

Outdoor Bonsai Display

Presentation to the Blue Ridge Bonsai Society on August 11, 2024

By

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Part I

Lessons from Perfection

The Challenge

Credit: The Omiya Bonsai Art Museum

Is it possible
-- in an outdoor setting --
to emulate the aesthetic quality of
this museum display?

What important design features
does this image, along with
images of great Japanese
bonsai gardens, teach
us that can be used in
our own bonsai garden?



Some (Aspirational) Answers

- A. Non-Distracting Background
- B. Correct Display Height but with Variations
- C. Clean Area Free from Clutter
- D. Uncrowded & Asymmetry in Placement
- E. Complementary Features & Accents

Omiya Bonsai Art Museum Garden:

Opened in 2010

Credit: The Omiya Bonsai Art Museum

Outdoor Garden



Boulder Display



Omiya Bonsai Art Museum Garden: Today

Credit: The Omiya Bonsai Art Museum



Inspiration

Ryoan-ji Zen Garden -- Kyoto



A.

Background Behind Bonsai

National Bonsai & Penjing Museum

Washington, DC



National Bonsai & Penjing Museum

Washington, DC



John Y Naka and 'Goshin' at NB&PM



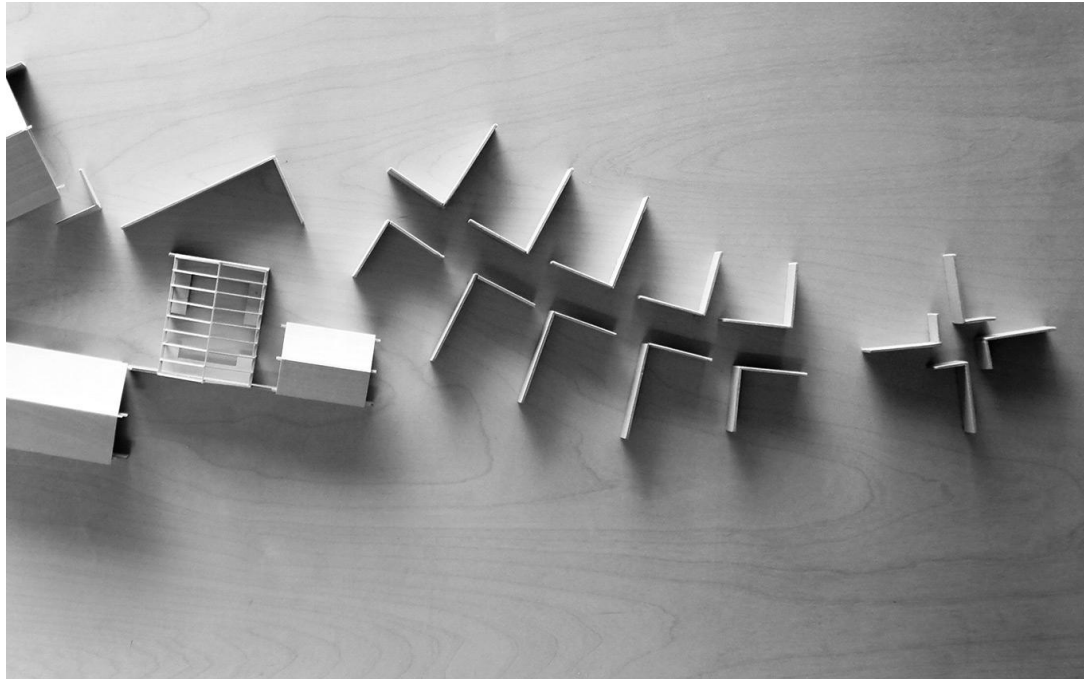
The North Carolina Bonsai Exhibition Garden



The Pacific Bonsai Museum

Federal Way, WA

Credit: The Pacific Bonsai Museum



Japan's National Bonsai Garden

Showa Kinen Park, Tokyo (opened in 2004)

Credit: Thomas S. Elias



Famous Ezo Spruce Bonsai

Shown in previous Slide

1st Kokufu Exhibition 1934



Today



B.

Display Height
Eye-Level with Variations

Pedestals -- Ancient Japanese Scroll from 1351 CE



Pedestals: Early Prototype

Ancient Japanese
Scroll
from 1351 CE



Japan's National Bonsai Garden

Tokyo

Credit: Thomas S. Elias



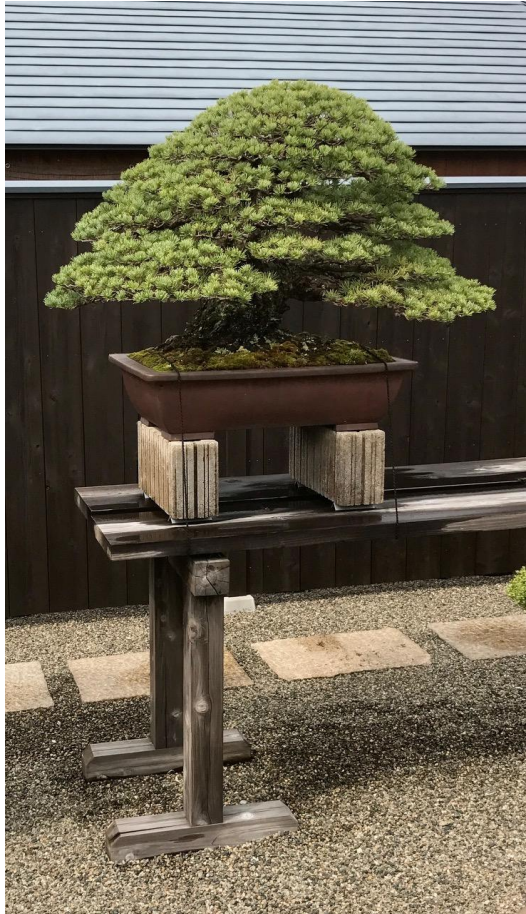
Kunio Kobayashi's Shunka-en

Credit: Bonsai Empire



Shinji Suzuki's Bonsai Museum

Obuse, Japan



Masahiko Kimura's Bonsai Garden

Credit: Bonsai Empire



Sean Smith's Bonsai Garden

Credit: Sean Smith



C. & D.

Clean Area Free from Clutter
&
Uncrowded & Asymmetry in Placement

Shinji Suzuki's Bonsai Museum

Obuse, Japan



Shinji Suzuki's Bonsai Museum

Obuse, Japan

Credit: William N.Valavanis



Shinji Suzuki's Bonsai Museum

Obuse, Japan



Shinji Suzuki's Bonsai Museum

Obuse, Japan



Seiji Morimae's Uchiku-Tei Garden

Hanyu-city, Japan



Hoshun-in Bonsai Garden

Kyoto, Japan

Credit: William N.Valavanis (see <https://valavanisbonsaiblog.com/2022/11/27/>)
)



Hoshun-In Bonsai Garden

Kyoto, Japan

Credit: Dave in Osaka: Travel Japan



Hoshun-In Bonsai Garden

Kyoto, Japan

Credits: Dave in Osaka: Travel Japan (I); Deep Japan by The Last Samurai

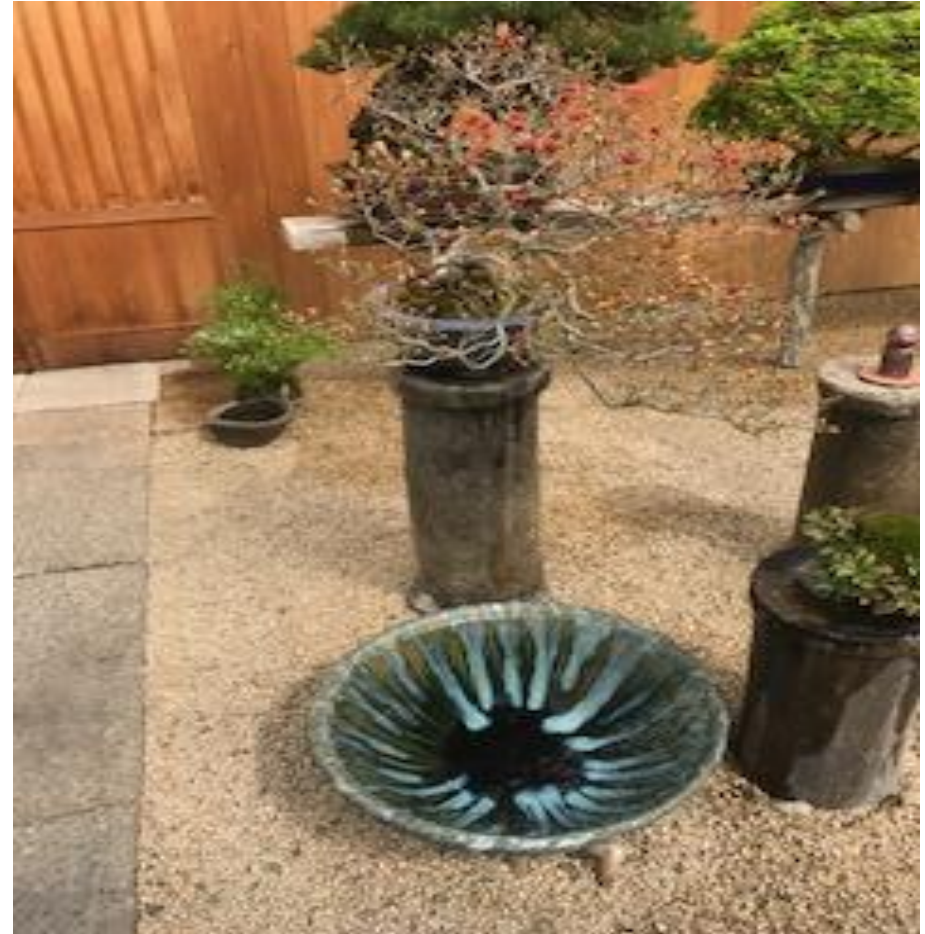


E.

Complementary Features & Accents

Shinji Suzuki's Bonsai Museum

Obuse, Japan



Shinji Suzuki's Bonsai Museum

Obuse, Japan



Hoshun-in Bonsai Garden

Kyoto, Japan

Credit: Dave in Osaka: Travel Japan



Uhaku Sudo's Chikufu-en

Shimozuke City, Japan (Home of Keido School of Display)
Credit: Dave DeGroot



Future Home of Bjorn's Eisei-en Kyoto

Credit: Bjorn Bjorholm



Recent Purchases for Eisei-en Kyoto

Credit: Bjorn Bjorholm



Part II

Creating a Bonsai Garden: “Kinkaku-ji”

**"Kinkaku-ji"
GARDEN**

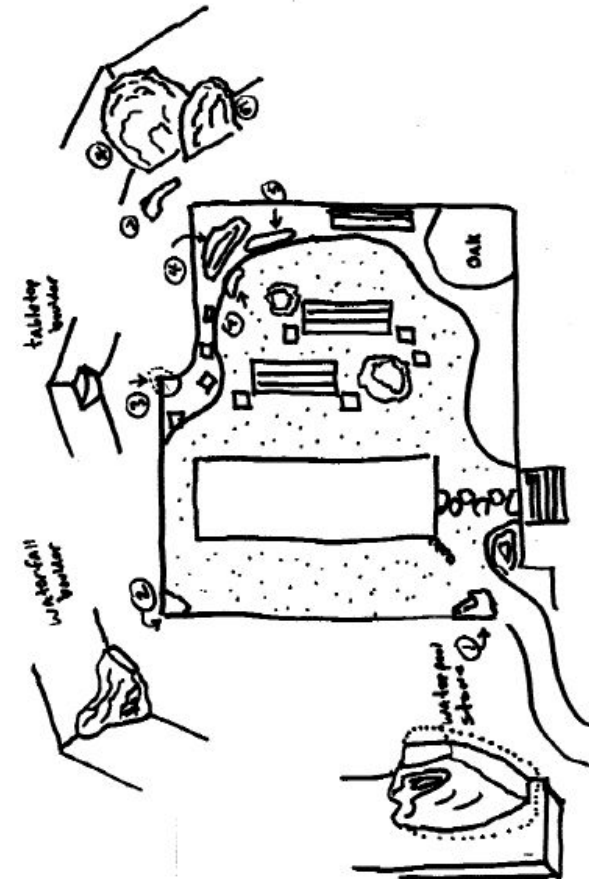
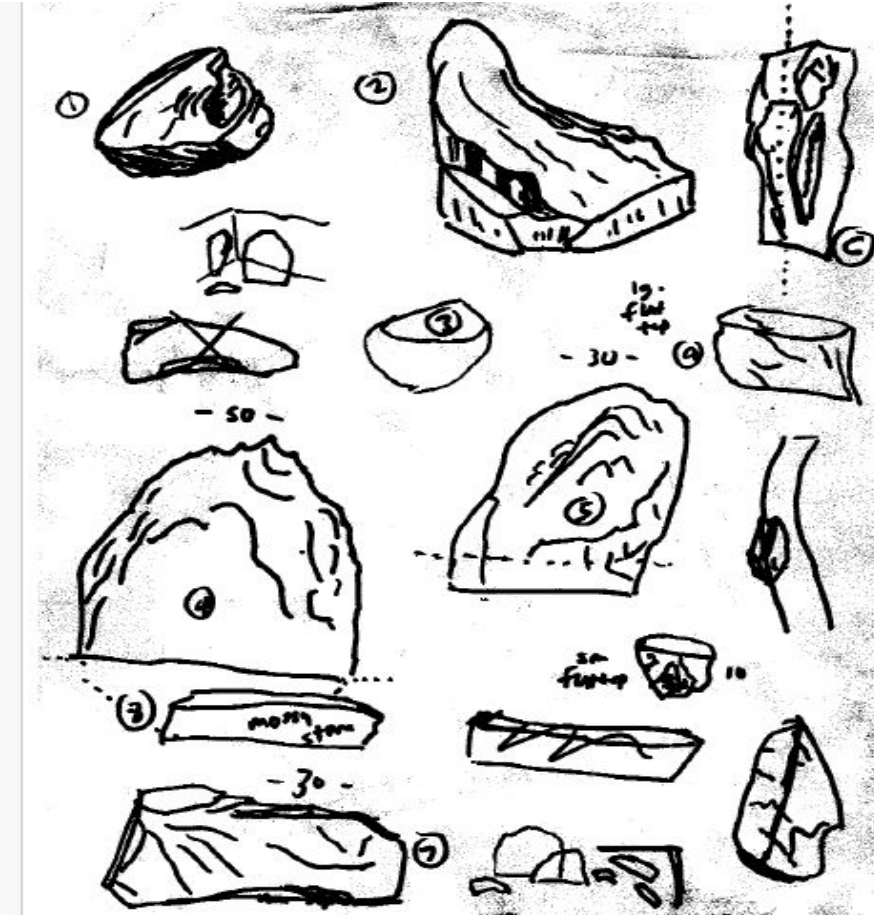


Collecting Boulders



Making a Plan

The boulders were numbered and placed in position based on a rough plan.



1st Starting Point: Main Boulders

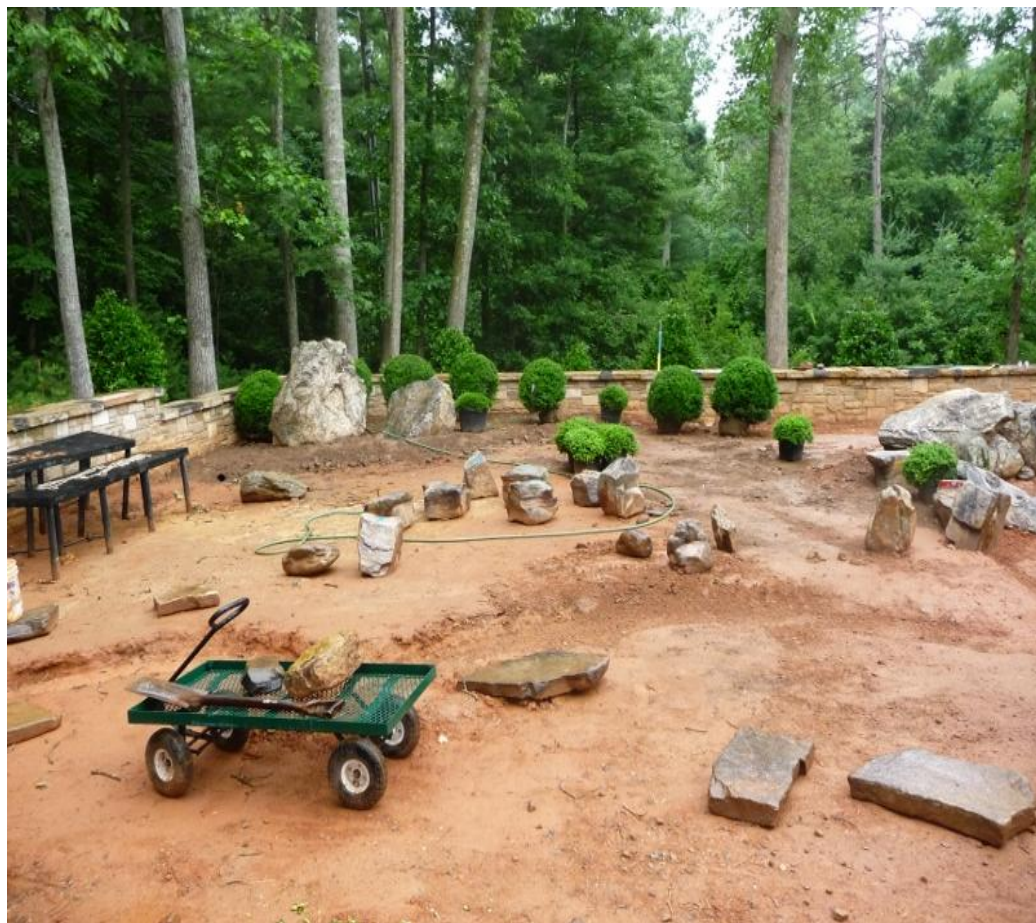
For Key Corner of Garden



Key Corner of Garden

The Main Boulders stand in island of dwarf mondo grass, boxwoods and a Japanese maple

2010

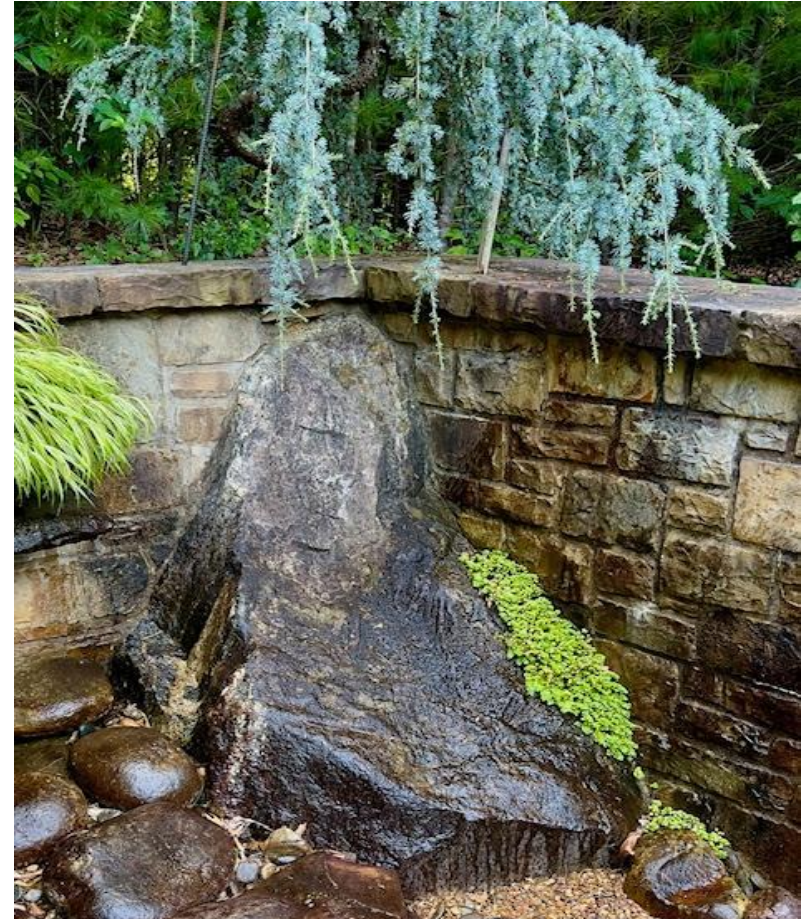


2023



2nd Starting Point: Waterfall Stone

For Origin of Stream



Waterfall and Stream



Pond

The Stream ends in a Pond

2010



2024



Ground Covers

Dwarf Mondo Grass



John Creech Sedum



Stone Pavers and Gravel



Bonsai Garden Shots

Japanese Black Pine and Elaeagnus



Bonsai Garden Shots

Euonymus and Red Pine



Bonsai Garden Shots

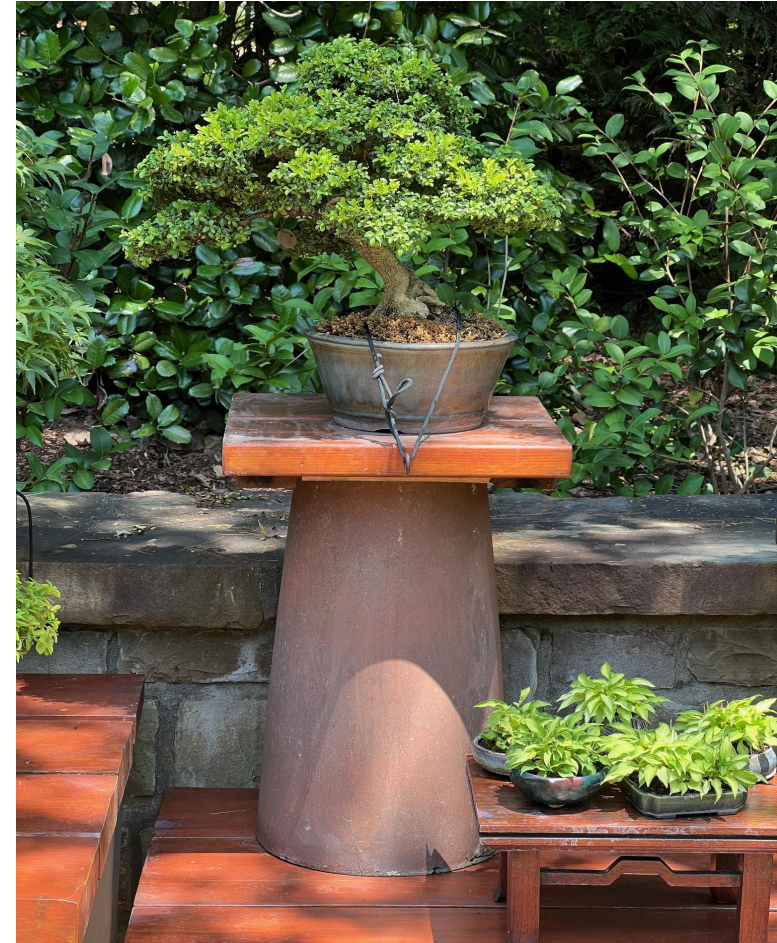
Acorus and Farfugium (Ligularia)



Bonsai Garden Shots



Bonsai Garden Shots



Moss v. Sedum



Masahiko Kimura's Moss and Lichen

Credit: Bonsai Empire



Accent Plants

Dwarf Equisetum (Horsetail)



Dwarf Hosta

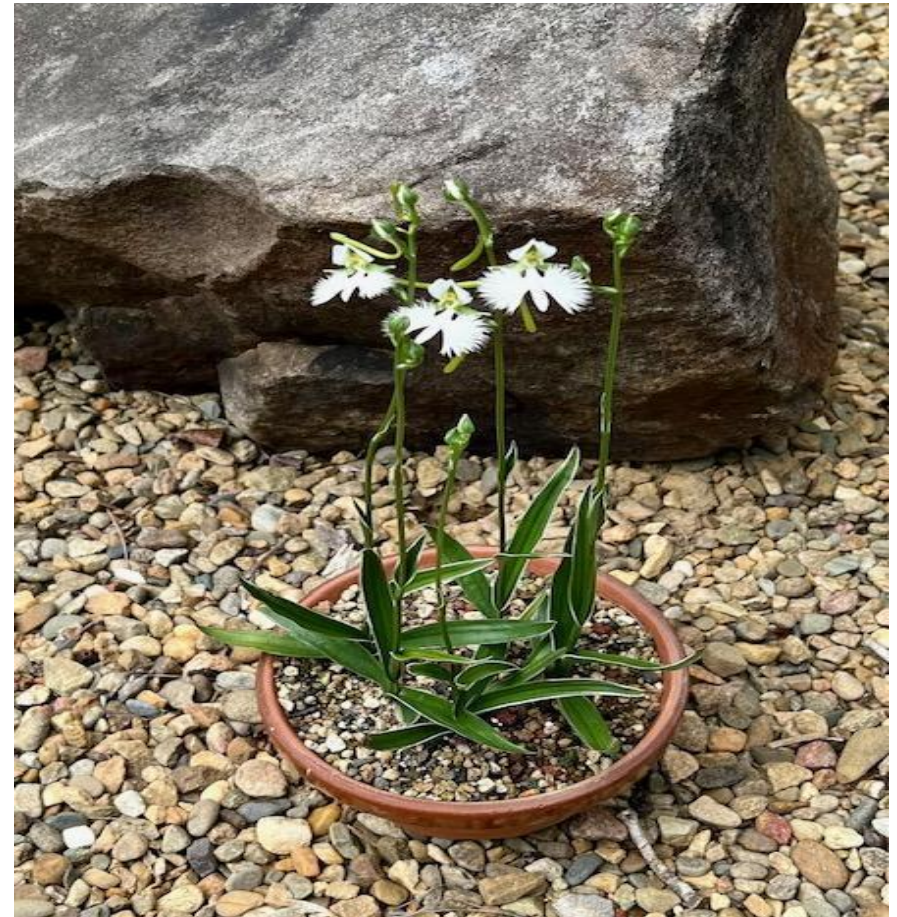


Accent Plants

Dwarf Bamboo



White Egret Orchid



Accent Plants

Selaginella



Blood Grass



Accent Plants

Dwarf Astilbe



White Wood Aster



Driftwood



Visiting Bears

Caught on Security Camera



Shade Cloth on Back of Pavilion



Dropdown Photo Backdrop



Pavilion in 2010



Pavilion Today



Part III

Examples
from

BRBS Members & Others

Chris Pazoles



Chris Pazoles

18" Steel Mesh Patio
Folding Table

\$35 at Target

Chris Sealy



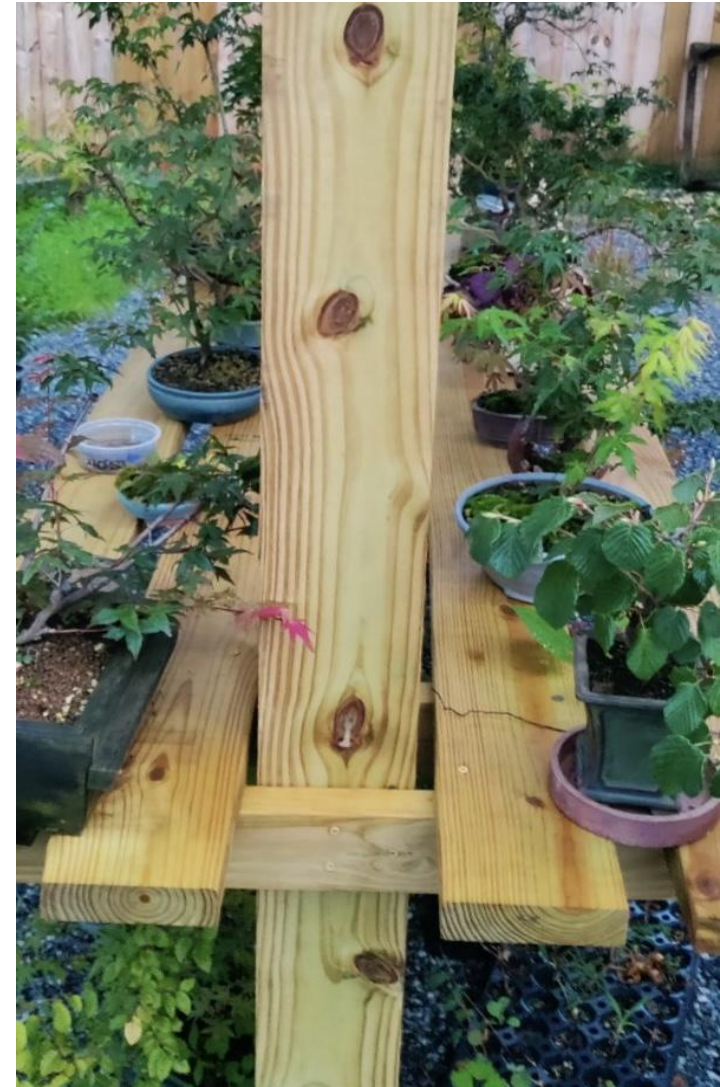
Chris Sealy



Stuart Rogers



Stuart Rogers



Dan O'Neal



Dan O'Neal



Ricci Gilbert



Ricci Gilbert



Structural Plastics Benchmaster Table

<https://spcindustrial.com/product-category/workbenches/work-bench-components/>

These are indestructible and last a lifetime. The Grid Top Panels come in 8 ft. lengths and either 2 or 3 ft. wide.

The image shows a 2' X 8' table, with six 30" legs.

The closest supplier may be Griffin Grower Supplies in Atlanta, GA.
(800) 888-0054.



Build Your Own Multi-Level Bonsai Bench

<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/blog/building-bench>



Best Wishes!