

Arthur Joura

Known as innovating and pioneering, Arthur Joura has spent his 33-year career as Bonsai Curator at The North Carolina Arboretum creating an internationally-renowned bonsai display that connects people to trees and plants in a new and refreshing way. His sustained dedication to his vision of giving “the simple truth about bonsai” has made the [Bonsai Exhibition Garden](#) central to the Arboretum’s identity.

A constant observer and photographer of trees in nature, Joura has translated what he has seen and photographed into a new American “naturalistic” style of bonsai, focusing attention on trees native to the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains, such as red maples, American horn-



beam and eastern white pine. With visitors, he often explains the power of the bonsai on display to give us a deeper appreciation of the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us.

In addition to leading the design team in establishing the Bonsai Exhibition Garden in 2005, Joura has built a bonsai collection now numbering more than 150 trees, noted for their artistry, quality and diversity, with more in production. He also created the annual Carolina Bonsai Expo, which had an unparalleled 24-year run. The Expo featured top bonsai artists from around the world and attracted bonsai clubs from across the eastern US to assemble inventive displays for what remains one of the preeminent shows in the country, making Asheville an international bonsai destination.

In 2022, Joura initiated [The Curator’s Journal](#), an online course that offers the ultimate insider’s view of bonsai at The North Carolina Arboretum. Through weekly entries, extensively illustrated with his own photographs, Joura chronicles his work and its stresses and successes in keeping the bonsai in a large public collection healthy and beautiful as works of art.

For more information, please visit <https://www.ncarboretum.org/>