



Newsletter – July 2022

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Changes in the Structure of SABA as an entity or organization

As you all know ABA/SABA is in the process of determining whether to put in a bid for WBC10 which we believe will be hosted in 2026 as decided by the AGM on 2 April 2022.

To be able to obtain the required funding from the government for an event of such magnitude, SABA had to undergo a few immediate changes which had to be done to obtain funding for the AGM held in Grabouw which forms part of the actions and changes required to facilitate the bid to host WBC10.

We would like to take this opportunity to make you aware of changes necessitated by this process that have been, or will, be actioned, namely:

1. SABA had to be registered as a Non-Profit Company with CIPC. (complete)
2. The EXCO members are now appointed as directors of the Company. (complete)
3. The Non-Profit Company that was registered, currently has a February year end (in line with SARS year end) which can be changed to our current year end which is June, if so decided but see note 7 relating to SARS requirements. Currently SABA fees are due within 2 months of the new financial year. If subs are due by 30 April will this impact your clubs collection of fees and payment by the required date. Clubs may need to also revise year end dates to suit. **Clubs please advise and comment on how this will impact you.**
4. Being registered as a Non-Profit Company brings about certain annual secretarial requirements with CIPC and automatically makes SABA liable to become a tax paying entity. Registration with CIPC automatically goes to SARS and a tax number is issued.
5. We have managed to acquire the services of A2A Kopano Inc (A2A) as pro bono auditors except for direct charges from CIPC etc.

6. A2A is currently in the process of applying for TAX Exemption and the relevant submission was done to SARS on 14 June 2022. The anticipated time frame is approx. 2 months and if approved, SABA should be exempt from Tax.
7. Current advice from A2A is that we should rather change our Year End to February since SARS is very reluctant to accept Year Ends other than February without a valid reason for Tax Exemption.
8. A2A also need to streamline the Company MOI and our current constitution so these two documents are in line and do not contradict each other. It is anticipated that there will be some suggested changes to the constitution to fall in line with the requirements of the Companies Act. **Please advise whether there are other changes to the constitution, the clubs would recommend.**
9. The registration as NPC brings about various benefits, we were not able to utilise in the past. Funding can now be obtained from the likes of Lotto and other Non Profit structures within Government.
10. Funding of conventions/AGMs etc can be obtained through Dept of Tourism but the funding comes with restrictions on the towns that may host the event. While we are not obligated to select a specific town as prescribed by the Dept of Tourism, not utilising the prescribed town unfortunately nullifies the sponsorship. The logistics of this process are still being discussed.

As soon as we are able to finalise the above changes they will be described in detail, and we will communicate these to the clubs and request a special general meeting where the changes can be approved. It is therefore imperative for you as clubs to become part of this process and thereby be aware of the implications. The liaison mechanism for this will be direct communication through the Manco meeting (Exco and regional representatives) as well as newsletters which is generally indirect i.e., one way.

Depending on club comment, the revision of the constitution may be intricate and time consuming. We therefore request that you provide feedback on the above by 31 July 2022.

You are welcome to contact me if you need further clarification on any of the above changes.

Yours in SA bonsai,

Tola Smit

Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann

SABA subscriptions reminder

The moratorium in subs comes to an end and subs will be due in July 2022 for the year running from July 2022 to June 2023. Subs are as follows: Club member R40, individual member R100 and Organisations R200. Payments are to be made to the Standard Bank account (details below) and please avoid making cash deposits as the fees are exorbitant.

South African Bonsai Association NPC

Standard Bank

Account Number: 140313478

Account: PlusPlan Business

Branch: Brandwag

Branch Code: 055534

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The SABA website is live, and we would like to use it to centralize communication between the affiliated clubs and SABA. A new process is to be followed for renewing of yearly membership to SABA. **We are asking all affiliated clubs to complete the membership form on the SABA website**, to make sure the correct contact email address is on file and that the current number of members is updated so that clubs do not get billed for the incorrect number of members. Please make payment based on the number of members your club has.

PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS: JUNE

The photo competition is back. There were some teething problems, but they all seem to have been smoothed out. There were 10 entries this last month so let's try to up that number please. Entering a tree is easy; just go to the SABA website (www.saba.org.za) and click on competitions. Enter the monthly competition and upload your photograph first then complete the form.

Here are the winners for June 2022.

Well done and we look forward to many more entries in July!

EXOTIC



Botanical Name of tree: *Juniperus procumbens* var *Nana*

Common Name of tree: Dwarf Japanese Garden Juniper

Height of tree (from base to apex): 71 cm

Original artist: Carl Morrow

Photographer: Carl Morrow

This tree was bought from Malanseuns nursery by Lynne Theodorou (Misty Moon Bonsai) in around 2006 and given to Carl after his lecture tour in April 2007. It has been developed by Carl since then

INDIGENOUS



Botanical Name of tree: *Ficus natalensis*

Common Name of tree: Natal Fig

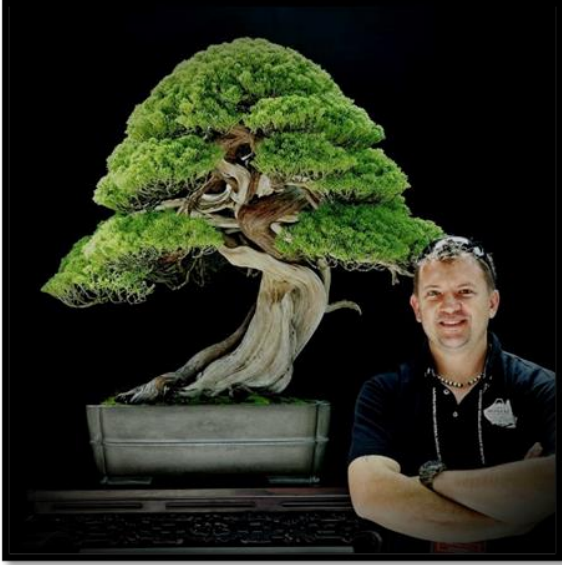
Height of tree (from base to apex): 41cm

Original artist: Cindy Rodkin

Name of photographer: Carl Morrow

I bought this tree from Steven at Stone Lantern in 2012. The pot is handmade by Viky Peterman

Hannes Fritz, five years after Saitama, Japan:



I was born in 1978 in Heidelberg Gauteng where I grew up on a beautiful farm that belonged to my grandfather at the time. From childhood I was fascinated by plants, and I grew succulents with my father who was a horticulturist and an experienced succulent's collector.

At age 12 my father bought me a bonsai book and the very next day I collected my first Celtis tree from our garden. The early days without Google and Facebook I had to learn from

books and the horticultural knowledge from my dad.

Luckily, I met Oom Johan Bester who was also living in Heidelberg, and he gave me my first foundation for what was to come.

The year 2000 I went to study Jewellery design at Pretoria tech and that was the time that I joined Pretoria Bonsai kai.

With all the knowledgeable people in the club my bonsai eyes opened for the first time and that's when I really got into the world of master Charles Ceronio. I participated in many of his private workshops at his Pretoria home. Through the club I also met and befriended many bonsai teachers like...Oom Theuns Roos, Louis Nel, Erika Köhler, Hennie Reyneke and many more.

These are the people that inspired me to better myself in the art of Bonsai.

In 2003 Pretoria kai took me on my first Yamadori dig in Rustenburg area, and that day my passion for collecting Yamadori started with a bang.

After a couple of years in Pretoria kai where Oom Charles, who was still the president taught me to do demonstrations. First assistance from him and later all by myself. In the years to come I did demo's all-over South Africa and met really inspiring people like Gary Howes, Brett Simons, and Vian Herbst just to name a few.

In 2006 I won the new talent competition for Brat at the Cape Town bonsai convention and had my first encounter with international demonstrators, yes that's when I met master Robert Stevens, the man who changed my outlook on bonsai forever.

In 2013 I started my own bonsai club, Suikerbos Bonsai kai Heidelberg with two other friends. The name Suikerbos comes from the area I grew up in and I still live, called Suikerbosrand and we border the well-known Suikerbosrand nature reserve.

I served as President of Suikerbos for 5 consecutive years and in 2018 I gave the ropes to my best friend and right-hand man Stefann Pretorius. Stefann is still our President till today.

The ultimate goal of my bonsai journey was when I was chosen to represent Africa at the world bonsai conference in Saitama city Japan. Japan was most likely the best and most frightening experience of my life. To do a demonstration on an international stage with the best bonsai artists in the world is not for the faint hearted!

Would I do it differently if I had the chance.... yes indeed, would I do it again.... I don't think so.

However, till today I believe that I did my best for the time and with the knowledge and training I had.

Did Japan change my outlook on bonsai....no not at all because I knew even before I got on that plane that the trees will be on a completely different level than what I'm use to and that it will be insane to even try to compare it with what we are doing back home in SA.

I came back and I went to my garden and didn't have the need to change anything because we have our own unique styles, species, and environments.

Yes, it was extremely inspiring and educational to walk through the gardens of the Japanese masters like Kimura and Suzuki, but after a couple of days you can't take in anymore and all the trees started to look the same.

The thing that I learned from my trip to Japan was that we as SA bonsai artists are extremely fortunate to have a wide variety of species and diverse climatic regions that create styles that can only be found in SA.

It's time that we stop competing with a country that's completely different from what we have.

I also served on the SABA committee for 4 years but soon realized that committees and leadership positions are not for me because it takes away the beauty of bonsai and actual reasons for practicing the art of Bonsai. I prefer to train trees and not people.

Today I'm vice president of Suikerbos Bonsai kai and love to meet with likeminded people who do bonsai for the same reason I started 32 years ago.

I am working as a goldsmith for Rare Earth Creations in Hyde Park, Johannesburg and have recently started to make my own unique bonsai pots as well. First, I started with cement and then moved on to papercrete. It's actually very important to find or to create a pot that will complement a certain tree and style because we have such amazing bonsai material locally. I then moved to ceramic and that opened a whole new opportunity. First, I collected my own clay from our farm with great results and unique textures and colours. After seeing a video by Ryan Neil from the US I was inspired to build my own wood fire kiln. I did 3 prototypes before I got the final kiln build and operational. Because of my limited time with a full-time job and 300 plus trees in my collection, I divide my time into summer bonsai and winter ceramics.

For any assistance or advice, you can find me on Facebook: Hannes Fritz, Suikerbos Bonsai Community South Africa or Hannes Fritz Bonsai pots and Ceramics (which is a newer hobby I started practicing 😊).

REGIONAL NEWS:

This section of the newsletter will highlight regional events taking place around the country as well as articles of interested submitted by the different regions. To include the latest regional happenings into the SABA Newsletter, the editor requests that you please email regional news to viky-@hotmail.com by the second Saturday of each month.

- **BRAT:**

- **Eastern Bonsai Society – reported by Anthony Bosman**

EBS with its vibrant energy, has bounced back after Covid



The last 6 months has been very busy with 13 new members participating in our beginner's course held on club meeting days.



Meetings held 12 pm onwards on second Saturday of the month at Hospice Wits ,50 Second avenue Houghton. About 20 members aged 17 to well into their 80's attend regularly.

Fred Oudmayer doing demo on old Buddleya

Workshops held 1st Saturday of the month 12pm onwards in Sandringham



May meeting was on Literati presented by Steffan Pretorius



Several members were so inspired that they left the meeting restyling some of their “problem trees” - Some of Lynn Reynolds new literati



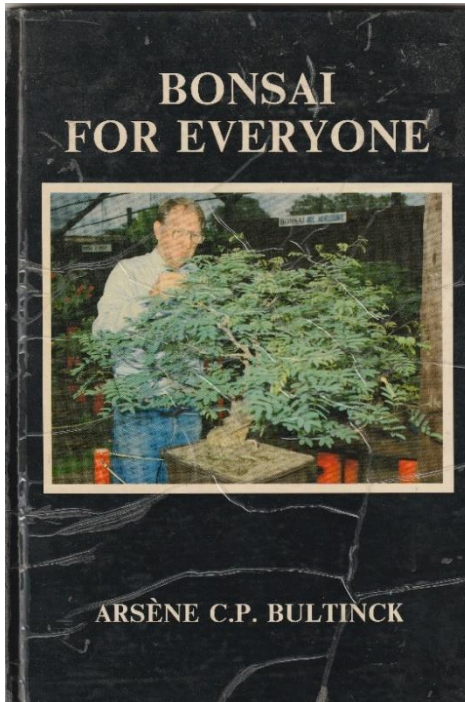
June workshop. Work was done on some neglected stock. Restyling and reviving some Junipers. (Photos: before and after of two junipers)

July meeting 9th July. Cleaning and sharpening of Bonsai tools.

Yearly show planned for 8 and 9th October. Celebrating 51 years of Bonsai

Enquiries: Anthoney (Chairman) 084 3577 348 / Vaughan (Secretary) 073 243 1491

- **Lost South African Bonsai History – By Lesley from Jo-Da Bonsai**



Recently I “inherited” a large number of bonsai books from my father-in-law, John Haw, I suspect he was looking to clear his horde and now make it mine! That said, it became quite an investigation, when among all these 200 plus books, I found books by South African bonsai practitioners that date back to the mid and late 80’s. One particular bonsai practitioner that I am fixated on at the moment is Arsene C.P. Bultinck. Mr Bultnick’s book is titled “Bonsai for Everyone”. First impression 1986, 2nd impression 1987, 3rd, 1988, and 4th 1989.

The book does tell me a little about Mr Bultnick, born in Belgium in 1925, and immigrated to South Africa in 1951. He served in the Royal Air Force (UK) and worked in the pharmaceutical industry, which he retired from in 1981. The book goes on to tell that he was a play writer, writing radio plays, as well as novels and articles that were translated into, and from various languages. He wrote a column for the Belgian Magazine on matters South African and is the editor of the BISA Bonsai Bulletin. The introduction continues to state that Mr Bultnick “is said to be one of the foremost bonsai specialists in the Republic and is in great demand as a lecturer and demonstrator”.

His book, “Bonsai for Everyone” makes reference to the Pretoria Bonsai Centre and at the back of the book there is a map and directions to the centre – “Home of the Pretoria Bonsai Arboretum”. The map shows that the centre and arboretum was situated in Swartkop, but today, when searching on google, this is a built-up residential area, with no reference to a Bonsai Arboretum, or any garden whatsoever. Regretfully all of my hours on Google have yielding nothing on Mr Bultnick, or the Pretoria Bonsai Arboretum.

If anyone has any information, I would love to hear from you as I would love to continue gathering and compiling information on the history of bonsai in South Africa.

- **CENTRAL REGION:**

- **Reported by Heinrich Köhne**

With the seasonal change and winter dormancy in the offer our main concern in this region is protecting our less hardy species. Mainly figs, coral trees, Kei-apples, Spekbome and Nuxia's. All of the clubs, Bloemfontein, Kimberley and Harrismith are still active, and we had one of the old Bloemfontein/Kimberley members retiring near the Vaal River close to Bothaville and he has started a club with 14 active members.



Four members of Bloemfontein Kai attended the SABA AGM in Grabouw of which two are relatively new to the art and they had some new insights in the displayed trees and info gained at the crit as well as from other attendees. Some still longing for the Roosterkoek (Travalia, Drie Sisters) and Bökkoms (Hexriver Valley) we pick up along the way. We were also joined by one of old and founder members of Bloemfontein Bonsai Kai who retired in Hermanus.

All of the clubs have finalised the year programs and Bloemfontein are considering a Mini Convention towards the end of the year.

Sincerely. (Wish I had more info at this time)

- **CRAB:**

- **A night out with Cape Bonsai Kai by Dawn Collier:**



It was a very cold, wet, rainy Thursday evening in June when my husband and I decided to join a meeting held by the Cape Bonsai Kai. We had never been to

one of their meetings before as they are usually at 7pm in the evenings on the third Thursdays of the month.

I don't like to drive at night and from where we live it takes well over an hour to get there.

We were looking forward to this event as I had ordered a particular drill bit for carving from Terry Erasmus who was one of the presenters.

The Cape Bonsai Kai, which is 52 years old now, has been struggling with membership over the last couple of years due to many different reasons. The current Chairperson has decided to make it his mission to bring about a change to encourage new members to join the club. He has started by inviting top quality guest speakers to give presentations on what they are passionate about.

Terry arrived with a well-stocked sales table and of course goods that people attending had pre-ordered from him. He had also cleverly advertised on his distribution list the event, so many other bonsai club members also arrived.

The turnout was awesome, some old and new members, about 40 + people in the end. There are definitely some die hard bonsai enthusiasts out there, great seeing some familiar faces.



Terry as he does so well, prepared a very absorbing, detailed slide show on the different techniques that he uses to develop Yamadori wild olives.

This is what works for him, and the results are just outstanding. He showed us from when they are removed from the wild, how they are prepared, and what substrates are used when. We were even shown when he defoliates his olives - which is 3 times a year - most of us are just too nervous or miss the correct time for this to be done.

One and a half hours later and everyone went away having learned something they didn't know before.



And this was not all, we were also treated to an interview with Peter Hattingh, who is one of the founder members of the Club. He is back in Cape Town and he gave us some delightful stories of past memories with CBC members who have passed on, and not to mention his tree collection that died 3 times!

Please check out www.bonsaitree.co.za if you haven't already. Terry has the best website in South Africa with regards to current articles, blogs, shopping, and YouTube videos.



Article by Dawn Collier and Pictures courtesy Cindy Rodkin.

- **Bend it like a PRO - by Cliff Poultney - Tygerberg Bonsai Club**

Ever had that tree that was just on the too thick side to be bend the normal way with wire? Well, I had the same scenario but didn't want to give up on the idea. So, this is what I did.



I first selected where the bend needed to go



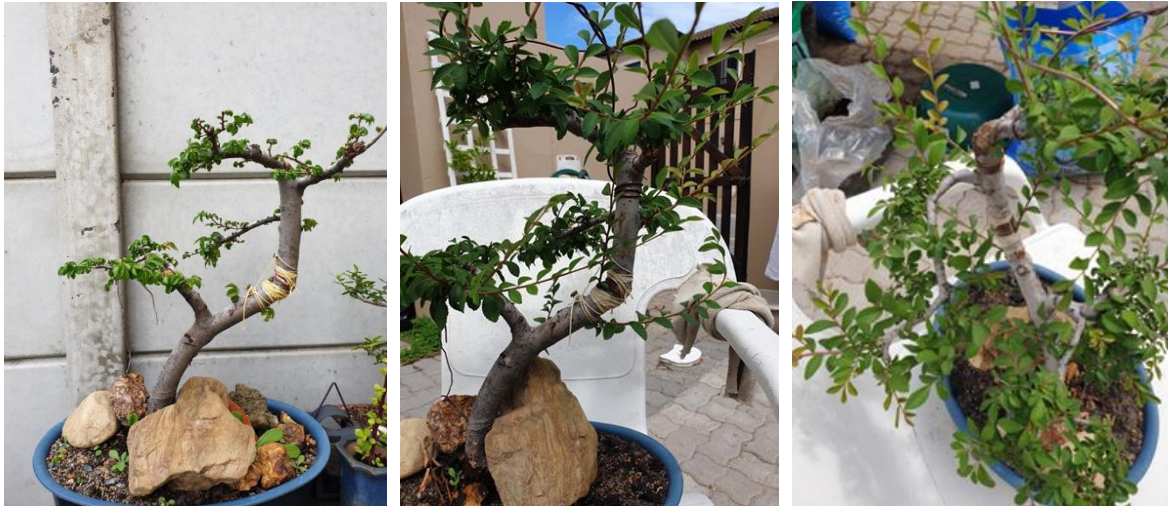
I thought drilling a hole in the trunk would help focus on getting the cuts accurate



Initial cuts made, using the drilled hole as a center. Used 2 screws on either side of the cut to add wire to pull the cut edges towards each other and secure a tight join.



Trunk bent and wire added to keep the two edges tightly in place.



A few months later and it looks like the tree is recovering well and then more growth, really flying now.



The final picture with wire removed and the cut healing over, jackpot!

- **EASTERN:**

Have not provided any information

- **KZN:**

- **Reported by Dave Meys:**

- Attached below is an early flyer re the DBN clubs' annual show. A more updated version with finer details will come out closer to the time.

Durban Bonsai Society

**SAVE THE DATE:
12-13 NOVEMBER 2022**

Durban Bonsai Show

For more information follow us on:

Facebook : @DbnBonsaiSoc

Email: durbanbonsaisociety@gmail.com

Instagram: durban_bonsai_society

**Tree Clinic; Workshops; Demonstrations; Competitions;
Bonsai, pots and tools on sale; Bonsai on display**

- DBN would like to congratulate Shaun Murphy and Farouk Patel for each receiving a SABA Lifetime Achievement Award this year. Below, please find articles done in the local papers on them and click on the links to enjoy a visit to their garden's.

Farouk's pint-sized bonsai forest wows

Shiraz Habbib
shirazh@dbn.caxton.co.za

WITH more than 1 000 bonsai trees in his collection, Farouk Patel's garden can only be described as a pint-sized paradise.

The 64-year-old, who is a member of the Durban Bonsai Society has honed his skills over the past three decades and tends to and creates a beautiful array of exotic and indigenous plants as bonsai.

Patel explained the word bonsai is a Japanese term which, literally translated, means "planted in a container".

“Even with work and family commitments I would spend my nights tending to the trees”

“The art began about four 4 000 years ago in China, where it was known as Penjing. The Japanese took it further, using the art as something spiritual,” he explained. “Bonsai has been around for a long time and one of its goals is to create a miniaturized but realistic representation of nature in the form of a tree. I think that is often a misconception, that bonsai trees are species of dwarfed plants, but the truth is, any tree species can be



Farouk Patel has a collection of more than 1 000 bonsai trees in his Parkhill home.

bonsai.”

The Parkhill resident said his love for gardening started at an early age growing up in Newcastle with a farming background.

“For me bonsai is an art that is continually growing and that spiritual connection extends to you because you grow with the tree

you've created. When I started with bonsai years ago I would spend every waking opportunity I could to be out in the garden.

“Even with work and family commitments I would spend my nights tending to the trees. Bonsais are a thing of beauty and while I don't spend as much time as I did

in the garden when I was younger I still spend hours watering and pruning my bonsai trees,” he said.

Patel said while some of his knowledge stems from reading books about bonsai, he gained the most experience through the Durban Bonsai Society.

“Before the society I would

read books on the art of bonsai for hours on end. However, the downside to this was that most of them referred to plants in the northern hemisphere. Climate and the type of species you use in bonsai trees is vitally important and you can spend lots of time on trees that look nice but the reality is that not every tree is conducive to our hot and humid climate.

“It was really the society where I gained a deeper understanding and knowledge of bonsai. My knowledge grew in leaps and bounds because I was surrounded by other people who have similar passions and had been doing it for much longer.

If I had one bit of advice for those who have a passion for bonsai trees it would be to become a member of the society. Not only do you broaden your knowledge but you interact with people who have similar passions that you do,” he said.

“While Patel could not pick his favourite bonsai tree out of his more than 1 000 tree collection he did say he loved experimenting with Dalbergias as bonsai.

“The Dalbergias make excellent bonsai trees. It is a rather distinct climber, it has a beautiful leaf and bark structure. While it is a slow grower and doesn't fatten very quickly I love the character and its look. That would be one of my favourite styles of bonsai,” he said.

Patel encouraged residents to like and follow the Durban Bonsai Society Facebook page.

Link to Faruk's collection: <https://youtu.be/clc8Ax-zqjY>

'Mr Miyagi' proudly shows off his Bonsai collection

BONSAI expert and enthusiast, Shaun Murphy, better known as "Mr Miyagi," shared some insight on his passion for botany. With a whopping collection of approximately 2 500 trees, Murphy's garden is nothing short of a miniature green heaven.

The 74-year-old Waterfall resident plays a significant role in the Durban Bonsai Society and has been honing his abilities for as long as he can remember, caring for and creating a gorgeous array of exotic and indigenous bonsai trees.

Murphy has been instrumental in the Durban Bonsai Society for almost 50 years and held the past position of chairperson of the society. Just two months ago, at a convention in Grabouw, he became an honorary member as he had been awarded a Lifetime Achiever Award from the South African Bonsai Association. This award emphasises that Murphy's contribution to the art in South Africa is recognised, and it deems him as a 'Bonsai Master.'

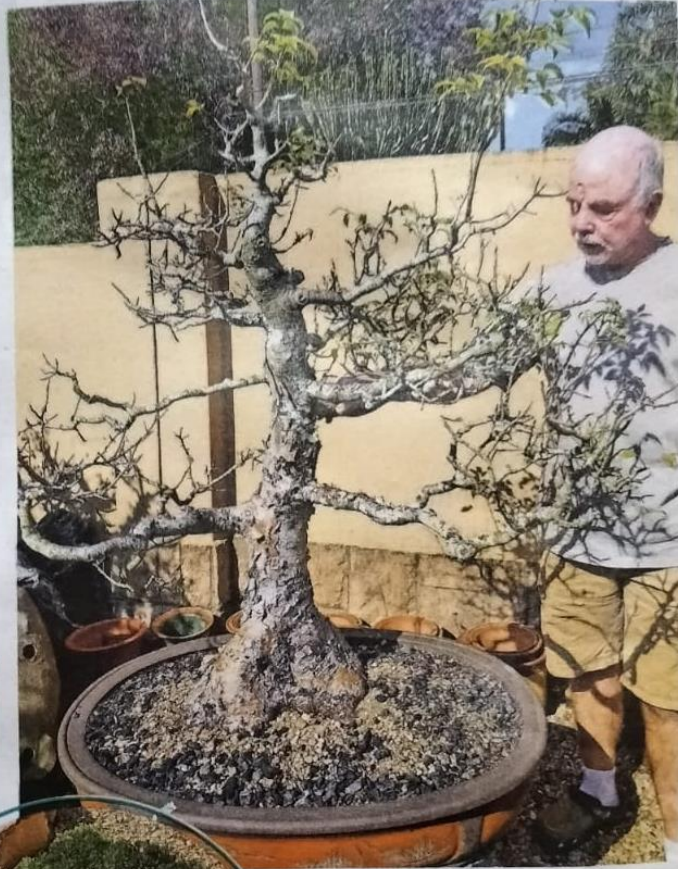
According to the Bonsai Master, this type of botany is known as a popular form of art all around the world, and the word 'bonsai' is a Japanese term that translates to 'planted in a container.'

Bonsai is...a living art form that is absolutely amazing.

"Many people think the art of bonsai trees is complicated. It is simply a tree in a pot. It grows in a small container to confine the roots. The tree is trimmed to keep it in balance and fertilised to keep it healthy.

"Bonsai is, in my opinion, a living art form that is absolutely amazing. Because you grow with the tree you've made, the art is always expanding, and that spiritual link is extended to you. I spend every waking moment in the garden since I first started with bonsai."

Although he did not have any gardening background, Murphy's interest in gardening sparked at a young age as he completed a botany course in school. According to Murphy, as his interest grew, he would often attend various bonsai shows and meetings to expand his knowledge. "I was officially captivated when attending a bonsai show that was



ABOVE: Shaun Murphy with his 40-year-old *Melaleuca quinquenervia* which is commonly known as a paperbark tree.



INSERT: Shaun Murphy, showing off another forest from his collection.

history."

His vast knowledge about the art came from reading books about bonsai. For Murphy, the Durban Bonsai Society was his greatest teacher.

"My knowledge stemmed from books first before I decided to join the Durban Bonsai Society in 1974. This society

held in St Cyprian's Church. After that, my passion grew, and the rest is

allowed experts to pass on knowledge from their own experience. As the club progressed, we started getting international demonstrators from around the world, and the knowledge gained from these masters was truly inspiring," said the enthusiast.

Murphy's advice to bonsai lovers is to 'join a club before you waste a lot of valuable time.' He also encouraged enthusiasts to like and follow the Durban Bonsai Society Facebook page for frequent updates and more information about these indigenous trees.

Link to Shaun's collection: <https://highwaymail.co.za/462524/watch-waterfalls-bonsai-expert-shows-off-his-collection/>

Bonsai Classified

If you are a business affiliated to SABA and would like to advertise in the SABA Newsletter, please send an 8cm wide by 5 cm long size advert in word document format, or a jpg. Image to viky-@hotmail.com by the second Saturday of each month. Advertising in this newsletter is for registered vendors with SABA.

West Coast Bonsai

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andre@bonsaiwhispers.co.za