Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society generally meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens: 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Ann Arbor.
Please join us at 7:00 pm for socializing.
The program starts at 7:30 pm.
Dues are $25.00 for the year 2006.
http: //www.annarborbonsaisociety.org

July 2006
Volume 3 Issue 7

July Club Meeting: Wednesday 26th Creating Penjing Landscapes. Do not miss it!!

JULY MEETING MINUTE REVIEW

By Jerry Peters

August Show Tree Preparation Tips

Hugh Danville moderated the following tree preparation discussion.

TREE SELECTION

*Select well before the show several trees you think may have show potential.

*Work with each tree bringing the tree to its best potential during the weeks before the show date.

*Select a tree or two a week before the show and concentrate on these one or two trees.

GROOMING THE TREE

*Remove anything on the tree that distracts from the trees overall design.

*Defoliation of leaves can be considered providing the tree is healthy and well grown and there is time for leaves to re establish prior to show time. He suggested defoliation be done by a master grower.

*Remove leaves that are deformed, discolored or out of proportion.

*Remove wire from the tree whenever possible. If the wire is necessary to maintain the style of the tree, leave it. Just make sure it is not cutting into the bark.

*Clean trunk and branches of the tree with a mild solution of soap. Recently cut branches or unhealed wounds can be painted with acrylic paint to blend in with surrounding area or using a healing clay product.

TREE TRUNK AND EXPOSED ROOTS

*Scrub mineral build up and or moss with a toothbrush and some soapy water.

*Think about removing roots that do not enhance the over all appearance of the tree.

*Rubbing olive oil on tree trunk will bring out dark color. Try test area first.

SOIL

*Remove weeds

*Clean and or apply a fresh layer of soil on top of the medium.

*Add moss if desired. Suggested a fresh moss be obtained from outside lawn area or that may be growing around sidewalks.

CLEAN POTS

*Transfer well rooted trees to another clean pot.

*To clean a tree planted in a pot try using some kind of scrubbing pad with a mild soapy solution.

Rinse with clean water and dry with towel.

*Scrape mineral crusts with an a razor blade followed by the use of vinegar solution or "Lime-A-Way", following this method try not to get solution into potting soil.

*If tree is well rooted try removing tree from the pot. Boil the pot for a period of time in automatic dishwashing soap.

*If all else fails try painting small imperfections or lime deposits with an oil base paint or get a new pot.

CLEANING FOILAGE OF THE TREE

*There were many suggestions on how to clean ones tree. I can only think of some as follows:

Clean with Milk

Use Safer's Insecticidal Soap

Use a weak concentration of spray oil

*I suggest the following which I use on my ficus trees grown indoors.

I wish to not use chemicals indoors so use the following to control insects "scale namely". One cup of rubbing alcohol, 1 tablespoon of mild dishwashing soap, fill the rest of a 12 Oz. Size spray bottle with clear water. I take plant to the sink and spray with clear water. Then spray with the above solution letting it dry for about a half hour, then spray again with clear water. Plants look clean and this process takes care of scale etc.

FIGURES

*Figures rock etc. can be included if the artist thinks these items complete the image looking for and or gives a since of scale desired.

Inside this Issue:

WHAT IS AIR LAYERING?

by Andy Walsh
Introduction by Brent Walston

Air layering is the process of removing a large branch or section of the trunk of a tree to create another tree. Before the branch is removed it is girdled, protected with peat moss or other media and the girdled section is allowed to root.

After rooting the branch is removed from the tree. This is a very common practice in bonsai to obtain another tree from an unwanted branch or to save a thick trunk section that was going to be removed anyway.

Andy Walsh posted a short but very informative article on the physiology of this process on the Internet Bonsai Club mail list.

Knowing how a tree forms roots at an air layer site provides powerful information for not only understanding the process, but also a vehicle for answering your own questions and solving your own problems in air layering. ~BW

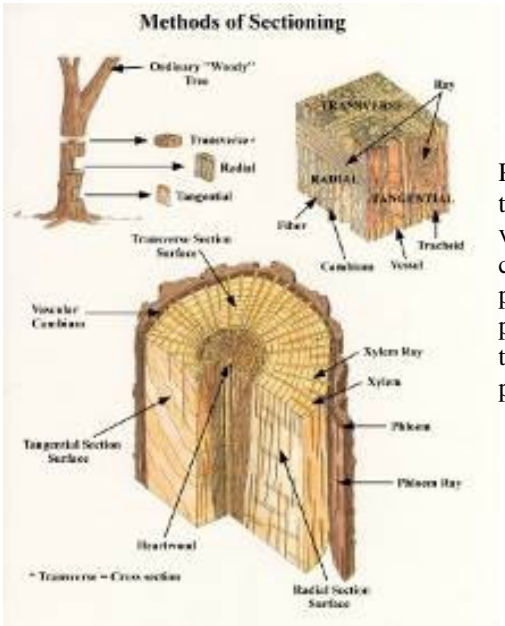
TRANSPORT OF FOOD, WATER AND NUTRIENTS

Under the bark of trees (dicotyledonous ones) there is a layer of cells called the phloem. This tissue transports carbohydrates and other photosynthates (including auxin) down from the leaves to the lower parts of the plant.

Beneath the phloem layer is another layer called the xylem that transports water and mineral nutrients from the roots and soil up to the leafy parts of the tree.

Beneath the xylem is another xylem layer called the secondary xylem. These xylem layers are thicker and deeper into the wood of the tree than the phloem layer.

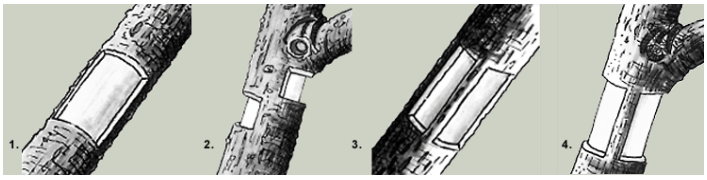
Lying on top of these layers just under the bark is a layer of actively dividing cells called the cambium.



Phloem is a tissue that contains the vascular cells that carries photosynthetic products throughout the plant.

THE AIR LAYERING PROCESS

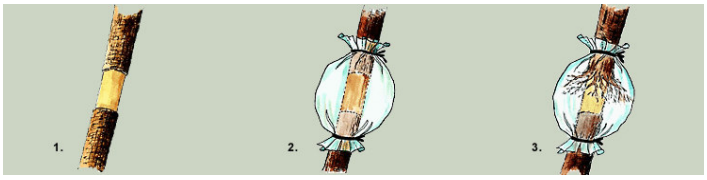
In the process of air layering, the bark, the cambium, and the phloem layer are removed by cutting away about a 1" wide ring of these tissues from around the circumference of the shoot.



Different styles of air layering

The xylem however is left intact. This is known as girdling. Generally, synthetic auxins (in a vehicle of talc powder or by liquid) are applied to the site where the tissues have been removed. (Although applying auxin is the general practice today it is not necessary for many trees).

Wet sphagnum moss (or another moisture retentive soil) is then bunched around and over this girdled site and covered with plastic and sealed.



Sphagnum moss will protect the area until roots appear

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE AIR LAYER SITE

The removal of the bark, cambium, and phloem, but not the xylem, prevents carbohydrates and photosynthates from flowing down the trunk past the girdling site but still allows water and mineral nutrients to flow upward to the leaves.

This keeps the leafy portions of the shoot from drying out and maintains them with an adequate supply of nutrients. The removal of the actively growing cambium layer prevents the regeneration of phloem and healing over of the wound.

Because of this the carbohydrates and photosynthates flowing down the trunk collect at the girdling site. The presence of these excesses of carbohydrates and photosynthates (esp. auxin) at the girdling site, plus the presence of the water in the sphagnum moss, causes dormant adventitious buds in the area to grow into roots.

When there are enough roots to sustain the shoot independently the shoot is cut off of the tree and then planted or potted.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AIR LAYERS AND CUTTINGS

The propagation of plants by cuttings occurs by the same principles and has very similar circumstances. The difference is that the shoot is removed from plant at the start and water and nutrients flow up the shoot from the cut site by capillary action instead.

This kind of propagation can only be done with small and thin shoots since the flow of water is insufficient for larger branches. Air layering solves this problem and allows the creation of new plants from very large parts of trees.

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REMEMBERING BILL POWERS

We have recently learned of the loss of Bill Powers, longtime member of AABS. Bill passed away in the morning of June 27, 2006.

Bill's wife Kathy explained that he suffered a massive stroke. He had been having some health difficulties but still it was sudden and unexpected.

Since Bill and Kathy had recently moved to Florida after selling their business, there may be a memorial service in Michigan later this summer.

More information to follow on the exact details of Bill's memorial.

Kathy Powells may be reached at powell@ddservices.biz.

On behalf of the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society club, we wish to express our deepest condolences at the death of our estimated member.

Bill's death marks a great loss for the bonsai world. May God grant comfort to those who mourn him today, and inspiration to those who knew him to continue in our journey to create beautiful bonsai work.

~Alfonso Tercero

CREATING PENJING LANDSCAPES WITH YING ROCK AND HYDRAULIC CEMENT

Rob Bishop - with help from his friends -- will give a PowerPoint presentation and demonstration on making Penjing landscapes during this coming AABS meeting. The PowerPoint presentation will be of the work he has been doing making Penjing landscapes.

In the demo Rob will show the beginnings of a Penjing landscape using a slab, Ying rock and hydraulic cement.

We will be following up in the fall with a working session or work shop for the club members to make their own Penjing landscape. This meeting will be a lot of fun.

Rob's enthusiasm is infectious. He will have all of making Penjing landscapes.

Great example of Penjing art with Chinese elm trees

AGING OF CONTAINER SOILS

by Brent Walston

There is a changing dynamic relationship between an individual plant and its soil in a container. We realize that plants grow and change, but we don't consider that soils 'age' as well. In container growing, it is important to match the life expectancy of the soil to the frequency of repotting.

This insures that your bonsai and other container plants won't be forced to struggle in a 'collapsed' soil mix. As soils age, they tend to break down, reducing the particle size and retaining more water.

This process can actually match the growth rate and water needs of the plant, if carefully balanced.

IN THE BEGINNING...

Newly repotted plants don't take up as much water (in general) as leafy established plants. This is because the root system is compromised when repotting is accompanied by root pruning and combing out of old soil. We take this into account by reducing transpiration by reducing the foliage, or repotting while the plant is dormant.

In establishing a new root network, aeration and fertility appear to be the prime factors, not water holding capacity. Of course there must be enough capacity to allow for transpiration, but the rate of transpiration is much less at the time of transplant (and shortly afterward) than after root establishment and consequent new growth.

BUT THEN...

As the roots grow and new shoots and foliage develop, transpiration increases. This can be dealt with by pruning to reduce transpiration, increasing the watering, reducing sunlight, etc.

But one of the really nice things about having an organic component in the soil is that it begins to break down about the time the plant is demanding more water.

This effectively increases the water holding capacity. A well designed soil and proper plant maintenance will help keep the moisture content in balance.

Akadama. Japanese fired clay element in three primary sizes.

Once soil is thoroughly root colonized it is not subject to collapse for most species unless the plant is subjected to poor treatment such as massive overwatering, not enough direct light, etc.

The root network will tend to keep the soil aerated by creating a woody framework. In fact, fine particles will often be washed out of a healthy root network.

PEAT MOSS AND NURSERY MIXES

Peat moss, when used in reasonable quantities of less than ten percent, does not add sufficient small particle volume to affect either drainage or aeration. That is what I really like about it. It is so efficient at retaining water without using up space, that it makes an ideal amendment for this purpose.

Its lightweight fibrous nature also keeps it in position in the soil mix, rather than washing it quickly to the bottom. The old "UC" mix developed by the University of CA (Davis, I believe) was 50% peat moss and 50% fine sand.

This of course was a nursery container mix, not for bonsai. It was used for years until the cost of peat moss forced them to change it.

SOIL 'SHELF LIFE'

What you must understand is that the UC mix and all the other nursery container mixes are designed for quick growth and short 'shelf life'. Ideally, typical nursery plants don't stay in the same pot for more than one or two years (five gallon and under sizes).

Any longer than that usually results in soil collapse or root bound conditions. Bonsai mixes must last longer, and they must be more flexible and stable to account for pruning and training.

Except for training pots, we don't allow full flat out growth. This means that we have to pay a lot closer attention to soil characteristics than general nurseries do.

I try to make my soil mixes last as long as possible, even those in training pots. I use fresh bark and stable inorganic amendments (lava rock and perlite).

This soil will last many years before the bark completely breaks down. Usually by that time the roots are in need of pruning and attention anyhow. That is how a soil should be designed, to last as long as the plant needs to stay potted.

ALL INORGANIC?

Using only stable inorganic components such as lava rock or pumice will create a soil that will last longer than it really needs to last. Using only unstable inorganic amendments such as clay baked to much less than vitrification, akadama, etc. creates a soil that may not last as long as it needs to for some plants, although it is usually fine for two or three years. I have used pure fir bark, and it worked beautifully for about four years, but now I am repotting those plants because it is now quickly breaking down. A combination of stable inorganic and fresh organic amendment (fir bark), works fine for me. I get the right breakdown curve for repotting practices, higher CEC (cation exchange capacity), good aeration and drainage.

AND FINALLY…

I think, and this is just my opinion, that you will simply get a different set of problems no matter what you use for soil. If you use purely inorganic components, you will probably have to use organic fertilizers and their attendant problems such as removing the surface residue, smell, insects, etc.

If you use more than an optimum amount of organic components then you will get problems related to water and aeration, quick breakdown and collapse which you will have to overcome with closer attention to watering practices.

There is no 'best' soil, there are only soils that work well in a set of environmental conditions that include the

species of plant, how it is manipulated, who is doing the manipulations, watering, the climate, fertilizer type and practice, light/shade. All these things are interrelated.

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DEVELOPING LARGE TRUNKS FOR BONSAI

Note: We realize that there are many more techniques to develop nice trunks in bonsai; the following article is only one way to reach this goal. As with any other published article, we recommend that you get informed before attempting any radical procedures in your trees.

by Brent Walston

INTRODUCTION

Perhaps one of the least understood concepts in bonsai is that plants are grown and trained for years to develop large and interesting trunks. Small bonsai do not become large bonsai.

Plants are grown out in large training pots or in the ground to attain the trunk size and character desired before they ever come near a bonsai pot. I have a large *Pyracantha* bonsai that was trained for twenty years before it finally got its bonsai pot. Once plants are potted in small containers they nearly cease to grow.

This is the time to develop other aspects of bonsai such as leaf reduction and ramification (development of fine branches). Beginners often rush to have that first tree in pot, and thus deprive themselves of the opportunity of having a really fine bonsai.

The following discussion pertains mainly to deciduous trees. Pines are a special case and do not follow these instructions.

GROWING FOR THE LONG TERM

I usually spend between 5 and 10 years training my trees before they ever reach a bonsai pot. The best ones take 15 to 20 years. I often tell my students, I don't grow trees, I grow trunks. Next to the nebari development, trunk development takes the most time to achieve.

Perfect example of a venerable old Quince Tree.
Its beautiful large trunk is an indication of many years of care.

There are no strict guidelines for how long it takes. It depends on how you want your tree to look. When presented with a plant for bonsai treatment, the first question I ask is: How big do you want it to be? Almost everything else follows (assuming a style has been selected).

Development plans must fit the eventual size and shape of the tree. This is very hard for beginners to grasp because they have not seen many trees and have a great deal of trouble visualizing the end product. Nonetheless it is essential.

Chinese Elm Cork Bark. The extraordinary ramification of this tree took many years of planning and developing.

For really large trunks, 3+ inches, planting in the ground is probably the fastest way to go, assuming good soil, water, and you don't live in the artic tundra. This works best for deciduous trees that back break buds easily, as do elms and maples.

Often I don't even think about growing branches until I have my 3 inch trunk. If you have been growing branches all along, they probably will have gotten too fat for your finished bonsai.

DECIDING ON BRANCH PLACEMENT

I do think about branch placement however, because I really like gentle bends in my trunks, even the large ones. So I might grow a tree in the ground or in a pot for 3 to 5 years, get a 2 inch trunk, then cut it down to the level of the planned first branch. Where is this? One third the decided height of your finished tree. This is why it is so important to have first visualized the tree.

After the trunk cut, the tree will explode with new growth, and hopefully a new leader will develop at the top of the cut (the first branch position). Let this leader and all the wild branches under it grow for several years. All these lower branches are really sacrifices that will be cut off later, so don't worry about them getting too fat.

The new leader will form the trunk section between the first and second branch. Continue the same process until you get the trunk that you want.

If you need a formula for desired branch placement try this, it is an adaptation of proportions selected by the 'Golden Section':

First branch is at approximately 1/3 the desired finished height

Second branch is at approximately 1/3 the distance from the first branch to the finished height

Third branch is at approximately 1/3 the distance from the second branch to the finished height

Somewhere near the end of the process you can start growing the branches that you want to keep at the bends in the trunk that you created. The timing depends on the species of tree and its growth characteristic. I have grown 5 inch trunk crabapples from cuttings in 6 years with this method, they have tremendous taper and crooked trunks, but I am just now beginning branch development.

GROWTH RATES AND TAPER

Cutting back the trunk, as described above, will actually slow the increase in diameter, but it will increase the amount of taper. This is the price that is paid for taper. The larger the trunk you desire, the longer you allow the new leader to grow. In approximate terms, let it grow until it reaches half to two thirds the caliper of the desired trunk or trunk section. For example, if you desire a three inch trunk, it makes little sense to make the first trunk cut until the stem has reached an inch and a half.

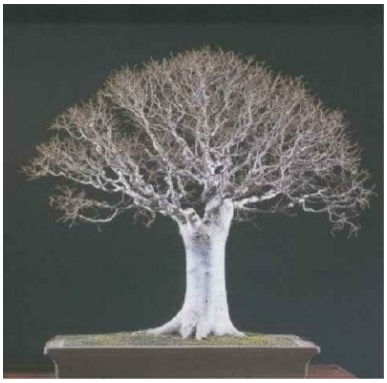
After it reaches this size, cut it down with a perpendicular cut just above where you want it to break buds for the new leader (see How to Make the Cut below). Make the cut at one third the desired height of the finished tree. This will be the position of the first branch. Allow a new whip to develop from nearest the desired position.

This Maple bonsai shows magnificent taper

This will form a nice soft curve in the trunk of the finished tree.

Restrain all the other shoots by pruning them back slightly, but let them grow. In other words, let the new leader be dominant.

The soft curve in the trunk results from the new leader growing at an angle to the first trunk section. This is the place to grow the first branch.



Zelkova Tree in Broom Style.
This tree exhibits a great example of fine branching ramification

Repeated cuts of additional leaders will continue to increase taper because each new leader will have to start from a bud while all the lower sections continue to grow.

Each cut at the top of a new section of trunk provides the position for the next branch.

Anchoring the tree in the ground will give you more taper, buttressing, and a better nebari, due to the stress fractures that will form from the wind waving the whip. Unstaked trees in studies at UC Davis have grown larger and stronger trunks than staked ones.

Many deciduous trees will form a jungle of low branches in addition to the desired whip which will form the next trunk section. Leave these low branches on the tree. Branches increase the diameter of the trunk up to their point of attachment.

These will greatly increase the taper. They should be removed when you begin to work your final branches, or when you have achieved enough taper, or when they result in a 'knob' that gives you reverse taper (Chinese elms, *Ulmus parvifolia* will often do this).

CONTROLLING THE DIRECTION OF GROWTH

Repeat the whole process of locating the cuts at the position of the other desired branches as many times as you like, but usually three is sufficient. Each new trunk section should be shorter than the previous one to get diminishing intervals between the ascending branches.

You direct the growth by selecting a leader, side branch, or bud where you want the new growth to go. I like my trees to ascend in nice soft spirals.

WHEN TO MAKE THE TRUNK CUTS

You should probably never perform this operation as the leaves are coming out, wait until the new leaves have hardened off, usually in a month or two. Before the leaves emerge, the roots are at maximum storage capacity.

If you prune then, all that food is going to look for buds to expand, and the growth will be explosive, coarse, and with long internodes.

This is exactly what you want if you are only looking to develop the next section of trunk, the portion between branch 1 and branch 2. This will give you the most rapid development. Identify the new leader quickly and protect it. If you are lucky it will be right at the top of the cut that you made.

If you perform this operation after the leaves have hardened (or sooner), you do it when the roots are depleted. They spent a great deal of food (energy) to produce all those new leaves and shoots. This is not conducive to developing a new leader unless you want a weak one with close internodes, such as if you want to develop a new apex at the top of tree.

It is also preferable for trying to get buds to break for new branches on fast growing trees, because the new growth will be more refined with closer internodes.

HOW FAR CAN YOU CUT BACK THE TRUNK?

It is not true that you should never cut back below the lowest branch. With trees that back-break buds easily such as elms, maples, zelkova and others you can cut back nearly to the ground or a really low stub and start your new leader to develop tremendous taper.

I routinely cut *Ulmus parvifolia* down to 2 inches because I really like a swelling and curve right at the base. I let a new leader grow and then cut it back to the position of the first branch. You need to know your trees here, better to ask first if you aren't sure. Some trees resent this treatment. Never do this to conifers.

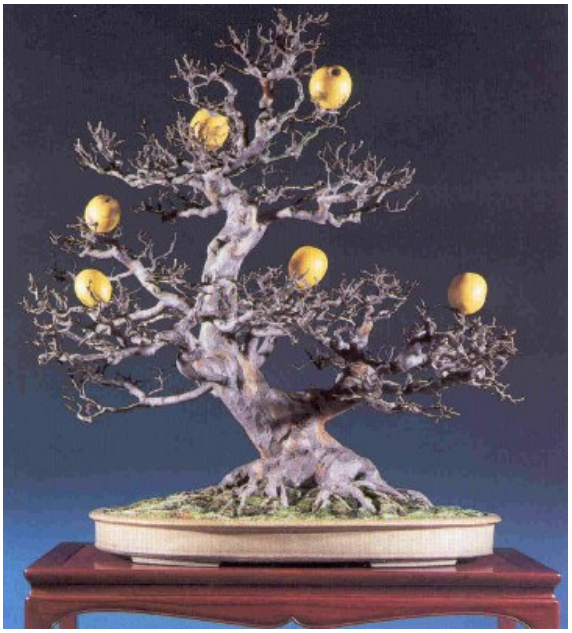
I often will cut back to a branch, especially if it has a narrow angle to the trunk, that is, it points upward. If it is near the correct position it is much better to go with a sure thing than to take a chance that a bud will break in just the right position.

HOW TO MAKE THE CUTS

I've been doing trunk cuts for some years now and can report what I have learned. At first I did 45 degree cuts as recommended by most books. In fact I spent a lot of time carving the crater shapes at the same time. I have come to the conclusion that this is mostly a waste of time.

I now just give them a perpendicular whack, and save the angle cuts and carving for later, after the dieback is complete.

You must understand what is happening when you cut off a trunk. You are creating a wound that the plant will wall off and heal by itself. If you cut back to (or near) a side branch, the plant will usually wall off an area that reaches around the collar of the top of the side branch and then extends downward at an angle behind and below the side branch. The area that lives is the area that has connective pathways to the branch. The area above this dies (unless it can break some buds in this area).



Quince Tree in full bloom.
Strategic cuts were carefully planned to give this tree its sinuous form and style

This may be a 45 degree angle, it may be more, it may be less. It makes little sense to try to guess what this angle will be. It makes much more sense to wait a year and see how far it dies back, then cut off the dead wood and carve out the wound if necessary for clean closure. It is going to die back to this point anyhow, so why carve it out, or create such a large wound so close to the tissue that is going to survive?

If there is no side branch and you are cutting back to just a stump, the same argument still holds. Cut a little bit higher than the position you want bud break and hope you get it where you want it, or inspect the trunk closely for the small bumps that may be dormant buds.

By making an angled cut just above where you want bud break, you are creating a larger wound and increasing the chances that it will dieback more than you want. Once you do get bud break and you choose a new leader, you can proceed as above. One interesting and powerful trick is that dieback will usually proceed until it hits a preformed bud, or the collar of an existing branch, or the connective tissue of an existing branch. If you cut back to a side branch and there is another branch lower and on the opposite side, dieback will almost never go lower than the collar of this lower branch.

This can help you limit the dieback by choosing the position and branches properly, OR you can pre-train your tree by pruning it back the year before to create more lower branches before doing the final chop. This also strengthens the lower 'tree' because there will be many more preformed buds on the 'stump' after the final chop.

GROWING SACRIFICE LEADERS & BRANCHES

A related process is to grow sacrifice leaders and branches to increase trunk or branch caliper, or correct a reverse taper in a developed tree. This process involves growing a wild whip somewhere out of the trunk, or less frequently, out of a branch to increase the caliper up to its point of attachment.

The difference in this case, is that the sacrifice is simply a tool, an artifice that will be removed completely when it has done its job of increasing the caliper. Sacrifice branches can be used for deciduous or evergreen trees, but they are especially important for developing conifers.

It is important when growing out sacrifices not to shade out the areas below it, or overly weaken the areas beyond it. I usually let the sacrifice grow as a long unpruned whip with all the leaves and small branches cut off of it for several feet to keep from shading the 'tree' below.

Sacrifices can be as long as ten feet or more, depending on the degree of enlargement desired.

Use sacrifice branches and leaders to correct a problem when your tree already has good form and finished branches. Remember that branches increase trunk caliper up to their point of attachment.

To increase the diameter along the entire trunk allow a sacrifice branch to grow near the apex of the tree, but not at the very tip of the apex or it will destroy its delicate structure. If this occurs you will have to grow a new apex to achieve the final diminishing taper. I often cut out the sacrifice before it has finished its job and start a new one a little lower to preserve taper.

You will have to remove your tree from its pot and put it in the ground or in a larger training pot to achieve the vigor necessary for the sacrifice branch to do its job. To achieve caliper *and* taper, select positions lower on the trunk for the sacrifice branches.

Do not let sacrifice branches which grow from existing branches (water sprouts) or you will overly fatten the branch and put it out of proportion to the trunk. They can, however, be used to correct the diameter and increase vigor of weak branches.

When sacrifices are used to strengthen branches as well as the trunk, one must be much more careful. Development can come very quickly, and overdevelopment can occur in a single season.

Sacrifice branches were necessary to increase the trunk size on this Chinese elm tree

Overly large branches are a common fault and are difficult to correct. If overly large branches occur, all you can do is place a sacrifice above the fat branch to increase the trunk size to restore the balance.

GROWING LARGE STRAIGHT TRUNKS FOR FORMAL UPRIGHT STYLE

The best way to get formal uprights with good taper is to plant them in the ground or use the escape technique with them planted in a five gallon can. In the escape technique, you allow the roots to escape out the drain holes of the nursery can and into the earth.

Continue watering through the can. When it comes time to harvest the tree, simply cut the roots at the can (which still contains an intact root ball). The top must receive its trunk cut and allowed to recover before you can do this.

This maple tree was grown in the field for many years taking special care of the root structure (nebari), this allowed to increase the trunk size and eventually it was placed into a bonsai pot.

Let them grow wild to about fifteen or twenty feet where they can wave in the wind. This will develop enormous buttressed trunks in about five years since they are anchored in the ground.

Then break the tops and jin the upper portion as I have described for Cedars. This will give you an abundance of bud breaks for new branches for such species as *Sequoia sempervirens, Taxodium disticum, Cedrus sp,* and *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*.

The jin and steep diagonal cut are the two most common methods to create taper. Another that I have been playing with is to make the back cut at a steep angle visible from the front, in other words down the side, so that when the top is broken and pulled down a section of the side of the trunk comes with it.

This will give you more taper and it will look natural since the jin is carved or better yet broken and pulled down with pliers. A section of live bark must be retained toward the back so that one side of the tree will not be devoid of branches. It is not a perfect solution but it does help.

The perfect solution is to allow whips to grow and continually cut them back at intervals as frequently as one year, adding trunk sections in diminishing amounts.

Each time a leader is cut a new one of smaller diameter replaces it.

Since the cuts are made frequently the trunk curves are less noticeable and will completely disappear in a matter of years. Once the taper is achieved you can let it grow wild and break the top or whatever. You don't see this much because it is an extremely slow process.

Rather than building bulk each year from an ever increasing amount of foliage you periodically remove over half of its growth capacity and force it to start over.

AND FINALLY

I suppose the bottom line here is that one should not get too involved in choosing just the right seedling or young plant for most bonsai.

For even small bonsai, trunk development as I have described it here makes critical selection meaningless, except for selecting plants with good nebari. Never pass up a potential bonsai candidate with good nebari.

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BONSAI AND GARDEN ART IMAGES

August 23rd Meeting: Bonsai and Garden Art Images.

The august meeting will be devoted to the projection of bonsai and garden art images.

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING THEIR MOST FAVORITE IMAGES TO THE MEETING.

We will be able to support most formats. A digital projector, standard projector, and video camera will all be available, so we can project images from slide transparencies, CD, DVD, video cameras, and memory sticks.

EXPANDED NEWSLETTER

The AABS newsletter has been expanded to accommodate more interesting articles for your reading delight. We have added 4 more pages.

In order to help us defray the cost we are asking to all our members to accept to receive the newsletter via email instead of receiving a hard copy by mail every month.

This is a voluntary option and if you prefer to continue receiving the newsletter in both formats please send an email to aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com at your earliest opportunity.

There are many advantages to receive the newsletter via email such as: receive it earlier than by snail mail, print it in your own printer in color, click on the web links to visit other bonsai websites for more information and expedite the searching of articles by specific word search.

If you have updated your email please send us a notification so we can make sure you receive the newsletter

ANN ARBOR BONSAI SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
JUNE 28, 2006

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Heston at 6:00 PM.
Present were Bill Heston, Hugh Danville, Alfonso Tercero, Jerry Peters, Bill Cavers, Larry Hall, Arnold Wingblad, Donna Gaede (for Joan Wheeler), Roger Gaede.

2. **CASH FLOW REPORT**

1/1'06 through 6/6'06

Category Description	1/1/2006	
INFLOWS		
Dues	1,645.00	
Fee	20.00	
Ways and Means	15.00	
Show	1,500.00	
TOTAL INFLOWS		**$3,180.00**
OUTFLOWS		
Commission	5.00	
Newsletter	381.59	
Programs	311.75	
Service Charge	2.50	
Web Site	111.00	
Workshop	-1,235.65	
Outflows – Other	147.37	
TOTAL OUTFLOWS		**-$286.44**
GENERAL TOTAL		**$1,966.14**

3. **BANK STATEMENT BALANCE AS OF 06/06/2006** **$12,711.81**

4. **BUDGET PROPOSED FOR 2007**

Commission	0.00	
Newsletter	400.00	
Programs	3,000.00	
Subscriptions	66.00	
Service Charges	5.00	
Web Site	120.00	
Workshop	500.00	
Outflows – Other (mainly show)	2,000.00	
TOTAL BUDGET PROPOSED FOR 2007		**$6,091.00**

5. **MOTION**

New Members who pay dues on or after July 1st of each year will have membership dues applied to the entire following year. Motion will require club membership vote for ratification.

6. **MOTION**

Motion to donate $1,500 from 2006's budget to Matthaei Botanical Gardens
Motion to donate $1,500 from 2006's budget to Hidden Lake Gardens
Motions approved by board members present.

7. **AABS SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING - AUCTION**

Motion made to invite Mr. Jimmy Whitley –President of Four Seasons Bonsai Club to be auctioneer at our clubs September auction. Hugh Danville will follow up with Jimmy Whitley.

Submitted By:
Jerry Peters
Board Recording Secretary July 1, 2006

Matthaei Botanical Gardens

We are planning changes and we need your help!
Please give us your feedback

The Matthaei Botanical Gardens is reviewing the information we provide about the art of bonsai and bonsai trees, including the trees in our collection, and we'd like your input. Your ideas will be used to develop a web site and other informational materials about the bonsai trees. Please take a moment to fill out this page and return it to the Botanical Gardens, attention: Morgan Daniels, at your convenience. If you prefer to respond via email, please send your comments to mgdaniel@umich.edu with the subject line "bonsai survey response".

- ☐ **I am new to bonsai**
- ☐ **I have seen bonsai before at:**_____
- ☐ **I have some experience training bonsai, which I have been doing for _____ years**

Information I'd like to have about bonsai (attach an extra page if needed):

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

If you have specific questions about the exhibit, please write them below and provide contact information where we can reach you with our answers.

My question or comments are (continue on back of page if needed):

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

My Name is: _____

My email address and/or phone number: _____

- ☐ **I'd like to be contacted to provide more input about the bonsai collection.**

Thank you for your help!

University of Michigan
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-9406
734-998-7061 Fax 734-998-6205

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January Club Meeting……..Jan 25th
Slide show & discussion of the National Bonsai & Penjing collection by Jack Sustic

February Club Meeting……..Feb. 22nd
Fertilizer & Pest Management. Presentation by Dr. Dean Krauskopf

March Club Meeting…….…Mar. 22nd
Everything you ever will want to know about the Larch with *Mr. Bill Heston*

April Workshop……....Apr. 5th
Deciduous Forest or Clump Workshop. From 6:30 to 9:30 in room 125 at MBG.

April Workshop……..Apr. 12h
Larch Forest Workshop, Wednesday's evening 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Larch Forest Workshop with Cyril Grum. We will update our existing Forest(s) and help people start new ones. Room 131 at MBG.

April Club Meeting……Apr. 26th
Heavy Pruning Branch and Root

May Workshop……May 4th
Marco Invernizzi Workshop, Bring Your Own Tree. From 6:30 to 9:30 pm in room 139 at MBG.

May Club Meeting……..May 24th
Bring your own Tree

June Workshop……..June 19th
Schefflera Over Rock -- with (still our own) Jerry Meislik at 6:30 pm, Room 125

June Club Meeting……..June 28th
Refinement Pruning

July Club Meeting……..……..July 26th
Penjing Landscape with Robert Bishop

August Club Meeting…….Aug. 23rd
Bonsai & Garden Art Images

September Club Meeting…….Sep. 27th
Auction

October Club Meeting……..…Oct. 25th
TBD

November Club Meeting……Nov. 22nd
Pot Luck

2006 AABS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Bill Heston (734) 662-8699
VicePresident: Hugh Danville (734) 455-7922
Program Chair: Hugh Danville (734) 455-7922
Corresponding Secretary: Madelon Takken & Alfonso Tercero (734) 216-2708
Recording Secretary: Jerry Petters (248) 608-7068
Publicity Chair: Bill Cavers (248) 477-0665
Treasurer: Joan Wheeler (734) 485-6306
Librarian: Robert Bishop
Past President: Roger Gaede (517) 592-2249
Director for 2006: Arnold Wingblad (313) 255-1769
Director 2006 & 2007 - Larry Hall (248) 477-0665
Show Chair: Hugh Danville (313) 455-7922
Pete Douglas (313) 867-8644

AABS AD HOC COMMITTEES

The AABS President, Bill Heston, is ex-officio member of all committees except the Nomination Committee.

Auction Chair: TBD
Membership Chair: TBD
Show Staging: Paul Kulesa
Demonstrations: John Parks
Ways and Means Chair: John Parks
Web Master: Jarrett Knyal (webmaster@annarborbonsaisociety.org)

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society (www.absbonsai.org) and the Mid American Bonsai Alliance.

Deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 5th of the month. Contact us at: aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com.

You can pay your Club's dues at the next AABS meeting or mail it to:
~Joan Wheeler
2295 North Harris
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
(734) 485-6306
Email: owheeler5@hotmail.com
Please make your check payable to AABS for $25.00.

FOR SALE OR WANTED

10% of sales go to AABS Club.
Member Ads are free
Send the information of your items for sale or wanted to aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com include a small digital file if available.

Wanted. If you have a tree, bonsai pot, tool or anything else bonsai related that you don't need anymore and it is still in good condition, consider donating it to our club.
Donations to the club are always accepted. In most cases many donated trees or other materials have been raffled among the attending members during our monthly meetings.

We want to remind all club members that everyone is required to give 10% of the total sales for any items that sell at our monthly meetings.

This is a long standing policy that has not consistently observed, since it is starting to fade from our collective memory.

The 10% fee will apply to all sales at our meetings or through this newsletter until the board approves a change.

Please send your comments or documents to aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com. Don't worry if you don't have a "finished" article, we'll help you to make it right. We will publish them going forward in the member's corner section.

Together we can further improve this newsletter for our reading pleasure.

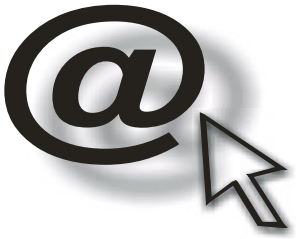
For more information on Evergreen Garden Works and for a free price list by mail, contact:
Evergreen Gardenworks
PO Box 537
Kelseyville CA 95451 2883385
www.evergreengardenworks.com

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
1800 North Dixboro Road ~ Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9741
The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society and the Mid-American Bonsai Alliance.

Place Stamp Here

Send To:



AABS Next Club Meeting is Wednesday July 26th ~ Creating Penjing Landscapes with Robert Bishop at 7 pm

Visit us on the Web:

http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org

Support our AABS Vendors: