



April Newsletter

Triangle Bonsai Society





Photo Credit: Joe Noga

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY April 7, 2019 1:30 PM- 4 PM

Bonsai Forest Demo

Steve Zeisel & Ed Lauer

CLUB MEETING location:

Agricultural Extension Service, Wake County Office Park
4001 Cary Dr, Raleigh, NC, 27610

*** Location may change we will send out an email in early April.

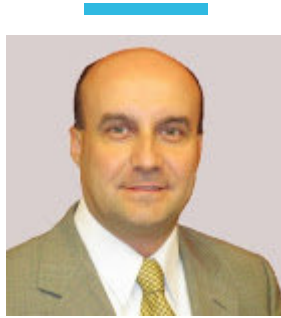
For the April 7 MEETING

If you have a forest please bring it to the meeting so that members can see what forests using various trees can look like. Thanks!!

Also upcoming:

Thursday - Sunday March 21-24, 2019

Art in Bloom (TBS Bonsai exhibit included) at the
NC Museum of Art, Raleigh <https://ncartmuseum.org>



Message from the VP

Another great weekend with Bill Valavanis at TBS. His expertise, coupled with stock of exceptional quality, made the Saturday morning Japanese Black Pine workshop very successful, to the point where we had to accommodate a couple of the students in the afternoon. A special thanks goes to Ricky Barbour for procuring excellent space for the workshop at the Masonic Lodge in Rolesville. Several members had a chance to purchase additional JBP stock to take home and style.

Late February brings one of my favorite appointments; TBS has a chance once again to display some of its members' best creations on the grounds of the **North Carolina Museum of Art. The show runs between March 21 and March 24.** We are still fairly short of volunteers, so I would like to encourage all of you to find a slot on the Volunteers Signup page of the website. We want to make sure we put our best foot forward for one of the events that best reflects the fundamental mission of TBS.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 7 and the topic is "Forest Creation." Two of our most experienced members, Steve Zeisel and Ed Lauer will offer a demonstration on the techniques and criteria used to build a bonsai forest, one of most appealing type of bonsai for both novices and experienced practitioners.

At the time of the publishing of this newsletter the exact location of the meeting is still a bit up in the air due to the ongoing construction work taking place in the Agricultural Extension Building; please be on the lookout for a communication at the beginning of April confirming the location.

Gabe

Guide To Collecting Deciduous Trees For Bonsai

Starting from a collected specimen is one of the most practical and popular ways to start a bonsai. These few pointers are meant to be the basic instructions on the topic of collection for long term viability of a deciduous specimen. Please note that these techniques are not appropriate for the collection of evergreen trees as the technique is drastically different.

These are the basic tools and supplies you will need in the field:

- Apparel and footwear suitable for the task. Keep in mind that most collections take place in fairly remote areas, often wet and muddy, sometimes in challenging topographies. Be prepared by wearing
- The appropriate outdoor clothes and boots
- Gloves and knee pads, if you feel they are needed
- Eye protection
- A shovel and possibly a spade
- A sturdy handsaw or battery operated saw
- A short handled axe
- Pruners
- Ropes
- Plastic bags
- A pull cart, if the layout of the land allows it.

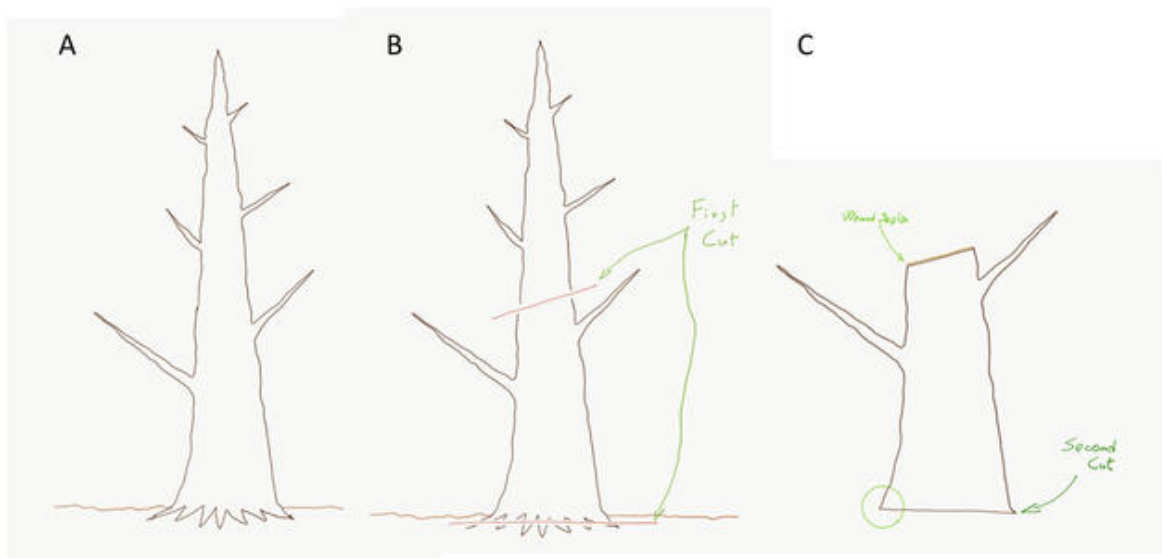
When you get the tree back home you will need:

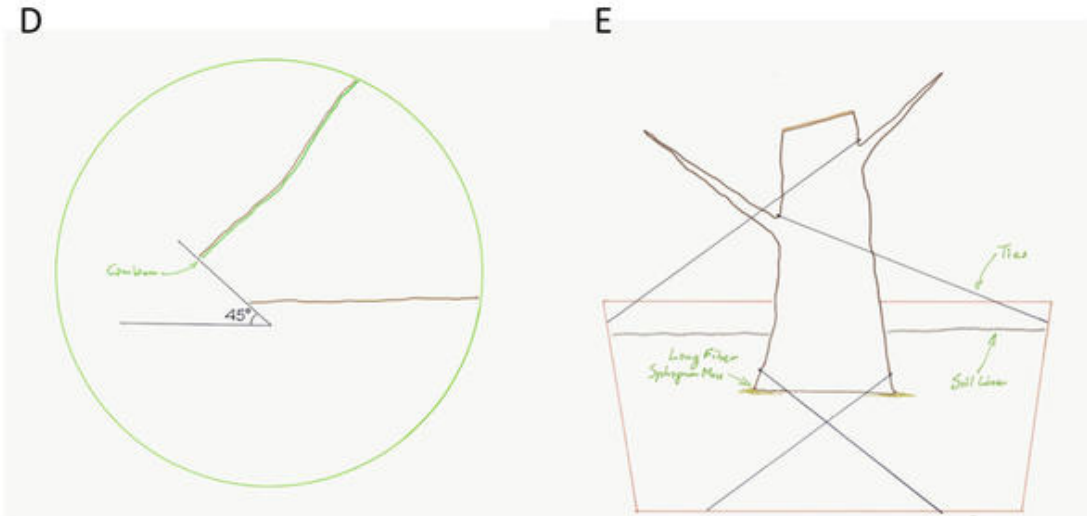
- A chainsaw or a large, sturdy handsaw
- A very sharp drawknife
- Rooting hormone
- Long fiber sphagnum moss
- Soil. Without starting yet another soil diatribe, there are two options: 1) bonsai soil (if money is no object) or 2) a growing mix. My preference for growing mix is equal parts perlite, fine pine barks, turface, and potting mix.
- A large diameter container
- Wire to tie the tree down.

Here are the basic instructions:

There are a few basic principles we need to apply even before we first stick the shovel into the ground:

1. Make sure you have permission from the owner to collect on the land. If you are collecting on federal land make sure you acquired the proper permit.
Everything you do must be first and foremost safe and legal
2. Unless you are looking to collect a tree to be styled as a formal upright (as in image A), find a specimen with interesting movement in the first foot of trunk from the ground and with evenly developed nebari. You are collecting from the wild to get a head start on trunk thickness/interest and root spread
3. Do not collect for the sake of collecting. If a specimen is beautiful but not very healthy or if you feel it has a very low probability of survival, please don't collect it. Sometimes it's best to leave trees in their natural habitat; no bonsai lover needs a dead yamadori.





Using shovel, spade, saw, pruner, and (if necessary to uproot the tree) the rope, cut the tree at a height of 2-4 feet (Image B), leaving some budding new growth, if at all possible. Chop or cut each root, including the taproot, a few inches below the soil line. Don't worry about precision at this stage; the main purpose of this step of the process is simply to free the tree from the ground with some new budding growth on the portion you decide to retain. **Protect branches and buds throughout the remaining steps.**

This step can take as little as 5 minutes or as much as several hours, depending on the size and species of the tree, its location, and the nature of the soil. Now your tree (at this point a stump) is out of the ground, ready to be wrapped in plastic to prevent moisture loss, and ready to take home.

As soon as you get home seal the upper cut with sealing paste (Image C). After securing the tree, use your chainsaw or large saw to make a straight cut at the root flare as indicated in the picture. The cut should be as close to horizontal as possible, keeping in mind the final orientation of the trunk. It's hard to define a firm rule about the location of the cut; your eye should tell you how much flare you want and where the fine roots should start in the final bonsai design. Notice the little green circle at the bottom left of image C; image D zooms in on that circle.

Very important step! Using a very sharp, clean knife (or draw knife), cut all around

the root line at a 45 degree angle. This is narrow cut, 1/16th to 1/8th of an inch in width. Its main purpose is to expose the cambium layer. It is very important that the knife be very sharp: you want to slice the cambium, not crush it. As soon as you completed the cut, apply a generous amount of rooting hormone to it.

Place the tree in the container you previously prepared, making sure that the root line is several inches below the surface of the soil and there is a generous amount of long fiber sphagnum moss between the cambium and the soil; the cambium, at the very edge of the base of your tree, is where the new, fine roots will start developing soon (Image E). Tie the tree very firmly to the container. Water thoroughly and you are done!

From this point on you should:

1. Protect the tree from frost
2. Keep the soil moist but not wet; make sure the drainage is working effectively
3. Keep movements of the tree to a minimum, possibly none. T
4. The new, very fine roots will start to develop within 48 hours; it is very important that they are not disturbed as they are very delicate when they first emerge
5. Do not fertilize until a couple of months after the first buds emerge.
6. If the first buds emerge after the risk of frost, place your tree outside and start your normal cycles of fertilization and chemical treatments

Do not further style your tree for at least one year, possibly two. Don't rush it; the tree needs time to establish itself in the new environment. Tell your story. Use catchy text, bullets, links and more to bring your words to life.





CHRYSANTHEMUM BONSAI—WHO KNEW?

Chrysanthemums have long been appreciated in Japan, including for their use as bonsai material. What we typically think of as a garden shrub can be trained as a small tree using the same techniques as we do for other plant species. The same “rules” apply, starting with nebari, basal flare, branch positioning, progressive tapering, and a defined trunk line. OK, the trunks will never be as enormous as most other bonsai, but the proportion is still there. And as you might guess, mums put on a show each October and November, covered with flowers.

Why am I writing this now? The CCCS (Central Carolina Chrysanthemum Society) is sponsoring the 2020 national chrysanthemum show right here in Raleigh! And yes, there is a bonsai category. The bonsai mum cycle is approximately one year (8-14 months, depending on what technique you use), so there is time to use 2019 as a “practice” year, and be ready to show in October 2020. By the way, if the first try works out well this fall, CCCS also has a yearly show, typically the first week of November, and would welcome any bonsai entries.

So I ask, are there any TBS members who would like to form a study group dedicated to chrysanthemums? There’s not a lot of information out there, and some of it is mis-information, so this will take a co-operative effort; please let me know if you’re interested ([jseasterbrook\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:jseasterbrook@gmail.com)).

Benefits:

1. No more hurting your back moving them around!
2. After all these years, you finally have a reason to have purchased those cute little mame pots.
3. MUCH less expensive than traditional bonsai.
4. Annual cycle for a “finished” product. It is possible to overwinter some mums to create larger trunks the next year, but this cannot be done indefinitely.*

*You may have seen Bill Valavanis' or Joe Noga's Chrysanthemum Japonicum, with quite large trunks, which are perennials. This variety is an exception.

Jim Easterbrook

TBS Bonsai Library
Borrow a book!



[Link to the TBS LIBRARY](#)

Winter Silhouette Bonsai Expo Kannapolis, North Carolina

150 Research Campus Drive

December 7 & 8, 2019

FREE ADMISSION

Demos by William Valavanis,
Rodney Clemons, Tyler Sherrod
and Owen Reich.

An exhibit of the best bonsai in their
winter appearance.

"a most unusual and elegant atmosphere
for this exhibition... I was honored
to participate" William N. Valavanis

Two rooms of bonsai vendors.

To display a tree, vend or visit see:

<http://www.winterbonsai.net>



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