



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

Green Square Community Hall

3 Joynton Avenue
Zetland

7pm Tuesday 14 July 2015

Bring in a tree with a story for you to share with members. AGM meeting and annual membership fees night.

7pm Tuesday 11 August 2015

Tool sharpening demonstration by John. For \$2 each tool, John will sharpen your favourite tool after the demo.

CONTACT DETAILS



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COMMITTEE

Patron Dorothy Koreshoff

President Bryan

Vice President Sue

Secretary tba

Treasurer Chris

Newsletter Editor Roslyn

Librarian Naomi & Les

Catering Philip

Committee Lee, Naomi & Tony

MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership \$40.00

Concession \$25.00

Family \$55.00

Pensioner \$25.00

SCBC wishes to thank Sydney City Council for their continued support for our club by providing the hall at a reduced rate.

Welcome to the July Newsletter

July Meeting

- Bring in a tree with a story for you to share with members. We really want to focus on the display table this month.
- Annual General Meeting and annual membership dues this month.
- Work on your own trees.



Winner of 2014 Winter Silhouette Bonsai Exhibition, North Carolina (bonsai by Ed Lauer)

We want your trees!

We are asking members to bring a tree for the July member display. It can be in training or advanced styling. It can be a tree for comments, hints and suggestions as to future styling. It can be a tree with a tale to relate. Trees make the meeting much better so PLEASE, tuck a tree into the car and bring it to the meeting.

Picture from

<http://valavanisbonsaiblog.com/2014/12/09/winter-silhouette-bonsai-expo-part-1/>

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Its spill and fill time again!

Yes it is the Annual General Meeting this month. All current Committee positions will be vacated and members will vote in a new Committee for the coming year. Bryan will have some nomination forms and all you need is someone to second your nomination.

It is really important that we have a full Committee for the coming year. The Position of Secretary was not filled since Constantine left and Chris and Lee have shared the burden on top of their existing jobs on the Committee. Newer members – please consider it or any other position. New blood always fosters new and exciting directions. The time commitment is an additional once a month meeting where we chat about bonsai and our club over a scrumptious meal.

Annual Memberships are now due!

Check left column of this page for membership cost categories.

MAURO STEMBERGER AT 28th BONSAI BY THE HARBOUR , JUNE 2015

Mauro Stemberger styles David's Juniper

At "Bonsai by the Harbour", the Italian bonsai master Mauro Stemberger worked on SCBC member, David's Juniper, an advanced stock plant for his main demonstration on Sunday 7th June. David has undertaken to bring in the result at our next meeting. David participated in the wiring at the demon and learnt first-hand from the master.

The design process and health of tree

Mauro began by examining David's tree saying that the tree is healthy with nice movement. There is a "T" part in the trunk, a defect that needs to be hidden and a front branch pointing out that needs to be pushed back to hide the "T" and close the gap



With a couple of branches removed, the movement in the trunk is exposed

When deciding on the design, firstly you need to work out the front of the tree, then the first branch. From there you work in layers: trunk line first, the jins and layering foliage for depth of the tree.

For this tree, Mauro decided to use the lowest branch as a jin which will wind upward and so make something strange. With respect to the long protruding branches he will make some jin so that there will be some white points to connect the eyes with the main jin. The planned mid-line trunk shari will accentuate the trunk curves and correct the small swelling in the trunk by creating an optical illusion.

In order to get depth, he will make two layers but won't prune all so as to keep the energy pulling. The focus is on wiring into the position but keep the tips so the tree keeps asking for energy.

He explained that the steps he would go through are:

1. Structure
2. Cleaning
3. Dead Wood
4. Shari line
5. Wiring
6. Position Branches

Working on the deadwood

After cleaning the tree where any dead foliage is removed and unwanted branches cut, Mauro started to work on deadwood. Using a tailor-made jin tool he shapes the major structure of the jin and then uses side cutters to taper the jin. Later the jin will be tidied up.



David and Mauro working on making the jins

For the shari, Mauro cut the cambium with a very sharp knife and cut as far as the heartwood. He explained that you must have a very clean cut so the tree can heal. In order to sharpen the cut, you will need to do this a few times until the tree has its live vein healed. Unlike deciduous trees, never put cut past on a conifer shari. Instead, you should put some liquid sulphur on the jin after a couple of weeks.



Shari is positioned to "hide" the swelling of the trunk and jins are designed so that there will be some white points to connect the eyes.

Mauro styles David's Juniper (continued from page 2)

Wiring and bending the log branch and main jin

In order to bring the long top branch in towards the trunk, it must be prepared with raffia and plastic tape before the application of the large wire. The large wire is not so much to do the bending but to protect the internal fibre from splitting by keeping it moist with the wet raffia. See our separate article on wiring detailing Mauro's wiring technique and tips.

Before bending, Mauro and his helpers completed all of the secondary and tertiary wiring in readiness for the final positioning of the foliage.



Mauro shows where he will pull the branch in toward the trunk

Mauro then used guy wire hooked to an anchor and began pushing in the long top branch. He then used a second guy wire to create the bend. As he pushed the guy wire the branch split a little so he applied cut paste to that area. For the main jin, Mauro first broke the fibre with twisting to make it more pliable.

Finally, Mauro spend considerable time finally positioning the smaller branches and foliage pads to create the subtle layers and depth of the tree.



Branches, jins and foliage pads positioned and shaped

Aftercare and maintenance of Junipers

He explained that he would NOT repot the tree at this point in time as the tree will need to recover from the significant shaping and pruning in this initial design. He added that there is a difference between a yamadori and a garden tree with respect to roots for bonsai. In a yamadori you usually have few roots and you need to make more whereas in a garden tree you usually have too many roots and need to turn these thick roots into fibrous roots.

As this is a garden tree, he will need to improve the superficial roots. Hence he will cut the bottom third of the pot and place the remaining pot in another with a wider base. After 1-2 years he will cut the big roots and then again allow the tree to recover before putting this tree into a bonsai pot.

The purpose of the trimming and feeding is to redistribute the energy of the tree so all is in balance. When the pad is strong then cut away. Mauro prefers to cut rather than pinch as he believes that pinching kills the foliage. He explained that he only trims his conifers once per year (compared to deciduous trees which are trimmed twice per year). Also after 2-3 years of trimming he lets the conifer grow out and then remakes the pads. This gives the tree a break for a year.

Mauro stressed the need to balance the power of the tree when feeding and providing sun. He sprays his conifers with a super-thrive with micro-elements for the foliage whereby the whole tree gets the benefit not just the upper part of the tree. From Spring to mid-Autumn he uses an organic fertilizer for the roots. He explained that you should not feed the roots in hot Summer because when the temperature reaches 36 degrees C, the roots do not absorb nutrients.

Mauro's motto is to be patient and work a tree over a long period of time. For example, when he works on a Mugo pine which maybe 200 years old, he may only bend one branch in a season. It is the health of the tree that is paramount.

"We work today for tomorrow"

-Mauro Stemberger

MAURO STEMBERGER'S TRICKS TO WIRING

TRICKS TO WIRING

Pointers given during Mauro Stemberger's demonstration at Bonsai by the Harbour

You have to wire to get the branch in the exact position you want. It is always good to rethink your technique.

Always remember wire thickness should be one third the size of branch. Copper is stronger but not flexible like aluminium. With copper you can use a smaller gauge than one third. With aluminium you need one third. Put some tension on the branch. Don't wire a branch and then bend. Bend as you wire and the wiring will be more effective.

When you wire the turns should be the same size and the same angle. It should be 45-60 degrees and should be wired in the direction the branch is going so the angle of the wire is pushing the branch in that direction. This is important to ensure there is a lesser chance to break the branch.



Evenly spaced turns with the secondary wire running next to the larger wire.

Start from the lower branches and go up the tree. Wire from inside to outside. You must create a connection to secure the branch and create tension. The tension must go to the stronger part of the tree.



The secondary branch is wired with smaller wire and that wire is extended along the main branch to ensure the smaller wire is stable on the smaller branch.

When we wire a tree we have to remember to stay in front of the branch you are wiring. You need visual control. You never wire backwards. You need to pull and twist as you wire. Avoid making gaps. When you twist wire twist the wrist to give the movement.

Wire clockwise to move the branch back, counter-clockwise to move the branch forward, remembering to move the branch as the wiring is being done.

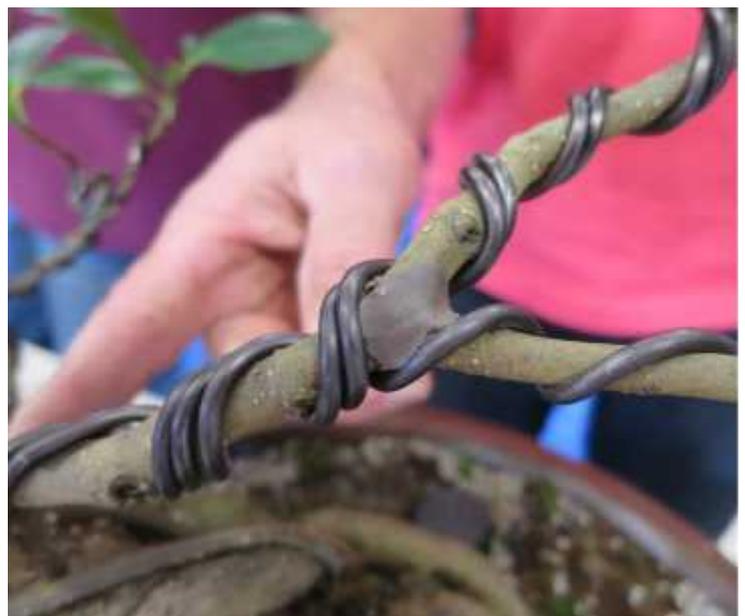
Big branches - you will never have wire thick enough so wire the branch and then use guy wires to get the branch in the correct position.

Wiring smaller branching on a major branch - attach the wire at the crotch of the two branchlets and wire each branchlet. Always in order - trunk, major branches, smaller branches and twigs.

On single branchlets start your wire several turns along the larger branch, position the thinner wire against the first wire and then continue to the end of the branch. Follow the main line of the bigger wire.

While wiring open the branches as you go along. Wired branches should be firmly anchored and not move at the crotch/connection. The shoulder of the branch is on the one that is the extension of the main trunk, not the subsidiary branch. Wrap wire along main branch and then around shoulder and onto the subsidiary branch.

Ensure wire is started far enough back so the distance is far enough that several turns can be done. Don't wire two close branches with same wire as there is not enough securing turns to create the necessary tension.



The main wire goes around the branch, over the shoulder and continues on the main branch line. The lower branch is the secondary branch.

KOJI HIRAMATSU DOES BENDING AT AABC

Koji Hiramatsu does bending at AABC

At the AABC Koji demonstrated couple of different but effective ways to bend thick trunks.

Pine bend

The trunk is too short but it will be easy to bend.

Make a loop of copper wire, with the loop extending beyond the pot edge push the cut ends into the soil mix and the rigidity of the soil mix will hold it. Position a wooden brace with rounded ends against the point of the tree for the bend. Do the bend. Let the tree rest and in 30 minutes bend some more.



Thick straight truck is bent with a wood brace. Tree was rested for 30 minutes before attempting further bend.

When the bend was increased a crack formed. Therefore you must wait a week before bending again. In the meantime, with branch splitters make shallow cuts. This only works on young trees before the bark starts its heavy texturizing.



Note the crack and the use of branch splitters to make shallow cuts on the young tree. Do not bend further for at least one week.

Juniper bend

Koji's mind blowing demonstration started with a large, shaggy many trunked Juniperus sabrina.



He chose the best front and then removed all but one branch because they were too thick to bend.

He wrapped the remaining branch in raffia. The trunk goes from the back to the front. It is ugly at the moment but there's still lots of work to be done.

"I need to bend several times to get enough bend in the branch to create the tree."



The bending is done with an iron bar and guy wires.

At one stage the stick was positioned at the main bending point and secured against the trunk to get an even tighter bend.

The upright branch was then literally bent in half in a number of athletic moves and guyed into position. Leave guy wires more than a year but you can remove the normal wire after a couple of months.



After wrapping in moistened raffia guy wires and an iron bar was used to get an even tighter bend.

KOJI BENDS JUNIPER; CLERODENDRON AND EVENTS CALENDAR

Koji bends Juniper trunk (continued from page 5)

Koji worked on the tree with one side predominantly facing the audience.

Once he got the smaller branchlets wired and shaped he turned the tree so the side became the front and all the jin was now at the back.

What started out as something very ugly suddenly had promise and potential far beyond its original merit. It was a stunning display of bending.



Juniperis Sabrina completely transformed with Koji's bending. The jins at the back give depth without taking away the focal point of the tree.

'The mind of the artist is unique in that it can paint an image of things to come on the canvas of the imagination'

Anon

Clerodendron (commonly called "Indian Privet")

There was a very nice Clerodendron at Bonsai by the Harbour. The tree was purchased with the base nearly this size then most of the branching heavily reduced and regrown.



Indian Privet (Clerodendron)

This species develops very quickly. Trunks thicken quickly and branches develop easily. One of its common names is 'Indian privet' which gives an idea of the growth habit.



Clerodendrons are known for their splendidly fissured bark and they can develop excellent nebari.

It is a great tree for beginners as well as advanced enthusiasts.

BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Event	Details
18-19 July, 2015	"Bonsai by the River"	Wauchope Bonsai Workshop Group, Panthers, Port Macquarie
28-30 August, 2015	16 th Annual Illawarra Bonsai Society Tops Weekend Workshops	Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops