 visitors.

As part of the un-conventional dynamic, we have one guest artist every year (“artist” is enough of an honorific; the term “master” is not used here.) The heart of the CBE is a show of bonsai provided by the participating bonsai clubs. We do not have individual exhibitors. At present, we have displays provided by 14 different clubs from a 6-state region. Each club gets 18 linear feet in which to mount their display. Originality of display design is encouraged. Asian-identified modes of display are not encouraged, although not prohibited, either. Numerous awards are presented for club displays and individual bonsai within the club displays. There is a sizable vendor’s area and several free lecture/ demonstration programs provided on both days. On Saturday afternoon there is a live auction of bonsai and bonsai related materials, the proceeds from which go to providing support for the Arboretum’s bonsai program.

There is a \$6 per-vehicle parking fee at the NC Arboretum, but otherwise entrance to the CBE is free. However, there are educational programs that require registration, and for which a fee is charged. The guest

artist provides a lecture/ demonstration program on Saturday night after the close of the show for the day (registration fee for this program is usually \$12 per person), as well as 2 workshop programs, which occur earlier on both days (registration fees for workshops vary.) The CBE is not intended to be a profit generating venture for the Arboretum. It is important, however for the long term viability of the event that it does not operate in the red. The fees charged for certain programs helps to offset the cost of bringing in the guest artist.

One of the drawbacks to the idiosyncratic nature of the CBE is that the organization and execution of it rests mainly on my shoulders. As you noted in your message, I do have a surplus of responsibilities, and so some aspects of the event tend to go to the last minute. Right now I cannot give you any more particulars regarding the educational programs that you find in the text above. We will probably not begin taking registration for the guest artist programs until late August or early September. More detailed information will appear on a special CBE page of the Arboretum’s website sometime around then, too. This can be frustrating, I understand, for people used to having a year’s advance notice for bonsai events, but that’s how this one works.

And it does work. I hope that you and some of your club members will come up and check it out.”

Thanks for your interest !

***Arthur***

For more information contact 828 665 2492

<http://www.ncarboretum.org/plan-a-visit/event-calendar/carolina-bonsai-expo/>



*Except as noted all texts and photos are the responsibility of the editor.*

*Patrick La Nasa*