



Bonsai Notebook

www.austinbonsaisociety.com

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

March 2022 vol 138

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Calendar of Events

- **March 9**
Juniper

2022 Board of Directors

Roland Lopez
President

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Vice President

Ruwan Perera
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Gloria Norberg
Treasurer

Morgan Bean
Member-At-Large

Jacob Keller
Member-At-Large

Gerrit Clemence
Member-At-Large

Volunteers

N/A

President's Message

By Roland Lopez

Hello my friends!

I hope that your repotting and collecting season has gone well and you're all caught up! Spring is finally here and it is beautiful. It's so great to say hello to your trees once again, isn't it?

I hope you were able to use Scott Barboza's lesson this season! Trunk chopping is a pretty in depth topic. When you hear the words "trunk chop", you probably think very little on the subject. I know I did. There's much more to just chopping a tree down than we thought! I'm really glad we got to have Scott and I hope you enjoyed his presentation as much as I did!

This month, we have Bjorn Bjorholm of Eisei-en to teach us about juniper design. Junipers are some of the most mesmerizing trees we can utilize as bonsai. Their ability to do many things leaves some practitioners puzzled as to which decisions to make when approaching them for their first styling. Bjorn will break that process down for us and help us confidently execute a first iteration design of our beloved junipers! Please join us!

Thanks everyone and I'm looking forward to seeing y'all soon!

Warmly smiling,

Roland

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ABS Library

<https://abslibrary.libib.com/>

YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL5knKbNLd3EOYwjkJNIneA>

ABS Board Minutes

February 2022

7:05 - Meeting starts.

Attendees: Roland, Gloria, Jacob, Gerrit, Ruwan

Bjorn for March - Need to make money to pay his fee

Repotting workshop in March

Finalizing schedule

Meeting adjourned: 8:15

Reminder for club membership

2022 membership fee

Individual	\$32.50
Family	\$37.50
Newsletter monthly advertisements:	\$37.50
Directory advertisement:	\$11

You may contact payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com for convenient electronic payment options (processing fee included).

Membership Information

From our Treasurer

2022 Membership, Directory and Newsletter Advertisement Dues are Due and ... Happy New Year!!

Membership

Annual membership dues are due in January for 2022; the amounts due are the same as last year, i.e., \$30 per individual or \$35 per family. NOTE: We have a strong preference that you pay via the PAYPAL™ payment system using the following link: <http://austinbonsaisociety.com/membershipinformation.html>. This link is also available at the Austin Bonsai Society website under the membership tab. The PAYPAL™ fee brings the total amount due to \$32.50 per individual or \$37.50 per family.

Should you choose to pay using a check, please send an email to gnorberg@austin.rr.com to obtain an address for mailing and address your check to the Austin Bonsai Society.

Directory Information and Advertisement Fees

As long as you have paid your dues by February, your contact information will be in the ABS Directory which will be assembled and mailed to the address we have on file for you in early March. If you have moved during the past year or are a new member, please ensure that your new address is forwarded to the above webmaster address.

Payment for advertising in the Directory is due also; the fee is \$10.00.

Monthly Newsletter Advertisement Fees

Should you choose to advertise your business in the monthly ABS Newsletter for 2021, please pay the fee amount of \$37.50 via the PAYPAL™ payment system. Alternatively, make a check out to the Austin Bonsai Society for \$35.00 and obtain a mailing address from gnorberg@austin.rr.com.

Should you have any question/uncertainties regarding electronic payments, please contact our webmaster at the email address above.

Wiring

By Scott Barbosa

Wiring is one of the most important steps in styling a refined bonsai. You may have heard several bonsai master say, "Wiring is bonsai and bonsai is wiring". From one bonsai professional garden to another the wiring techniques may vary. They do, however, share the same basic principles.

At its most fundamental, good wiring is guided by effectiveness and aesthetics. It must be both functional and beautiful.

Effectiveness is achieved when you can bend the trunk or the branch into the desired position. The wire is securely anchored. The minimum amount of wire is used to do the job. (Too large a wire is harder to apply and can damage bark. Too small a wire will not have the strength to do the job. The strength of the wire should be slightly greater than the branch or trunk you wish to bend.

The best angle to apply wire onto trunks and branches is about a 45-60 degree angle. Tighter angles allow for tighter bends and looser angles mean more gentle curves. Whatever angle you choose, make it consistent throughout the tree.

Wiring is made beautiful by economy (apply the minimum amount necessary to be effective), concealment (hide the wire with foliage branches and trunk) and when the wiring itself is well done. Good quality wiring is expressed by (among other things) even spirals, coils that are neither too loose or too tight and an absence of crossed wires.

Copper wire is more suitable for conifers. Aluminum is better on deciduous, fruiting, flowering and some broad leaf evergreen.

Remove wire when it starts to cut into the bark. Wire can start biting into the tree after about one year for a conifer. It will take longer on an older tree. Be watchful with the wire on a young, fast growing tree. During the growing season, wire can start cutting into the bark of a young maple in a matter of weeks.

Unwind fine wire (smaller than #14) and cut off coarser wire (#12 or bigger). When unwinding wire, use pliers to grave the end of the wire and support the branch with the fingers of your other hand. Then untwist the wire in the opposite you way the wire was applied. When cutting wire, cut each spiral off with a bonsai wire cutter. Check carefully to ensure you've not left any small coils of wire on the branch - it is easy to do and they can cause a lot of damage. You may have to use a combination of both unwinding and cutting for deeply embedded wire.



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Wiring

By Scott Barbosa

Fig 1. The wire is anchored into the soil at the same angle as the coils on the trunk. (A) The smaller wire is tucked under the larger wire (do not use this technique if you have not been trained in it). The wire needs 1 1/2 to 2 complete turns (360 degrees in order to be anchored effectively). (B) Large wire ends at point C should be placed in the back and out of sight.

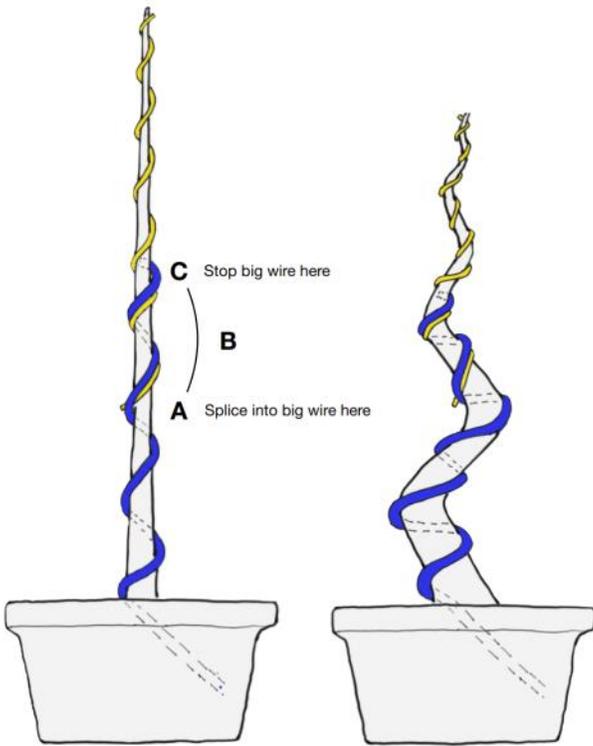


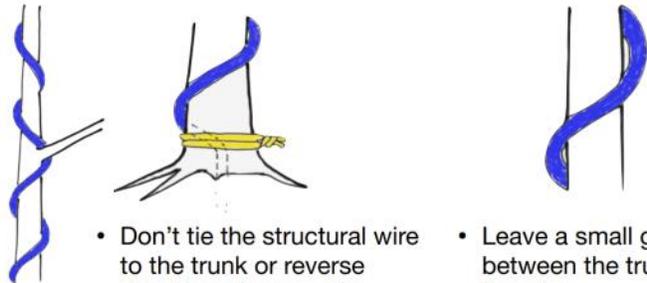
Figure 1

Figure 2

Fig 2. The trunk is bent. The wire supports the outside of each bend.

Notes:

- Two small wires do not have the strength of one larger wire - try to use one larger wire rather than doubling up.
- Make a bend every 1 1/2 coils of the wire. When you bend, keep your finger on the inside of the branch and the wire on the outside of the bend. If you want to make bends in between the coils, it's OK to use a second wire. Put the coil in the middle - that way you can bend every turn.



- Don't tie the structural wire to the trunk or reverse direction of your coils
- Leave a small gap between the trunk and the wire

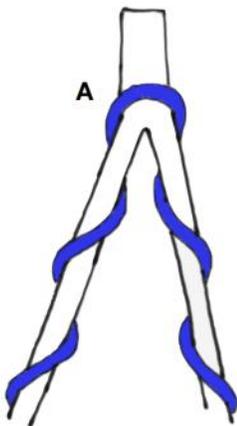


Figure 3

Fig 3. Use one wire to wire two branches. Anchor point is at A. Put the coil at the anchor point on top to bend down or on the bottom to bend up. Put the coil at the bottom if you are using a guy wire.

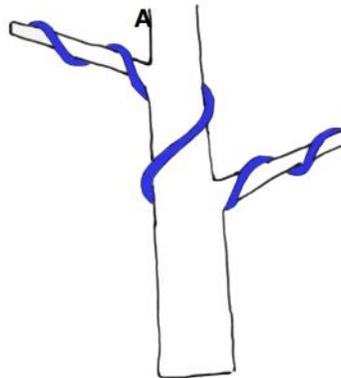


Figure 4

Fig 4. One way to wire two branches at different locations on the trunk. Start on the bottom branch as an anchor and then finish on the top branch. The example is wired for a soft curve. Bring the wire at point A more straight vertically if you want to bend the branch down at the exit point from the trunk.

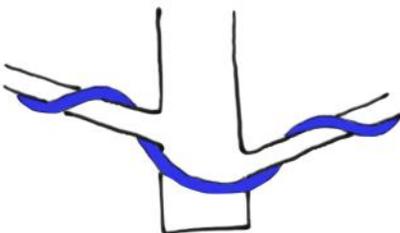


Figure 5

Fig 5. This wiring is not effective as there is no anchor point. Wiring bar branches in this way will result in a "teeter-totter", where changing the position of one branch will move the other. Branches can break easily this way.

Wiring

By Scott Barbosa

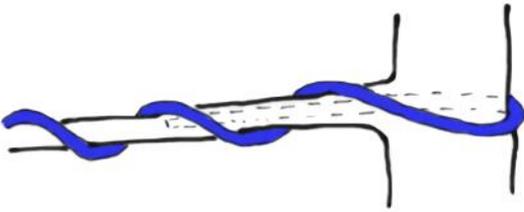


Figure 6

Fig 6. One way to wire a single branch when there is no anchor. Always try to anchor to another branch or a different spot on the trunk. This arrangement will always be unstable.

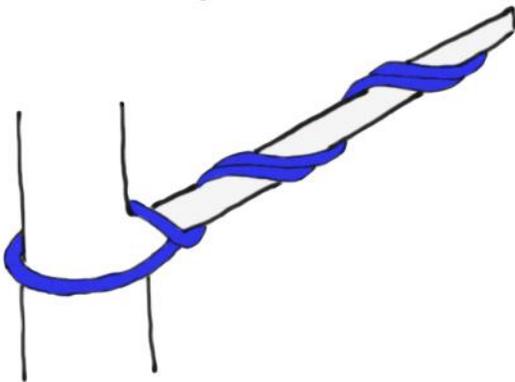


Figure 7

Fig 7. Although still unstable, this arrangement is anchored better than that depicted in Figure 6. Again, anchoring to another branch or splicing into the structural wire on the trunk will always be preferable.

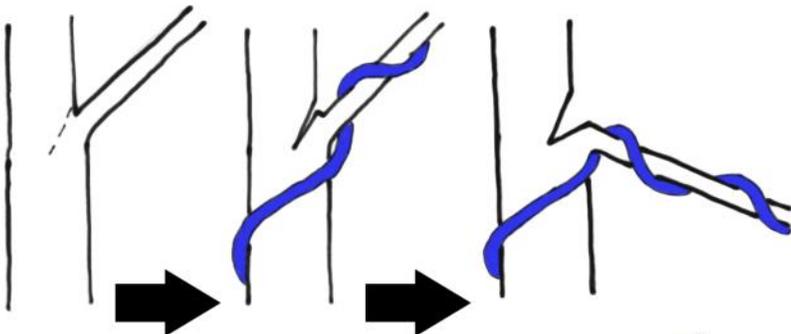


Figure 8

Fig 8. Bending a branch down by cutting or sawing the top part of the branch. Leave a little gap between the branch and the cut to leave room for the bend. This method is for pine trees only - not for deciduous hardwoods, tropicals or junipers. Using this method on these trees can cause an unsightly scar or swelling. On junipers, just pull down until the branch separates a little bit.

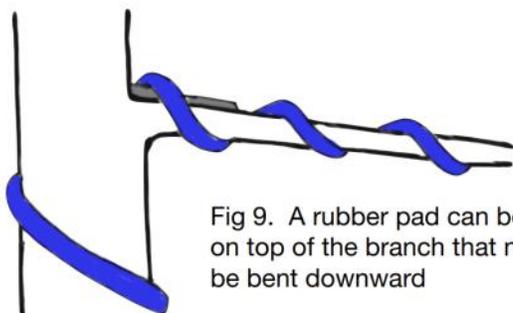


Figure 9

Fig 9. A rubber pad can be placed on top of the branch that needs to be bent downward

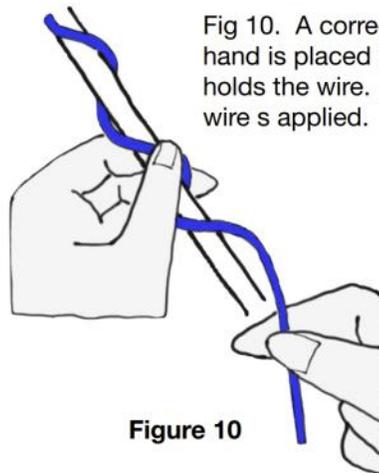


Figure 10

Fig 10. A correct position to handle the wire. One hand is placed under the branch while the other holds the wire. A twisting action is used when the wire is applied.

Wiring

By Scott Barbosa

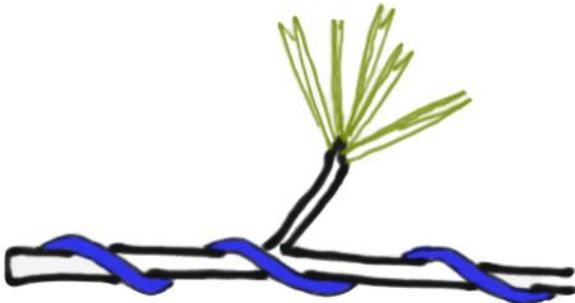


Figure 11

Fig 11. Watch out for small buds and be careful when wiring around them. Putting wire on young shoots may damage them.

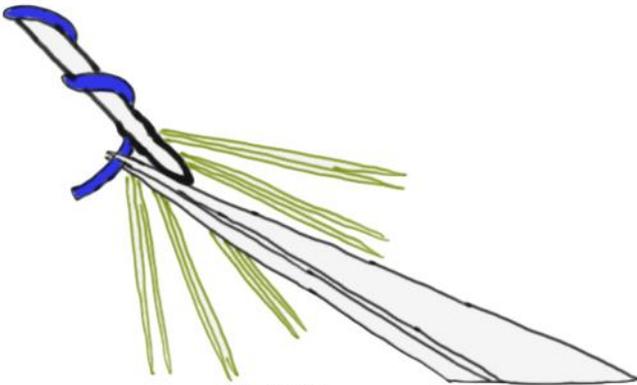


Figure 12

Fig 12. Finish on the bottom of the branch and use tweezers to aid completion

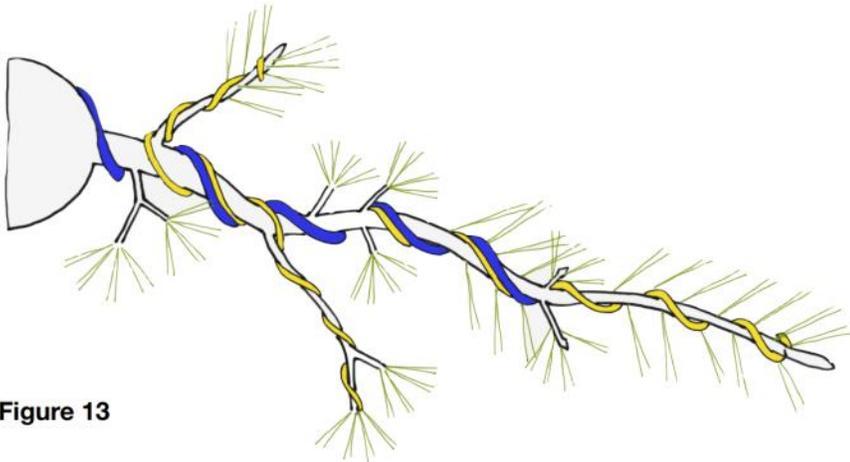


Figure 13

Fig 13. Top view of a wired branch. Wire out to the tips and leave a little hook at the end. Hook should be pointed slightly upward and backward to secure the bud tip.

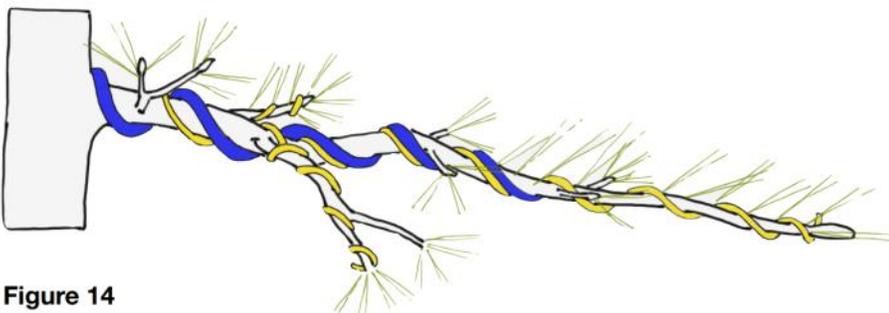


Figure 14

Fig 14. Side view of a wired branch. Notice the end of each wire when you want to bend the bud upwards. Use a longer spiral for conifer and a tighter spiral for deciduous. The tighter spiral will allow you to make more bends.

Wiring

By Scott Barbosa

Figure 15

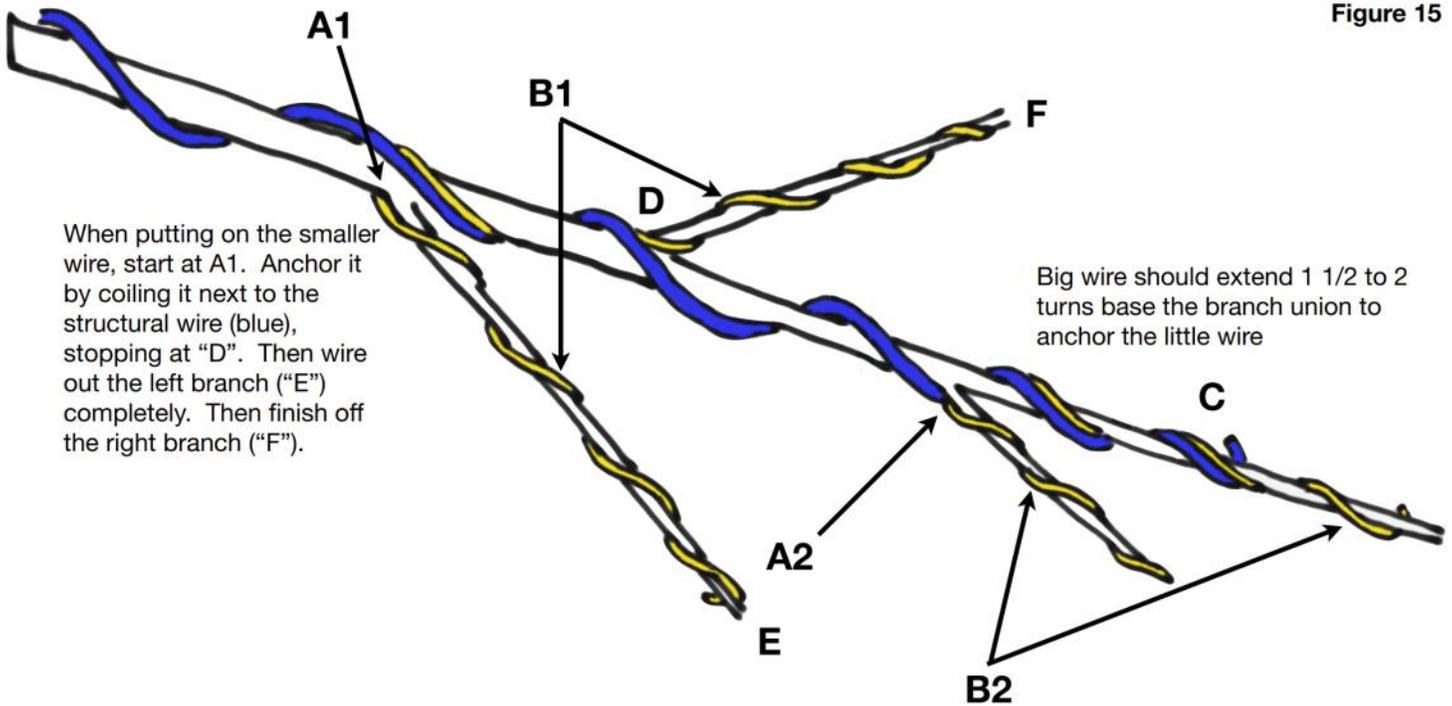


Fig 15. "A" is where the anchor-bends are. "B" shows where the same wire is used to wire 2 branches. "C" is where the wire ends. Start at the point closest to the trunk and work your way out.

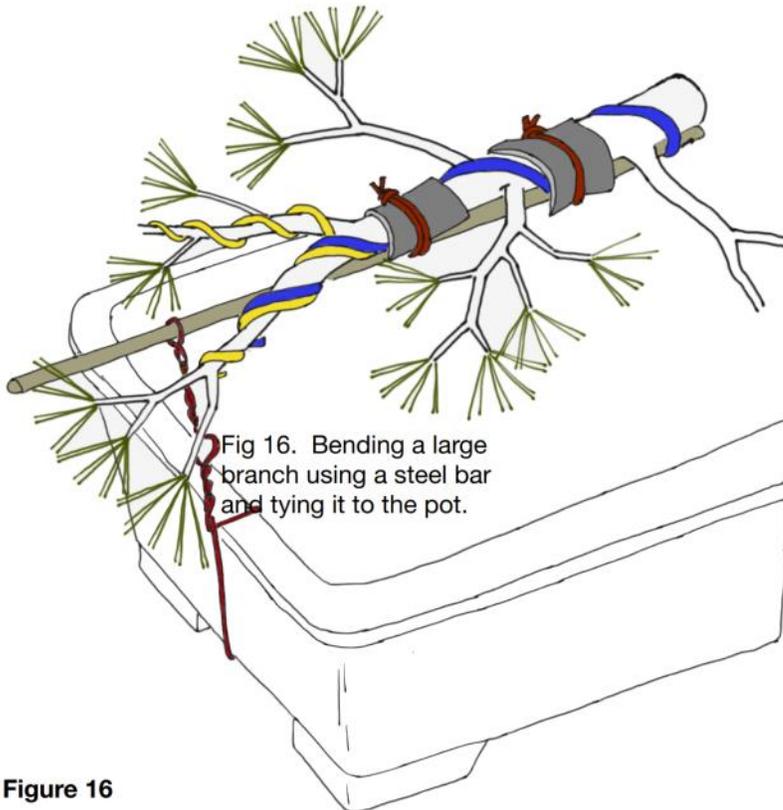


Figure 16

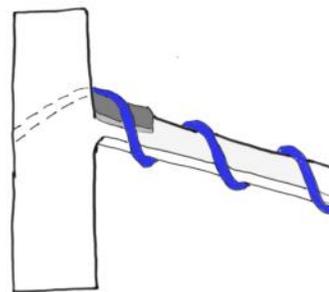


Figure 17

Fig 17. A pad may be used to protect the branch before wire is applied.

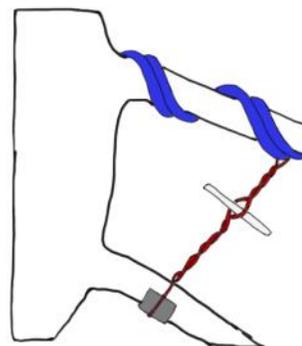


Figure 18

Fig 18. A guy wire can help in bending branches. A turnbuckle (shown) is useful for small adjustments.

Recruiting Authors

With a nod of respect to John Miller, who has been diligently writing monthly columns for our newsletter, we would also like to take this time to invite interested members with knowledge and experiences of local Austin conditions to write articles for beginners and potential aspirants keen on raising bonsai. The Bonsai Notebook is looking for a new voice to author a column providing helpful reminders and tips dedicated to caring for bonsai. Be it a monthly routine or winter procedures, we'd like to welcome new perspectives and experiences to be shared in this newsletter. If interested, please contact: webmaster.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com.

A warm thank you to John Miller for writing the latest columns. Even I, as the editor, may have taken these last months for granted and have been reminded that life is a charming companion that deserves to be appreciated every day. Thank you for your helpful words!

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Austin Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 340474
Austin, Texas 78734



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About Us

The Austin Bonsai Society is a nonprofit organization which exists to help in providing guidance and education for individuals in their desire to learn and expand their knowledge and skill in the arts of bonsai.

The Society holds regular meetings, twelve months a year, on the second Wednesday of each month. Our social period begins at 7:00 pm, followed by our program at 7:30 pm. Normally, unless announced otherwise, these meetings are held in the Zilker Garden Center building, located on Barton Springs Road in Zilker Park, Austin, Texas. We offer a monthly program of interest to the general membership.

The cost of membership is presently only \$32.50 for an individual and \$37.50 for a family membership. For additional information, contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, TX 78734.