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Please be aware that our club's newsletters are now archived on-line -- Google (and Bookmark!) "Pikes Peak Bonsai" and on the left side click on "Newsletter". While there, also check out the link to see some 70 other Bonsai Club Newsletters On-line from around the world.

In order to keep compliant with our club by-laws, we will be adding the presidents name, David Conlin, to our club checking account, someday!!

THIS MONTH'S MEETING:
SEPT. 11TH
@ STEVE ALFORD'S HOME
10AM TO 1 PM

BONSAI EXPO
SEPT. 18-19
WARNER CENTER

STUDY GROUP- SEPTEMBER 11

On September 11th our regularly scheduled meeting will be held at the home of Steve and Sonya Alford from 10 AM to 1 PM. There will be a potluck lunch at 12 noon. Cliff Broyles is bringing chicken, Steve will be doing potato salad and drinks. These are the only confirmed items so please feel free to bring anything else that you think will "fit".

Unfortunately, my mother will not be with us at this meeting. She will be going into the hospital on the 7th of September for major back surgery. Please keep her in your prayers. Although there is that chance that they will let her come home in 4 days instead of going to a nursing home, in which case she will be here.

After a brief meeting we will be spending the rest of the time on an actual workshop. It is my hope to discuss some of the "beginnings" of a good bonsai and then apply what you learn to your own tree that you will bring. So if you have a bonsai tree that you need a lot of help with, now is the time to bring it. There will be several of us to help guide you. If you do not have a tree, I have several here at the house that are for sale. **And don't forget to bring your tools and wire!!** I will have some tools to use and some wire but it will be a good

idea to bring what you have.

We will be discussing how to select a good bonsai tree, how the fibonacci sequence (of "Davinci Code" fame) fits into bonsai design, and giving a step-by-step training on the basics of bonsai. This will include starting at the bottom with the roots and working your way up through the branches to the apex. We will show you which branches to remove, not to remove and why. And yes, there will be a test at the end!! Just kidding!!



There will be plenty of hand-outs but I would still come with a pencil and a notebook to do some writing. Oh, and we will also be watching a 22 minute video on Bonsai. I think this is one of the best I have seen that gets to the point quickly and answers a lot of the

questions most beginners ask.

So, where is the house. I am glad you asked. Here is the address: 1024 Bonfoy Ave. 80909. We are one block East of Union Blvd. and 2 blocks South of Uintah. If you are coming from I25, take the Uintah exit and go East all the way until Uintah dead-ends at Union. This is several miles so don't think you are getting lost, it will dead-end eventually!! Turn right on Union (South) and make a quick left (East) back onto Uintah. Uintah takes a jog at Union. You are going to go one block to Bonfoy and turn right heading South. We are in the second block on the right side (west side) of the street.

If you are coming from the East side of town the best way to go is South on Powers to Galley. Turn right (West) and go all the way to Circle Drive. Again, a few miles. Turn right (South) on Circle and go one block and turn left (West) on Uintah. Take Uintah West for several blocks until you find Bonfoy. (One block short of Union). Turn left (South) and go two blocks to 1024, on the right.

The phone number in case you get lost is 633-9110.

I hope to see a lot of you there. It is my hope that this will be the first of many workshops to be done in this manner at my home starting this coming Spring.

PRUNING YOUR BONSAI

Bonsai Pruning and Shaping

Bonsai, being living growing plants, need from time to time to be pruned to maintain their shape and also their vitality. Pruning bonsai shoots encourages new growth which in turn adds new sources of nourishment for the tree.

Essentially, in the development of a bonsai there are two primary approaches to pruning which are motivated primarily by two distinct goals of bonsai development. Structural pruning is invariably driven by an artistic need to shape and coax the tree into a new form, while maintenance has primarily more to do with a horticultural need of enriching a plants growth by encouraging new shoot development and ensuring the tree does not become too big for its pot. Maintenance pruning is also often used to maintain the shape of a tree and hence has a minor artistic goal.

Maintenance Pruning

Maintenance pruning is undertaken to maintain a bonsai's size and shape and encourages new growth and tree development. Maintenance pruning is done more or less year round, but is perhaps most needed when the tree is at its zenith of growth. The heaviest pruning is perhaps carried out late spring through most of the summer. Often refinement pruning and minor structural pruning can also be carried out in late fall and the early parts of winter, in deciduous trees, as the plant begins to go dormant and you begin to see the fine branching (or ramification) of the tree.

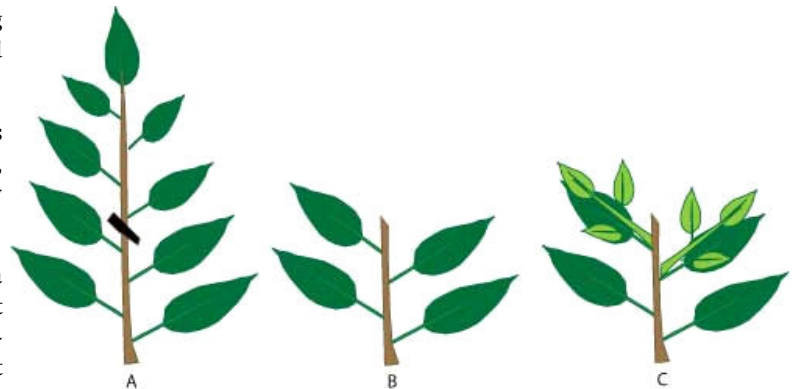
Shoot and Leaf Pruning

Shoot and branch pruning are some of the key shaping tasks in bonsai training. Without shoot pruning your bonsai will quickly lose its shape, no longer look like a bonsai and will outgrow its pot rapidly.

Shoot and leaf pruning can be done throughout the growing season and is carried out when a lot of new growth appears and begins to unbalance the shape of the bonsai.

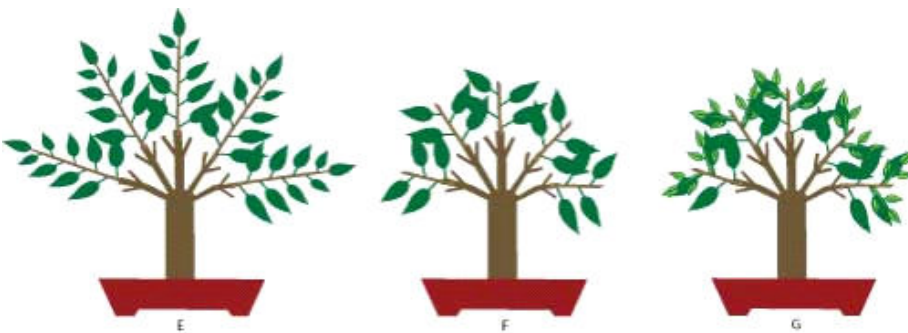
Use a sharp pair of long handled scissors and cut back twigs that have grown about 5-6 pairs/sets of leaves on them (Fig. A), to about 2 set of leaves (Fig. B). In a few weeks you will find new shoots have grown at the leaf nodes (Fig. C).

Figures E,F and G show the same principle as applied to a bonsai. In Figure E the bonsai shows signs of extensive shoot development and it is beginning to lose its shape and compactness. By pruning the long run-away shoots you begin to get back the basic shape and silhouette of the original bonsai. In a



few weeks this is further improved as new shoots and more branching begins to grow, increasing the finer branching in bonsai (ramification) while at the same time the leaf size is also much reduced, making the Bonsai look much more proportionate and like a real tree.

While you are doing your pruning ensure that you remove all deadwood and ugly stumps from the tree, and covering all large bruises with cut paste to prevent excessive loss of sap from the tree or deadly fungus growth.



It is also advisable to water the tree thoroughly once it has been pruned and to regularly spray the tree over the next week or so to help it recover quicker from the pruning.

Small Twig Pruning

Occasionally you need to thin out the crown of a bonsai that has too much foliage and growth (Fig. H) to allow more light and air to reach lower branches on the bonsai or you could be in danger of losing them.

While thinning out the crown of the tree, you may be required to remove small branches, rather than just shoots. Mark out the branches you want to remove with a marker pen or use a piece of wire or twist-tie to identify them (Fig. I). Mark out any branches that you feel whose re-

(Continued from page 2)

moval will not affect the overall structure of the tree, while still letting light to the lower branches.

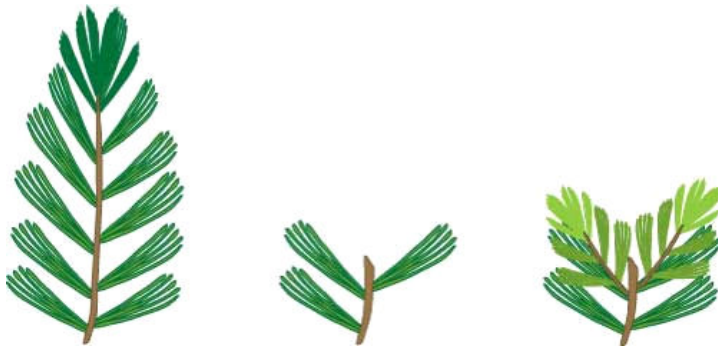


Once you have identified the branches and twigs remove them with a pair of strong Japanese style bonsai scissors or a branch cutter. Remove any dead wood and stubs left from last season using either a pair of knob cutters or branch cutters. Cut cleanly leaving a concave shaped cut, which heals over into a flat surface quickly.

When using a pair of scissors, cut across a diagonal of the stem; it is easier and offers a cleaner more natural cut. When using a branch cutter, align the branch cutter so the length of the cut follows the flow of the sap up the branch, this way the wound heals faster and with a minimal scar.

When doing a thinning exercise you may also want to remove some of the older larger leaves from the stem, this lets more light into the crown encouraging new shoots and new growth which are now much smaller. You should end up with a tree that, while it still maintains its' original shape, it now allows much more light into the lower branches.

Budding and Pinching



Conifers normally need de-budding and pinching, which refers to the removal of the tips of the growing needles to encourage more branching and to create a more compact shape. You often need to pinch out whole needles, especially in spring when a lot of needles develop. Letting numerous amounts of needles grow unchecked puts an unnecessary burden on the bonsai and will also result in its losing its shape.

In Pines, for example, often 4-6 new needle buds can sprout at the growing tips. Leave up to 2 needles that are growing in the desired direction and pinch out the rest of the buds.

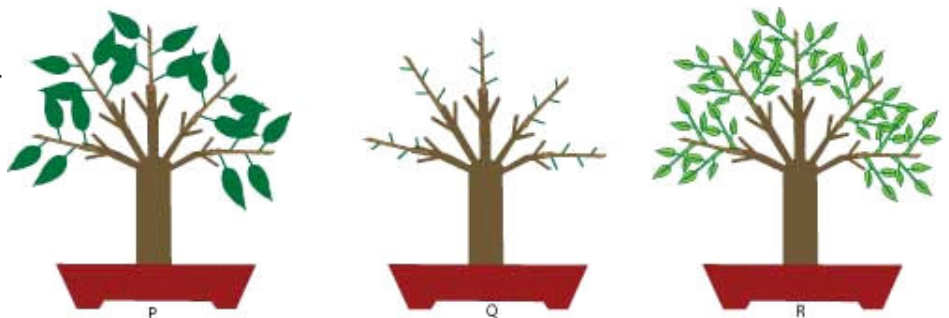
pinch out the growing tips. This will encourage more branching and more new shoots while maintaining a more compact and tree-like shape.

Leaf Pruning

Leaf pruning refers to the defoliation of a bonsai tree, which is carried out to encourage the growth of much smaller leaves. This is primarily on deciduous trees just after the first flush of leaves has settled in (Fig. P). All leaves from the tree are snipped away at the base of the leaf leaving the leaf petiole (leaf stalk) on the branch (Fig. Q).

The leaf petiole falls off and soon a new flush of much smaller shoots and leaves follow (Fig. R). This helps with leaf size reduction and helps make for a more 'natural' looking tree.

This is an advanced technique and requires to be carried out at the right time of the year or the tree may not recover from it.



Structural Pruning

Structural pruning is resorted to when the bonsai needs to undergo some radical or structural change to its shape and usually involves removing primary branches of a bonsai. Structural pruning is a more advanced technique as it can put the tree under duress and needs to be carried out with care and at the right time of the year, usually when the tree is dormant and only through 'controlled' amounts of heavy pruning. The amount that you can prune is dependent on the species, the time of the year and the environment in which the tree is allowed to recover.



Japanese Tansu Style Bonsai Tool Chest

- Handcrafted from solid hardwoods with dovetail construction.
- Two deep drawers to store Bonsai tools.
- Attached 10" turntable.
- Two solid doors with carved Bonsai trees.
- Spacious cabinet interior with rod to hang Bonsai wire. Plenty of room for larger tools and even a few Bonsai Pots.
- Wire protrudes through holes in back for easy dispensing.
- All for \$195 (wire not included).
- Contact Steven Alford — 719-633-9110
- **Also ask to see my new Bonsai Stands!!**
- **And now available, bonsai pots and trees!!**

Look to this space in the future for want ads, sales ads and a place to put that ad for your business!!

If you have anything to put in this space, let me know.

A 2x3 insert is \$5 for one issue, \$10 for 3 issues, and \$18 for one year.

A 3x4 insert is \$10 for one issue, \$20 for 3 issues and \$36 for the year.

For more information call Steve Alford at 633-9110 (evenings) or email me at pmprdchef@msn.com

Pikes Peak Bonsai Society

<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/PikesPeakBonsai.html>

Pikes Peak Bonsai Society
 Colorado Springs Senior Center
 1514 N. Hancock Ave.
 Colorado Springs, CO 80909
 Phone: 719-385-5933

Because of the situation with the Senior Center and the \$60 monthly charge for a meeting, it is strongly recommended that you check the above referenced website to confirm the location of the meeting you wish to attend.



CLUB MEETINGS

Non-members and those curious about this art/hobby are always welcome at no obligation!

10 a.m. on the Second Saturday of each month, usually at the **Senior Center** (Ceramics Room),
 1514 N. Hancock Ave. (corner of Camarillo at the top of Hancock, 1/3 mile north of Uintah St.), just northeast of downtown Colorado Springs.
 (719) 385-5933