



SPRINGFIELD BONSAI SOCIETY

Palmatum Press

February 2013

From the Editor's Desk

This thing of living in Springfield is rather a dull business after all.
- Abraham Lincoln (1837)

Hopefully 2013 will not prove to be a dull year for bonsai enthusiasts. Your officers have planned an interesting program of activities. This month Ric Thompson will discuss proposals to exchange artists and craftsmen with Ashikaga, Japan (our Sister City).

Aside from our regular monthly meetings, several special events are coming up. We will be conducting a beginners workshop in cooperation with the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners. In April we have arranged a visit to Rich's Foxwillow Pines Nursery (<http://www.richsfoxwillowpines.com/>) in Woodstock, IL. Richard and Susan Eyre have a 6 acre nursery with an amazing collection of dwarf trees specializing in conifers. For movie buffs, Woodstock was the setting for the Bill Murray film "Groundhog Day." Also on the schedule are spring and fall shows. As your trees come out of dormancy, think about getting your prizes ready for display.

Your officers are working with Matt Ouwinga to conduct a workshop this spring. You can check out Matt's work at Kaede Bonsai-En (<http://kaedebonsai.com/>)

The SBS will have displays at local University of Illinois Extension Gardener's Days. These are half-day events with several speakers and a display area. If you are interested in participating please contact me ([Gary Trammell](#)). The Sangamon County event is Saturday, February 23 and the Logan County event is Saturday March 9.

We are also exploring the possibility of having a spring tree sale in conjunction with the Native Plant Society. This will help our coffers after the rainout last fall.

Future Tense

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

At our first regular meeting of the year Ric Thompson will give a presentation on his recent visit to Ashikaga, Japan and a proposal to have and exchange of artists in a variety of areas including woodworking, ceramics, and bonsai.

Roland Folse will give a presentation on grafting.

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
February 2,9,16 & 25	Spring Repotting and Open Shop (\$10/session) Cass Bonsai http://www.cassbonsaigardens.com/
March 2 & 9	Repotting and Open Shop Cass Bonsai http://www.cassbonsaigardens.com/
March 16	Grafting Demo and Workshop Cass Bonsai http://www.cassbonsaigardens.com/
March 23 & 30	Basic Bonsai Workshops (Preregister: \$35/class) Cass Bonsai http://www.cassbonsaigardens.com/
April 6,13,20 & 27	Open Shop (\$10/session) Cass Bonsai http://www.cassbonsaigardens.com/
April 19-21	MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival Grantville, PA http://midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com/
May 4,5	St. Louis Bonsai Society Shohin Convention Cass Bonsai (limited registration: pre-registration required) http://stlbonsai.org/shohin.htm
May 24-26	Brussel's Bonsai Rendezvous Olive Branch, Mississippi 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/

Upcoming SBS Meetings

Meeting Dates	Topics/Activities	Presenters
.Monday March 11	Phoenix Grafts I Potting Workshop	Roland Folse
Monday April 8	Phoenix Grafts II	Roland Folse
Wednesday April 10	Beginners' Workshop University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners	
Saturday April 27	Trip to Rich's Foxwillow Pines Nursery Woodstock, IL	
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	

Past Tense

At the November 2012 meeting, we enjoyed a dessert buffet and had a very good discussion of what members would like to do next year. Some of these suggestions were incorporated into the calendar, other ideas that were discussed included workshops to build display stands and trays for group plantings. Manish suggested we try and organize a way to salvage plants that people might be removing as part of landscape remakes. If you know of friends or neighbors who are planning to remove old shrubs from the landscape, please let me know and we can try and arrange for interested members to acquire new specimens and save a plant from the brush pile.

National Bonsai & Penjing Museum – Help Needed

I received an e-mail from Felix Laughlin – President of the National Bonsai Foundation (NBF). The NBF is in the midst of a campaign to restore the Japanese Pavilion and is seeking individual and club contributions. More information can be found at <http://www.bonsai-nbf.org/site/index.html>

African Style



Brazilian Rain Tree
Erik Wigert



Nature
PBS Series Caption

One of my favorite trees is Erik Wigert's Brazilian Rain Tree in African style. This style is familiar to viewers of the PBS series Nature in the title shot.

African styles of bonsai have been described by Charles Ceronio in his book, now out-of-print, "Bonsai Styles of the World." I found these images and descriptions inspiring and wanted to share them. Charles has kindly given permission to use the following diagrams and pictures from his collection. Charles will be the guest artist at Erik Wigert's Open House in November 2-3, 2013.

You can check out Charles' trees on his FaceBook page. Other web sites of interest are:

Pretoria Bonsai Kai (<http://www.pretoriabonsaikai.org/index.php/trees-a-styles/african-styles.html>)

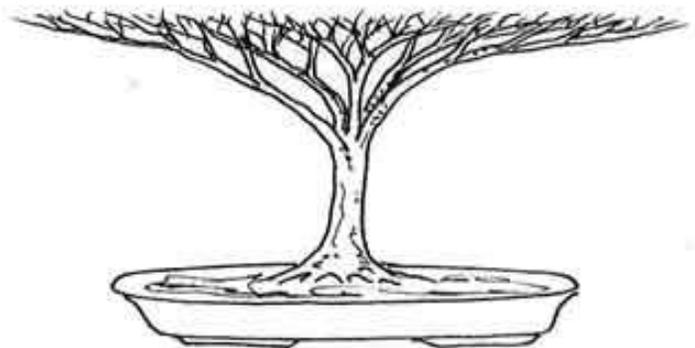
Acacia Trees and Bonsai at Zululand Bonsai (<http://www.zululandbonsai.co.za/bonsai/workshops/styles/acacia-trees-and-bonsai>)

Flat Top Style

The flat top style has its origin in two Acacia species found only in Africa, namely *Acacia sieberana* and *Acacia abyssinica*. These magnificent trees are found in the warmer parts of Africa and have a particular branch formation that inspired Charles to create a new African style.

The *A. sieberana* is a huge deciduous tree with widespread branches which form a flattened circle similar to the spokes of a wheel when viewed from above.

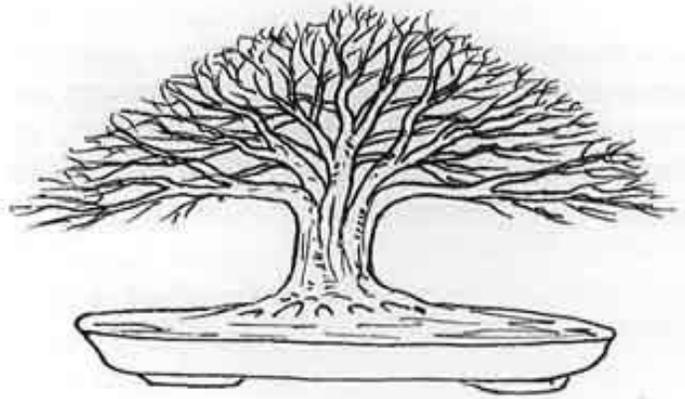
The *A. abyssinica*, found in Ethiopia has a more slender trunk and appears more delicate than that of the sieberana. The interesting trademark of these two trees is that the top growth is short, hence the unique flat top



Wild Fig Style

The wild fig style can be regarded as one of the variations of the broom style.

The dominant feature of the style is a full umbrella silhouette with an extremely wide branch span. The widespread growth of these trees is characteristic of most of the *Ficus* species growing in the tropical parts of the world.



Wonderboom Style

The elbow or Wonderboom style originated with and extraordinarily large and famous wild fig growing on the northern foothills of the Magaliesberg mountains, a range that extends into the suburbs of the city of Pretoria.

It is commonly known as the Wonderboom, meaning tree of wonder, or rather, unique tree.



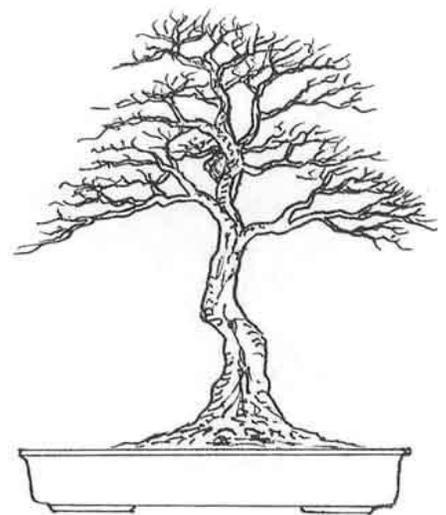
Over the centuries, the long spreading branches started to grow downwards and came to rest on the ground like an old man resting his elbows. The huge branches then took root and sent up new trees. Several of these branches in turn gave rise to a third circle of trees.

Today the Wonderboom has a height of approximately twenty-five meters and a spread of about fifty-five meters. One thousand one hundred people can sit in the shade of this unique tree.

Bushveld Style

The bushveld (Afrikaans for land covered by trees) is a broad area found in the warmer subtropical parts of Southern Africa. The trees growing in this area have specific natural growth characteristics and, as in most African tree species, the branch structure is very informal and zigzagged. The dry conditions hamper the development of these trees, resulting in their unique forms.

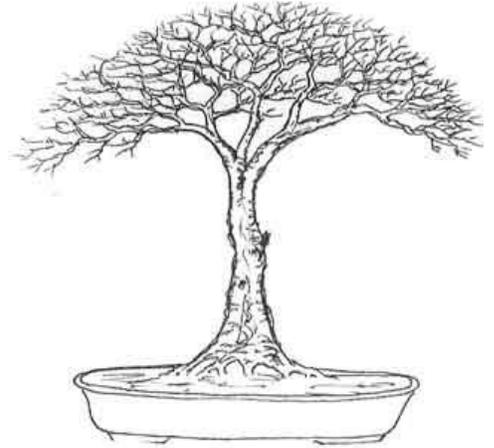
The main objective of the style is to achieve a natural appearance and radiate an air of strength and endurance.



Pierneef Style

The Pierneef or open-umbrella shape is exclusive to Africa. The African continent has the largest variety of flora in the world, but the Acacia dominates the African scene. These superb trees with their semi-circle crowns, like open umbrellas, inspired Charles to develop a new African style.

The umbrella-shaped form was spontaneously named after the well-known South African artist, Jacob Hendrik Pierneef, who depicted many of these tree forms in his paintings.

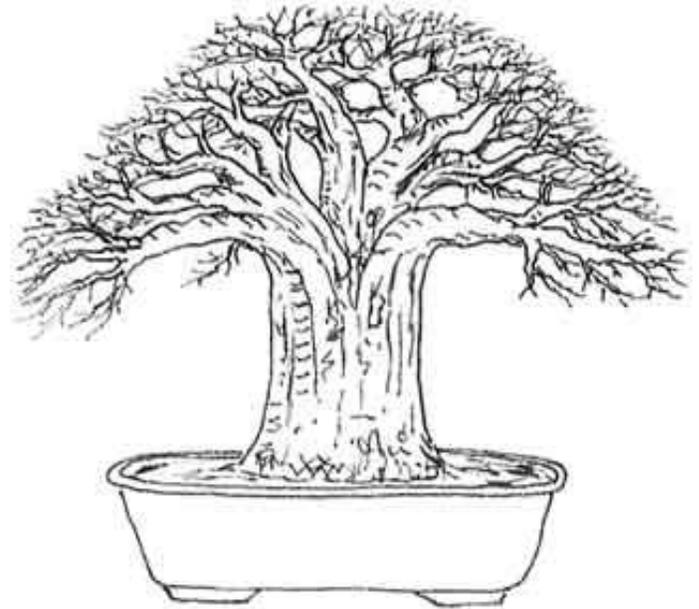


Baobab Style

The Baobab is a native tree which grows in the drier tropical parts of Africa. This enormous, sometimes strangely shaped tree fascinates all who see it.

Botanists depict the baobab as a monarch, a monster of a prehistoric world, a vegetable elephant or a carrot growing upside-down. Some African tribes call it the tree that has been planted upside down by the gods.

This tree is not known for its height, which ranges between fourteen and twenty meters, but for its enormous girth. Livingstone apparently once camped under a baobab with a circumference of twenty-six meters.



Part of Charles' Bonsai Garden.





Ficus natalensis
Charles Ceronio



Pyracantha angustifolia
Charles Ceronio

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.

January - Mid Winter - 36/20

- Only water when soil is almost dry. Soil may stay damp for many weeks without the need for water.
- Heavy pruning of deciduous trees can be completed in winter, while the tree is dormant. It may be best to wait until early spring, when dead branches from winter are more noticeable.
- Start deciding which trees will be repotted in spring. Make a list of available pots, and which trees will work with them. Having a battle plan is very useful once the chaos of spring arrives. Order repotting supplies such as new pots, soil, wire, drainage mesh, etc.
- Protect your trees from direct winter sun and wind as it will cause freeze dry damage.
- You may place mothballs in the mulch around your trees to prevent mouse damage.
- Extra mulch or protection is needed if the temps fall below 20, especially for elms, maples and other fleshy rooted plants.

February - Late Winter - 39/22

- Wire conifers now through early summer.
- This is the best month for repotting conifers.
- Use a dormant pest spray to keep pests away in early spring.
- All tips from January apply in February.

Administrivia

Your 2013 Officers are:

President	– G. Jackson
Vice President	– open
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/>.