



SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Publication of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

<http://bonsai-satx.org>

JANUARY 2015

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 1

BONSAI CALENDAR

All meetings are held on the second Thursday, 7 pm, at Lions Field Adult Community Center, Broadway at Mulberry St., SA, TX. 78209

*Each month the club features a "mini-show" of bonsai that anyone can bring in to talk about, **this month**: Any Deciduous bonsai.*

DUES FOR THE YEAR ARE DUE THIS MONTH—PLEASE PAY TREASURER OSCAR GONZALES. SEE PAGE 8 FOR DETAILS.

JANUARY 8: PROGRAM: PETER ARADI ON THE ART & MEDITATION OF VIEWING STONES. A complementary art form that parallels Bonsai.

HOSTS:

RICHARD HAYES BONSAI STUDY GROUP: FOURTH WEDNESDAY, Workshop in Bonsai, everyone is welcome, 7 pm at Lions Field. GREAT TIME FOR MEMBERS TO BRING IN A TREE TO WORK ON—RAIN OR SHINE.

JANUARY 17, 8 TO 5 PM: 8th Annual Bonsai Workshop, Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd.

JANUARY 31st: Group Dig at David W 's House.

**FEBRUARY 21st: Asian Festival
FEBRUARY 27—March 1st: Spring Home and Garden Show.**

President's Message

By Ryan O

bonsaiode@gmail.com

Welcome to Bonsai 2015!

The SABS board members have come up with a fun and exciting program for 2015. This year's events include visits by Guy Guidry and Own Reich, lectures on cascades and seikei (landscapes), a one-day progressive tour of three member's personal collections, trips to local nurseries, two auctions, spring and fall Home and Garden Show exhibits, and various outings/exhibits throughout the year. We are also introducing a few exciting changes which I will mention later.

January's meeting includes a presentation by our own Peter Aradi on Zen, Suiseki and Bonsai. David is also inviting members down to his house for another digging party on January 31st. Guy Guidry is providing a lecture/demo in February. More info to follow in February's newsletter. On **February 21, 2014** is the annual *Asian Festival* at the *Institute of Texan Cultures*. We would like to get a large assortment of trees, displays, and volunteers to help out with this event. The event is from 10 am to 5 pm. I will pass around a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Also in **February, beginning on the 27 (thru March 1)**, we are exhibiting at the *Spring Home and Garden Show*. This will be an exciting event as this year, Kevin and I will be presenting the art of Bonsai on Saturday and Sunday.

A few of the exciting changes for 2015 include the name change of the Richard Hayes Bonsai 101 meeting to the **Richard Hayes Bonsai Study Group**. The board felt the change in title would better suit the theme of the meeting rather than appear to cater to only our newest members.

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The meeting will also include a short lesson on a particular topic before assisting with any trees. **Kevin and I hope to see more members at our monthly meetings.** This is a great way to get one-on-one assistance and to ask more in-depth questions. Our study group begins on January 28th at 7 pm at our usual location.

The annual booklet of events, members, contact information, and monthly hosts is changing to a single page listing of our monthly events and food volunteers for the year. This change is due to a few reasons including cost cutting measures, the requirements to remove members' contact information as this booklet/page is periodically used as a marketing tool to attract new members and..... Our calendar of events is now posted on our new website!!!!

That's right. SABS' new website at sanantoniobonsai.org features a calendar of events. In addition to the calendar, our website also shows various photos of members' trees and past exhibits, provides updated Club contact information for others to contact the Club, a list of past presidents, and an overview of the Club's history. It also has a list of resources for all to use including containing past Snips 'N Clips to use as reference. The website is a work in progress and as **new events are brought to my attention, they are added to the calendar so be sure to view it frequently.** I am looking for any and all to submit (via email) any photos of your personal trees you would like added to the website. If you have any comments, concerns, or questions, feel free to email me or catch me at a meeting, as I am now **your Web-master too!**

We are still in need of monthly host volunteers for January, February, August, October, and November. A full meal is not needed, but small nibbles to feed the group is required. Remember you could always share a month with another member to help with costs/cooking and set-up. **Our last change** is the Club's library will be soon permanently set-up at Donna's studio and viewable during

during normal business hours. I soon will be asking for a few volunteers to help me move the library from storage to the book shelves, **which is about a 35 foot distance or 25 paces which ever you prefer.**

RYAN

PROGRAM CORNER

David W

redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

Peter A was born and raised in Hungary, and he immigrated to the United States as a refugee in 1957; Peter served in the U.S. Air Force, and worked for American Airlines before retiring after 25 years. He spent 10 years as a college and university instructor of history, mainly in the United States from 1866 to the present, but also in present-day China and Japan.

Peter earned two master's degrees: a MLS from University of Oklahoma, and a MA in History (Japan) from University of Tulsa. He's traveled to Japan over 30 times, including a stay of six months in 2003, and visited China twice.

Being interested in suiseki and bonsai for over 25 years, Peter attended over half a dozen major exhibits in California, two World Bonsai Congresses in the U.S., a Suisekiten, as well as five Kokufuten exhibits in Tokyo. Peter published about 24 articles in the **ABS Journal, International Bonsai, and Global Bonsai and Stone Collection** which is a bi-lingual magazine published in Shanghai. He has been invited as speaker on suiseki at several Texas clubs, and at the 3rd **International Viewing Stone Symposium** in October, 2006, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. A has also been practicing **Soto Zen Buddhism** for over 50 years, and was a student of Zoketsu Norman Fischer, a retired abbot of the **San Francisco Zen Center**, for nearly two decades. Mr. A received a lay ordination in 2004.

JANUARY MONTHLY TIPS

David W

redhawkbonsai@yahoo.com

Even though we had some very early freezes in November, December stayed quite mild with only a couple of frosty nights. This kind of "Nice for us in South Texas" weather can be dangerous because it'll make us anxious to be clipping, wiring or re-potting something, **anything**. The plants know when its time to grow not only by the warmth, but also when the days start growing longer – just the opposite is what causes them to begin dormancy. Hey, maybe this would be a good time to screen some soil, clean your tools, prep your pots, **just to do something!**

By now all trees should be sleeping and dormant, they *should* be dormant for the rest of winter and around our place that could be a month or just a few more weeks. Dormancy is very important and gives the plant a rest period. With the bouts of mild weather we've had, some trees could start showing signs of breaking dormancy – **watch out for these trees** when we have those cold snaps, they'll be more vulnerable to cold damage. We really don't want to try to stimulate growth (fertilize) until they shows some sign of new growth in the spring season. It's a good idea to give Semi- & tropicals a quarter strength of fertilizer to make them happy. Most won't show any signs of growth until the temperatures get warmer and stay warmer. All species have different temperature requirements and growth patterns. **Be familiar with your plant needs** - not only their seasonal care but also their nutritional needs and the best times for trimming, pinching, repotting, or root pruning. Temperate zones as how the USDA defines it. The Hill country to the Coastal Bend area has zones anywhere from zone 8A to 9B, with 9B being near the bays, Gulf of Mexico and in the Rio Grande Valley. There can be anywhere from 5 to 20 degrees temperature differences in these

areas throughout the year.

USDA Temperate Zones (go to the East Texas link from there) –

<http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>

Another quirk of our winter weather is we tend to have long stretches of cloudiness with little or no rain. Watering this time of year can be challenging, the overcast days can lull you into thinking all is well but the winds can quickly pick up and start drying out the soils and leaves. **Be careful not to over water though**, rot can quickly set in with the cooler temperatures and lack of drying sunlight. Check the soils before watering, some plants may need a good soaking, others just a light splash, especially those that are dormant at this time.

It's a good idea to treat your trees for fungus on a regular basis, monthly is usually sufficient. Treat with Maneb, Benomyl or other copper-based spray. If you were treating your trees for insects with Orthenex remember it has a fungicide in it. Spray the leaves and thoroughly drench the soil, making sure the solution drains out the drain holes.

Check your training wires so they aren't cutting into the branches. If they are cutting in, remove them. **Note** that when removing wires (or re-wiring), be careful - trees can be very brittle during the winter dormancy. Clipping off the wire, with wire cutters, rather than trying to unwind it is a much safer approach, no dormant buds or branches will be damaged.

DAVID



SUISEKI

Each stone represents a special sentiment to the collector, an aesthetic and spiritual ambiance is said to emanate from every stone presenting many questions of the stone's age, origins. Suiseki is indeed quite a spiritual awareness and harmony observing art form, bordering upon the mystique of Earth's creations as these art forms are indeed millions if not billions of years old.



Photographs by Peter A

The stone shown above is a China stone—Ying stone, exhibited at the 5th World Suiseki Symposium in 2005.

These two viewing stones are from Peter's collection. The one below is from Arizona, USA—desert stone.



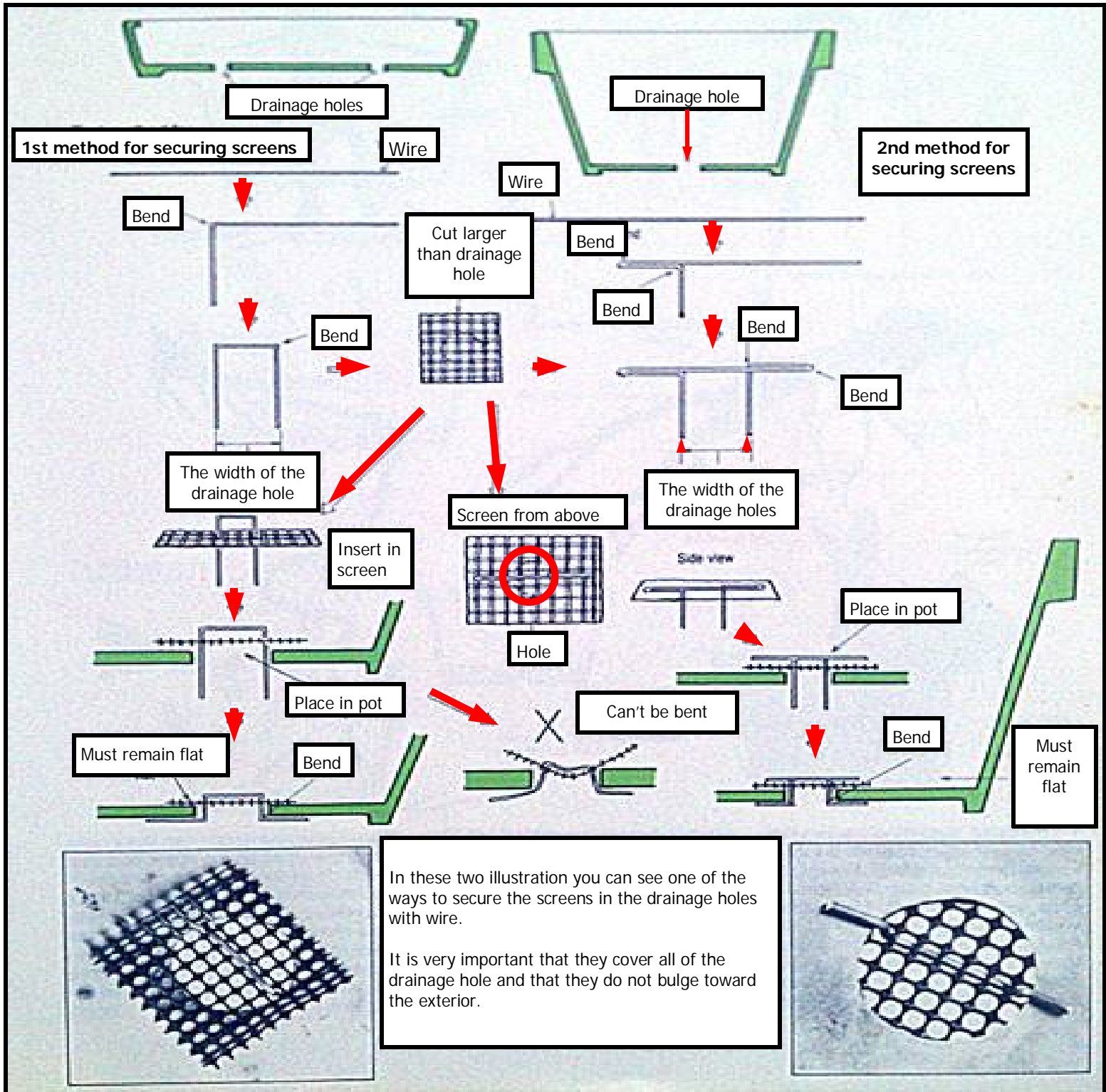
TRANSPLANTING

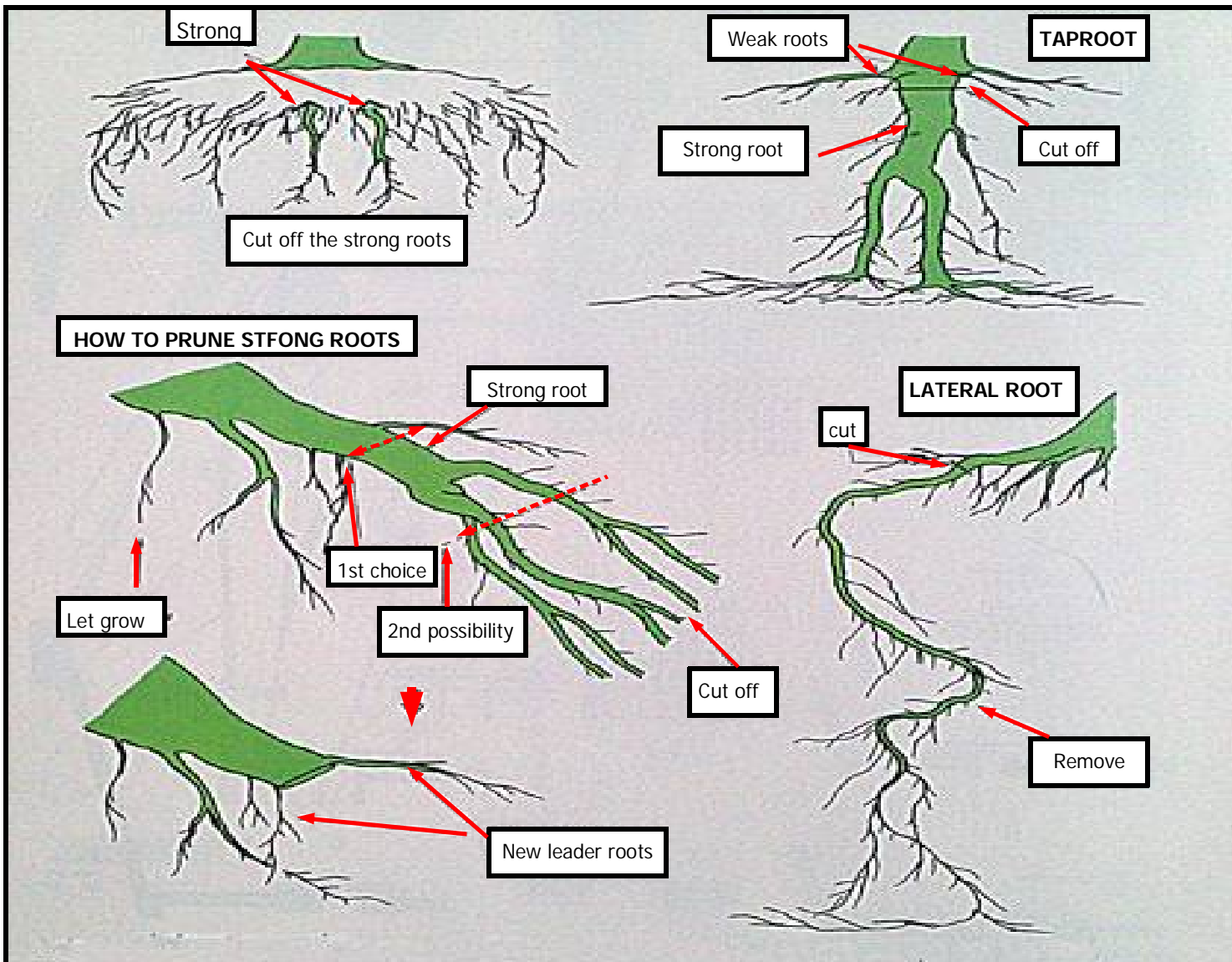
a series developed and presented in *BONSAI TODAY*, Issue 17, 1992-1

Authors:

Ioo Nishikawa, Taisaku Nomotoo, Akira Kansaku, Toshio Onishi, Tokuyi Yoshioka, Eiji Sueda, Hideyi Kanda, Taiyu Ezaka, Hiroshi Takeyama, Noboru Futayama, Saburo Kato, Noboru Kaneko, Sugi Mitsuya, Koji Kubota, Kihachiro Kamiya, Goro Innan, Juyo Ioneia, Mikio Oshima, Tokugiro Ocutani, Sugi Yoshida, Kooji Onishi, Masahiko Kimura, Kioyi Yoshida

PART 6 HOW TO PREPARE THE POT—continued from December 2014 Snips'N'Clips





PART 7—LONG ROOTS PART 8—THICK ROOTS

You could almost guarantee that the first pruning of roots is the most important for a bonsai. When you select material from the field, or from a nursery, the rootball, accustomed to putting out long thick roots, must be changed into a compact mass of fine roots.

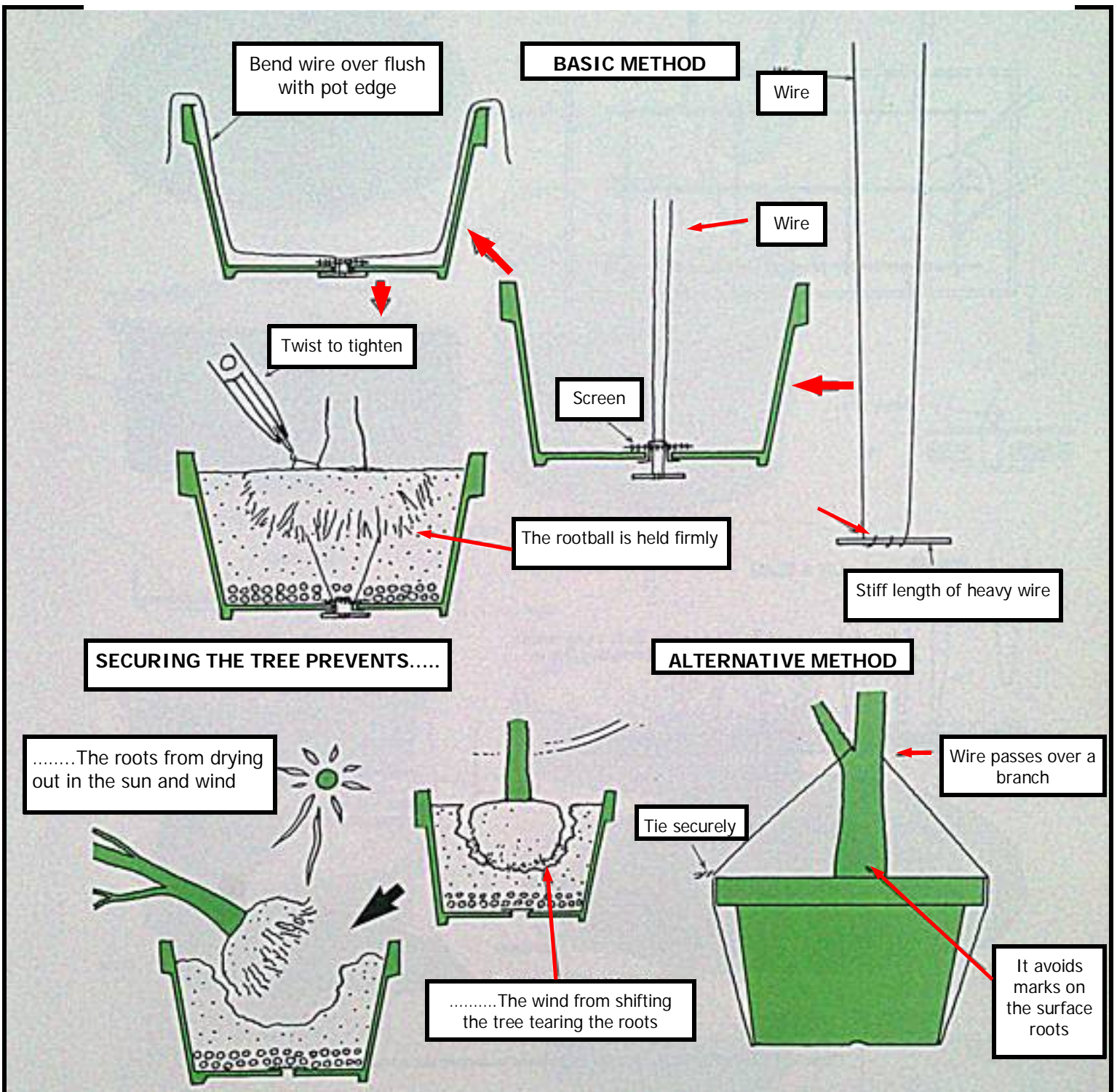
If you cut off only a little of a heavy root the first time, it will then be very difficult for new

roots to become established since you intend to cut it back again. There is the risk of killing many branches.

As far as relative strength is concerned, a root that is thicker or longer than the rest will usually be the strongest, it may be a major source of water and nutrients for the tree.

When you are going to prune a tree collected from the

field, you must take advantage of the fact that it will need less water after branch pruning. When pruning the roots cut off more from the strongest roots and less from the weakest, always making sure that there are an adequate number of feeder roots. In this way, the rootball is balanced resulting in a fine crown.



As you may have observed most bonsai are tied into the pot with wire. This is not done simply as a matter of tradition, but rather serves a practical purpose. When a tree has been recently transplanted a strong wind, a careless blow or an accident can dislodge it from the pot damaging the new roots in the formative stage.

Since it will take two or three months for the roots to begin to be sufficiently abundant to provide a secure hold, fastening it in some manner is a very good practice.

Generally fairly heavy aluminum wire is used to secure it as shown in the sketches above. Using copper wire is not recommended since it may be toxic to some species

when it oxidizes. To keep the wire from digging into any surface root, place a piece of rubber or leather between the wire and the root.

Some prefer to substitute thick raffia twine as it performs the same function without damaging the bark, and it can be removed by simply cutting it away.

BONSAI CALENDAR 2015

- **JANUARY Mini-show – ANY DECIDUOUS TREE**
- **JANUARY Food and Beverage Hosts –**
- **JANUARY 31st – Group Dig at David W 's House**
- **FEBRUARY 21st – Asian Festival**
- **FEBRUARY 27 – March 1st – Spring Home and Garden Show**

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY

\$30 individual
\$50 family
\$25 senior
\$40 senior family



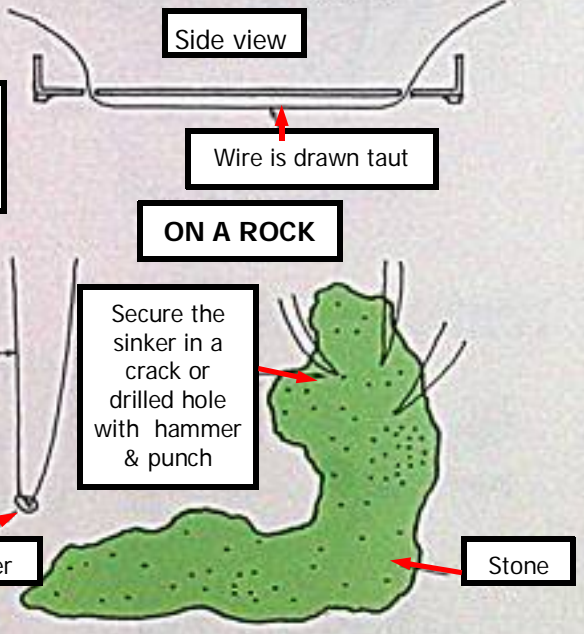
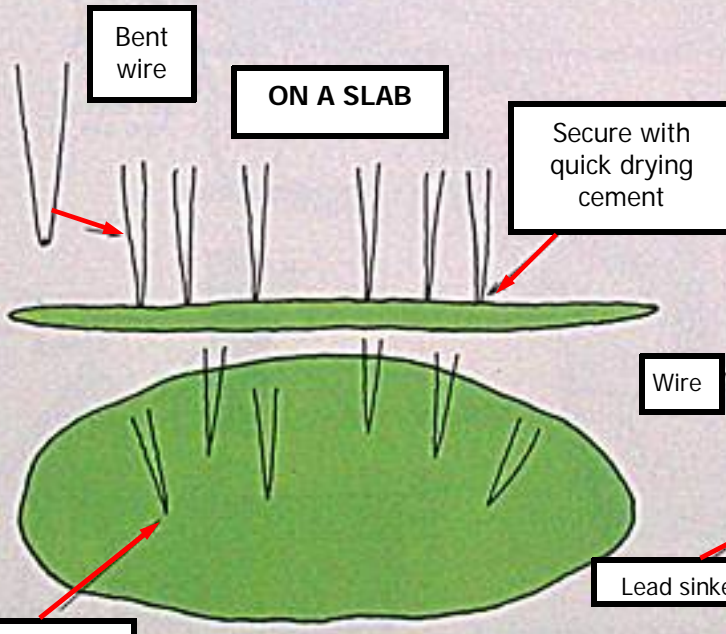
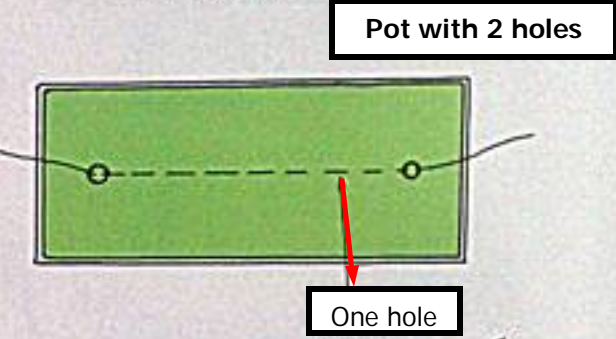
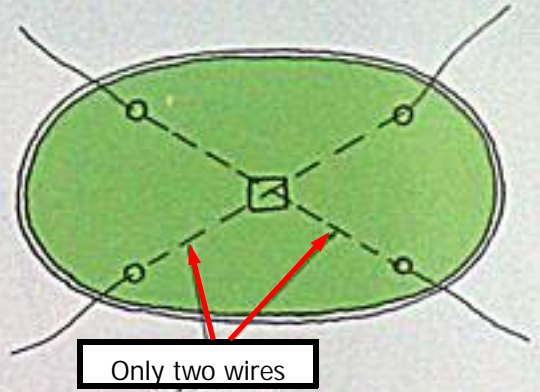
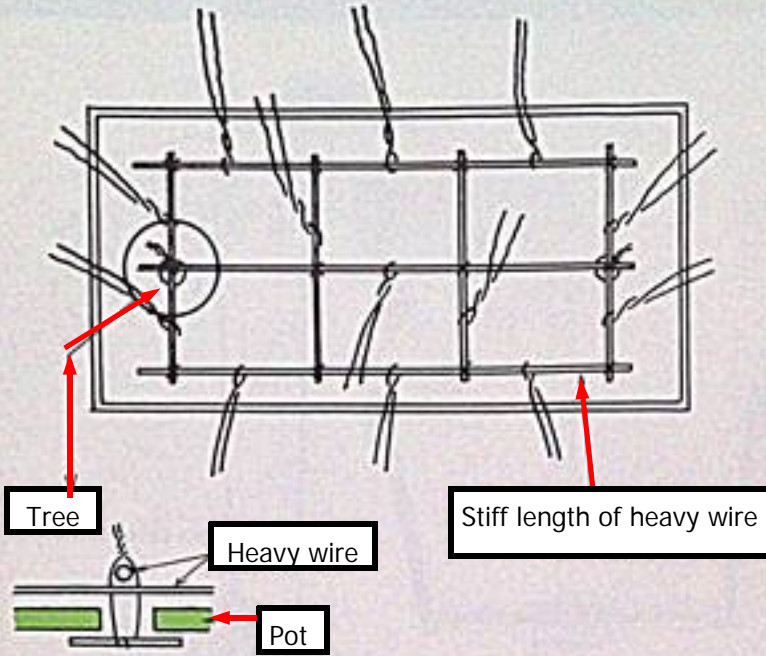
BONSAI OF THE MONTH

Tree of the month, a Cedar Elm in winter dress. The tree was collected several years ago at Red Bird Ranch. It will be transplanted into its' first bonsai pot in 2015. It follows the moyogi style, really a naturalistic tree, now what kind of bonsai pot would be best for this tree? Its deciduous so a glazed pot is in order. The tree is really more masculine than feminine so a—gray, green color? A rectangle not an oval. It's an old elm because of the look of the bark, maybe 25-30 years old. It is 19" tall with a base of 2.5" in width. The stone is compensating for lack of roots on one side. Has some deadwood that needs a little carving. After the tree is potted, it will be brought in for show and tell.

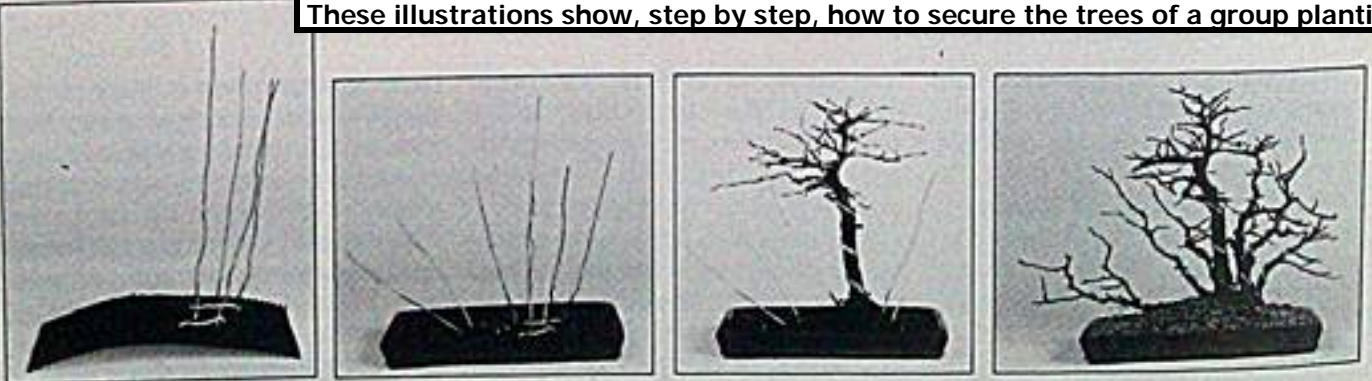


OTHER WAYS OF SECURING TREES

HOW TO SECURE A GROUP PLANTING



These illustrations show, step by step, how to secure the trees of a group planting





The informal upright style (Moyogi) is considered the most popular shape in all bonsai, especially suited to our native Ashe Juniper.

Our logo, represented by this informal style stands for the informal nature of the San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. This popular, interesting style depicts the objectives of the Society—promoting participation and enjoyment of Bonsai. The emblem was adopted as the official logo in September, 1977.

THE SAN ANTONIO BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.

sanantoniobonsai.org

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Publicity:

Ryan O
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David W
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All correspondence should be addressed to:

**San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 6658
San Antonio, Texas, 78209**

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Newsletter editor: Donna L. D , two2views@yahoo.com