

The Bent Twig

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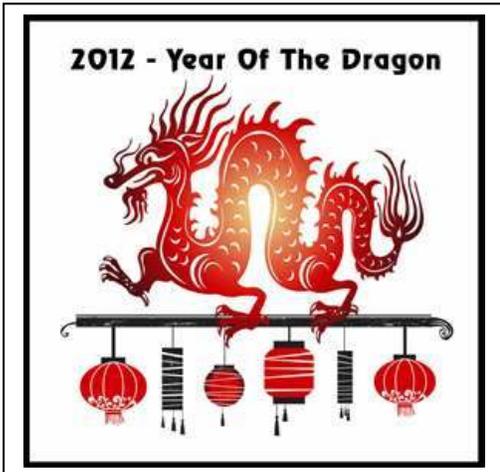
Dedicated to learning, enjoying and promoting of bonsai.

February 2012

ABAS Meeting
Tuesday, February 28th
7pm at Shepherd Garden Center

**Scott Chadd, of LOTUS
BONSAI NURSERY,**
will be styling a
Japanese Maple Forest

A meeting you won't want to miss!



Presidents Message

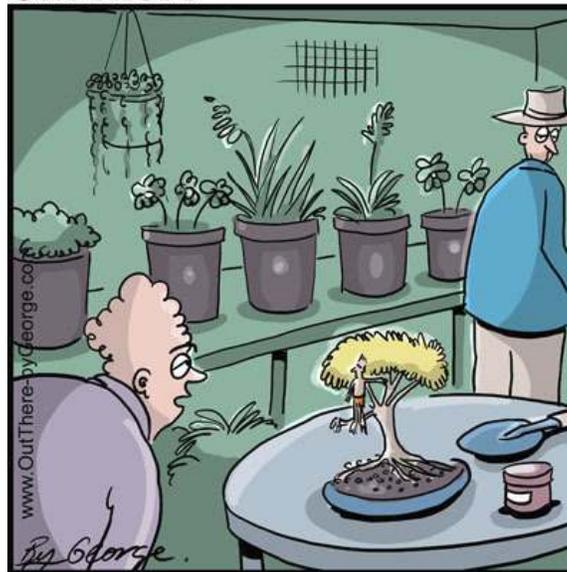
by: Paul Holtzen



Now is the time we are all busily re-potting our trees, but we need to also take some time to plan for the year ahead. Our annual Spring Show is coming up April 14 and 15 and we should be deciding which of our trees we plan to show and be preparing them for top show condition. You may want to move your show tree into a better or more appropriate pot. Make sure that any wiring on the tree is neat and not obvious. Keep deciduous trees pinched once buds open to keep them compact and ramified. Clean and treat deadwood on conifers and clean and smooth the live bark on junipers. Remove any moss or algae growing on the trunk. Flowering trees can be moved around in your yard to either slow or accelerate blooming to try to have them in bloom for the show. As we learned last meeting from Bob, moss should be applied now to allow it to become established by show time.

The Bonsai basic workshop was a big success. Eight members spent Saturday Feb 4 at the Garden Center learning the basics of bonsai styling, soil preparation and fertilizing guided by John Cota and myself. There are still plenty of spots available in the March 3rd azalea workshop that will be led by experienced club members Dolores Rauh and Ann Hultgren. Sign up at the February meeting or email me at pbholtzen@sbcglobal.net.

Out There



"Check this out Jerry, you've got a little
Tarzan in your Bonsai"

Preparing Trees for Show

Bob Bugay begins his presentation by giving members a hand out (see below) that summarizes materials needed and instructions. He emphasizes the importance of getting a tree in the best possible condition before placing it in a show. To illustrate, he shares two trees that he is working on for the April show, a Chinese quince and a Japanese maple.



The first step is removing the top layer of soil (ugly moss, weeds, etc.) and cleaning the pot. First Bob covers the different types of mosses emphasizing the good types and not-so-good types. Then there are the various ways to arrange moss to cover soil. Styles include covering the entire surface of the soil with moss, islands of moss with sifted fine akadama in between or just covering the surface with a sifted mixture of fine akadama and lava.

Cleaning the pot is covered next. Remove snails and other insects. Mineral deposits can be hard to remove but a 'rust erasure' works well. Bob shows a pot from San Jose that was covered with white deposits. He used the rust eraser to remove mineral deposits on ½ the pot. This is quite dramatic. Do not use highly abrasive materials as they may damage the finish on the pot. Once the pot is clean, a light coat of a natural oil (walnut oil, camellia oil, mineral oil, etc.) can be applied.



Bob uses Kathleen O'Donnell's Korean hornbeam to demonstrate cleaning and preparing the pot. He cleans the not-so good moss from the soil surface and from the base of the tree. Letting moss grow up the base of the tree may rot the trunk and change the color of the bark in that area. A mixture of vinegar and water will eventually kill moss but it takes time.

An artistically prepared pot will create a natural look for the tree. Moss can be used to cover ugly roots and hide imperfections around the tree base. Bob gives us several suggestions for encouraging moss and keeping pots cool in summer months. One suggestion is using a collar of aluminum covered bubble wrap; another is to



cover the pot with shade cloth.

Mineral deposits on leaves from hand watering are another problem. Bob suggests using a product for houseplants call leaf shine. This removes the white spots and improves the look of the tree. There are other products one can use such as 'Cloud Cover' or 'Anti-stress 2000'.



The Bay Island Bonsai Show is a great place to see beautifully prepared trees and pots. Here are a few examples.





Thanks to Renee Seely for this article on Bob Bugay's presentation.

February 28th - General Meeting

Scott Chadd, [Lotus Bonsai Nursery](#), will create a forest planting of Japanese Maples. Forest planting is one of Scott's specialties and something for which he has exceptional talent.

March 3 - Workshop - Styling and Care of Satsuki Azaleas

Club members, Ann Hultgren and Dolores Rauh, teach this class on styling and care of Satsuki Azaleas. Ann and Dolores are among our most experienced bonsai artists with advanced training in the specialty area of Satsuki azaleas. Both studied with Tatamori Gondo, Satsuki master from Japan, as well as Jonh Naka, Boon Manakativipart, Kathy Shaner, Ryan Neil, and other notable bonsai masters. The cost of this workshop is \$25.00 and includes a Satsuki azalea to style and take home. Location is the Shepard Garden and Arts Center; time is 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Sign-up and details at the February meeting or contact Paul Holtzen at pbholtzen@sbcglobal.net. Please note, for all workshops bring your tools, lunch and notepaper.

March 17 - Free Workshop - Re-potting

Club members teach this workshop. Bring tree(s) to repot, soil, pot(s), tools, lunch, etc. Location is the Shepard Garden and Arts Center; time is 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Sign-up and details at the February meeting or contact Paul Holtzen at pbholtzen@sbcglobal.net.

March 24 and 25 - Garden Center Spring Sale

A volunteer is needed to chair this event. Details to be posted when available..

March 27th - General Meeting

Sam Adina demonstrates his artistic talent styling an olive. Sam is a rising star in our bonsai community and olives are a subject for which he is especially well known.

April - Annual Bus Trip

A volunteer is needed to chair this event. Details to be posted when available.

April 14th and 15th - Annual ABAS Spring Show

Our 53rd Annual Spring Show is here! Show hours are Saturday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Demonstration each day at 1:30 PM by John Thompson followed by a raffle of bonsai (including the demonstration tree) and bonsai related material. We have large vendor area with club member trees, pots, etc. For club members who wish to sell items on consignment, [please click here for instruction](#). Also, volunteers are needed for room monitors, raffle runners, manning the entrance station, and raffle ticket sales. There will be sign up sheets at the February and March meetings. There is a potluck lunch each day so if you intend to participate, please bring a dish to share. For information contact Greg McDonald at Gregandleanne@comcast.net or by phone at 530-642-2521.

Members planning to show trees may want to [review Bob Bugay's hand-out](#) on preparing trees for show. There will also be an article in the February 'Bent Twig' summarizing his January meeting presentation.

April 21th - Workshop - Styling a collected Boxwood

Roger Steele provides members a great opportunity to work on old and well developed pre-bonsai material - urban collections. Roger has practiced bonsai for 20 years. During this time he studied with Kathy Shaner, Ryan Neil, and other notable instructors. Roger shares his knowledge by teaching classes for our club as well as a workgroup of 5 students that have been meeting for 6 years. He believes that material is the most important part of bonsai and is always on the lookout for quality material - not only for himself but to share with others. The cost of this workshop is \$35.00 and will be at Roger's home in Fair Oaks.

Sign-up sheet and details available at the February and March meetings.

April 24th - General Meeting

Larry White, Midori Bonsai Club of San Jose, will transform a beautiful old collected Boxwood. He will bring several Boxwoods from his private collection to share.

May 23 - General Meeting

Bob Shimon, [Mendocino Coast Bonsai](#), will present the program. Bob's artistry with California natives is well known to members of our club and the entire bonsai community. The program is yet to be determined.

June - Annual Home tour

Don Brown and Andy Volkerts will plan this years tour. Details to be posted when available.

June 26 - General Meeting

Club members, Paul Holtzen and Greg McDonald will conduct their yearly workshop for defoliating and wiring deciduous trees, primarily native oaks. Members, bring your trees!

July 24th - Annual Luau

July is time to get together for good food and good company. The Luau is a potluck with the main course and drinks provided by the club and members sharing a side dish and/or dessert. As the date approaches, details will be provided.

August 28th - General Meeting

Club member, Timm Johnson, presents a program on olive defoliation. Members, bring your olives!

September 25 - General Meeting

Ted Matson presents the program. Ted is one of the most highly respected teachers and demonstrators in the bonsai community. Demonstration material is to be determined but will most likely be shohin. Details to follow.

October 23 - General Meeting

There will be no program this meeting. Club members will be working on the GSBF Convention 2012 which opens on Wednesday, October 24th.

