

Newsletter of the
Hukyu Bonsai Society

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of Tampa

APRIL 2006



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THE LINE OF YOUR BONSAI

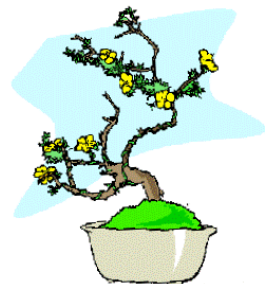
By Robert Yarbrough

Line, as used in bonsai, is one of the most important elements of bonsai design. Line is generally defined as the directional movement of the trunk(s). This movement can be straight and vertical as in formal uprights or can follow multiple changes in direction as in most informal uprights. The interest of the final design is often based on the line of the trunk.



Bonsai artists, such as John Naka, would often look at a pre-bonsai and consider potential lines of the tree as the first step in deciding on a design. Picking the line can determine the placement of your branches. Things to consider in picking a line generally include the location of surface roots, the amount of taper a specific line will have, amount of movement in the trunk, and location of existing branches. It is best to pick a line that takes advantage of any surface roots and taper that may be available. Branches can usually be developed or grafted into position as needed.

Trees usually look best if the entire tree tells the same story. If the bottom of the trunk is curved then the top should be curved. If the style of your tree is informal upright, the style usually looks best if the lower portions of the trunk have more extreme curves than the top. The curves at the bottom should also be further apart than the curves at the top of the tree. Common nursery stock generally has very poor line because the first six inches to a foot is usually very straight which usually means the top must be straight. This type of tree can be made into an informal upright by replanting the material at an angle and growing a new top which may take years.



The line of the tree often dictates whether the tree is masculine or feminine. Large, bold, very straight or angular trees are often considered masculine. Feminine trees usually have thin trunks with graceful curves. Common examples of masculine trees are black pines whereas feminine trees are usually red pines or Japanese maples.

The type of pot to be used is also affected by the line of the tree. Trees with straight lines (masculine) look best in rectangular pots. Trees that have curves often look better in rectangular pots with rounded corners or oval pots. Cascade styles require large pots capable of counterbalancing the visual weight of the foliage.

If you are uncertain about finding the line of your pre-bonsai, ask club members with a little more experience. Always consider all the options available before styling a tree.

April: Guidelines for Care

Weather Protection and Location - If tropicals have not been moved out of their protected area last month, they should be now if the temperature has remained above 50 degrees.

Watering - Warmer weather and new growth will require more watering. Be cautious, over-watering will cause oversized leaves and too much growth. Toward the end of the month watering may be needed more than once a day because of the higher temperatures.

Feeding - Continue feeding lightly with balanced fertilizer (ex. 1/2 strength 10-10-10) about every two weeks. It is a good idea to rotate between organic fertilizer at full strength and inorganic fertilizer at half strength.

Styling - Watch for wire damage with the fast growth now. Prune the new growth back to one or two leaves or buds on broad leaf trees.

Repotting - It is getting too late to transplant deciduous trees and conifers.

Pest Control - Watch for aphids, boring insects, spider mites, mealy bugs, and specifically caterpillars. Use appropriate insecticide and follow label instructions. For some insects soapy water will do the job (ex. 1 T. Basic-H in 1 gallon of water) used as needed to drown insects. Use daily if required on any plant except succulents and the flowers of most plants.

Special Notes - At the end of the month repeat the bald cypress fungicide drench to prevent summer leaf browning.

FUTURE EVENTS

April 15, 2006: Club Picnic & Workshop - Setup Storage Shed and Improve Appearance of Display Tables. Bring a dish to share. Meat and drinks will be provided.

April 21 to June 11, 2006: The EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival. BSF members' bonsai will be displayed at the Japanese pavilion torii along the shore of the World Showcase Lagoon and at the "Meadow" behind the Pagoda, as well as on the porch of one of the restaurants. Since 2005, more bonsai exhibits have been added to include the Chinese Pavilion.

April 22, 2006: Hukyu Beginners Bonsai Class at USF with Eric Wigert. Volunteers needed to assist students. See page 3 for more information.



May 25-29: BSF Convention "Bonsai Bridges" in Gainesville, FL. For more information visit www.bonsaibridges2006.us. See page 3 for an update on the convention!

Message from the President

Annual Hukyu Picnic

The April meeting will be a club picnic and workshop. We have long needed a storage area for club supplies. The board has approved the purchase of a storage shed and we will assemble and set up the new shed at USF Botanical Gardens on April 15, 2006. We need as many willing hands to work on this project as possible so please plan to attend this meeting and lend your support. In addition, we plan to improve the appearance of the plant table area. I have ordered and received the missing parts for the 4th plant table. Anyone who participated in the assembling of the first 3 tables is requested to help finish this last table. We also plan to mulch the entire plant table area (USF agreed to supply the mulch from their compost piles) and to place pavers under the legs of the four tables. It wouldn't hurt to do some weeding of the plants also. As you can see, we have a job for you.

The picnic is always a hit - everyone likes to eat! The club will provide Nathan's hotdogs, hamburgers and beverages. Please bring a dish to share - chips, salads, etc. The picnic was well attended last year and was a very enjoyable time. I hope to see you there.

Faye Miller

Bonsai Bridges Convention Update

The situation at noon on April 10 was As follows:

- ◆ ***Workshops are filling up with some quite close to closing registration***
- ◆ ***The convention hotel has reserved over 60% of their BSF block leaving only about 40 rooms available.***

Now's the time to register to get your Choice of workshops and a room in the Convention hotel!



April 22, 2006: Hukyu's Beginner's Bonsai Class will be held at USF. It will be taught by Eric Wigert of Wigert's Mango Grove & Nursery in Bokeelia, FL. Class fee of \$55 includes tree, pot, soil, bonsai tool, and instruction materials. Class size is limited to 20; sign up soon so you don't miss out.



CLUB SOIL FOR SALE
\$3.50 per Gallon

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LOOK FOR US ON THE WEB!

<http://hukyubonsai.com>

Are you in need of tools for our very important hobby? If so, please contact **Steve Varn**. He sells the **Joshua Roth Tool** line at a very reasonable price. See him at a meeting or contact him at: **813-949-7778**.

HUKYU SHIRTS & NAME TAGS

Contact Cindy Petterson @ 863-683-3555 to order magnetic name tags @ \$10.00 each. Contact Wes Miller @ 231-6837 to order club shirts @ \$25.00 each. We have men's shirts with pockets and a lady's style shirt. The name tags and shirts really look good at club events and club trips.

- Do you have a special concern or interest you would like to see highlighted in the newsletter? Would you like to write an article, provide a picture, or profile to share with your fellow club members? If so, please email them to me at: esearfos@admin.usf.edu

2006 Program List

Month	Master	Program
January	Eric Wigert	Workshop/Beginning Styling
February	NA	Club Workshop @ USF (Club Trees)
2/25/05 - 2/26/05	Field Trip	Miami Area
March	Toby Diaz	Black Olive
April	NA	Club Picnic & Workshop - Setup Storage Shed/Improve Appearance of Tables
4/22/2005	Eric Wigert	Beginner Class for the Public
May	Ernie Fernandez	Rock Plantings
5/26/05 - 5/29/05	BSF Convention	Gainesville, Fl.
June	Mike Cartrett	Jaboticaba Workshop (Limited to 20) Rare South American Fruit Tree
July	Master's Critique	Club Master's Critique Your Plants
August	Chris Frye	Black Pines
September	Alan Staford	Moss & Accent Plants
October	Club Auction	Donations, Club Trees, Etc.
10/21/2005	Eric Wigert	Intermediate Class for the Public
November	Mike Rogers	Bending Trees/Trident Maples
December	Christmas Party	TBA