



HINOKI BONSAI CLUB

NEWSLETTER #26-1

JANUARY 2026

The Hinoki Bonsai Club is a group of like-minded practitioners of the ancient art of BONSAI. We are a proud 40+ year member of the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, and we meet on the third Wednesday, monthly, 7:30 pm. The usual location is the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs Building located at 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24018. Most meetings feature live demonstrations, spirited discussions of the art of bonsai, hands-on workshops with the assistance and critique of skilled members. The meetings also include reviews of new and old techniques, tools, soils, fertilizers, proper chemical usage and/ or avoidance, pots, wiring, design and much more.

Our most recent meeting was held on the usual third Wednesday of the month. January 21st at 7:30. We had two primary items on the agenda: TROPICAL PLANTS and FUTURE MEETING DISCUSSIONS. We had six members in attendance: Peter T., Jim H., Cathy A., Michael M., Roberto L., and Steve H. Roberto brought a Vancouver Geranium and a Coral Bells – Heuchera and I brought a Chinese Banyan. Even with the unusually small crowd, we had a wonderful conversation of these plants that spend most of the winter indoors. Roberto additionally had located some very appropriate instructions on the New England Bonsai Gardens site: WWW.nebonsai.com regarding Tropical and Sub-tropical plants. They can't be reproduced so the addresses follow:

www.nebonsai.com/content/Tropical.pdf

www.nebonsai.com/content/Subtropical.pdf

This website has many care and info sheets on different types of trees and plants

We then discussed some possibilities for upcoming meetings in 2026. A list was presented with some ideas. That list is attached below:

Hinoki Bonsai Club Topics

In no particular order:

1. Growing a Pine Bonsai in a pinecone, teacup/small bonsai pot. 2 Parts: Phase 1: Introduction & Creation, Phase 2: Refinement
2. How to turn seedling maples into a mame bonsai. 2 Parts: Phase 1: Introduction & Creation, Phase 2: Refinement
3. Methods of trunk fattening
4. Turning Japanese Maple seedlings into a Clump Style
5. Developing Living Miniature Bonsai Landscapes (Forest plantings & Saikei): Education regarding styles, tree placement, multi-specimen displays, and creating replicas of gardens and the natural world
6. Driftwood Bonsai
7. Grafting Options
8. Creating a Cascade Bonsai
9. Mame & Shohin Bonsai
10. Facilitating Root Growth
11. Accentuating bends in thicker branches
12. Air-layering
13. Potential visit by Authur Joura, Curator of the North Carolina Bonsai Arboretum (Spring)

With only six members in attendance, a decision was made to table this discussion until future meetings.

The final discussion concerned an invitation already sent to members. The Mill Mountain Garden Club invited us to participate in the Salem Historical Gardens Tour on Saturday, April 25th. Our club will be located at the "Houckman House" – 233 N. Broad Street, Salem. Set up is that same day at 9:00 and the gardens are open from 10:00-4:00. It was approved with a unanimous vote by all members in attendance. Future discussions will be made.

Hinoki Bonsai Club continues to seek new members of all ages. Frequent posts have begun to be posted in the Nextdoor social neighborhood app about our club and we are starting to get quite a few inquiries and visits. We often hear from interested but reluctant potential members that I am too old or too young to start the bonsai hobby. Although it may sometimes take decades to grow a young tree to a truly mature bonsai specimen, new members soon discover that getting there is all the fun! The club often has special new member orientation meetings to bridge the fear of entering the hobby. So, this is an invitation to all members of the many RCGC clubs, Nextdoor and all to visit us and discover something new. Feel free to contact me, Stephen (Steve) Hatcher, President, HINOKI BONSAI CLUB. I can be reached at stephen.e.hatcher@gmail.com or cell phone: 540-892-9842.