

## Field Collecting Bonsai trip- to SC

Members of the Blue Ridge Bonsai Society have been invited to collect Bonsai/Pre-Bonsai trees with Greg Hinson at the 350-acre farm which he utilizes as a hunting property in upstate South Carolina on February 18, 2023. Weather permitting- if there is foul weather- reschedule date will be the following Saturday.

In an effort to be sure that trees are collected in a manner that ensures maximum survival rate, there will be certain protocols in place which all members must follow. There will be a tutorial given by Greg Hinson that morning, which each member must attend. This is a member's-only field trip, and each participant **must register no later than February 12, 2023**, at the next BRBS club meeting.

There is no cost to the participants, however Greg will be providing lunch (venison chili w/"fixins") at no cost. Greg will provide some tools (for use); however, members can bring tools also.

Tree species that are available, and suitable for Bonsai are: American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), American Beech (*Fagus Grandifolia*), Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*), Chinese Pivet (*Ligustrum Sinense*), Silverberry (*Eleagnus pungens*), Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*). Each member can collect four (4) trees, one (1) of each species or four (4) of the same species- or any combination not to exceed four trees.

Members should meet in Asheville/Hendersonville at a rendezvous place (to be determined by BRBS) close to I-26 around 7:30AM- then drive to Spartanburg where the group will meet Greg and follow Greg to the farm. Arrival time at the farm will be approx. 9AM. Wear old clothes, old coat, and boots- no short pants or open toe shoes of any kind. Gloves are also strongly recommended. If you have special dietary needs/wants- bring your food and snacks. BRBS should coordinate- to be sure that as many as possible carpool, and there is a way to bring the trees back to your Asheville/Hendersonville rendezvous location.

Once at the farm, we will proceed with the following schedule. Greg will give a quick safety meeting. We will divide into teams. Greg will assign team captains for each team. The entire group will tour the property, and get an opportunity to see the property, then Greg will give a tutorial of collecting trees, and collecting mycorrhizae for successful Beech tree collecting.

Each member will have a bag (provided), and will collect mycorrhizae before collecting any trees. Greg will have seed sacks, and black plastic pots that can hold trees, and soil. Some members may want to use specific soil. (If so, please bring your soil that day). If not, Greg will provide creek sand--Greg's preferred medium--to place around the roots of the trees.

Each member will be required to fill out and submit a registration for this event deadline for submitting registration will be Feb. 12, 2023. The registration also has a waiver of liability that each member MUST sign and agree to.

Below is a list of things to bring/consider bringing: old clothes, boots, gloves, snacks, your lunch-(if you don't want to eat venison chili w/beans), hand held cutters (Felco cutters), soil to put in pots, garbage bags to place trees in (if you are hauling them back in a pickup truck bed), an Epi pen (if you have bee or fire ant allergies), spade-type shovel, loppers for cutting roots, cut paste for sealing wounds, and wire to secure trees into pots.

No power tools or saws of any kind can be brought or used by members. Greg will have a chainsaw, and a SawsAII- which he will use as needed. No person other than Greg will use power tools.

The following guidelines must be adhered to: Any divots/holes must be filled with dirt after digging up trees. Team Captains will be coordinating duties of each of the team members- such as person digging, person cutting roots with loppers, person preparing the container for the new tree, person filling hole after tree is dug up.

Care must be taken to be sure that the trees will survive this procedure. The group is to stay together-- no wandering off from the group! When we break for lunch, we will go to Greg's cabin. There will be chairs, food, bottled water, utensils, paper towels, and soap and water to wash hands. Each member's trees will be labeled with the member's name, and placed in a shady area after being watered. Once each member's trees have been collected, we will then explore the multiple creeks on the property for rock collecting, and also clay collecting for making muck, and there may be an opportunity to collect some extra trees, which will be given to members by way of drawing or raffle.

Special care needs to be taken when driving into the property not to damage roads or fields on the property. Once members have arrived-, the vehicles will be parked, and Greg will have one or two UTV vehicles to use to transport trees, and some members that struggle to walk (those that struggle may want to bring a walking stick).

This property is made available for this one day only. No member or any other person is allowed to return to the property for any reason. Greg has prosecuted several trespassers over the years, and takes a strong stance regarding trespassing.

Greg Hinson's objective is to provide members with knowledge of collecting trees to ensure best survival rate, provide members with material for bonsai projects, provide inspiration by viewing the large forest trees on the property, and allow for a bonding experience with members in a very informal atmosphere- where everybody gets dirty!