



SPRINGFIELD BONSAI SOCIETY

Palmatum Press

March 2013

From the Editor's Desk

Well begun is half done
-John Naka

In spite of the snow falling as I write this, my trees are beginning to think its spring. One of my azaleas is blooming and offers the promise of warmer weather. Now is the time to repot deciduous trees to get them ready for spring growth. Bring a tree to repot at the March meeting.

This month Dr. Roland Folse will do a workshop on Phoenix grafts - the technique of attaching young growth onto old, dead wood. Bring your materials and get some hands-on experience.

We will have a spring plant sale in conjunction with the Illinois Native Plant Society on Saturday April 27. This is one of our big fund raisers and we need you to bring trees - both finished and pre-bonsai. We also need people to help set up that morning, work our sale table, and help advertise. The Illinois Native Plant Society is giving us space but we need to take care of our own publicity. If anyone has a place to distribute a notice, I can provide a handout.

On February 23 Dick Adorjan gave presentation on bonsai at the University of Illinois Extension Gardener's Day. I staffed a display for the SBS. We had a nice turnout and lots of interest. Dave Kerwin will staff the display at the Lincoln Gardener's Day. We have a display board and handouts if anyone has the opportunity to promote our organization at a meeting or conference. This is a great way to recruit new members. The Springfield Civic Garden Club invited us to have a display at their spring plant sale, Saturday May 4 (8am-12pm) at the Illinois State Fairgrounds Tech Town. If anyone is interested in staffing this display please let me know. This is a good opportunity to share your enthusiasm for bonsai and meet some interesting people.

Future Tense

Monday March 11 - SBS March Meeting at Washington Park Botanical Garden - 7:00 pm

This is the time to repot deciduous trees. Bring a tree to repot. We will have supplies and experienced members to help you with this rite of spring.

We will also start a series of workshops on phoenix grafts. If you have some interesting wood from a tree that died (don't we all!) bring it. If you have a juniper with long, flexible branches bring it also.

Upcoming SBS Meetings

Meeting Dates	Topics/Activities	Presenters
.Monday March 11	Phoenix Grafts I Potting Workshop	Roland Folse
Monday April 8	Ashikaga, Japan Artists Exchange Phoenix Grafts II	Ric Thompson Roland Folse
Wednesday April 10	Beginners' Workshop University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners	
Saturday April 20	Trip to Rich's Foxwillow Pines Nursery Woodstock, IL	
Saturday April 27	Spring plant sale with Illinois Native Plant Society Illinois State Fairgrounds Commodity Pavilion 9am - 2pm	
Monday May 13	Raft & Group Plantings	
Monday June 10	Pine Care - debudding, needle pruning	
Monday July 8	Braided Bonsai Workshop	
Monday August 12	Finish Wiring for Display Trees	
Monday September 9	Fall Show Preparation	
Saturday October 12	Fall Show Lincoln Memorial Garden	
Monday October 14	TBA	
Monday November 11	Dessert and Planning Meeting for 2014	

Bonsai Events Around the Country

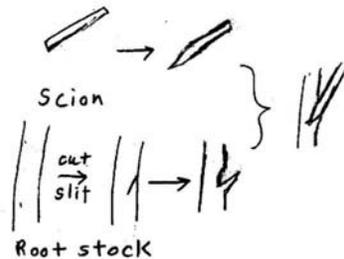
If you are planning a road trip this summer here are some events you might want to check out.

Date	Event
April 19-21	MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival Grantville, PA http://midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com/
May 24-26	Brussel's Bonsai Rendezvous http://www.brusselsbonsai.com/annual-rendezvous.cfm
June 7-9	International Bonsai Colloquium Rochester, NY http://www.internationalbonsai.com/
August 16-18	36th. Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit Chicago Botanical Garden http://www.midwestbonsai.org/augustshow.html
September 12-15	For the Love of Bonsai The American Bonsai Society & Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society Saratoga Springs, NY http://loveofbonsai.com/
October 4-5	Artisans Cup of Oregon Bonsai Exhibit Portland, OR http://artisanscupofportland.com/
November 2-3	Wigert's Bonsai Nursery Open House North Fort Myers, FL http://wigertsbonsai.com/

Past Tense

At our February meeting Dr. Roland Folse presented a workshop on side grafting. We used Japanese black pine understock and assorted pine scions. The crucial part of grafting is to match the cambium layer (actively growing part of the tree between the bark and the hard wood) of the understock with the scion (1-2 year old shoot to be grafted).

A flap was cut near the base of the understock. The scion was cut on both sides to make a tapered end. The scion was inserted into the flap making sure to match the cambium layer on one side. The joint was then tied with a rubber band and a plastic bag with a slit cut in one corner was attached to the scion. The scion is to be misted each day to provide humidity. Hopefully in a month or so we should know if our grafts take. The following web sites have good descriptions and pictures of this and other types of grafts.



If you are interested in grafting fruit trees the local Fruit Dapplers group provides instruction and scion wood exchanges. Contact Steve Petrilli (s.petrilli@comcast.net) if you are interested.

Resources:

Grafting and Budding Fruit Trees

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG0532.htm> |

Trunk Grafting - Black Pine (Bonsai Development; Jonas Dupuich)

<http://bonsaitonight.com/2010/03/02/trunk-grafting-black-pine/>

Grafting (University of Missouri Extension)

<http://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=G6971>

Grafting and Budding Nursery Crop Plants (North Carolina Cooperative Extension)

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/ag396.html>

Bloodwood Tree (Campeche, *Haematoxylum campechianum*)



Campeche growing wild in Puerto Rico

http://www.bonsai-bsf.com/magazine/BSF_Magazine_08_Issue3.pdf



Before styling December 2011



Erik Wigert raising some dust.



December 2011



October 2012

I was introduced to this beautiful species by Erik Wigert at his Florida bonsai nursery (<http://wigertsbonsai.com/>). The pictures above show how my tree has grown over the past year. The fluted, corrugated trunk and texture of the bark gives this tree the appearance of great age. The heartwood is dark brownish-red in color. This wood yields a blue to black dye that has been used in Europe since the early 1500's. The botanic name *haematoxylum* means blood wood and *campechianum* refers to the Campeche state in the Yucatan where the tree is native.

In nature Campeche can grow 50 feet tall. It is native to Belize, Mexico, and Guatemala. In the mid 1600's logging camps were established in the area that became Belize. The modern Belize flag has images of the baymen who harvested the trees. In folk medicine the bark is used to treat anemia, dysentery, intestinal parasites, diarrhea, and as an astringent (drying agent). As a bonsai, Campeche has many desirable properties. It is a fast growing evergreen. The wood is hard and holds up to carving. The tree buds back on old wood and the branches take to wiring easily. As a tropical tree they need to be protected from extreme cold. Erik reports that his trees will drop leaves when temperatures drop into the mid-30's but recover. Being a tropical it prefers temperatures above 60 F and full sun. Propagation may be made from cuttings.

Campeche is a member of the legume family (*Fabaceae*). It has pinnate leaves consisting of several pairs of reverse heart-shaped leaflets. The trunk and branches have thorns that can be removed if desired. In the wild they have light yellow flowers. Erik reports that his bonsai have not flowered.

References:

Haematoxylum campechianum

(http://wigertsbonsai.com/documents/articles_HaematoxylumCampechianum.pdf)

Campeche Care Sheet (<http://www.bonsaitoolchest.com/download/campeche.pdf>)

Logwood and Brazilwood: Trees that Spawned two Nations

(<http://waynesword.palomar.edu/ecoph4.htm>)

Bonsai Care Tips

The Columbus Bonsai Society (Ohio) has a [calendar](#) for bonsai care for USDA Hardiness Zones 5 and 6. These are their recommendations.

March - Early Spring - Temperatures 50/31 F.

- Repot deciduous trees if their buds are starting to swell. If you wait until the leaves have emerged, you will need to take more care to keep the tree out of direct sunlight and wind.
- Be sure to check wire from last year. The spring's growth will cause tight wire to cut into the tree. Remove any that is tight. This should be done year round as well. If the branch did not hold its shape, reapply wire.
- You can wire branches on all trees, but be careful of buds and swelling branches caused by growth.
- Grafting is possible on most trees now through spring.
- You may bring hardy trees out of winter protection now, as most can handle temperature above 20°F.
- This is an ideal time to take hardwood cuttings from deciduous trees.

Administrivia

Your 2012 Officers are:

President	– G. Jackson
Vice President	–
Treasurer	– Tom Applebee
Secretary	–
Newsletter editor	– Gary Trammell 217-741-4849 (trammell.gary@uis.edu)

Annual membership is \$20 (family \$30).

To receive our newsletter you may sign up by email (BonsaiSBS@gmail.com) or visit our website at <http://www.BonsaiSBS.com/>.