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## PROGRESS CAPTURE

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*Built  
With  
Harmony,  
Precision,  
& Balance*

### Happy Fourth of July!

**B**usy schedules, busy bodies, busy Bonsai work sites from coast to coast. North Carolina, West Virginia, Colorado and California are the places we call home. As June comes to a close, there's a lot shaking in Bonsai land: logistics to define, mountains to climb, volunteers to train and some final commissioning documents on our largest project to date - just to name a few.

My wish for everyone involved is that there's a moment this week, or next, whenever this thing gets released, to sit back, have a cold beverage (of sorts), a burger (of sorts), and maybe catch some fireworks to celebrate the 4th of July. Lots of hard work has earned us all this brief moment of independence. The opportunities granted to build what we build, providing over a million experiences that benefit us all as whole, the innovation, the design, the techniques and the rewards... Thanks to everyone out in the field for pushing this company forward, for making things happen, and working together to define Bonsai. A special thanks to Mark Craven (see page 7) for all of his hard work over the so many years. Good luck in your new adventures, and may the independence of your new small business bring you joy for years to come.

Cheers!

► JPN

### Photo of the Month



*Compliments of Adam Watts, behold July's Photo of the Month, featuring Corey Dobos, Jason Velotta, and Jeremiah Bookman. The picture celebrates a momentous occasion indeed, as the final zip is being terminated for the Summit Center Big Zip. A momentous occasion during a momentous project, sure to be a monument to Bonsai Design for years to come at the Summit...*





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## AVL Updates

► John Nixon



### Asheville Welcomes (Back) the Shells

After two weeks of well-deserved vacation following over a year's worth of dedicated work at the BSA site, Estes and Becky Shell resumed work on Monday, June 17th in the Asheville satellite office. The Asheville crew is delighted that the two Shells decided to take their talents to our part of Western North Carolina.

Becky's initial focus is on recompiling the Bonsai Master Materials List. Encompassing all aspects of our program installations, this list will be an incredible resource to managers in the field as well as those at HQ responsible for ordering the large amount of hardware, materials, and equipment involved with our installations.

Estes is being pulled in two directions these days upon his return to the work force. In the office, his focus is on wrapping up the commissioning documents related to the mighty BSA project. Primarily focused on the Big Zips, he's also handling some of the maps that need finished for the Challenge Course Programs. Also proving to be a valuable resource in the field, he's been assisting the crew involved with the Navitat Big Zip project in clearing corridors (minimally of course), gaining tree access, and performing some final tree assessments on potential trees in the area.

### AVL Sky-Rider™ Big Zip Update

Last week, Project Manager Todd Claussen had five Bonsai installers out in the field as he continued to run logistics and such out of the office trailer. With the crew focusing on tree access, Break-Over schematics, and clearing the corridor for the first of three Big Zips, things are really starting to take shape out at the Navitat site.

Albeit a tough time of the year to clear a minimal yet effective zip corridor, a lot of progress was made. Communicating with the Bonsai yodel, trees were climbed, lines were sighted and cleared, and the path is being paved for the first Big Zip Tour of its kind. Kudos to Claussen and the crew!



*An access line, artistically photographed by PM Todd Claussen in the Appalachian forest of North Carolina...*





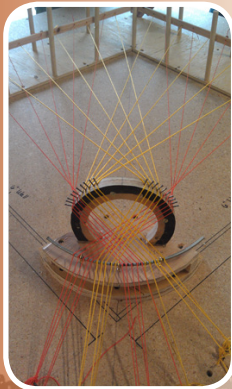
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## Summit Center Update

### Part 1: The Monument Ring



The Summit Center Anchor has reached its final destination, from brain to model to the BSA's Summit Center Launch location. A massive bend of Schedule 40 steel, 16" in diameter, this puppy looks sharp with a green paint job, tons of bolts, and wrapped in ten zip lines and accompanying brake lines.

A few issues ago, the *Progress Capture* covered the scale model Adam was building to assist in the engineering of this launch platform. Involving some serious anchoring and mind-boggling weaving of cable, it's great to see this thing installed.

As the cables come off the Break-Over just above the landing platform, they weave about themselves and then are wrapped around the pictured anchor through 20 individual Keeper Pins that are designed to separate the cables and create the needed friction. Essentially acting as a friction wrap termination, the cables are then backed-up with a final attachment point at the base of the anchor system.

Below the Green Giant (unapproved nickname), a huge dead man anchor is sunk into the hillside, itself attached to offset micropiles extending up to forty feet into the ground. A total of 68 1 1/4" J Bolts are used to attach the Monument Ring to the foundation anchor.



*The anchor in the fab shop...*



*The anchor on-site, being set in place...*



*The crew during installation of the Monument Ring..*



*Finishing touches are made attaching this thing to the collaborative dead man and micropile anchors below...*





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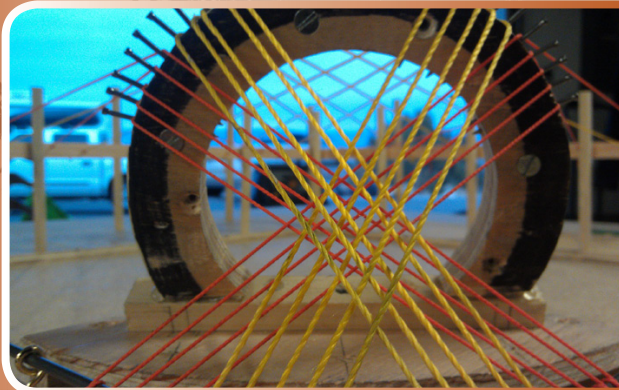
**BONSAI**  
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## Summit Center Update



### Part 2: The Cable

The cable installation is being completed as we speak. With ten zip lines and accompanying brake lines, a lot of wire rope is being terminated in a small area. Hence the need for the Monument Ring and the intense weaving of wires as they arrive at the anchor. Pictured to the left is the scale model. Pictured to the right is the real deal.



*Ye Olde' Model....*



*This is really an incredible design... a monument to Bonsai's visionary, industry-leading, creative excellence... Soon to be bustling with Scouts, this place will surely entertain some smiles. And by the way, the breaking strength of the cable is over 61,000 lbs....*

*Below: a view of the Monument Ring and incoming cables from atop the Launch Platform... looking quiet and peaceful now, this place was a hub for a lot of people and machinery...*



*Above: a nice view, photographed by Chris Kopps, of the cable alignment as seen from atop the Monument Ring. The Launch Platform is a beauty as well...*





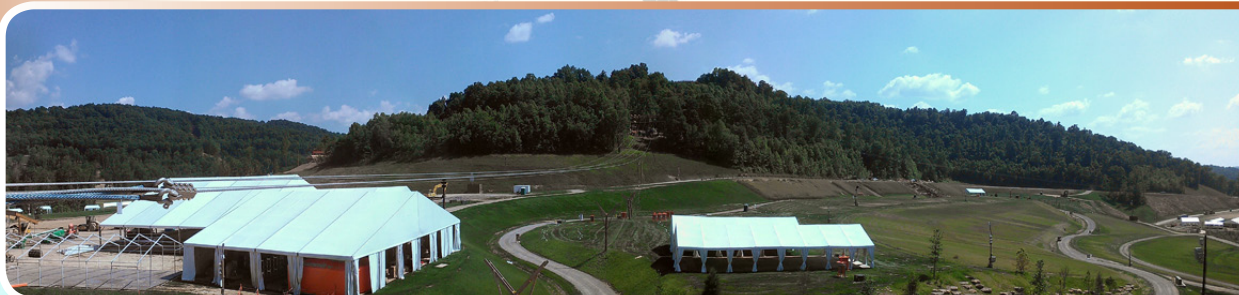


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## Summit Center Photo Gallery



*Above: a view from the Gateway Landing Platform...*

*Left: a view from the Legacy Landing Platform....*

*Below: a great shot of the Monument Ring, wrapped in zip cables and break cables...*



*Above left: Dobos and Velotta zipping Gateway...*

*Left: another view of the ring, with the cable patterns nicely displayed, for your viewing pleasure...*

*Right: from behind the anchor, with the launch platform inching closer to being completed...*







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## Heavenly Update

► Nick Earley

### Heavenly Views



*Above:*

*Nick Earley peers off the edge of his Tree House while on vacation between jobs.*

*Right:*

*We're not in Kansas anymore, or West Virginia either - beautiful Lake Tahoe sits gloriously below this commute road heading up to the Heavenly job site in California.*



## Bonsai Birthdays

► Celebrate!



- Adam Mielke: 7/1
- Estes Shell: 7/1
- Johnny Turman: 7/7
- Jeremy Rose: 7/9
- Cory Wells: 7/15
- Alicia DeSanty: 7/18
- Danny Poulson: 7/23
- Matt Stamm: 7/25
- Catherine Solger: 7/26
- Corey Dobos: 7/29

### Upcoming Jobs

Stay tuned next month for more juicy details on our upcoming project in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Phase 1 will consist of another mountain-style Challenge Course. Phase 2: A Big-Zip providing entry into the Challenge Course. Phase 3: potential skiing / snow-boarding in beautiful Jackson Hole.







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## So Long

► Mark Craven

### So Long

Anybody wanna buy some wooden spoons? The Cravens do! That's right everyone, the rumors are true. I am going into business in Asheville with my lovely wife Carrie-Welles (not to be confused with Corey Wells)! We have secured a great little space above the West Bank of the French Broad, and I'll be walking to work! The plan is to sell a mash up of local artwork, furniture, and house wares, in addition to some antiques, oddities, and whatever the



hell else we feel like really. The owner of the building happens to keep his woodshop in an adjacent building out back, and he's gonna let me use the machines and space to fix up and create furniture, artifacts, and tree swings! Needless to say we are beyond excited and hopelessly optimistic.

Having worked for small businesses most of my life, I'm well aware that this new endeavor will demand nearly all of my time and efforts for at least a few years. It is for this reason that I'll be taking a large step back from my position at Bonsai. I intend to always keep the door open, and remain keenly interested in the totally badass things that will undoubtedly continue coming out of this company and y'all's brains. Furthermore, I look forward to inspecting or commissioning many of them whenever I am able. For the time being though, I need to take a hike down a new trail and try my hand at yet another adventure.

So to all of you, it has been a tremendous honor for me to work beside, teach and learn from, party, road-trip, and innovate with, and push this rad company to amazing heights, lengths, pitches, and dimensions that I never, ever imagined. Believe the hype now. Your skills, craft, designs, products, and future are unsurpassed, and you know this! My phone number will stay the same, so feel free to call me with questions, send super-awesome photos, or vent a little bit about upper and middle management.

*cont'd...*



*The author, pretending he's an old timey redwood...*





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## So Long...

### ➤ Craveski

Lastly, I wanted to include a humorous anecdote from the old days. The problem was that there are way too many to pick just one. So instead, I have created a selection of titles for a book of short stories that I will definitely never write. Buy me a drink though, and I'll recant the tales to the best of my memory and wit...

### Other Titles by Craveski...

- Pool Noodle the Pirate
- Shouldered by Police Aboard a Golf Cart (Piloted by President Walker)
- Stupid Fern
- Parking Near Train Tracks = Hangover Horror
- "Shouldn't We Go See How Deep That Water Is First?"
- To Scale the Rim of a Glory Hole with Five Drunks and A Head-lamp
- A Bonsai Grows In Middle Earth
- Justin of the Mountain
- Stupid Fern Part II
- Charmaine Goes Rollin' Nine Dudes Deep
- Blah, Blah, Blah, Rocket Science!
- And many, many more, including "Stupid Fern III-XIV" and "Uncle Roy Goes to Cussing Camp"



With love, laughter, and labor.....Mark Craven

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5v5jviTEOaw>

