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## SOMERSET BONSAI SOCIETY

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Bonsai Newsletter September 2024



The untouched tree

Back by popular demand we had the very talented Caz Scott for our September gathering. Last year she critiqued members' trees - pines and junipers primarily. Word of the event had spread and we were joined by several visitors from North Devon, resulting in a very good crowd eager to watch, listen and learn.

This time was a completely different evening with Caz tasked with styling a large Scots Pine. Yamadori, the tree had been in John Trott's possession for some years but had not so far been worked on other than needle plucking the previous evening in preparation to save time in the wiring and styling.

There was a good deal of audience participation as Caz turned and tilted the tree looking for the best front. After much discussion Caz decided to go for an unusual double apex style. Having decided on the front and the style, it was time to get the whole tree wired up; quite a task given the size of the tree so John Trott took on the role of wiring monkey.



First task – deciding on the front

John's speedy wiring freed up time for Caz to create some deadwood from one of the unnecessary branches near the apex. The idea was to position the jin so that it emerged from the apex with the appearance of having been struck by lightning.



Caz explains the styling while the wiring monkey works feverishly

With the wiring complete Caz then set about placing each branch in position, starting with the lowest branch and working upwards to the apex.



Branch placement almost complete



The finished pine, back at John's workshop

Well, what a result! Not bad for two hours of work with wire and as can be seen in the final photo, guy wires attached to the lower stump to pull branches down and hold them in place.



Caz also spent some time talking about this stunning Juniper and how to use two other items, a small Zelkova and an accent, to create a balanced and harmonious display.



Finally, there were a few minutes left for Caz to revisit a couple of trees that she had given advice on the previous year. In particular she was pleased with the great progress that Michael had made with his needle juniper over the past year, assisted by Ade working the jins with heat treatment. This tree almost had almost died the previous year, but having nursed it back to life and restyled, the end result is a better tree. Also, now that it is half it's previous size and in a smaller pot, much easier for Michael to manage!



And so our busy evening with Caz came to an end. An informative, entertaining, busy and well attended meeting with something for all to add to our bonsai knowledge and experience. Caz certainly draws in a good crowd and no doubt she'll be back with us again in the future.

When we have a speaker it is always difficult to spend much time on Tree of the Month. Suffice to say we had 9 entries, with Michael C winning advanced with his White Pine and new member Tony F winning novices with another White Pine.

The scoring and critiques of these trees can be found [here](#).

Next month we have "Critique Night", so please bring along trees for advice and ideas.