

# John Geanangel



John Geanangel, a native of the South Carolina midlands, has been practicing bonsai for more than 30 years. A K-12 educator, John's interest in bonsai was piqued like many others by the original 1984 Karate Kid movie. In 1991, together with his first teacher, Tom Dimig, John started the Bonsai Club of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

About the same time, John first met and befriended Ken Duncan, beginning a decades-long collaboration as bonsai brothers. Almost every weekend, John and Ken got together for some bonsai-related activity. In time, they were giving workshops and demonstrations from Atlanta to Virginia.

A major highlight of John's bonsai career was presenting more than 20 demonstrations at the annual Carolina Bonsai Expo, often in conjunction with Arthur Joura. John and Ken also enjoyed many successes in the club-display competition at the Expo, which earned their club, and later their Black Creek Study Group, the title of the club to beat.

In 2006, John was one of the first bonsai artists to teach the art through YouTube, posting nearly 200 videos. He is often recognized at bonsai events by his voice alone due to those videos. In 2007, John won an international bonsai competition, sponsored by the Art of Bonsai website, for styling a Shimpaku juniper.

Today, John uses his new studio and workshop for teaching bonsai. He also greatly enjoys developing, and occasionally selling, plant material trained for bonsai. He focuses his efforts on the native species around him, such as hornbeam, elms, and bald cypress, as well as other species that thrive in his area, including azaleas, boxwoods, and Trident and Japanese maples. More information: <https://www.facebook.com/jgeanangel>