

# Bonsai Society of the Carolinas



## 2020 At A Glance

Jan 11 - "Dog Tree" Swap  
Feb 8 - Repotting Workshop  
Mar 14 - Root Over Rock Workshop  
Apr 4 - Trip to Geneangel Postponed  
Apr 11 - Workshop Postponed  
May 9 - Cancelled  
June 13-14 -Expo Postponed - TBA  
June 13 - Prep for DSBG Show  
July 11-12 - Member Show @ DSBG  
July 12 - Arthur Joura Demo @ DSBG  
Aug 8 - Annual Club Auction  
Sept 12 - Open  
Oct 10- Open  
Nov 14 - Collecting Trip  
Dec 5-6 - Winter Silhouette Show  
Dec 12 - Holiday Party

## Executive Board

President - Carl Maxwell  
Vice President - Scott Telk  
Treasurer - John Farrell  
Secretary - Jeanne Anderson  
Past President - Bob Hampel  
Show Chairman - Brad Russell  
Study Group - Ken Buechele  
Email Coordinator - Gene Martin  
Newsletter - Gene Martin/  
Jeanne Anderson

## President's Corner

Fourteen brave souls made it to the "Root Over Rock" workshop held at Scott Telk's house on March 14th. I brought some azalea's, bougainvillea's, European beech's, and hollies for the participants to choose from. Scott also donated some of his pre-bonsai plants to the cause. So we planted about 18 plants in total. Most people were amazed how easy it was. We just removed the plants from their nursery containers, removed the soil, washed down the roots and then, used rubber bands to hold the roots around the rocks. We then put them back in the nursery pots and put in the old soil. The trick is having the patience to wait and remove about 1/2" of the soil from the pot each month until you expose the amount of roots desired. It takes about a year of waiting and trimming to get the desired effect, so it is not the "instant gratification" that we would like to get. But that is the case for most good bonsai plants, isn't it? A true specimen style bonsai could take 5 to 10 years to develop. So this is a hobby of patience and persistent trimming & styling. But since we are all "homebound" at the present, what better way to spend our time than perfecting our trees! Unfortunately, due to the travel & group restrictions in place, I feel it is necessary to cancel our may meeting at CPCC. Since the NC Arboretum show has been postponed until June 2021, I am hopeful that we can have a regular meeting on June 13th to review the member trees that will be displayed at our show at Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens in July. I will let you know by mid-May where we will hold our June meeting. Until then, stay safe!

## Telk Talks

This newsletter represents the first one since most of us have been in a stay at home mode. Either self imposed or due to government mandate. As such, we are shifting the emphasis of the newsletter a bit. Previously, we always did significant recaps of previous meetings and talked about upcoming meetings. We will do a recap in this newsletter but also shift to adding more pictures and notes from members about what they are doing.

With no in person meetings currently planned, we want to keep interest in bonsai through members sharing pictures of what they are doing. It doesn't matter the species, the condition, whether it is a good or bad bonsai, just let us know what you are working on. For example, in this newsletter you will see pictures of me repotting a collected hornbeam. It is nothing spectacular, just something I was doing.

Yet the newsletter has limitations. You cannot enlarge pictures to see full details. So we are investigating a couple of apps that will allow us to post pictures and chat on line. Pictures can be enlarged so you can see details. More to come about that.

Looking forward to seeing your picture in the next newsletter!

Scott

## Did you know?

... That the bark of a tree has three very important and practical functions: It is waterproof, so it prevents leaking from the phloem; It also houses small structures, called lenticels, that allow the tree to breathe; and the bark's third function is to protect the phloem from all kinds of impacts, abrasions and attacks from pests; including: insects and fungi.

... That wounds on bonsai trees do not heal in the same manner as the wounds of humans and/or animals. That is to say, trees are not able to repair damaged tissue; instead they continue to manufacture a new layer of cells with each years growth, until the wounds is entirely covered over. The length of time this 'healing' process takes depends upon the size of the wound and the overall size of each new annual growth ring.

... That an evergreen tree, such as a pine (black, white, red, scots pine, etc....) does not keep its needles for-ever. In fact, while evergreen trees do not shed their needles in a blaze of autumn splendor, along with the deciduous trees, every fall, they do replace their needles in two or three year cycles. Accordingly, evergreen trees remain for the most part, always green, because younger needles remain on the branch, as more mature needles are replaced.

### Back from the Dead?



A dentist from Charlotte gave me a call the first week of February and said she had three bonsai trees that needed help. She had purchased them from Wigert's Bonsai in Fort Myers, Florida last summer and were keeping them at her farm in Rock Hill. She said she went out each weekend to water them, but that the leaves had all fallen off and the branches were spongy and withered up. She had two desert roses and a bougainvillea. She said they were large trees and she could bring them by that weekend.

She pulled up in my driveway on Friday night about 7 PM. It was already dark and I had my garden cart sitting next to the garage. When she opened the back of her van, I saw what she meant by "large" trees. The two desert roses had trunks that were 9 - 10" across, and they were both about three feet tall. The bougainvillea had a 5" trunk with a lot of deadwood and was about 30 inches tall. I put them on the cart and took them back to my bonsai shed to get a better look. Sure enough, the desert roses were almost bare, and most of the extended branches were soft and mushy. It was evident that she had not done any pruning or trimming since she got them. The branches were very dense and mostly growing straight up. The bougainvillea still had some leaves, but most were yellow and brown from lack of water.

I told her I would do my best to "save" them, but couldn't make any promises. So I spent the better part of that Saturday removing all of the dead leaves and branches, and doing so major trimming on the desert roses. One of the plants was very narrow and tall, with most of the branches growing straight up, which is pretty normal for a desert rose. The other one was more "tree-like" and you could tell that someone had trained the major branches by wiring or tying them down. But there were branches crossing branches, growing straight up, and going in all directions. After some heavy trimming, I wired the remaining branches to give the tree a more bonsai-like shape. I put both trees under sunlamps to give them some light and heat, hoping to simulate the summer sun. I also started watering the trees every morning with water containing Miracle Grow, Epsom salts, and SuperThrive.

The bonsai mix they were in was very coarse and open and had no organic material at all. So the water tended to drain right through and come out the bottom of the pot. So I started watering them at night as well since the soil did not hold much water at all. After about three weeks, I started noticing some buds at the ends of some of the branches. By six weeks, I had a fair amount of leaves, but some of the branches were still bare. By eight weeks, both of the desert roses were full of leaves and both had started to bloom with pink flowers. The bougainvillea had also rebounded with new growth. I took pictures and sent them to the dentist. She replied to my text and called me a "miracle worker". But I told her all they really needed was some love, attention, water & fertilizer. I suggested that she re-pot them and replace the coarse soil with something that had some organic material that would hold water for at least 24 hours. She was very pleased with my results and is coming to pick them up next week. So my time "in quarantine" has not been wasted and I feel lucky that I was able to save her expensive trees. Pictures of the results are posted below.

"Bonsai Max" (Carl Maxwell)



### **BSC Meeting Information**

*Monthly meetings are held at various locations in the Charlotte area. Directions and parking information can be found on the BSC website. The BSC Newsletter is compiled and created monthly by Gene Martin & Jeanne Anderson. Contributions and feedback are welcome and encouraged. Please email submissions or comments to [BonsaiSocietyCarolinas@gmail.com](mailto:BonsaiSocietyCarolinas@gmail.com) by the 20th of each month for publication in the following newsletter.*

### **Shout Out**

*The BSC needs a Web Administrator. Primary functions will be to post Newsletter pdf files and maintain meeting information. If interested, please contact Carl or Scott.*

### **Dues Reminder**

*2020 BSC Membership dues are due. \$50. Bring a check to the next meeting or mail it to Treasurer John Farrell.*

### **Bonsai Care Sheets and Logs**

Stephen Heiks, April 2020

When I first got into Bonsai, in the 80s and 90s, I ended up with 250 trees in pots in a very short time. (Only about 12 were show quality and only about 3 had real potential.) Keeping track of them was pretty ad hoc, white plastic sticks with marked popular names and maybe a date when I got it. Sticks broke, got lost and the marker ink faded. It was not a good system. I had to divest myself of them in 2000 when we moved overseas.

In 2015, we were back in the US and much less busy. I bought some trees from Mr. Maple in Hendersonville and got started again. This time I determined to keep better track.

I have two binders I keep on my trees now. The first are **Care Sheets** for each type of tree I have - Japanese Maple, Oak, Hawthorn, Elm, Kingsville Boxwood, etc. The second is my **Tree Log**, a record of each individual tree.

A **Care Sheet** covers basic growing information specific to that plant. For Bonsai, it may have some suggested styling information but it usually is not intended to be a detailed styling guide. They can be very detailed or much more general. The best ones I have found are 2 pages long.

I find them by internet searches, then reviewing all the many hits. The best ones are already in document form like a pdf and easily downloaded and saved. Others you may need to cut and paste from a website into your own document. Creating your own Care Sheet can be fun, just make sure you attribute the information to the original author.

If you are really into this, you can create your own detailed sheets from multiple sources. In Martha Goff's book *Tropical Green Sheets 1 (and 2)* in Appendix Q, she offers an example of a detailed Green Sheet. Actually both books are **Care Sheets**, she calls them Green Sheets, of many semi-tropical species used for Bonsai. (This is available from the Bonsai Jack website, it's the only printed material they carry.)



## Member Contributions



“Attached are pictures of a collected hornbeam of mine. I was not going to repot it this year because I did it last year. Then I looked closer at the soil. There appeared to be fungus in the gravel at the base of the tree. So I did a complete cleaning and repotting. Pictures show fungus, bare rooted tree and final product.”

Scott Telk



Couple pics of my root -over-rock trees. On the left is a cotoneaster and on the right is a Soft Touch Holly. Both are doing well.

Gene Martin

## Member Contributions (continued)



*On a Heron's you tube video, Mr. Chan mentioned his propagation methods and when he chops roots to reduce size of a maple, he will plant the large root and get another tree. Well, I needed to do that to an elm to fit it into a forest planting and at first, I tossed the roots into the compost heap. Then it occurred to me to give Mr. Chan's tip a try. Here is the result after about a month.*



*My wisteria is blooming. It is in the training stage but is doing beautifully. The first pic is early in the blooming stage and the second is after a few days.*

Jeanne Anderson

## Member Sales

If you have any bonsai related item that you want to sell, let us know and we'll include it in the newsletter.



I have a duplicate of John Naka's Bonsai Techniques 1. On Amazon cheapest \$90. No wear whatsoever. \$70.