

MHBS THE TWIG

DOUBLE THE FUN JUNE 25 2 CHOICES FOR GREAT FUN WORKSHOPS
9 AM Phoenix Grafting all day workshop 1PM Accent Plant afternoon workshop

Dave Hodgetts will conduct the Phoenix Grafting workshop all day. Gayle Fiato donated some wonderful driftwood for the workshop or you may bring your own. There is a variety of Shimpaku stock to buy to work with. **REGISTER NOW FOR THE WORKSHOP. Limited by the driftwood supply. FEE is \$15 for supplies plus the cost of your juniper. Bring tools, wire, turntable, small screw driver, a larger pot or box for training.**



Pauline Muth will conduct the after noon accent / kusamono workshop. Plenty of pots and plants will be available for sale but you may bring your own. Plant up a variety to use at the club show this fall and in your collection.

FOR SUNDAY LUNCH REMEMBER TO BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE!! DO NOT FORGET TO BRING ITEMS BONSAI AND ACCENTS FOR THE SHOW TABLE

MHBS is Invited:

Join Pauline for the weekend July 8-9 at her annual pfm bonsai summer camp

This is an annual event aimed at giving bonsai people a break to work on their bonsai in a friendly atmosphere with no home distractions.

Camp opens at 8 AM on Saturday. (you may set up camping Friday evening)We will have lots of bonsai materials collected and cultured for sale.

Camp works from 8 to 4 each day Join us for dinner and the evening campfire Saturday.

People camp on site, in the studio, in B &Bs, in hotels, or drive in each day.

Frank Mihalic will be on site along with Pauline to help design and consult. Kris Springer will be bringing lots of collected material for sale.

What to bring for camp:

- plenty of trees to work on (of course we will have new stock to tempt you!)
- your tools, wire, turn table etc.
- wine or your choice of drink for the Saturday evening BYO party
- a camera to record your progress
- a camp chair for around the fire on Saturday evening (we have some)
- a smile

Registration includes food (two lunches and one dinner plus simple breakfasts if camping overnight) and the camp shirt. \$120 Call or email Pauline for a registration form



MHBS minutes for May 14, 2017

President Tom called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM 12 members and 2 guests and were present

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 25 STARTING TIME IS 9 AM

- Accent plantings for our club show. Please bring the pots and plants that you would like to use. If you have extra plants, bring them to share. Pots will be available for a small donation to the club. Pauline will also have accent plants and pots for sale.
- Phoenix graphing with driftwood Gayle has given some driftwood to be used in the graphing. Bring your materials and tools. Shimpaku trees will also be available for sale.

July 28 – 30 Mark Arpag with white cedars

- FRIDAY July 28 Pat won the raffle and will be working with Mark all day
- SATURDAY July 29 All day workshop with Mark starting at 9 AM Cost of workshop and details to follow.
- SUNDAY July 30 Collected white cedar demo with Mark at 12 PM

August 27 Picnic, pot exchange, and club member displays critique

September 23 – 24 club show tentative dates

October 29 Bonsai display with Tom and Sandy

November 19 Pines with David Hodgetts

December 2 Annual dinner and auction

OLD BUSINESS

- Our reservation for the annual dinner and auction on December 2, 2017 at Normandside in Delmar, NY has been confirmed. The menu selections will be discussed at a future date.

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Many thanks to Mauro Stemberger for his work, guidance, and instruction in creating a design and style for your bonsai tree.
- Thanks to Joann for contacting and making arrangements at Normandside in Delmar, NY for our annual dinner and auction.
- WELCOME to our new member, David.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting was adjourned.

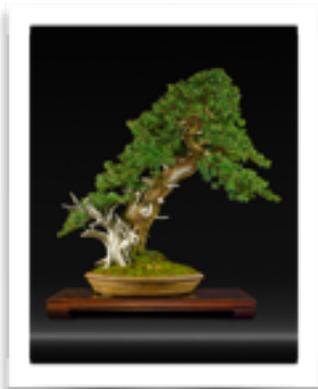
Respectfully submitted

Sandra Kiszkiel

secretary MHBS

A Bonsai Close Up on Phoenix Grafting----

by Pauline F. Muth (copyright 1996, revised 2002,7, 12)



The incredible age depicted by venerable old trees surviving the decades showing the scars of age in jin and shari has fascinated all of us.

Driftwood styled bonsai depicts the essence of antiquity. Just as the mythical phoenix bird rises from the ashes of death, a masterpiece bonsai can be created by combining a younger living tree with a beautiful piece of driftwood.

The driftwood may come:

-from a once loved bonsai, now in permanent dormancy or

-from a beautiful piece of wood found in the mountains, along a stream or the ocean.

Look for pieces with interesting natural lines. The piece may be modified with careful sculptural techniques, but the lines must be natural and artistically appealing. The living tree will be attached to front and sides so select wood that has a pleasing front. Remember that a life line should show in the front of your

composition. The living material should have a flexible trunk and branches to facilitate bending it to the shape of the driftwood. Ideally, the driftwood and living material are of the **same** species. Acceptable results can be achieved, however, if both appear similar.

Many species have been used for this treatment.

Among those often used are:

apricot

azalea

birch

cedars

cherry

cypress

juniper

cotoneaster

dwarf honeysuckle

hawthorn

hornbeam

firethorn

jasmine

oak

pinus

pomegranate

quince

rhododendrons

rosemary (difficult)

willows (great for beginners)

wisteria

This technique should be done in early spring just as dormancy is breaking. The plant will have the best chance of survival when given the longest period of time to grow and recover from "surgery" before winter dormancy.

The Technique

1. Prepare the piece of driftwood and make any design modification desired.

- Using a wire brush, and perhaps a soap solution, carefully scrub the driftwood clean. Remember to work with the grain as you scrub. Be careful to eliminate any pockets that will hold water later and lead to rot. Remove any remains of bark.
- Using a hand or motorized carving tool, make design modifications as desired.
- You may wish to carve a groove into the trunk marking the line to which the living trunk will be applied later. This procedure often allows the resulting graft to look more natural than those applied to a flat surface.
- Treat the clean wood with a good wood preservative. You may wish to bleach the wood using lime sulfur before using the sealant.
- Form an anchor for the driftwood by using a fast acting cement like Ugli to make a base. Be sure to allow for root growth.
- You may also attach the driftwood to a wood base that has been treated with preservation and is wired into the pot.

- Drill holes in the base of the driftwood and the base you attached for roots to grow through.
2. Prepare the plant material.
 - Remove the plant material from its pot and clean some of the soil from the roots. Wrap the root ball to keep the roots moist.
 - Using a very sharp knife, cut away a small section of the trunk's bark and cambium layer on the side to be attached to the drift wood. This must run in a line from the trunk base to the upper most point where the trunk will be attached. This will allow the future callus to form attached to the driftwood.
 - Trim any unneeded branches from the tree.
 3. Attach the tree to the driftwood.
 - Place the tree along the driftwood and attach it using one or more of these techniques: (Remember it is vital to attach the trunk securely without air spaces. The exposed part of the trunk is placed against the driftwood.)
 - ∇ Use black-root-over rock tape to attach the trunk by winding it around the tree and driftwood. (I prefer this because the tape holds evenly, stretches with time and does not degrade for several years.) Other ways include cable ties.
 - ∇ Strap the tree to the driftwood using raffia that has been soaked in water.
 - ∇ Wind commercial packaging material around the trunk that was first protected by bits of soft sponge.
 - ∇ Use plastic cable fasteners to attach the tree. (I find this method is only good for positioning. Scarring results from using these straps as the main securing agent.)
 - ∇ Use tiny brass screws to attach the tree trunk first. The tree eventually grows over these screws. Then secure with your choice of wrapping.
 - If the method you used left parts of the cut trunk exposed to the air, apply grafting wax to each side of the trunk line to prevent drying out and insect and fungal infestations.
 4. Pot the phoenix graft.
 - Soak the root ball in a transplanting solution.
 - Prepare the pot with wires, drainage screening and a coarse drainage bonsai soil mix. At this stage it should be generously potted.
 - Plant the tree making sure the spread the roots over the base of the driftwood support. Use a compost heavy bonsai soil mix with good drainage properties. Wire the base and roots in well. Dust the roots with rooting hormone to promote new root growth.
 5. Grow the tree on.
 - The resulting tree should be grown in sunlight for several seasons using a regular fertilizer and watering schedule.
 - Some trimming may be done, but vigorous growth is needed to promote the growth of the trunk into the driftwood.
 - Watch for scar damage. The black tape method usually prevents this from occurring.
 - After at least three years the taping can be carefully removed. Cut the tape off rather than pulling it off.
 6. Style the tree once the graft has taken and is stable.
 - The graft will become more secure with age, but at first be careful of placing stress on it when wiring it.
 - Repot as needed taking care not to destroy roots that have passed through the holes in the driftwood's artificial base.

JUNE 2017

MHBS EVENTS

June 25

- Accent plantings for our club show
- Phoenix graphing with driftwood

July 28 – 30 Mark Arpag with white cedars

- FRIDAY, July 28 individual half day work session with Mark for Pat, winner of both raffles
- SATURDAY July 29 all day workshop with Mark starting at 10 AM
- SUNDAY July 30 demo with Mark at 12 PM

August 27 picnic, pot exchange, and club member displays critique

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EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED:

JUNE 24-25 NATIONAL SHOHIN EXHIBITION see <http://www.internationalbonsai.com> for details

OCTOBER 26-29 GSBF CONVENTION in Riverside CA. California's annual bonsai event.

FEB 2-4, 2018 SHOHIN CONVENTION in CA. This is one of the best conventions in bonsai. It is devoted to shohin bonsai, It is filled with demos and workshops and sells out early. Watch for news in Early November for this long standing event that only occurs the first weekend in February in even years.

2017 MHBS OFFICERS

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ALSO WATCH US ON FACEBOOK