



Monthly Meeting Recap

There was a large turn-out for the monthly meeting May 21, 2019, where Robert Reed gave an informative presentation on “Repotting Tropicals”.



Lowell Tilley led the group with Show & Tell. Several club members brought interesting tree varieties in various stages of development, such as this root-over-rock Narrow Leaf Ficus from Lowell’s collection.



Robert brought several tropical varieties from his collection, including this beautiful Water Jasmine in full bloom.



One of our newer members, Dane Hupp, brought a large elm in need of further development. With input from other members, he proceeded to prune the trunk top and upper limb to reduce the height and fullness of the tree.



Howard Merrill discussed his recovering *Portulacaria afra* which lost its bark on the lower third of the tree (despite being in the greenhouse) due to last year's unseasonably cold winter.

Committee Volunteers

Thank you so much to the following volunteers who agreed to help with several of the club's up-coming projects. We really need your help to make our club outstanding!!

Annual Day of Bonsai-Randy Howard
Publicity-Ray Schell, Randy Howard
Beginner's Workshops-Jim Scarton,
Mike Miguel
Saturday Member Study Group- Bea
Randhawa, Shirley Schell

There is an immediate need for more volunteers for the Annual Day of Bonsai scheduled for July 20, 2019. If you did not make the May meeting, or have a change of heart, please plan to volunteer and come to the special Board Meeting on June 4th 6:30 p.m.at

the home of Lowell Tilley, 520 Laurie Lynn Drive, Baton Rouge, to begin planning the event. All members are invited to attend or e-mail any suggestions to lowelltilley@gmail.com An event like this takes many hands and the workload should be shared by the members!!

Just for Fun



Membership Directory

If you did not attend the May monthly meeting, we still need your address, phone number, and e-mail updated for the membership directory. If you are unable to attend the next monthly meeting, please send the information in an e-mail to:

marlajthompson@msn.com

Tips on Wiring Bonsai

-submitted by Lowell Tilley

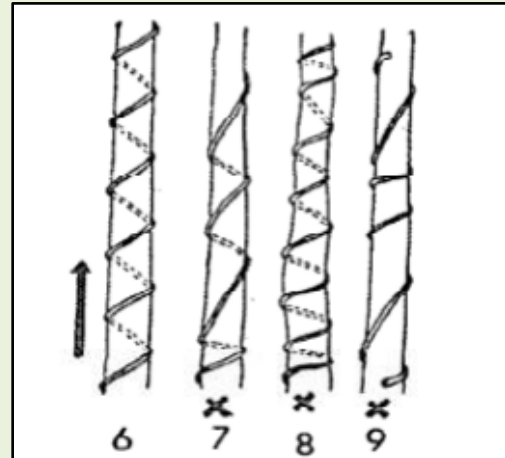
At the last meeting, Robert Reed brought up a very good tip about wiring and bending the branch:

- Always place the wire on the outside of the bend to prevent the branch from breaking. The wire will support the branch and prevent bending it too sharply. Most branches will break if the bend is too sharp.

You should plan where the bends are going to be before you put on the wire. Anytime you bend a branch, it will stress the cambium layer under the bark. Bending it back and forth too much or bending it too sharply can cause the branch to die even though it didn't break. Correctly applied wire will support the branch, prevent over-bending, and protect the cambium layer from being overstressed.

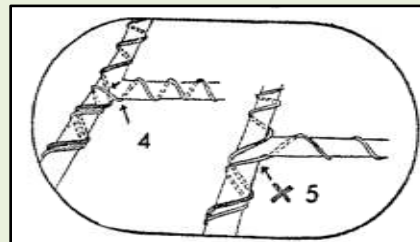
You can look at the instructions that makes it look simple, but when you go to apply it to your bonsai, you find that it not simple, straight, and smooth like the examples shown. One of the most common mistakes is make the coils (pitch) too close. They say the angle should be 45 degrees (pitch twice the diameter of branch). You will have to vary the pitch to fit the wire between the branches and leaves, but 45 degrees should be the maximum angle. The pitch of the wire should be longer for gentle/or slight

bends and shorter for sharper bends. Wiring pitch/angle that matches the branch bend will hold much better with less wire scarring.



Example 6 shows correct 45 degree wiring

Use special care when bending the branch close to the fork.



Example 4 shows correct fork wiring

This is best done by supporting the branch on each side of the bend as you are bending it. The best way to do this is to hold the wire with one set of pliers in one hand and bend the branch with the other hand. If the wire is a very heavy gauge, you may need two pliers.

You will not become an expert overnight and there is more to wiring than just the basics. The more you practice, the better you do it. That is why it is good to have some material

from the swap table to use for practice.

The main points to remember are:

- Don't bend the branch too much before you put the wire on.
- After wiring, don't bend the branch back and forth too much trying to decide which looks best.
- The wire should be on the outside of the bend to support the branch.
- Use a maximum of 45 degree angle and the correct pitch for the type of bend you desire.

This is a printable pdf download web link showing basic wiring techniques. <http://www.midwaybonsai.co.za/Wiring.pdf>

Trip to Forest Hill

Our trip to Forest Hill has been moved to the fall (cooler weather) in conjunction with a collecting day which is being planned. More information will be given in the coming months.

Free Bonsai Reference Materials

Ray Schell writes: I have quite a collection of *Bonsai*, *Bonsai Focus*, and *Bonsai Today* magazines I got from Lowell about a year ago. They are excellent magazines with many tips for newer bonsai enthusiasts, along with good reminders for even experienced bonsai enthusiasts. I will bring the collection to the next meeting and encourage each member to take a few, or a half dozen, home to peruse.

Special GNOBS Event

The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society (GNOBS) will have Pedro Morales, a tropical bonsai expert from Puerto Rico, doing a lecture/demo on Friday, June 21, 7:00 p.m., and a bring- your-own-tree workshop on Saturday, June 22, 9:00 a.m. at Marine Corp. League Hall, 2708 Delaware St., Kenner, LA. While the lecture on Friday is free, you must register for the workshop. Call Dawn Koetting 985-859-3400 or e-mail dkoetting@msn.com for registration and information. If the workshop is full, you should be able to observe. Contact Lowell if you would like to carpool or caravan.

Executive Board

Lowell Tilley-President

lowelltilley@gmail.com

225-241-2396

Robert Reed, Vice President

rreed19@cox.net

504-494-4824

Jean Merrill, Treasurer

hjmerril@yahoo.com

225-275-2917

Marla Thompson, Secretary

marlajthompson@msn.com

225-503-7397

Jim Scarton-Past President

jim.scarton@gmail.com

225-287-5607