

Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

August Meeting and Workshop are Canceled. Things are still not lookin' good.

Stay at home. Work on your trees whenever you like

Pre-meeting coffee and tree counseling will not be available. **No refreshments served.**

Fix your own coffee, or better yet, have a drink.

Jin that tree with a gin and a grin.

August, 2020. COVID-19 Edition

These headlines are getting smaller each month. At some point, just like magic, they will disappear. !

Rob's Surveys

Since we have not been having real meetings, Rob has been trying to entertain us with group surveys. Here is an interesting one.

How do BBS members acquire plant material?

1. How do you acquire new plant material? The three most common ways all involved the club (Percent not shown because the data came from three related questions).

In order:

A. Club Sales

B. Club Auction

C. Tied: Buy from a club member/Collect

from the wild

2. When do you collect trees?

A. Spring = 50%

B. Fall = 33%

C. Summer = 17%

3. If purchasing plant material, when do you acquire it?

A. When it is on sale = 63%%

B. When available, even at full price = 25%

C. At nurseries that have a "damaged goods" section = 12%

4. Have you ever acquired plant to practice a technique and not for creating a bonsai?

A. No = 65%

B. Yes = 35%

5. If you answered "Yes" to the question above,

what do you do with the plant after you're done practicing with it?

In order:

A. Give it to another bonsai artist = 65%

B. Donate it to the club auction/sale = 35%

6. Number of show-ready trees?

A. Overwhelmingly <5 = 84%

B. 6-10 / 11-15 / 16-20 = 6% each

7. Number of trees in development?

A. 11 - 20 = 33%

B. >50 = 28%

C. <10 = 22%

Steve's Comments on the Survey

1. I am glad to see that few of you are starting material from seed. Life is too short. But when you say "collect from the wild" I hope you are including yardadori collected from the wilds of Delaware.
2. I collect most trees in the spring, but I often hunt for trees when they might be at their showiest. For instance, the fall is great for wild crabapples or porcelain berries because you know what you are getting. GPS is great for getting back there in the spring.
3. Yes.
4. I have to answer yes to this one, but the question here is "Was it on purpose?" Several times, I have bought out junipers or other trees at Lowes' nursery area when they put them on sale to clear for Christmas decorations. It is a great way

to get material to work on. Yes, I have screwed up some attempts, generating a really ugly tree. That means, "Yes, I did #4," but that was not my initial intent. I am quite willing to get rid of material and giving it away or selling dirt cheap seems to work.

5. See my comment on #4.
6. I believe I have shown over 20 different trees over the years, so that is the answer I chose. Do I have 20 trees I could show right now? No way! Trees are constantly evolving, sometimes whether we like it or not ([Pre-segue into the next item.](#)). Can I be sure that a tree will be in blossom for our spring show (sadly a thing of the past)? No. Can I be sure that my maple will have leaves for the Longwood show? No. Pines and junipers are a bit more reliable, but they even go through their cycles.
7. Yes, I have well over 50 trees in development, but that is also a misleading answer. Are my 20 shown trees in that number? Certainly, because they are always in development. I have others trees in pots that will not be shown for years, or maybe ever. I also have a lot of trees in the ground just developing trunks. Earlier newsletters this year have shown you the trees that I dug this year, but it was more than normal because this is not a normal year. ([Segue into the next item.](#))

When will 2020 please end?

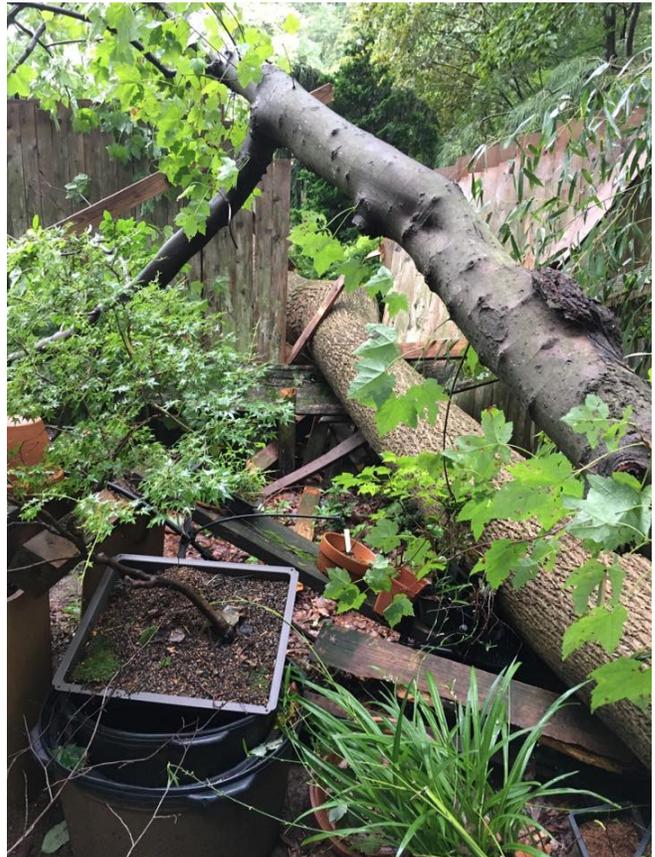
Some of you have already heard this, but during the tornado/straight-line-winds of last week, I had two trees from outside my fence fall into my fenced bonsai area. One of them lined up pretty perfectly with one of the bonsai benches and cut right thru one of the benches perpendicular to that bench.

It looked terrifying peering out my window into the area, but remarkably, I sustained very little real damage. As I mentioned in item #6 above, our trees are constantly evolving and the "sometimes whether we like it or not" was added advisably. Some of the trees will require restyling after losing limbs.

My tree guys were here today (Thursday) to remove the fallen trees and I was able to retrieve some trees that were hidden under the debris. Remember comment #4 above? Well there are some trees that will be available at our next meeting, whenever we have it. I have benches constructed from three parallel 2x12s and they were snapped like kindling.



This is from inside the bonsai area after I have done some branch removal..



This is from my bench outside the fenced bonsai area. You can see some things in training. And

remember, how I said that I had some maple seedlings that I was going to give away at a future meeting? They are right under the bigger trunk. I recovered them today and several have some new movement.

I had to set up new benches outside the fenced area to give the tree people room to work. I made one tactical error in doing that. I moved two nice yews out to the new benches. They were deer-pruned in less than 24 hours. Trees are constantly evolving.

The whole neighborhood lost trees, but only one house was damaged and that was minor gutter issues. The next picture is of my granddaughters two houses away. We made one cut in that tree today and the root-ball laid right back down into the hole.



Looking for Contributions!

Please remember that I am always looking for contributions to this newsletter. It is nice to get Rob's surveys, but we need more. Is anyone getting tired of listening to me blather on? Fix that! Write something. Working on an unusual species? Tried some new style of tree? Have a wild new thought for a way to display? Let's hear about it.

In the mean time...

Stay apart. Stay happy. Stay healthy.