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Tiny Trees Make Big Impact in Asheville at The North Carolina Arboretum's 24th Annual Carolina Bonsai Expo, October 12 - 13

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (August 30, 2019) – The North Carolina Arboretum, a 434-acre public garden located just south of downtown Asheville, will celebrate the unique art of bonsai at its 24th annual Carolina Bonsai Expo, Saturday, October 12, and Sunday, October 13, 2019.

This year's guest artist is Ron Lang, internationally recognized bonsai potter from Boiling Spring Lakes, N.C. Ron's work can be found in some of the finest private and public bonsai collections in the United States, including the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, the Chicago Botanic Gardens, the Pacific Bonsai Museum, and The North Carolina Arboretum. Most recently Lang has been collaborating with Ryan Neil and woodworker Austin Heitzman, in a series of programs at the Pacific Bonsai Museum in Washington State focusing on advancing innovation in bonsai and stimulating a critical dialogue around the art of bonsai.

“In accordance with having a potter as the 2019 guest artist, some of the focus at this year's Expo will be on American-made bonsai pottery,” shared Arthur Joura, bonsai curator at The North Carolina Arboretum. “The Arboretum's bonsai collection is mostly potted in containers made in this country, including many by regional and even local potters. This is one of the ways the Arboretum's collection is unique among public bonsai collections in the U.S. This year's Expo will pay more attention to containers in general, with an emphasis on American bonsai pots.”

Thousands are expected to attend this nationally known event, which features the work of 15 bonsai organizations from a seven-state region (N.C., S.C., Ga., Ala., Tenn., Va., Pa.). Also participating are 10 vendors of bonsai and bonsai-related items, making this the region's best bonsai market of the year.

As part of the Expo, programs will be offered for both the bonsai community and general public throughout the two days. The Asheville Chapter of Ikebana International will host a special free ikebana program at 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 12. The Expo's “Main Event” program will be held on Saturday, October 12, at 1 p.m. and will feature guest artist Ron Lang discussing the art of making bonsai containers and the techniques he uses to create them. Pre-registration is required for the “Main Event.”

On Sunday, October 13, there will be a free bonsai program at 11 a.m., followed by an auction of bonsai and related items at 2:30 p.m. that afternoon. As the premier annual bonsai event of the Southeast, the Carolina Bonsai Expo is one of the Arboretum's most popular annual plant shows. For a full list of program offerings and times, please visit www.ncarboretum.org. General admission to the Carolina Bonsai Expo is free; standard parking fees for non-members apply.

The North Carolina Arboretum is home to one of the finest bonsai displays in the Southeast. Its outdoor Bonsai Exhibition Garden features up to 50 specimen at a time and is on display May through October. The collection draws inspiration from the traditional roots of bonsai, but takes the form of a contemporary, Southern Appalachian influenced American garden. During the winter months, November through March, the Arboretum exhibits a special tropical bonsai display in its Baker Exhibit Center Greenhouse, open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information on the Arboretum's garden exhibits and plant shows, please visit www.ncarboretum.org.

The North Carolina Arboretum is located off the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 393. From I-26, take Exit 33 and follow Blue Ridge Parkway signs for two miles to the entrance ramp. Please visit www.ncarboretum.org for parking fees and hours of operation.

About The North Carolina Arboretum

Each year more than 500,000 visitors experience the Arboretum's gardens, trails, exhibits and plant shows, educational programs, demonstrations and lectures. The Arboretum's ability to meet its mission and enrich the visitor experience is made possible by a community of supporting resources – from members, volunteers and staff to state and local funds, tribute gifts, grants and community partners.

The central mission of The North Carolina Arboretum, an affiliate institution of the 17-campus University of North Carolina System, is to cultivate connections between people, plants and places. A standard \$14 per vehicle parking fee is required for non-members. Special events and after-hours activities may require additional fees. For more information, please call (828) 665-2492 or visit www.ncarboretum.org.

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