

BSGNY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 7

JULY 2013

Opening Statements

By Tom Ritter

The July Program will be the display at the Hume Japanese Stroll Gardens on July 13-14. We will need members to set this display up, please volunteer. John Capobianco has sent me an email with what He thinks would work well. See below.

Greetings All,

20 pieces is far too many for the display space, unless we have a number of mame and shohin sized bonsai. I would avoid smaller trees, as they can 'grow legs' and disappear during a display. We need about 10 good sized trees to fill the space based on 3' per piece. Besides which, the garden staff (ie. Mary Smutz) locks the trees up at night and to ask her to move 20 trees is too much.

John

Mary Ward has volunteered to be the coordinator for the event. I will send out her contact information thru the membership list.

So who will be the first to show their trees and help with the event?

On July 13 & 14 2013 - We have a commitment to display our trees at the:

The John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden
Intersection of Oyster Bay Road and Dogwood Lane
Mill Neck, NY

e-mail: strollgarden1@verison.net
www.humesjapanesestrollgarden.org

By clicking on the above email it will bring you to the Humes Garden web site and get directions to the site.



The August Program will be a swap meet and bar-b-q at Suburban

Saturday August 10, 2013

11:00 am

Suburban Water Gardens in Dix Hills

The club will make hot dogs and hamburgers and will have soda available

Bring material that you want to swap with others. Maybe you will end up with the tree of your life.

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WELCOME

We would like to welcome our returning and new members.

Lourdes Cruz
Avery Timol

2013 BSGNY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	PAUL FOGELBERG
VICE PRESIDENT	VINCENT RUSSO
TREASURER	JOHN CAPOBIANCO
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	TOM RITTER
RECORDING SECRETARY	JOE LESNICK
DIRECTOR	MARY WARD
DIRECTOR	MARIA SMITH
PROGRAM CHAIR	VINCENT RUSSO
WEB MASTER	MICHAEL DRAPER
NEWSLETTER	TOM RITTER

TELEPHONE
516-263-2717

Directions to Farmingdale State University Greenhouse

Take your best route to Route 110, Farmingdale. Enter the campus from the Route 110 Entrance (near Adventure land). The road is divided. At the 3rd break in the median, make a left. Proceed through a parking lot, past a white building, and a glasshouse. We meet in the beige brick building at the end of the road.

DIRECTIONS TO Suburban Water Gardens:

From The North and West - LIE to exit #50, after passing first light, turn right at Burrs Lane, for one mile - Suburban on the right.

From North and East - LIE to Exit #51 south on Deer Park Ave for 1/2 mile turn right on Ryder Ave to end. Turn left on Burrs Lane for 1/2 mile - Suburban is on the right.

From The South and East - Southern State Parkway to exit 39 North on Deer Park Ave for approx 2 1/2 miles. Turn left at Straight Path (before LIE) for 1 1/4 miles. Turn right on Burrs Lane for one mile, - Suburban is on the left.

Please drop this form at Suburban Bonsai, 211 Burrs Lane, Dix Hills, or mail to: BSGNY, PO BOX 115, Baldwin, New York 11510.

➤ *Make out your check to "Bonsai Society of Greater NY"* ◀

Name _____

Street _____ Apt. # _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(_____) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Enclosed is my check for an Annual Membership at:

[] \$17 Student [] \$40 Regular [] \$45 Joint (2 people at the same address)

Or sign up at the next meeting. www.bsgny.org

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www.humesjapanesestrollgarden.org

Below is the display that was done several years ago by BSGNY at the Humes Garden



Mary Ward has graciously volunteered to be the coordinator for this event.

I will send out her contact information thru the membership list.

1. To get in touch with Mary Smutz of the Humes Garden (John will help with the introduction.) to get the setup and brake down times.
2. Members wishing to display their trees, please email Mary Ward to make a commitment for your tree. We will need about 10 trees for the show. Arrangements can be made at this time to deliver the tree to the display. This also includes the possibly of delivering the tree to Humes on Saturday. Next comes coordination of the delivery and the set up the tree display with the help or volunteers. (There is a short walk from the parking lot up to the display area. If larger trees are displayed a “wagon” is recommended for the move. We will need volunteers to help with the set up.
3. Arrange for a list of volunteers to provide security at the show. Security times are from 11:30 and 4:30 (5 hours) each day. Usually there is two shifts of 2 ½ hours each day (or whatever is arranged). The shifts can be one or more people each. Several members have already volunteered to act as security.
4. Any question, my telephone number and email is: Telephone # 631-234-9150 or email tear31@optonline.net .

The June meeting was a great success with everyone going home with new prizes. The mood was of quite excitement and relaxation. Paul Fogelberg and Tom Ritter helped members to create new tropical bonsai. Some of the plants worked on were:

Brush Cherry – *Eugenia Myrtifolia*

Pomegranate – *Punica Granatum*

Pidgeon berry – name used by several species.

Giant Wakerobin – *Trillium chloropetalum*

Ivy – *Hedera Helix*



Chris Arbono's little prize home.



Paul lending a hand to Mary's effort



Mary took this little gem home



The start of Mother & son style



Joe Lesnick helping Avery highlight his tree



Joe's ivy (*Hedera helix*) bonsai



Lourdes (giant wakerobin) and Avery (pomegranate)



Brush Cherry



Pidgeon berry

The Basics of Wiring

by Jim Barrett

Nearly everyone involved in the art of creating miniature trees uses some device to mold the plant material to its desired form, much like braces on a child's teeth are used to correct or reshape. The most common and practical method for shaping bonsai is to apply various thicknesses of copper or aluminum wire and occasionally, soft iron wire.

If the proper wire is wound on a trunk, branch, or twig, it can be bent or twisted (within limits) until the artist is satisfied with the results.

Basically, there are two stages for shaping trees with wire. The first defines its future style. Generally, the trunk is wired for the first and only time at this stage. Only if the style is changed or the trunk has not "set" its shape when the first wires are removed, does it have to be re-wired. During the primary training, the larger branches are wired and bent into their desired position. Sometimes, if the tree is mature enough to have well developed secondary branches, they will be wired at this time. The second stage of developing the bonsai shape will begin after all primary wires have been removed -usually from four to six months, or just before the wire begins to scar the bark.

The first wiring sets the basic style. There are five classical styles, and all other classes of bonsai are either one or a combination of these. The names given to other styles to define a particular feature or concept, such as a tree on a rock, or clasping a rock, an elegant fragile literati style. Each one of these can be shaped to resemble any of the five basic styles.

If you think about it, the classical styles are nearly always determined by the lines of the trunk. There are exceptions such as a windswept style with a more or less straight but leaning trunk. In this case the branches and their arrangement determine the style. Windswept styles can also have undulating trunks that sweep along the ground basically parallel to it.

A good formal upright should have a straight trunk, with good taper, that stands vertically, neither leaning to the right or left, nor falling over backwards or forwards. Informal uprights can be of two classes: Tachiki, the first, has a rather upright trunk, with good movement from side to side as well as front rear movement, and an apex falling in line with the base of the tree and leaning toward the viewer. The trunk of the second, Moyogi, bends more dramatically from side to side and front to back with an apex generally softer in outline. The apex leans forward in line with the tree's base.

Slant styles may have some movement in the lines of the trunk. What usually identifies this style is its apex, which is to the right or the left of the base of the tree and bows forward toward the viewer.

Cascades are of two types: semi-cascade and full cascade.

I have touched on classic styles rather than some of the natural styles, such as elm, maple and other deciduous and broad leaf evergreen shapes. These usually need little or no wiring, while the more dramatic twisting and bending trunks and branches of the classic styles require significant wiring.

The second wiring will be aimed at refining and further developing the tree shape. All branches needing support or direction, all secondary branches and all twigs large enough to fine wire safely, should be done at this time. The second set of wires should also be neat and as unnoticeable as possible.

We have only mentioned the two basic stages of wiring. Almost all bonsai-especially pines, junipers and other conifers-will have on them some wire somewhere throughout its life as a bonsai.

Wire holds trunks and branches in desired positions until the plant is able to "set" in that position, and as an ongoing method, it keeps the newer branches controlled and repositions branches that have moved back into their old positions.

Wire most commonly used:

Copper...Annealed (softened)

Copper...stiff. Les desirable

Aluminum...(Anodized color) Soft...1100 hardness

Iron Wire...

- Soft or bearing wire
- Tie wire (for construction steel)
- Bailing wire
- Galvanized iron wire Too hard.

Characteristics:

Copper: (annealed)

Advantages:

- Soft ...less likely to cause damage to delicate tissues.
- Color...good dull brown or reddish brown. Less noticeable on the tree.
- Re-useable after annealing.

Drawbacks:

- Can be stiff.
- Will harden with use.
- Large sizes are hard to remove and scarce.

Anodized aluminum: (1100 hardness)

Advantages:

- Always the same softness.
- Will not harden with use.
- Re-useable.
- Easily removed.

NOTE: Large sizes may have to be cut off.

- Many sizes offered.

Drawbacks:

- Available through bonsai suppliers only.
- May fade over a period of time if left in the sun.

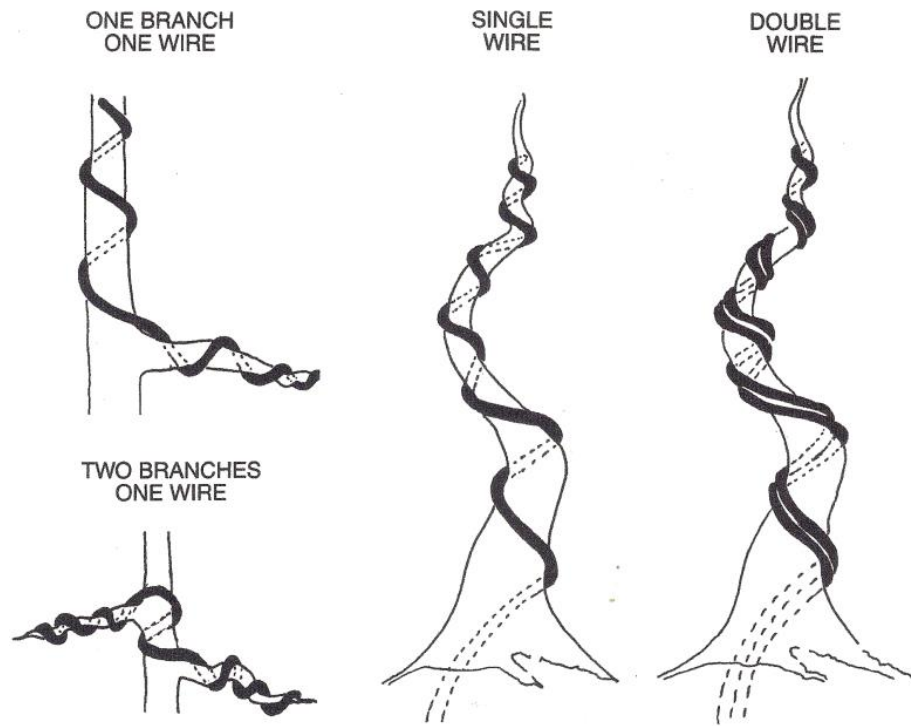
Iron wire (soft)

Advantages:

- Easy to find.
- Inexpensive.
- Fairly easy to use.
- Color is good when oxidized.

Drawbacks:

- Rust marks on the bark.
- Small sizes scarce.
- Damage to tender bark.



It is more practical and economical, as well as neater, to wire two branches with a single wire, if you can. Practical because of the strong anchoring possible.

Economical because less wire is used and if it is carefully removed, the longer wire is more easily used again.

Neater because there are no confused spirals of wire, as is the case when each branch has its own wire.

Notice in the diagram that the wire circles the trunk at least once. It may be more times if the branches are further apart.

Also notice that the wire goes over the top of the base of each branch.

If the trunk is too strong to be held in shape by one wire, or the proper size wire cannot be found, then we can use another wire of the same size or possibly a third wire to do the job.

The wires should be placed side by side as diagrammed. Proceed with the second wire exactly the same as you did with the first.

Note: All wiring should be neatly done and should be wound so that the wire is against the bark. Try not to have gaps between the wire and the surface of the tree.

When wiring a branch in order to bend, shape, or twist it, the proper size wire must be used. It is hard to say exactly what size wire to use on any part of a tree due to varying wire strengths and material flexibility. Most wiring techniques are learned through experience and practice.

If one point about wiring needs to be stressed most, I would have to say that the wire must be properly anchored before proceeding.

In the diagram of a wire wound on a single branch, note that the wire is started at least one and a half turns up the trunk before it proceeds out on the branch. Note also that the wire crosses **over** the butt end of the branch and not under it.

By starting above the branch with at least a turn and a half, we have anchored the wire firmly and the branch will do our bidding.

By crossing over the top of the branch at its base, we gain a mechanical advantage far more efficient than coming from below, especially if we are to bend the branch downward.

Although we show the cut end of the wire in front, it would be best to leave all cut ends out of sight in the rear or behind.

Reprinted from the Bonsai Bulletin Vol. 26 issue 3; pg 9 – 1989

Aluminum Bonsai Wire - Copper Colored

By Tom Ritter

Copper Colored/Bronze Colored Aluminum Wire Rolls are available in numerous sizes to fit your particular needs - 100 gram (3 1/2 ounces), 500 gram(1 pound 1 ounce or 17 1/2 ounces) and 1 kilo (2 pounds 3 ounces or 35 ounces) rolls.

Aluminum wire has the advantage of being less expensive and easier to apply than copper wire at the cost of holding power. Our aluminum wire is copper/bronze colored for superior appearance over standard aluminum wire. The diameter of wire should be larger than you would use with copper, thus it will not girdle the bonsai as easily or quickly. It is normal to purchase at least 2 or 3 sizes to adequately shape your bonsai, using the appropriate size for a specific job.

mm size	AWG Equivalent Gauge	Decimal size	Approximate Fraction in inches	Feet in 100 gram roll	Feet in 100 gram roll	Feet in 1 kilo roll
.8	#20 wire	.0315	1/32"	246ft	---	---
1.0	#19 wire	.0394	3/64	155 ft	775 ft	1550 ft
1.5	#16	.0591	1/16"	69 ft	345 ft	690 ft
2.0	#14	.0787	5/64"	38 ft	190 ft	380 ft
2.5	#12	.0984	3/32"	25 ft	125 ft	250 ft
3.0	#11	.1181	1/8"	17 ft	85 ft	170ft
3.5	#9 wire	.1378	9/64"	12 1/2 ft	62 ft	125 ft
4.0	#8	.1575	5/32"	9 1/2 ft	47 ft	95 ft
4.5	#7	.1772	3/16"	7 1/2 ft	37 ft	75 ft
5.0	#6	.1969	13/64"	6 1/4 ft	31 ft	62 ft
6.0	#3.5	.2362	15/64"	Not Available	21 ft	42 ft

We also need to keep in mind that certain tree species are reactive to certain metals. For example copper is found to be harmful for species like azalea, while iron and steel are found to be harmful for Junipers and other deciduous species.

The above statement is new to me showing up in some of my readings. I have included it for informational purposes only. Further research is needed to make a rational comment. Any comments?

ALUMINUM BONSAI WIRE SIZES

1.0 mm - 100g - Copper Plated Aluminum Bonsai Wire smallest selection of wire offered. Great for portability and mame or small bonsai twigs. This wire size is bit too small in diameter to train branches that already have bark. It needs to be used in the green form of branch growth. This size is also good for tie downs or securing a branch to a branch bender or grafting agents. Although other "anodized" colors do a fine job being a brownish copper color, this plated system actually changes color depending on angles, lighting, etc. However, it is still primarily that brownish copper color.

1.5 mm – 100g – copper plated aluminum bonsai wire

2.0 mm - 100g - Copper Plated Aluminum Bonsai Wire

The Third smallest diameter bonsai wire used for small bonsai tree, similar to the 1.0 mm, yet a bit stronger. Perfect size for hardy mame bonsai or small to medium size specimens. This wire is reusable and long lasting. The color fools your vision with the background of the bark of the tree. Soon you don't realize what's wire and what's bark.

2.5 mm Copper plated aluminum Bonsai wire.

3.0 mm - 100g - Copper Plated Aluminum Bonsai Wire

At a diameter of 3.0 mm, you start getting into the medium size and strength bonsai wire. This is usually the most popular gauge for wiring bonsai trees and made for tackling most branch training in bonsai. The wire handles small diameter branches, medium, and larger diameters as well. Can be used for tough tie downs, or bending. You can achieve the strength on 6 gauge, with two doubled-up 3mm wire. Take off once branch growth stalls in place.

4.0 mm - 100g - Copper Plated Aluminum Bonsai Wire

This type of bonsai wire is considered to on the side of medium, to slightly medium-large in gauge. It is a hardy wire for medium to large branches for bonsai exhibiting some flexibility. Use to wire tough branches, often using two at a time. It seems to blend with the tree's greens, browns, tans, etc., and natural features from the leaves, branches and trunk that emanates from the medley of beauty and coloration your bonsai.

5.0 mm - 1kg - Copper Plated Aluminum Bonsai Wire

It is one of the strongest selections of bonsai wire. Strong enough for most hard challenges, yet still manageable. It is the ultimate bonsai wire for long term quality training, especially when your bonsai is being displayed.

6.0 mm - 1kg - Copper Plated Aluminum Bonsai Wire

The toughest bonsai wire available. The size is made for tough to tackle wood and a bit hard to manage, but still better than using the hardly-pliable copper bonsai wire alternative.

Three articles that I have found useful from the Evergreen Gardens website.

<http://www.evergreengardenworks.com/articles.htm>

Copper wire (annealing)

Copper and aluminum wire (hardening)

Wire, annealing copper

Coming Soon
Bonsai Lessons
Beginner and Advanced

Special Classes
Shohin (user 10")
Saikei (Living Landscape)
Kiku (Chrysanthemum)

Contact John Capobianco
516-263-2717

For the teaching schedule
Check the website at
www.suburbanbonsai.com

Robert BonGiorno

www.suburbanponds.com

SUBURBAN
Water Gardens, Inc.

SINCE 1947

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Dix Hills, New York 11746

(631) 643-3500
Fax: (631) 643-3399
e-mail: koi@suburbanponds.com

Bob BonGiorno is offering a 20% discount to any club member of any Bonsai club on all merchandise at Suburban Bonsai. Does not apply to greenhouse space rental.

We still have a few club tee shirts left in the larger sizes. They are still only \$10.00.

Have some trees to sell? Pots, Tools, etc? Why not run an ad in the BSGNY newsletter. Your ad will go to a targeted audience of Bonsai lovers!

For details, call JOHN at 516-263-2717

Bonsai Society of greater New York, Inc.
P. O. Box 115
Baldwin, N. Y. 11510



Place
U. S.
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Stamp
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address
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