



THE TWIG



NOVEMBER 20

AT PFM BONSAI (AT VOORHEESVILLE IF
LOTS OF SNOW)

THE ART OF LITERATI BONSAI WITH PAULINE MUTH

Noon: BYO lunch and fellowship

One PM: meeting and presentation

Come and learn this form of the art of bonsai. After the presentation and demo you may design a literati for your collection. The only cost is that of a tree. If you wish to be in the workshop, bring tools and wire please.

A brief condensation of notes on this style is found later in this newsletter.

The annual dinner and auction is Dec. 4 at 6 PM at the Charlton Tavern: SIGN UP NOW

You and your significant other are invited to an evening of good food, good fellowship and fun at our annual auction. Bring wrapped bonsai items for the auction please. Gag gifts are always fun too. If the item you are bringing is worth a bit...indicate a starting bid on the box. NO starting bids on gags please. This is our biggest fund raiser so check your closets for bonsai items that could use a new home. Bring cash or your check book to pay for items you win.

Send your choice of dinner to Pauline or register at the November meeting. Send Pieri Hayes a check made out to MHBS for your dinner ASAP. \$35 per person...tax and gratuity included. Alcohol/soda priced and paid for at the time. Menu choices are on the next page.

Pieri Hayes 550 Columbia St. Ext
Cohoes NY 12047

THE MENU:

Cheese and Cracker Display during gathering hour.

- Chicken scallopini stack- scallopini sauteed and layered with eggplant parmesan & mozzarella, finished with a light tomato cream.
- Herb encrusted, pan seared red snapper- with a bean medley atop a pool of lemon butter cream, finished with a fresh tomato bruschetta.
- Horseradish Encrusted Pork loin - oven baked and finished with a port wine demi-glaze

Included;

Warm Baguette Bread

Chilled Garden Salad

Chef's Choice Vegetable and Starch

Dessert, Coffee, Decaf / Reg

....drinks to be paid separately as ordered at the dinner.

Bob Hammond Jr. has brought his Dad's pot collection to us to sell . Many members found great pots on Sunday. There are still many pots to choose from. The pots are at Pauline's. Call her to see them.

At the October Meeting

Jon Staples did a comprehensive presentation on Chameacyparis for bonsai followed by a Question and Answer session. Members who brought trees for advice brought them to the group turn table one by one and received comments and advice from all. No one is sure if we solved any design problems, but we certainly added to the idea base on each tree.



NOVEMBER

Time to be sure your winter storage area is clean and ready. Remember to use some system to defeat the critters large and small that will feed on your trees over the winter.

Be sure to remove dead leaves before storing your trees to eliminate a possible food and disease source in your storage area. Spray or dunk your trees before storing them.

When to put the hardy trees away?? For well over 30 years, I have waited until the forecast of the first real snow storm (the one last week only lasted a day here). This is usually close to Christmas. If the temperatures REALLY drop, I may store during Thanksgiving weekend. So here I sit with 55 degrees outside in November....so.....

A Bonsai Close-Up on Literati or Bunjin Style

By Pauline F. Muth

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In China a group of scholars called the literati were the first to do this style. To be Literati a scholar in China had to pass exams given by the government. These men were interested in Literature, History, Philosophy, and the Arts. They were adept at intellectual games and puzzles. When they passed the exam, they became "Men of Books" or "Literati". These men of study were skilled in arts like calligraphy and often painted the trees in the mountains that barely hung on to life. These paintings became the models for the bonsai style we call literati today. During the Song dynasty (960-1278) these scholars were called "wenjen." They wanted to depict nature as it existed in reality.

We think of the trees found along the seashore or in areas where the tree has to reach for meager light.

When the paintings came to Japan they were known as "Bunjin-ga". The bonsai that resulted from these paintings gained a Japanese flavor. In Japan the style is called bunjin. The foliage pads became more trained and stylistic under Japanese influence.

This is a style that is simple yet shows perfect balance and form. It is a form that is best attempted after the artist has mastered the shapes and rules of bonsai for it is in the full understanding of rules that the artist is able to bend and break them and achieves masterful results.

The characteristics of each species will affect the resulting literati and thus determine the final design. Conifers are good for this design or deciduous trees that grow rugged with age.

Although it is a style that bends the normal rules, there are characteristics common to the style:

- It is often a single tree but group literati do exist as twin trunk, forests, or clump styles.
- The trunk is the most important feature ...it has a wonderful line
- Terms used to describe literati are elegant, simplistic, clean, tall, slender and flowing.
- The trunk is often thin and long with no significant taper
- The bends in the trunk have no definite pattern.
- The trunk may be straight, curved or angular has often has a major change in direction. This may occur in the middle or near the apex.
- Mature literati have a trunk that shows aged bark.
- The design must show all dimensions and not be flat
- From $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the trunk should be bare and without foliage
- There should be few branches and they should be in proportion to the height of the tree

- Each branch should be sparse of foliage
- The branches may even cross each other and even the trunk
- A branch may have an acute dropping angle as it leaves the trunk
- The design is asymmetrical
- The resulting bonsai is planted in a shallow container no more than 25% of the height
- Literati shows the spirit of nature.

Literati offer some challenges in long term growth:

- Their height causes them to be top heavy so you may need to tie them to their stands outdoors.
- Care must be taken to keep the foliage sparse and yet keep the tree alive...periodically you may wish to grow the tree in more soil for the health of the tree.

<<from John Naka



Pottery for literati

Traditional pots for this style are round or square. Unusual containers reflecting the conditions of nature are often used. Stone is also suitable. The containers are small and shallow for these creations.

INTERESTED IN TAKING A 10 WEEK BEGINNER'S COURSE STARTING IN JANUARY OR A NEW SESSION OF THE 20 WEEK INTERMEDIATE COURSE? CONTACT PAULINE AT 518 882 1039 Pauline@pfmbonsai.com

REMINDER: THE CLUB SHOW WILL BE IN MAY THIS SPRING....WILL YOUR TREES BE READY?????

Fall/Winter Pine Care Zone 4/5 by Dorothy Raymond

Fall through early winter is an active time in the cycle of pine care. The cooler temperatures and diminishing light start the dormancy for pines. Just prior to full dormancy is the ideal time to perform a number of maintenance activities for pines. This season is the time to modify fertilizer and water to set the pine up for late fall and spring growth. It is also the time to remove old needles and wire.

Modifying Fertilizer and Water

Many pine experts recommend switching from a balanced fertilizer to a high phosphorus fertilizer (0-10-0). This supports root growth and helps harden off foliage for the long winter sleep. Stop fertilizing when temperatures will go below freezing for an extended period of time, typically right before the pines go into storage.

The summer reduction of water to restrict needle size can be relaxed. Never let a pine dry out. Pines should go into the winter well watered but not soggy. Check your storage facility periodically (once a week) to ensure that the pines have water, especially if the temperature is above freezing.

Temperature and Light

Pines have various tolerances for cold. The Japanese white pine is more cold tolerant than the Japanese black pine for example. Check your species to determine how low you can go with temperature. Most pines will go fully dormant at 20 degrees F and not require light. However, if the temperature is above that in your storage facility, your pines will need light. This can be accomplished by natural coming in through a window or the use of a cool temperature light such as a set of fluorescents.

Needle Removal

All pines require the removal of old needles. Typically, third year needles are removed on all branches except very weak ones with no candle buds. Leave 4 – 6 pairs of needles on strong branches, more on weaker ones. You may be able to stimulate bud break on those branches next year with fertilizer and light. On strong branches you can remove second year growth as well. How this is done depends on the species. These needles will pull off easily on Japanese white pines. Black pines must have their needles tweezed (plucked) off one at a time, a daunting task on a large pine. But you can spread the task over the winter. You may also cut black pine needles to reduce their length and allow more light in. In addition to allowing more light into the interior of the branch to stimulate bud growth next spring, needle removal makes it easier to wire pines. Broken or trapped needles are more susceptible to insects and fungal diseases.

Bud Selection

Now is the time to select which buds to remove from individual branches. You usually remove the strongest candle in a cluster of three or more. If you have two buds, you can leave both and manipulate the size of the candles next year during the candling period, typically around June. If you have one bud, leave it and deal with it during candling in the early summer. If you are fortunate enough to have three or more, select two or three of the smaller buds and remove the rest. Another rule of thumb is to remove strong buds on strong branches and weak buds on weak branches. Keep in mind bud orientation, you want buds that will grow horizontally rather than up or down. This makes branch placement and selection easier in the following years.

Styling/Wiring

Fall and early winter are the best time to do major cuts on pine branches because the sap is withdrawing. Major pruning and wiring should not be done on frozen trees. Bring the trees in to warm up before you wire or prune, or better still, finish your work before you put the trees in storage. Check current wiring to ensure nothing is biting in. Rewire if necessary.

When spring comes around and you bring your trees out, treat them with a fungicide as soon as temperatures permit and get ready for spring care.

**DUES MAY BE PAID FROM NOW UNTIL JANUARY FOR 2012
SEND YOUR CHECKS TO PIERI...ADDRESS ON THE FIRST PAGE.**

**WANTED: MEMBERS WILLING TO SERVE ON THE
EXECUTIVE BOARD....CALL PRESIDENT TOM !!**

**JOIN ABS AND BCI NEXT SUMMER
AT THIS GREAT EVENT IN DENVER**

GO TO <http://bonsai2012.org/> FOR DETAILS

[check out these bonsai links](#)

American Bonsai Society - www.absbonsai.org

Bonsai Clubs International - www.bonsai-bci.com

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies - www.midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com

National Bonsai Federation - www.bonsai-nbf.org

The MHBS newsletter "The Twig" is also posted at www.pfmbonsai.com

THE MHBS WEB SITE IS <http://mohawkhudsonbonsai.org/>

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