



SPRINGFIELD BONSAI SOCIETY

Palmatum Press

July 2014

From the Editor's Desk

1. For several meetings we have been discussing the possibility of a club dig to collect trees. If anyone knows a potential site where we could collect trees please let me know (gtram1@uis.edu). I have included some notes on collecting plants from nature later in this newsletter.

2. We need topics and presenters for the September and October Meetings. Please consider making a presentation on a topic of your choice. The best way to learn more about a subject is to organize a talk. If you wish to make a presentation or have a topic you would like discussed contact me (gtram1@uis.edu). One suggestion is to have an auction.

3. As bonsai enthusiasts we have a connection to our plants. One Sunday morning a few weeks ago I was listening to the npr program "To the Best of Our Knowledge" about "The Secret Language of Plants." Check out the podcasts or transcripts of the segments "Thinking Like a Forest" by the ecologist Suzanne Simard about the interconnection of trees above and below the ground. Plant geneticist Daniel Chamovitz describes "What a Plant Knows"; the ways plants feel, smell, see and respond to their environment. The Data Garden Quartet gives tropical plants the tools to play synthesizers, allowing people to experience biorhythms as live music. The Secret Language of Plants (<http://www.ttbook.org/book/secret-language-plants>)

Future Tense

Monday July 14 - SBS March Meeting at Washington Park Botanical Garden - 7:00 pm

Gary Trammell and Dick Adorjan will present a program on tropical bonsai. Learn about the species and care of tropical plants that make fine bonsai. Bring a tree to work on. Remember we want to work on refining our best trees.

Upcoming 2014 SBS Meetings

Regular meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at Washington Park Botanical Garden, 1740 W. Fayette Ave. Springfield. IL.

Meeting Dates	Topics/Activities
Monday, July 14 th	Tropical Bonsai Gary Trammell and Dick Adorjan
Monday, August 11 th	Display – companion plant, rocks
Monday, September 8 th	TBA
Monday, October 13 th	TBA
November 10 th	Planning Meeting for 2015

Bonsai Events Around the Country 2014

Date	Event	Website
August 2-3	Prairie State Bonsai Society Show Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL	http://prairiestatebonsai.com/
August 13-17	37th Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit Chicago, IL	(http://midwestbonsai.org/)
September 13-14	4th US National Bonsai Exhibit Rochester, NY	(http://www.internationalbonsai.com/)
October 2-5	Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association 25th Anniversary Celebration Victoria, B.C.	(http://victoriabonsai.bc.ca/)
October 11-12	Carolina Bonsai Expo North Carolina Arboretum Asheville, NC	(http://www.ncarboretum.org/)
October 30-Nov 2	Bonsai Visions of the West GSBF37 Sacramento, CA	(http://gsbfconvention.org/)

Yamadori



A 500+ year old Juniper collected from the Rocky Mountains collected by the Walter Pall, and the same tree pictured with the Walter, 8 years after collection.

Yamadori are bonsai that have been collected in the wild. These trees often have interesting features resulting from age and growth in harsh conditions; however, digging up a tree does not produce an instant bonsai. After removing a tree from its natural site it must be allowed to grow in good quality soil for several years to recover. Pines and evergreens can take 3-5 years.

Spring is the best time to dig trees while the soil is moist enough to maintain a root ball around the specimen and before the tree sprouts.

General Guidelines:

1. Obtain permission from the property owner before collecting
2. Gary Marchal recommends using colored plastic tape to mark trees of interest as you walk through a site. You can then go back and review your initial selections before selecting the specimens you ultimately collect.
3. Choose specimens you have the skills to collect and have a reasonable chance of surviving removal from nature.
4. Phil Nixon recommends bring a few 5 gallon buckets of dirt to fill in the holes you create digging a tree. Leaving holes in an area is a good way to wear out your welcome and prohibit future visits to a site. In a pasture an animal could trip in a hole and break a leg.

The Bonsai Empire website has the following recommendations for digging a tree:

1. First step is to carefully dig around the tree with a spade, be careful not to damage its root system
2. Carefully lift the tree and put it on (possibly moisturized) sheets. Now wrap the sheets around the root system to prevent the tree from drying out. The tree should be potted as soon as possible once you arrive back home.
3. Collect some of the original soil mixture where you dug out the tree, which should be used to prepare a soil mixture for the tree.
4. Choose a rather large pot with a drainage hole and fill it up to $\frac{1}{4}$ with a mixture of fine gravel and akadama in a ratio of $\frac{1}{2}$.
5. Carefully unwrap the sheets around the root system and place the tree in the pot, now fill the empty space on the sides using the collected original soil mixture mixed with akadama in a ration of $\frac{1}{2}$
6. Finally, rinse a considerable amount of water over the tree, but be careful not to disturb the soil surface by using a fine nozzle.
7. Put the pot outside protected from direct sunlight and keep it damp, but not wet. Leave the tree untouched until the next spring, when it can be trained and repotted for the first time. Small quantities of fertilizer can be used during the first summer.

References:

Bonsai: Collecting Trees from the Wild

[An excellent 3 part series by Walter Pall]

<http://www.bonsai4me.com/AdvTech/ATcollectring%20trees%20from%20the%20wild%20W%20Pall.htm>

Collecting Trees from the Forest(Yamadori)

[Step by step guide on digging and care for collected trees]

<http://www.bonsaiempire.com/basics/cultivation/collecting-trees>

Bonsai Techniques I and II, John Yoshio Naka, Bonsai Institute of California

[Excellent how-to information of collecting trees]

Yamadori/Collected Trees on Ebay [Advice on purchasing collected trees online]

<http://www.bonsai4me.com/AdvTech/ATcollectedtreesonebay.htm>

“SO YOU WANT TO COLLECT A YAMADORI” THE ART, THE ESSENCE, AND THE SCIENCE OF COLLECTING

[Detailed article on the advantages of collecting trees and detailed how-to information]

<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/Notes/Collecting.pdf>

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.

July - Mid Summer - 85/64

- This is the hottest time of year, so most trees need water every day. Water in the morning, the evening, or both. Watering in the evening may increase the risk of fungus. Some trees' roots will not take up water in the extreme heat. If your root ball remains wet in hot temperatures, do not re-water. You may want to repot this tree next season.
- Remove old needles on pines. They should be discolored and useless now.
- Creating Jin and Shari is easier in the summer due to sap flow. Removing bark from live branches is easiest when restyling and difficult from truly dead wood.
- Protect trees with delicate foliage, from the sun, such as Japanese maple. This applies through the summer season.
- Tropical trees should be in the peak of their growth. Hard pruning can occur now on tropicals.
- Summer repotting should not be done, but if it is necessary, disturb roots as little as possible. Transplant these trees either into the ground or into a larger pot with more soil.

Administrivia

Your 2014 Officers are:

President	– Ken Schaal
Vice President	–
Treasurer	– Tom Applebee
Webmaster	- Manish Sumant
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/>.