

BADGER NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

MEETING- FEBRUARY 14, 2008

7:00 PM at Olbrich Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave. Madison WI

MEETING AGENDA:

Book Reviews- Members Favorites

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE :

The reality of winter is now fully upon us and that 60 degree day in January is now a distant memory. With our bonsai all tucked away for a rest, it is a good time to take a look at what you can do to prepare yourself, for when the weather turns warmer and spring is in the air.

One of the first things is make sure that you have paid your dues for 2008. If not, this may be the last newsletter you will receive. In speaking with our treasurer he noted that only 8 members have submitted their dues, so please take care of this at our next meeting. (If not send your dues to him by mail. Gary

Speaking about our next meeting which will be on Thursday, February 14th, our topic of discussion will be Bonsai Book Reviews. Please bring along at least one of your favorite bonsai books and just a few notes as to why you have enjoyed that particular book. Nothing fancy just some notes to yourself so that you can share with others why they may consider adding this book to their collection. Maybe mark a few pages with those great pictures of trees we all envy, or other things that you would like to show your fellow club members. I think that it would be interesting to see the variety of books that will be brought as there are many different books on the subject.

Other items that good winter tasks are:

- *Clean, sharpen, lubricate our tools
- *Clean up pots for future use
- *Make up soil for future planting
- *Inventory which trees should be repotted and look to

see if you have enough supplies to do them properly

- *Check on wire; pot screening, and other items for repotting

(it is to late when the tree is bare rooted to start looking for a different pot or enough soil to cover the roots.)

I will try to do my best to bring back some pictures from a convention I will be attending the week before in California. This convention is sponsored by the Golden State Bonsai Federation, which is basically all of the individual clubs in California. The focus of the convention is Shohin (less than 9 to 10' tall) trees. It is only held every other year and I am told very informal, so I am looking forward to finally going to this event.

So I hope to see a large turnout at the next meeting, give your sweetheart a real Valentine's Day gift, a couple of hours of peace by themselves while you are at the meeting.

See you later,
RON

INTERNET CRUISING

In the past there has been interest over native plant species being used in Bonsai, while traveling through the internet I came across an interesting and amusing article on using Jack Pine Pinus banksiana. This came from the Toronto Bonsai Society which can be found at: www.torontobonsai.org, the article is by David Johnson, and I will paraphrase it to shorten it up.

Jack Pine is a medium sized tree capable of living in sandy and rocky soils, has short dark green needles and rough scaly bark when older. This is part of D. Johnson's diary.

Case 1 1993, Tree collected in May, dead in September, tree was planted in ground after collected and treated with diazenon after noticing a borer hole with fresh sawdust.

Case 2 1991, Tree purchased in fall, hard pruned, wired and pinched that month. Planted in ground April 1993, pinched candles, tree showing signs of dying needles in Oct. Dead shortly after.

Case 3 1992, tree purchased in April, Hard pruned. April 1993 hard pruned, repotted removing some dark collected soil, replaced with bonsai soil. Wired, hard pruned, pinched in July. Pinched and wired in Oct, 1994. Repotted April 1995, pruned 10% roots, candles show slow growth, Sept, 1995 tree dead.

Case 4 1996, Tree collected in May roots intact, planted in ground, tree growing well. Repotted in 1997, Pruned roots and foliage 25%. July hard pruned 50%. 1998 tree dead.

INTERNET CRUISING (Cont.)

Case 5 1997, collected in May, planted in ground, hard pruned in June and August. Planted in training box April 1998, pruned 25% foliage, pruned May and June, wired August, cut large root Oct. Repotted smaller box Nov. April 1999 slow candle growth, cut large root in June. Needle plucked in August. Repotted in 2000, cut some roots, candles pinched in May, removed 50% upper foliage in Sept. Repotted 2001, needles yellowing, July tree dead. Death probably caused by damage done by repotting in to small of container.

Case 6 1996, collected in Oct. potted in training box. Aug. 1997 repotted in same container. 1998 candle pinching and pruning 15% foliage. Cut side roots in Aug. Repotted in smaller box, pruning 15% roots in Nov. Spring 1999 slow candle growth, 50% foliage removed in Sept, wired. 40% foliage removed in Oct. Tree over wintered in cold room. Repotted April 2000 removing 15% roots. Wired in May, Aug. needles light green. Repotted 2001 pruned 15% roots needles more yellow. May 2002 placed in larger pot, better drainage. Tree dead.

Case 7 1996, Collected May, potted in Styrofoam cont. removed 30% foliage and then 40% later that month. 20% removed in July. Repotted April 1997, removed 30% old soil and 5% roots. Nov. raffia used on wiring bent branches. Repotted April 1998, candles growing slowly some yellowing tree placed in partial shade and recovered by July. Repotted tree placed in partial shade and recovered by July. Repotted 1999, wiring. Overwintered in cold room, repotted April 2000 tree slow to come out of dormancy. Wired tree April 2001, repotted in May. April 2002 cracks appeared while bending branches sealed, tree slow to come out of dormancy, weak. April 2003 repotted, removed 15% roots. May recovering some needles brown. Tree dead.

Case 8 2001, Tree purchased in May, removed 50% foliage. Repotted Sept. removed old soil. Repotted April 2002, replacing more old soil, pruned 10% roots. May, candles stopped growing. Repotted May 2003, tree weak, dead.

Case 9 2002, Purchased April, removed most old soil, pruned 15% foliage. Cut heavy root in June. Some needle yellowing, needle plucking in Sept. pruned 15% foliage. Tree repotted April 2003 removing 25% roots. Pruned 25% foliage in June and removed part of large root. July removed 25% foliage, cut more heavy root. Repotted April 2004, pruned some roots. Tree weakening in greenhouse. June- Dead.

Case 10 2002, Purchased April, repotted removing old soil. Overwintered in cold room. Repotted May 2003, candles slow to grow. Repotted May 2004. Wired in Sept. May 2005 tree dead.

Case 11 1999, collected multiple trunked tree in May, plant in ground. Cut large root in July. Repotted into large plastic tub in April 2000. Removed 20% roots and 25% foliage. Removed 50% foliage in July. August removed roots on opposite side of previous side, also needle plucked and wire. Repotted April 2001, pinched strong candles, moved to partial shade, needles dying on one tree, removed 10% foliage and some more heavy root. Repotted April 2002, moved trunks closer together, some needles dying. tree

wired in July, removed 40% foliage. Repotted April 2003, removing some more old soil, pruned 30% roots. Placed in partial shade pruned foliage on two strongest trunks in July. April 2004 smallest trunk dead, a lot of dieback on remaining trunks. August- dead.

The first time I read this I almost fell out of my chair I was laughing so hard. The wife thought I was ready for an ambulance ride. As I read it over I realized what a great teaching tool this is. First is perseverance, even though your tree dies, hopefully you do not have alot invested in the tree(yea right this is bonsai), you should not get discouraged and give up. Treat each experience(let down) as a learning moment (I spent many years trying to get this concept through to my offspring don't think it worked). The second is if something doesn't work, change it and try again

I find the activities of the Toronto Bonsai Society quite interesting and the articles informative. They have property and go on collecting trips often, I always assumed collecting could be difficult, one member collects larches and black spruce. He swears that his best trees come from the bogs especially in moose wallows. Around here in pastures trees can be deformed in bull roughs, but still a moose, bull moose are huge and mean. Kinda gives collecting an edgy sort of quality.

There are so many good websites out there, if anyone has a favorite site and would like to share it with other members of our club please let me know and I can write something up on these pages.

Have you TICKLED your bonsai lately!

An internet gleaning appeared in the January 1998 Badger Bonsai News newsletter:

... regularly stroking a plant on its stalk stunts its vertical growth yet makes the stalk grow thicker. The phenomenon is actually well known; it is called thigmomorphogenesis. physical stimuli affect their enzymes, which act as catalysts in the plant's development. Touching the stems causes calcium to move into the cells... We might assume that 'touched' or 'tickled' plants are similar to those exposed to extremely windy environments... for example, trees on a cliffside- they are stunted in growth, but most important, they are still alive. So thigmomorphogenesis may enable plants to survive stressful environments.

I knew that this sounded familiar, thinking back to Wood Technology and Dendrology classes at the UW we actually discussed this.

Thigmo - touch

Morpho - change in shape

Genesis - creating something

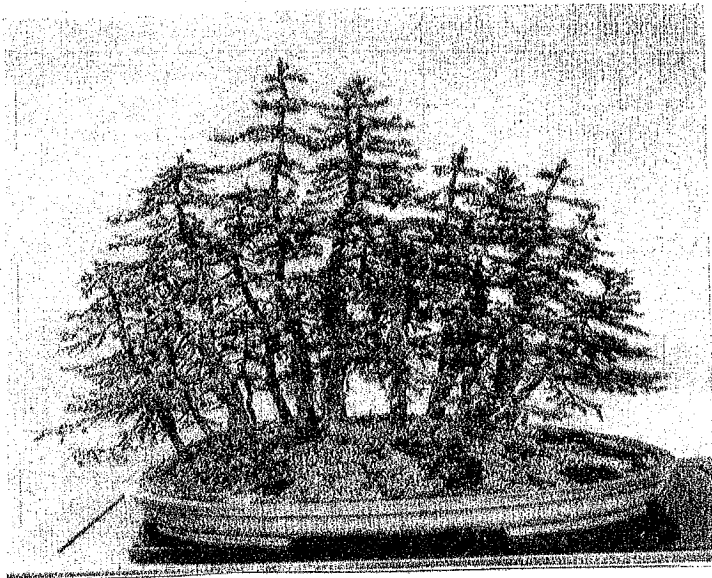
Sometimes the useless things you learn do have substance

THIGMOMORPHOGENESIS

... is an alter in shape due to constant mechanical disturbances: such as touching, wind, rain. Thigmomorphogenesis results in shorter, stockier plants with more supportive features.

A lab experiment we did was to rub the stalks of bean plants up to 50 times a day. The results were the more rubbing the greater the girth of the stem. One other was to rub one side on the stalk, over time the plant bent in that direction.

In nature wind is the 'tickling' agent. Ever study a natural grove or copse of trees. The shape is mounded. The edges are stunted, deformed, and pointed outwards. Different ages of trees and growth towards light also has this effect but groves of similary aged trees are common. This effect is also common in bonsai, some Yousi-ue exhibit this.



In bonsai increasing the thickness of the trunk is best accomplished by age, but in today's enviroment time will not work. Mechanical methods have been explored, ranging from vertically cutting the bark, to spanking it with a rolled up newspaper, all have differing results. Since I am not generally a violent person I think that this spring when my trees decide to wake up I shall try to 'tickle' them.

**MAY WE ALWAYS BE
WITH GREAT BEAUTY EVERYWHERE
TREES GROW AND PRIDE SWELLS**

Marty Mann

For the past few newsletters I have found these Haiku's in a bonsai book authored by Marty Mann. If anyone has any haiku's of there own please send them my way

TIP OF THE MONTH

Recycle discarded sheets of fiberglass air-conditioning filters by cutting them into round discs to line the lower part of 1-gallon and 5-gallon plastic containers as a base under the soil. They serve as covers of the drain holes, prevent the loss of soil, and act as a reservoir to accumulate percolating water. This is a clever and inexpensive way to use this other wise discarded material. Fiberglass filters must be handled with care by bare hands. They are almost indestructable and non-toxic to the plants. The binding cardboard frames rot but the fiberglass sheets continue to be reusable. Use a high pressure watering hose to remove clogged material. Fiberglass sheets are much lighter than gravel or broken pottery and are easily adapted to the size of any container. Try to fit with ordinary shears(not your spouses poultry cutting shears- Newsletter editor note). They are easy to store and cut into random shapes to fit into any container.

They serve as a blanket on a hot surface and create a cool base for the containment of moisture.

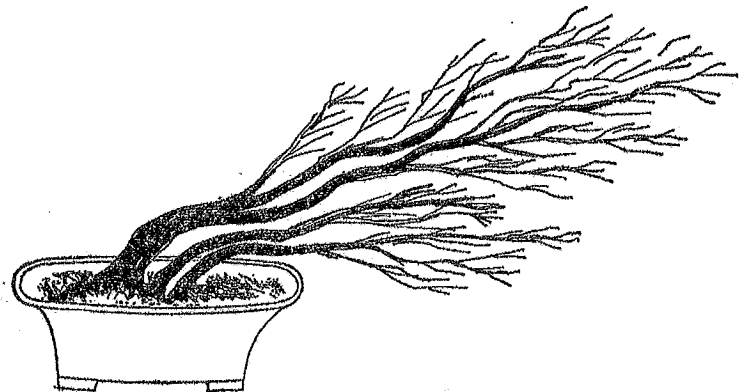
THIS TIP came from one of our many outstanding **LIBRARY** books titled "Bonsai Ideas" by Marty Mann. If you care to read it or any of our other many books and magazines please see me at the meeting or e-mail me at home and I will bring it to the next meeting. See November and December's newsletters for a partial list. Since then we have added more books and even a few VHS video's(for those who do not have time to read.)

Another book we have is an interesting little book titled "YOSEI-UE" by Kato. It has mant pictures and descriptive line drawings, they need to be descriptive unless you can read Japanese! The pictures demonstrate proper placement

of trees in making Grove Plantings. The photos used in this newsletter come from this book.

Enjoy the snow(my labrador does), and see you at the meeting Feb. 14, Don't forget to bring your favorite book.

Greg



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