



SPRINGFIELD BONSAI SOCIETY

# Palmatum Press

September 2012

## From the Editor's Desk

If you have a problem,  
wire it ... and cut it off.  
If you still have a problem,  
you really have a problem!  
- John Naka

I came across this saying in the book *Even Monkeys Fall Out of Trees: John Naka's Collection of Japanese Proverbs* by Nina Ragle. It seemed appropriate for this newsletter that deals with wiring and preparing our trees for show. John apparently used this saying to mean that when when encounter a problem with our trees we can try to change it. If that fails we can eliminate it. If that fails live with it, you have done all that is possible.

Roland Folse, Scott Day, and Gary Trammell gave a presentation on the art of bonsai for the Synaplex celebration of the Jewish Federation of Springfield. We brought several trees for examples of different styles of bonsai and gave a summary of the history and styling of bonsai and the resources of the SBS (Springfield Bonsai Society). We have also been invited to return to the Logan County Gardener's Day in March. If you belong to an organization who is looking for a brief program or exhibit, consider promoting your interest in bonsai. This helps spread the word about the SBS and is a source of new members to help us continue to thrive.

## Future Tense

### September 10 - SBS Meeting

The September meeting will be held on Monday 9/his meeting will be devoted to preparing trees for the fall show next month. This would be a good time to work on finish wiring as described in the articles in this newsletter. Please bring a tree(s) to style.

### October 6 - Mark Fields Workshop for SBS

Mark Fields from Indianapolis will present a workshop for SBS members on Saturday October 6 from 12 - 4 p.m. at Cass Bonsai in Edwardsville. Mark is a longtime bonsai enthusiast, past president of the Indianapolis Bonsai Club and owner of the nursery [Bonsai by Fields](#).

Mark will bring shimpaku junipers in 4 gallon pots for a cost of \$100 each. Pictures of a juniper before and after styling are shown below. The workshop is limited to 10 participants.

**To reserve a spot please contact Dave Kerwin (dkerwin@hshs.org) by the September meeting on Monday 9/10.**

Cass Bonsai is located at 6145 Quercus Drive, Edwardsville, IL . Directions can be found on the web site <http://www.cassbonsaigardens.com/>.



**October 13 - SBS Show and Sale at Lincoln Memorial Garden**

Our fall show will be held on Saturday October 13 at Lincoln Memorial Garden. Remember to prepare some bonsai for our plant sale. This is our big fundraiser for the year and pays for the facilities at Washington Park, materials for our meetings, and guest artists. We need your help to make this a success.

## Upcoming SBS Meetings

Meeting Dates	Topics/Activities	Presenters
Saturday October 6	Fall Workshop at Cass Bonsai	Mark Fields
Saturday October 13	Fall Show and Auction at Lincoln Memorial Garden	Members of SBS
November 12th 7:00 p.m.	Planning Meeting for 2012	

# Past Tense - August Meeting

Roland Folse gave a presentation on fine wiring to help us prepare our trees for the upcoming fall show. The first half of the growing season, the tree is putting on green growth; the second half it is growing woody parts - roots and branches. Roland said that fine wiring should begin after the 4th of July when the plant begins to harden off branches. You should strive for a full apex and proper position of individual branches. For a show quality tree, every branch should be wired. For a less mature tree wire major branches.

- At this time remove old needles on pines and clean up your plants. Make sure that the smaller branches are wired.
- For shimpaku junipers keep 2-3 little branchlets and eliminate excess foliage.
- It is permissible to cut back the long needles of Ponderosa pines.
- Be careful when wiring Japanese maples and other trees with brittle branches.
- Before wiring deciduous trees, water them thoroughly so they are more supple. Pay attention to wires during periods of rapid growth so the wires don't cut into the bark.
- Watch for buds that will form next year's growth.
- Copper wire looks and holds better than aluminum wire but is a little harder to work with. Because of its strength, you can get by with a smaller wire and this is very useful for wiring small branches.

## Wiring Tips- Cheryl Manning

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[www.betterbonsai.com](http://www.betterbonsai.com)

Cheryl has been a guest artist for the SBS several times. She gave us permission to reprint this article. Check out her web site for lots of great information.

Wiring has a purpose: to position and hold branches. When properly installed, it also looks beautiful and doesn't damage the tree.



Always begin with the largest wire. Finish with the smallest wire.

Wire the lowest branch first. Finish with the apex.

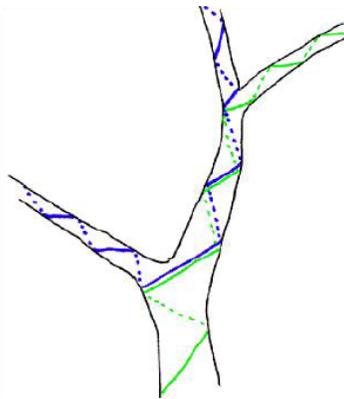
To anchor effectively, wrap the wire at least once around the trunk or branch before moving to the next branch.

If you are debating between two wire sizes, use the larger one. The fewer wires per branch, the better the wiring job looks.

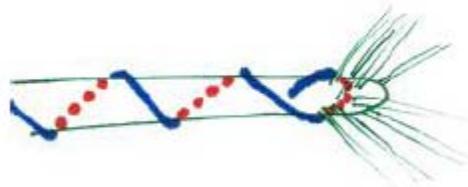
- One wire to shape a branch is ideal.
- Two wires on one branch is acceptable.
- Three wires are only acceptable at intersections of branches.
- Four wires on a branch are unacceptable.

Wire three branches with two wires.

- The smaller branches have one wire on them.
- The larger branch has two wires.



Wiring the end of the branch:



● The wire on pines should end with a teardrop shape which embraces the candle and gives you complete control for positioning:



- Wire on junipers should just cradle the bottom of the foliage:

## Differences between wiring for show or training:

### Show:

- Every branch should be wired, even if some branches don't require wire for proper positioning.
- Wire shouldn't travel up the trunk. Aesthetically, this is too distracting, and it indicates a tree in the early stages of training.
- Wiring branches individually is preferred. If wire must go branch to branch, it should travel along the back side of the trunk.
- Never submerge wire into the soil.
- Only conifers are wired. Deciduous, fruiting, or flowering trees are never displayed with wire.

### Training:

- Apply wire only on branches that require movement.
- Wire on the trunk is acceptable. If you're putting movement into the trunk, wire is necessary.
- Anchoring wire in the soil is fine, although anchoring branch to branch may be more productive.
- Use as many wires as needed to get the job done.
- Although deciduous, fruiting, or flowering trees are shaped primarily by trimming, initial branch placement may be achieved by wiring. It's best to use anodized aluminum on these thin-barked trees.



Show Wiring



Training Wiring

# 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.

## September - Early Autumn

- This is an ideal time to start root over rock plantings and other root development projects. The tree is starting to concentrate growth in the roots and use less energy on the foliage.
- Lower the nitrogen content of your fertilizer this month. Switch to a 0-10-10 fertilizer. The lack of nitrogen slows foliar growth, which will force the branches to toughen up to deal with winter's wrath.
- This is the second best time for repotting. Once the leaves turn color, the tree is dormant. You may transplant deciduous after this. This is better done in the beginning of the month.
- This is a good time to collect wild trees.
- Bring tropicals back indoors towards the end of the month, or when temperatures consistently drop below 50°F at night.
- Spray your tropicals with pesticide before you bring them indoors. This may take multiple applications over a few weeks. Disclaimer: Times can vary as much as a month depending on weather trends in our area. Some species of trees do not.
- Watch out for fall pests. Squirrels are especially harmful, as they are digging and foraging for winter.

# Administrivia

Your 2012 Officers are:

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

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