



Serving the Pikes Peak Area since 1987

Next up:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2012

Workshop: Wiring and further shaping of our January Rocky Mountain junipers and other trees, at the Senior Center CD Smith Room, 1514 N. Hancock (southwest corner of Camarillo at the top of Hancock, four blocks or 1/3 mile north of Uintah St.), just northeast of downtown Colorado Springs. (719) 387-6000. Bring your tree and gloves – wire will be supplied.

Why do we wire? It's somewhat like putting braces on teeth, only reversed: a temporary measure to fill in some gaps between branches, to add interesting curves to straight branches, to visually shorten long branches, to straighten a few select curving branches or trunk especially when designating a new apex.

A few tips/techniques to have in mind before we start: Wire is left on conifers longer than on faster-growing deciduous or broad-leaf trees. Remove it just before the bark starts to grow around the wire and forms permanent scars (less noticeable, however, with rough-barked trees). Remove wire by snipping it into several manageable pieces and carefully take the pieces off the branches. DO NOT try to unwrap the wire: 1) you could damage smaller branches and buds, and 2) wire is not that expensive. If the branch springs [at least partially] back to where it was, you just need to wire again for another season or two.

Use aluminum wire $\frac{1}{2}$ the diameter of the branch to be wired, copper $\frac{1}{3}$ the diameter; anchor one end of the wire either in the soil at the base of the tree or around the trunk; wrap not too tightly and not too widely spaced at a 45 degree angle to the branch; try not to cross wire anywhere, wrap close parallel if at all possible; wrap the wire first and then afterwards bend the branch by holding on to the wire; put a small less noticeable hook at the end of the wire instead of trying to wrap it all the way to the end of the branch.

1) Do an initial pruning/shaping to define the main lines of the tree trunk and main branches; 2) wire, if necessary or desired for further shaping; 3) do additional trimming for refinement of the shape. Remember: what your tree initially looks like is not the desired end-product. We look forward with an eye to filling in the foliage while allowing spaces for air and light circulation, and further defining the tree with slightly thicker branches and trunk.

The two things bonsai novices hate to do most? Prune enough and wire at all!

Upcoming:

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, MARCH 9 - 11, 2012

Club participation in Spencer's Spring Garden Show, 4720 Center Valley Drive, off of U.S. 85-87 in north Fountain, north of the Wal-Mart, right next to the Goodwill store, and behind Burger King, *in lieu of a regular meeting*. 9 am - 5 pm Fri and Sat, 10 am - 3 pm Sun.

Our Updated Meetings Schedule <http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/PPB/Meetings.html>

For your continuing education:

On-line Club Newsletters <http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/Newsletters.html>

Some Bonsai Forums and Blogs <http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/ForumBlogs.html>

On-line Bonsai Magazines <http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/Magazines2.html#Online>

On-line Free Books and e-Books
 <http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/Books/OnlineBooks.html>

Teacher and Artist Interviews <http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/BigPicture/Interviews.html>

And, as always, the bottom line is: enjoy your trees.

Cordially,

Robert J. Baran
Secretary/Webmaster