



## Multi-Trunk Bonsai by Rob King

Brandywine Town Center

Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, 10:00 AM

This month Rob King is going to discuss multi-trunk bonsai. He will define the different types, talk about their creation and will create a hornbeam grove/forest that will be auctioned off. He is bringing examples of clump, grove, forest, and mixed planting bonsai to discuss and would really appreciate it if members could bring some of their multi-trunk styles to add to the discussion. He is in need of an example of a raft style and would appreciate someone sharing theirs.

### Future Programs

We have scheduled a number of interesting programs for the rest of the year. This schedule is to let you be able to plan ahead.

July 19 - BTC – Group planting demo/workshop - Rob King

August 16 – Anson Nixon Park – Styling workshop devoted mostly to new members

September 20 – Anson Nixon Park – Styling Deadwood - Dennis Donald

October 18 – BTC – Frank Mihalic – Styling Cotoneaster

November 15 – BTC – Business. Program to be announced

### The BBS Web Site

Our web site ([GoBBS.org](http://GoBBS.org)) can be a valuable source of information for club members and others interested in bonsai in the mid-Atlantic area. There have been a number of recent updates that may be of interest.

<http://gobbs.org/>

But did you know we provide information around the world? You might be interested in the Google Analytics information we have generated. In the last month, we have had 405 sessions by 329 separate individuals and the viewed 1472 pages or 3.63 pages per visit. You might be intrigued where our audience resides. Athens, Greece is the city that generates the most hits. Go figure! Syracuse is the New York one. Numbers 13-16 in our list are all out-of-

country. Does anyone know who lives in Upland, CA which is high on the list?

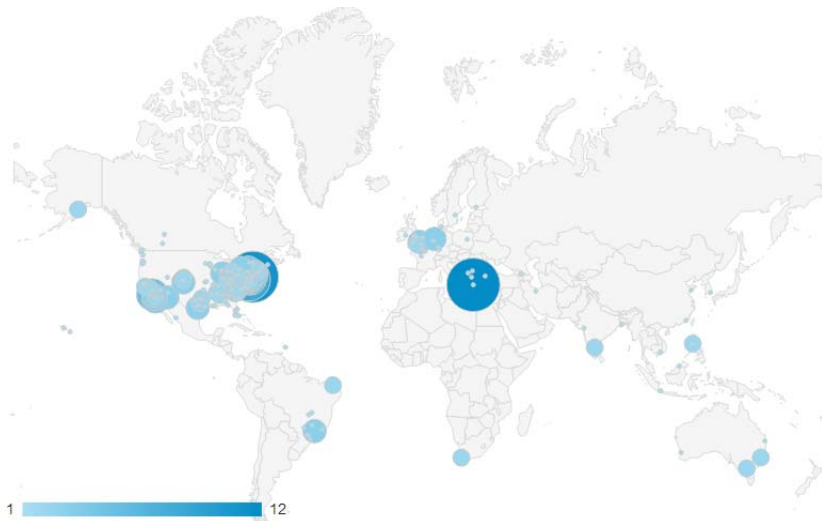
	City	Sessions	% Sessions
1.	Athens	13	3.21%
2.	New York	11	2.72%
3.	(not set)	8	1.98%
4.	Hockessin	8	1.98%
5.	San Diego	7	1.73%
6.	Santa Clarita	5	1.23%
7.	Middletown	5	1.23%
8.	Philadelphia	5	1.23%
9.	Newark	4	0.99%
10.	Wilmington	4	0.99%
11.	Syracuse	4	0.99%
12.	Pike Creek	4	0.99%
13.	Sao Paulo	3	0.74%
14.	Toronto	3	0.74%
15.	London	3	0.74%
16.	Rijssen	3	0.74%

As I add more to the web site, I run into occasional glitches and I know there are typos because I find them all the time. A recent software upgrade has made the site far more stable and we will offer information tailored to cell phones and Tablets in the near future. I would appreciate your observations, comments, and suggestions on how to keep this website vibrant and useful.

In addition to this site, MidAtlanticBonsai.org is slowly coming up as the BBS contribution to MABS going into the future. There may even be

blogs and we are going to set up Facebook pages for those of you interested.

## Global Map of Hits on GoBBS.ORG



### **Pruning**

Analyze the tree and prune branches and foliage to achieve your design in its simplest form. When the foliage area is reduced, you can also reduce the root system. So the tree can live in a shallow pot.

### **Directional training**

Most drastic changes in direction are achieved by winding copper or aluminum wire of sufficient strength in a spiral around the branch, bending it to the desired position, and leaving it on until the wood sets.



Other alternative methods include guy-wiring or hanging weights on the branches. Another method called "clip and grow" achieves changes in direction by repeated cuttings.

### **Containers**

The limited area of the pot tends to restrict the growth of the tree and the design of the tree ultimately dictates the shape of the pot. The size of the pot is proportional to the size of the bonsai. The placement in the pot achieves aesthetic balance and harmony. A bonsai pot is a unique container, specially created using a variety of colors, textures, and shapes, to complement each bonsai.



### **Soil**

Bonsai soil is significantly different from other "potting soils" being very granular to provide rapid water drainage, good aeration, and substantial weight to anchor the tree. A typical bonsai mixture is made of equal parts of organic, calcined clay, and gravel components. These are sifted to eliminate overly large or dust particles .

### **Characteristics of Good Material for Bonsai**

- 1 Woody plants are superior to non-woody.
- 2 Tree-like growth habit.
- 3 Strong surface rootage.
- 4 Good trunk taper from soil to top.
- 5 Quantity and size of branching that allows good placement.
- 6 A suitable location for apex.
- 7 Foliage in proportion to overall scale.
- 8 Healthy material is a must.

### **Training Bonsai**

Initially, decide which view of the tree to select as the front, to select the tree's best aesthetic qualities such as rootage, trunk taper and curvature, branch placement and any other interesting features.

#### **Design necessitates planning**

Training and styling are synonymous with design. Since bonsai is an art form, certain basic elements of design are used to simplify the process:

**Symmetry** is the repetition of the same shape. The most basic shape is the triangle, which also has an oriental philosophical meaning.

The repetition of the triangular form can be seen in the tree's overall silhouette and in its branches as perceived from different viewpoints.

**Balance** is perceived to be symmetrical. However, a more aesthetically pleasing distribution of mass and voids can be obtained by using an asymmetrical approach.

**Proportion** is the ratio of the individual parts. Including the container in relation to the overall design.