



sydney city
bonsai club inc.



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

Green Square Community Hall
3 Joynton Avenue
Zetland

7pm Tuesday 11 June 2013

Tips for selecting bonsai stock
Bonsai websites - bring along your
favourites. Tool maintenance
night.

7pm Tuesday 9 July 2013

Root pruning deciduous tree
Learning from failures - Sue
AGM

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COMMITTEE

Patron Dorothy Koreshoff

President Bryan

Vice President Sue

Secretary Alan

Treasurer Chris

Public Officer Warwick

Newsletter Editor Tony

Librarian Marianna

Catering Philip

Committee Richard

MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership \$40.00

Concession \$25.00

Family \$55.00

Pensioner \$25.00

Welcome to the May Newsletter

June Meeting

Talk on tips for selecting bonsai stock - Sue

Debriefing of Canberra AABC Annual Conference - Sue

Bonsai websites - bring along your favourites

Talking tools - Tool maintenance night bring in your - cloth, linseed oil, sharpening stones, Dettol®, Tea tree oil

WORKSHOP : Refining pruning on bonsai; things that can be done out of season
Bonsai by the Harbour 8 & 9 June - Chris will give a round up



Lee at last month's meeting, delivering her brilliant talk on selecting pots for bonsai

Reminder: Club Membership Fees due in July

- For notes from Lee's Pot Picking Pitfalls presentation see pages 2
- Ryan Neil on the best tree in show see- page 2
- Root over statue bonsai article pages 3 & 4
- Chris outlines how to Build a Bonsai Bench on pages 4, 5 & 6
- Events Calendar page 6

AABC 2013 CONVENTION, CANBERRA – Ryan Neil's Best Tree in Show

At last month's club meeting Lee gave a brilliant talk on the selection of pots for bonsai.

Lee started her talk with the statement: "My name is Lee and I am a potaholic" She had us all in the palm of her hand for the rest of her presentation.



I manage to jot down some notes, by no means exhaustive but gems from Lee none the less:

- Uses smaller pot when putting a tree into a show
- Use the lines of the tree to select the lines of the pot
- Natives look good in a satin glaze pot
- First thing you should see is the trunk when viewing a bonsai
- Rims make pots visually stronger - mostly avoid rims
- Consider the visual weight of the pot
- Use Soe - companion plants when displaying bonsai
- Mirkwood pots by Patrick Campbell great but going out of production
- Mudlark Pot. Penny are worth checking out
- Must see the tree first. Not the pot or stand
- Lee recommends Bonsai trees of the world by Charles Cerano for more info on pot selection
- Look at the feet on the pot, if they are well formed it s probably a good pot
- Pots must drain well. Wire holes are useful but not too big or they will let soil wash out
- For bonsai cascade pots that gets too hot, double pot it in a pot of Styrofoam to insulate from sun

Guidelines

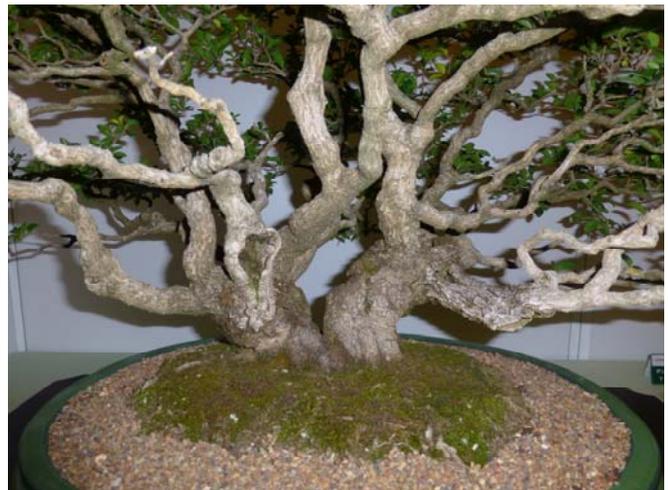
- Over pot Azaleas and Pyracanthas; these plants are thirsty
- Colour and glaze must suit the tree. Satin glazes better.
- Older pots are usually better quality
- There are masculine and feminine pots, match them to the 'sex' of the bonsai
- Commissioning a pot: take your measurements to the potter. They will usually make three pots so you can choose the one you like. Each pot will be unique.

Thank you Lee for a wonderful presentation

Ryan Neil did a critique on a number of trees at the 2013 AABC Convention put on by the Canberra Bonsai Society in May 2013 and selected a Privet to be his choice for the best tree in the display. The Privet was from a hedge planted in 1873 and the plant was dug up in 1973 and training started.



Ryan was impressed by the movement apparent in every branch of the bonsai and considered this tree well able to hold its own in any judged bonsai show in the world.



He suggested that the front was a bit too open and allowing a bit of foliage to grow would add to the mystery and improve the tree. He also felt that the pot was too highly glazed and an older looking pot would accentuate the age of the tree even more.

Training bonsai is a mutual exercise; by training them they are training us

Told to Lee by a friend

ROOT OVER STATUE BONSAI – HOW TO IN PICTURES

Lee Wright

When my garden statue, Octavia, had a great fall in a high wind she was shattered beyond repair but happily the head remained intact - more or less but enough. I have long wanted to do a Root over Statue and here was the golden opportunity.



On the bench was a small fig, unprepossessing but with some youthful character and it was nominated to start the project.



The root system of a tree have completely enveloped a statue of the Buddha in Ayutthaya – Angkor Wat →

I bare rooted the fig and arranged the roots over the head, wrapped them in muck and then loosely in plastic wrap because I wanted them to grow down the head and not out into the soil.

Five months after starting the caper I gently unwrapped and water washed the roots and made some positional adjustments and rewrapped and reburied.



Now the tree will sit until November when it will again be stripped, corrections made to the root position and any new roots growing contrary to plan will be correctly placed, the roots wrapped yet again and repotted to grow for another year.

The foliage will be left to grow strongly to encourage good root growth; leaf size at this stage is not important and will be corrected when the roots are more developed.



ROOT OVER STATUE BONSAI continued, CHRIS ON BUILDING A BENCH



When the tree is replanted in November the roots will have another layer of muck around them, the bottom part of the head will be placed in good bonsai soil, the top section will be propagating sand to encourage the roots to grow down where there is food and more moisture.

I have used plastic wrap because I have found difficult removing other options when the roots grow through them. I wrap tightly enough to contain the roots near the statue but loosely enough to ensure water easily gets down around them keeping the muck moist.

It will take 5-8 years before the roots thicken and lengthen enough to start uncovering them but each repotting will be fun. The tree has been positioned so when the statue is planted at a slight angle the tree is not quite on the top of it.

I can see a long cascading branch but I can't really see how the final style will develop and am open for any changes as the tree grows and changes. So far the tree has developed a nicer back than what I chose as the front but I bare rooted it out of fig season and did not want to disturb the roots by repositioning it. It handled the root disturbance well and has grown more strongly since then.

Root over Rock can create some fantastic bonsai. Root over Statue is a bit more unconventional and harder to find statue bits but the end result could be very eye catching and conversation starting.

Wiring as seen in Canberra:

Street Art meets Oak tree – brings a whole new meaning to wiring doesn't it?



BUILDING A BONSAI BENCH

Hi Everyone,

I would like to share with you my experience constructing a couple of different types of bonsai stands / benches. I have used materials commonly available from Bunnings or other similar hardware stores.

I have employed simple construction methods that do not require any special carpentry skills. I have used treated pine as the basic material as it is easy to work with, available in a variety of sizes and affordable. If using treated materials is a problem, any other timber suitable for outside exposure may be substituted.

NOTE - when dealing with any treated timber product observe all the mandatory safety measures incumbent with the particular material. i.e. effective breathing protection, hand protection and eye protection must be used, as a minimum. All other safety precautions associated with using powered tools are also mandatory.

The first type of stand is freestanding and incorporates a top shelf and a middle shelf. The materials list for a 2400 stand follows.

NOTE 1: Only used hot dip galvanized screws and fittings with treated pine (or other coating/materials specifically developed for treated pine) – cadmium plated or electroplated fittings are NOT suitable.

CHRIS ON CONSTRUCTING BONSAI BENCH - continued

NOTE 2: All dimensions are in mm:

1. 25 x 150 x 2400 treated pine – 3 off (approx. \$7 each)
2. 50 x 200 x 1200 treated pine – 2 off (approx. \$5 each) or substitute 50 x 50 or 50 x 75 with a total length of 6 times the desired stand height.
3. 1800 x 1200 (75 x 50 spacing, 4mm dia wire) wire mesh – 1 off (approx. \$45.00)
4. 25 x 1 x 0.8 galvanized steel strap – 1 roll (approx. \$7)
5. 6 mm cup head bolts with nuts and washers all galvanized (approx. \$4)
6. 50 x 12 gauge or heavier galvanized screws – 50 off (approx. \$10 packet)
7. 40 x 10 gauge or heavier galvanized screws - 30 off (approx. \$4 packet)
8. Bag of galvanized staples (approx. \$7)

Rip the 50 x 200 pine lengthwise into four equal -width lengths (approx. 50 x 50 x 1200) – these will be the legs of the stand and hence the top of the stand will be 1200 high (adjust as required).

Rip the 25 x 150 pine lengthwise into equal-width lengths – these will be the rails and cross supports (adjust lengths as required) For 2400 of stand, you will require three leg assemblies. Fabricate the leg assemblies as per Picture 1.



Picture 1 – end assembly

Secure each cross support joint with 2 screws on the diagonal.

Match the width of the stand to the dimensions of the wire mesh so the mesh will fit neatly on the finished stand. I made mine 450mm which suits even larger plants.

The height of the middle shelf is not critical but if you want to put smaller plants on this shelf, allow enough room – they require more height than you think.

I made the middle shelf narrower (375mm) by attaching the rails on the inside of the legs. This saved material and eliminated the additional longitudinal support rail. The area below the middle shelf can be used for general storage.

For the greatest strength, have as many wires as possible between the two support rails. For 4mm wire, the greatest width is approximately 375mm. You can have a wider stand (mine are approx. 450mm which is required for bigger pots (or multiple smaller pots), but the wire will require an intermediate support rail (say 25 x 50) along its length.

If the intermediate support is required it is easier to lower the middle shelf cross support by the width of the intermediate support rail (50mm) to facilitate installation of the rail later.

Align the assemblies with a square; do not trust your eye! Provide torsional stability with cross braces from galvanized strap as shown in Picture 1.

Be sure to include the 6mm bolt in each cross brace – it is easier to install the bolt and then install the cross brace and cut the length of the straps so the bolt is in the middle of the straps.

Next attach the rails to the leg assemblies. Lots of clamps, or better still, a second pair of hands are required.

Make a pencil mark 1200 from one end to locate the middle leg assembly.

Clamp the leg assemblies in place and when properly aligned (again, use a square!) screw the rails to the leg assemblies.

Screw into place 45° steel strap braces between all rails and legs to provide lateral stability.

Install the longitudinal support rails if required.

Cut the wire mesh to suit the frames with bolt cutters, angle grinder or hacksaw and install using lots of staples.

Take the stand to site and pack out the legs so they all bear the same weight and the stand is level. For added security, especially if the stand is high and/or narrow, attach it to a solid object like a fence so it cannot topple over (or drive a few star pickets into the ground and attach them to the legs). The end product will look like Picture 2.



Picture 2

CHRIS ON CONSTRUCTING BONSAI STANDS & EVENTS CALENDAR

I used wire mesh as it provides good ventilation under the pots is durable, relatively inexpensive and importantly allows sunlight to get to the lower shelf if you intend to put plants on it.

The shelves could be topped with timber or blue board, or one of the Hardie products used under laundry floors (durable but heavy and expensive).

I used the 50 x 75 mesh as its available but second hand mesh fencing could be used if you can locate it at a good price. The middle shelf is unlikely to have plants under it so something other than mesh could be used.

This is the single biggest cost of the project so give it some thought.

The treated pine will be more susceptible to rot where it has been cut, so for longevity reasons, treating all cut surfaces with a preservative is worth considering (I did not).

Date	Event	Details