

FORT WAYNE BONSAI CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://home.earthlink.net/~centaura/bindex.html>

Vol. 12 Issue 1

January 19, 2008

JANUARY MEETING

We will meet at 10:30 am Saturday, 19th at 17725 Lima Road, Huntertown, IN which as most of you know is the home of Jerry and Darlene Kittle which is under going perpetual remodeling or at least seems like it! We will be meeting in our new basement and to get there you will see our new office and bathroom. The bath is nearly finished but the office still has a ways to go so we are still using the living room for office so you will have to pardon the mess.

Bring your own chair for the meeting or your will have to carry a heavy one down from our kitchen and back up when we are finished. We only have chairs for 10 people, if you loose the lottery you sit on the hard cement floor.

This meeting will be election of officers. If anyone would like to be nominated as president I would like the honor of nominating you! After the business is completed we will have a mini workshop on doing air-layering. If you have a tropical tree that you would like to air layer a section off to create a separate tree bring your tree and we will help you do it. If it is cold put your tree in a box or bag and we will make sure you can pull up close to the garage and unload your tree before parking so it will not get cold.

We will also have a discussion of lighting as I have a lighting system set up in my basement and I will discuss with Ed improvements I plan to make in the future as Jerry has time. Speaking of Jerry, I want you to notice, he is still loosing weight and is now around 230 which is less than he weighed when we met 28 years ago.

If you have any trees you would like to show off you are welcome to bring them. If you have questions bring those. Note: Cat Nelson has updated our website so check it out using the link just under our masthead above. There might be a test at the meeting to see if you checked it out.

Calendar of Local or Nearby Events

- January 19, 2008** 10:30 am meeting with Election of officers. Kittle Home 17725 Lima Road, Huntertown. Air Layering tropical bonsai and discussion on lighting.
- February 16, 2008** 10:30 Greenhouse tour at Lawton Park Greenhouse tour. Bring a tropical to prune.
- March 15, 2008** 10:30 Looking for a speaker Maybe Cheryl Owens or Steve Moore
- April 12, 2008** Nursery visit, 10:00 am meet at Kittle's for brief lesson on what to look for then we head to a nursery to be determined.
- April 19, 2008** 10:00 AM Bonsai Workshop with Bonsai Bob at Jerry & Darlene's Home. With Carry-in lunch with club supplying the meat.
- May 17, 2008** 9:00 Set up for our Spring show which starts at 10:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm at the Conservatory
- June 21, 2008** A field trip to be determined or a lesson on wiring.
- July 19, 2008** Our Carry-in Summer Picnic at the Kittles. 11:30 am Club will supply the meat. Best Club tree contest, Best dead tree contest.
- August 16, 2008** To be determined
- September 20, 2008** To be determined.
- October 18, 2008** 9:00 Set up for our Fall show which starts at 10:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm at the Conservatory
- November 15, 2008** To be determined
- December 20, 2008** 11:30 am Christmas Luncheon Location to be determined.

Kathy's Korner

Whoooosh! Thud! What the HECK was that? Oh! I get it. The mail delivery just put more seed and plant catalogs in my mailbox! What a treat. These things start arriving before Christmas and should be just about winding down now. I can't think of a better way to spend a cold, blustery, winter day than dreaming my way through a stack of catalogs.

I love looking, choosing, planning, imagining all the things I'm going to do THIS year. My New Year Resolutions DO NOT include downsizing anything in the bonsai, yard and garden area: even though I have way more to be tended than I have the time and energy to do properly. I always think, I'll start earlier; I'll

spend at least an hour a day on pruning and repotting my bonsai, pulling MY weeds; I'll not plant as much,; I'll use Round Up and/or Preen to help me out; I'll mulch earlier and deeper. But, somehow it just doesn't work out the way I imagine it.

Sounds pathetic doesn't it? Well to be truthful, I feel so fortunate to be in a position to have weeds to pull, pests to outwit, and plants to fail. I did a VERY BAD job of putting my bonsai to bed in the fall. And we have had such erratic weather this winter. I did get all of the bonsai off their benches and onto the ground. But, while I waited for the ground to freeze, we got a nice snow cover that I hoped would take care of the mulching. Of course, it melted, then snowed again, then melted, then snowed, and over and over.

Right now I feel like I should be out there doing some pruning on deciduous trees. Ed would probably tell me to wait until middle or end of February. So, I'm looking at catalogs, browsing the bonsai library and generally just taking things easy. Hope all of our friends who haven't been able to make it to meetings due to health or medical reasons are getting themselves "right" again so that they can return to our gatherings.

Happy New Year to one and all!
Kathy

The club has the following items for sale:

Wire assortments: club members \$40.00, subscribers \$42.00, non-members \$45.00
Micromax micro-nutrients: \$5.00 for members, subscribers \$6.00, non-members \$7.00
Bonsai soil, shopping bag of 2 scoops: \$5.00 for members, subscribers \$6.00, non-members \$7.00
New Fertilizer blocks. ½ lb bag \$2.50 for members, Subscribers \$3.00, non-members \$3.50
1 lb bag \$5.00 for members, Subscribers \$5.50, non-members \$6.00
We also have bonsai slabs for forest plantings. Prices range from \$25.00 to \$50.00. Call Darlene or Ed regarding purchase.

All these products are great buys and priced lower than retail if they are even available in this area. Call or email Darlene or Ed if you want products brought to this meeting.

These should be mine: Darlene



By Pauline Muth

1. I will only grow the number of bonsai I can really take care of and keep in excellent condition.
2. I will wire at the correct time and I will unwire BEFORE the tree grows into the wire.
3. I will fertilize correctly and on time.
4. I will keep up with trimming the trees.
5. I will learn about a species before I work with it.
6. I will bring my bonsai to club meetings to show it off or to get advice when needed.
7. I will water by hand so I can inspect my bonsai for problems.
8. I will only collect trees in legal areas and only in amounts I can work with or share with others.
9. I will work only on healthy stock.
10. I will take time to learn more about bonsai, to enjoy my bonsai and to share them with friends.

**A HAPPY AND FRUITFUL
NEW YEAR TO ALL**

GARDENER'S QUERY

I am compiling a list of acid loving indoor plants and would appreciate your help. The internet gives much info on how to grow acid loving plants but they don't give any extensive list for houseplants. I found one partial one at the Colorado State web site. If you have the time I would appreciate any info you can add - either by email (cablyth@msn.com) or just bring a book or article to any meeting. Thanks!

Cathy Blyth

Also - this is an excellent article on succulent bonsai by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden:

http://www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/plants/2002wi_bonsai.html

WHAT TO DO IN JANUARY

By Ed Hake

Since we have had plenty of rain lately we do not need to water our trees outside, unless they are in an area that is away from the rain. I have been checking the sunrise and sunset charts for our area and there is not much of an increase in our amount daylight yet. Many of my indoor trees are under artificial light and get at least 12hrs of light now. So I continue to check for any insects, the cooler temperatures slow their growth, I have noticed a few soft brown scale on my ficus. Some NEEM oil should clean them up. I have started to put a little fertilizer in the water, in anticipation of lengthening the amount of light they are going to be given. Always taking off any dead leaves, trimming any dead twigs, and checking that they don't get too dry, I don't get into the basement but about once a week. Since the weather is still pretty dreary, this is a good time to get a book from our Bonsai Library, let Kathy know so she can bring it to the next meeting, and curl up with it and a great cup of hot chocolate and watch the snow fall, you know it will before winter is over. Ed

Book Review North American Bonsai

compiled and edited by Martin Schmalenberg

In June 2006 a very unusual event occurred. The annual ABS show was filled with only trees that were collected and grown of native plant material. There are photographs of 57 American Bonsai Trees. Opposite page of each photograph there are notes from the artist with collection information, approximate age, how they care for the plant and description of the beautiful container in which they are planted. Additionally there are ABS notes which give family, form, bark, description of leaves or needles, fruit or cones, and its native distribution. Lastly, at the bottom next to the photograph, is given the common name, scientific name, size of plant and the grower and his location.

Last photo is the tree that won the John Naka Award and name of its grower.

This is a beautiful book with lots of fabulous pictures and information. Everyone in the club should check this book out of our library. There is a possibility that a lucky club member may be able to get a copy of this book, since after I ordered a copy for the club, Darlene received one for the club as a gift from Cheryl Owens. She has asked that eventually we auction her copy to add to the club treasury. This is a \$50.00 book. It is still available for purchase from ABS but it is a limited printing so it will not be available forever. It is worth the price. You can check it out at this meeting. First come first served, no calls ahead will be honored, must be present to check it out.

Ed Hake

FROM YOUR MABA REPRESENTATIVE.

Have you checked out the MABA 2008 website recently? Information on some of the schedule is now available, with the rest coming soon. There is now a list of the workshops; detailed information is given for some, and the rest will be filled out shortly. (Personally, I'm almost *drooling* over Andy Smith's workshop with collected ponderosa pines.)

One other thing that I am especially glad to see: there will be four (count 'em, four) exhibit critiques, each with a different master. For any who are unfamiliar with the term: in an *exhibit critique* a master goes thru the exhibit, describing the good points and bad points he or she sees in each tree. It's a fantastic way to learn, usually takes about an hour, and costs less than a workshop. I plan to attend all four if I can. Try to attend at least one, and be sure to bring a notebook! --Steve Moore.

SOURCE FOR TROPICAL STOCK

Tropical stock can be hard to find in our area. For any who want to make the drive to Warsaw, starter-sized material is available at the greenhouse of the Warsaw Ace Hardware.

Species available include: willow-leaf fig, benjamina fig, Fukien tea, serissa (Chinese, I think,) elephant bush (aka miniature jade,) brush cherry, and two species I can't identify. (They come from the Florida supplier without tags.)

These trees are in 3-inch pots, with most trunks a little thicker than a pencil. There are also some larger *Ficus benjamins*, some in nursery pots and some in bonsai pots. And there is one rosemary that the greenhouse manager has already pruned into a proto-bunjin, and that keeps getting my attention!

The greenhouse manager, Karen, likes bonsai herself, which is how the tropicals come to be in stock. She will sometimes knock a few cents off the price if you buy more than one. (Don't nag her, but it doesn't hurt to ask nicely.) One of these days I may persuade her to come to a club meeting.

If you want to visit the greenhouse, it's easy to find. Take the Center Street exit off US 30 follow Center for about 1/2 mile, and Ace Hardware is on the right. If you want to know more, email me at <treebeard20@gmail.com>. -- Steve Moore
Note from Darlene: I am in Warsaw working every Thursday if you want me to pick something up for you!

And Another Bonsai Shop!

I just found out some other interesting news - there's actually a store here in South Bend that has some bonsai and supplies - pots and Joshua Roth tools.

<http://fivepointgardens.com/bonsai.html>

They're only open M-F 9 to 6pm, but I will go and check them out on Monday and see what their stuff looks like. I had no idea there was anything significant locally, I've only found a few pots here and there.

This was exciting to me, I know it's farther away for you all, but it

still might be interesting. I'll give you a report on what I find there. -Cat

The Bonsai Traveler

by Cat Nelson

This month took me to Cincinnati, OH to the Krohn Conservatory. The display at the Krohn conservatory is an interesting collaboration between the Cincinnati Park Board staff and members of the Bonsai Society of Greater Cincinnati. Some of the trees are part of a permanent collection housed at the Krohn, and others are Society member's trees that are loaned to the Conservatory for periods of time for display.

I was at the Conservatory in December, so the only trees I was able to see were their tropicals. During the summer season additional hardy bonsai are exhibited in the outdoor Elizabeth Bakhaus Gale Memorial Garden. Their tropical trees were displayed in a small greenhouse between their orchid exhibit and their seasonal floral display. I happened to be there mid-day on a Wednesday, which is when a member of the local Society works on the collection as a public demonstration. I unfortunately didn't get the gentleman's name.

They had a nice mix of established trees and trees still in training. There was a massive Ficus forest, as well as several specimen Ficus, several Natal Plums, a nice Fukien Tea, and a smattering of other common tropical species. There was a very large Zelcova that I thought had a very nice trunk base, though the branch structure still needs more organization. The gentleman from the Society had just finished working on their Natal Plum Cascade when I arrived, and it was looking very nice. It seems the care of the collection is shared between the conservatory staff and the local Society members. All-in-all, a nice conservatory to visit. I would like to come back and see it in the summer time when their outdoor trees are on display.

Dick this first picture makes our forests look like young groves!

Ficus Forest



Fukien Tea



Green Island Ficus



Natal Plum Cascade



Ficus Retusa



Fort Wayne Bonsai Club - Meeting Minutes from 12-15-07

Reported by Cat Nelson

Today's meeting was our annual Christmas luncheon, this year held at Tokyo Seoul Japanese Korean Restaurant. They had a nicely mixed menu ranging from traditional Japanese sushi to Korean barbecues. Two of us braved the Korean BBQ - which included its own hot plate with live flames. We succeeded in not burning the place down.

There were multiple members present, including a guest (my mother). There was a small show and tell with the Australian Ficus Bonsai book and Bonsaimonk catalog that I brought in to share. Good holiday cheer was had by all.

Next month's meeting is our annual officer elections, held at the Kittle residence.

OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT TOKYO SEOUL RESTAURANT



Darlene's Queen's Tears (*Bilbergia Nutans*) Bromeliad





What is Air Layering?

by *Andy Walsh*

Introduction by Brent Walston

Air layering is the process of removing a large branch or section of the trunk of a tree to create another tree. Before the branch is removed it is girdled, protected with peat moss or other media and the girdled section is allowed to root. After rooting the branch is removed from the tree. This is a very common practice in bonsai to obtain another tree from an unwanted branch or to save a thick trunk section that was going to be removed anyway. Andy Walsh posted a short but very informative article on the physiology of this process on the Internet Bonsai Club mail list. Knowing how a tree forms roots at an air layer site provides powerful information for not only understanding the process, but also a vehicle for answering your own questions and solving your own problems in air layering.
BW

Transport of Food, Water, and Nutrients

Under the bark of trees (dicotyledonous ones) there is a layer of cells called the phloem. This tissue transports carbohydrates and other photosynthates (including auxin) down from the leaves to the lower parts of the plant. Beneath the phloem layer is another layer called the xylem that transports

water and mineral nutrients from the roots and soil up to the leafy parts of the tree. Beneath the xylem is another xylem layer called the secondary xylem. These xylem layers are thicker and deeper into the wood of the tree than the phloem layer. Lying on top of these layers just under the bark is a layer of actively dividing cells called the cambium.

The Air Layering Process

In the process of aird layering, the bark, the cambium, and the phloem layer are removed by cutting away about a 1 inch wide ring of these tissues from around the circumference of the shoot. The xylem however is left intact. This is known as girdling. Generally, synthetic auxins (in a vehicle of talc powder or by liquid) are applied to the site where the tissues have been removed. (Although applying auxin is the general practice today it is not necessary for many trees). Wet sphagnum moss (or another moisture retentive soil) is then bunched around and over this girdled site and covered with plastic and sealed.

What Happens at the Air Layer Site

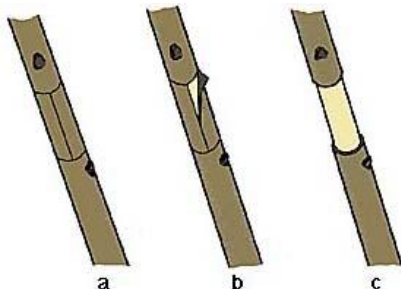
The removal of the bark, cambium, and phloem, but not the xylem, prevents carbohydrates and photosynthates from flowing down the trunk past the girdling site but still allows water and mineral nutrients to flow upward to the leaves. This keeps the leafy portions of the shoot from drying out and maintains them with an adequate supply of nutrients. The removal of the actively growing cambium layer prevents the regeneration of phloem and healing over of the wound. Because of this the carbohydrates and photosynthates flowing down the trunk collect at the girdling site. The presence of these excesses of carbohydrates and photosynthates (esp. auxin) at the girdling site, plus the presence of the water in the sphagnum moss, causes dormant adventitious buds in the area to grow into roots. When there are enough roots to sustain the shoot independently the shoot is cut off of the tree and then planted or potted.

The Difference Between Air Layers and Cuttings

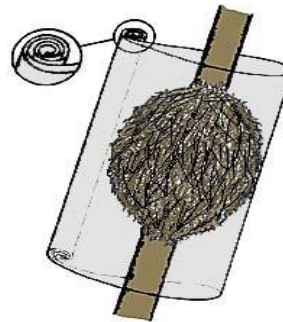
The propagation of plants by cuttings occurs by the same principles and has very similar circumstances. The difference is that the shoot is removed from plant at the start and water and nutrients flow up the shoot from the cut site by capillary action instead. This kind of propagation can only be done with small and thin shoots since the flow of water is insufficient for larger branches. Air layering solves this problem and allows the creation of new plants from very large parts of trees.

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Figure 1. Method of wounding woody plants such as magnolia, gardenia, rose, fig and similar plants. With a sharp knife, make two parallel cuts about 1 1/2 inches apart around the stem and through the bark and cambium layer. Connect the two parallel cuts with one long cut (a) and remove the ring of bark (b), leaving the inner woody tissue exposed (c).



Apply a handful of damp sphagnum moss so that it envelopes the wounded portion of the stem. Tying the moss in place with string helps keep it in position while completing the process. The sphagnum moss should be soaked several hours to insure that it is thoroughly moist. Squeeze out surplus water before using, since excessive moisture will result in decay and deterioration of the plant tissue.



Using a sheet of polyethylene film approximately 6" X 12" or 8" X 12", depending upon the size of the plant stem, wrap the ball of sphagnum moss using the butchers fold (see insert) to secure a tight seal where the two ends of the sheet are joined.



Draw the upper end of the film snugly around stem making sure that none of the moss is exposed. Fasten securely with electricians tape, taking care that the tape extends beyond the film and adheres to the stem. Repeat the procedure on the lower end, again making sure there is a snug fit. Moisture must not escape and excess moisture must not enter when watering or syringing the plants. Support the plant with stake or splint to prevent breakage at the wounded area.



After the new roots have penetrated the moss ball and are visible on all sides, the rooted branch may be removed from the parent plant. The rooting time will vary with plant variety as well as the season in which it is performed.



Remove the newly rooted plant from the parent plant with a sharp knife or pruning shears, making the cut just below the ball of moss and roots. (Not illustrated) Carefully remove the polyethylene film. Without disturbing the roots or removing the ball of moss, plant in a container using a good potting mixture or plant in a well-prepared soil bed.



Placing a polyethylene tent over the newly potted plant for 4 to 8 days until the root system is well established is helpful as it will aid in preventing excessive loss of moisture. Keep the plant under a light shade and avoid direct sunlight until the new root system is well developed.