



Dennis Donald on Deadwood Carving

Brandywine Town Center

Saturday, February 18, 2012, 10:00 am

Pre-meeting tree counseling will be available

Creating natural looking dead wood on a bonsai is an art unto itself with its own set of esthetic choices and techniques. Properly executed deadwood can be extremely esthetically pleasing but inappropriately or poorly applied it can ruin an otherwise pleasing bonsai design.

At this meeting Dennis will be discussing the appropriate use of deadwood and examine a wide variety of techniques and tools used to create it. The techniques have been gleaned from numerous sources and including recent, relatively novel techniques being developed and demonstrated on the internet.

MABS Spring Festival

There have been a number of glitches, but the fliers for the MABS Spring Festival, April 20-22, will be available soon. Since all vital information will be available in the fliers, there is no need to review it here, but this is what is important: The Festival is in our neighborhood, so this is an unprecedented opportunity for BBS club members to participate in all or part of the weekend.

The guest artists, Isao Omachi (Japan), John Thompson (California), and Chase Rosade (nearby) have a great deal to share with us. Seventeen vendors with wares to answer all your needs will be present.

Mark the weekend on your calendars. Registration materials will soon be at hand.

Dues are due!

If you misplaced your membership renewal form, more will be available at the next meeting. Sorry it was snowed out because we would have loved the opportunity to collect those dues. I have also attached another copy for those of you who get this newsletter electronically. Please complete the form and return it with a check to:

Steve Ittel.

7 Barley Mill Drive

Wilmington, DE 19807

Completed forms simplify our bookkeeping but writing your contact information on any paper will suffice.

Snow Cancellation

As far as we know, the cancellation of the last meeting went smoothly. If there were any issues, please let us know. It was a good thing the meeting was cancelled because Dennis Donald had the key but was not able to get out of his house until later that morning.

Silent Auction.

For the last year, we have been offering books, pots, and other items at our meetings. The Pat Morris donations will be tapering off but still continue. As our trees bud early due to the virtual non-existence of winter (but that is changing as this newsletter goes out), our thoughts are turning to trees and the joys and chores of spring. Please bring your unused tools, books, etc. to coming meetings. New members could use them. There may or may not be stones available.

From Dorie Froning's Shohin Newsletter XVII(2) (1995)

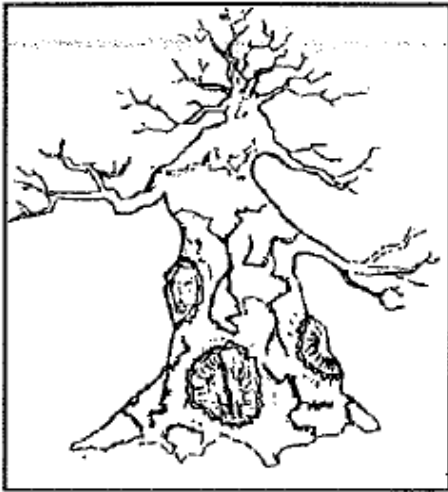
Creating Better Bonsai by Kathy Shaner

Softening the pruning scars and crusty bark on some bonsai can increase their sense of age. Chipping off bark on some deciduous trees can be as much fun as peeling skin off a friend's back after a bad sunburn! And rewarding! The Trident maple and Chinese quince are two such trees. A small chip falling off the trunk will reveal a smooth skin with a blush of orange, yellow, tan

or green. Each chip can uncover another color and pattern.

Cleaning off the trunk will give your bonsai (shohin or larger) a less cluttered look. Brush the trunk and larger branches with a toothbrush, Ivory soap bar, and water. Scrub well and rinse the tree. A good time to do this is before the tree is wintered - make sure the nebari (roots at the trunk line) is cleared of dirt and brushed well (just as you would floss your teeth). Branch crotches should also be

cleaned. Good hygiene is as important as styling and horticultural needs.



For Trident maple, Chinese quince, etc:

Sketch A

Wounds that have callused - they are still very noticeable. The bark is pushed up around the wound and a crease is prominent through the center. The bark has begun to release from the trunk in thick patches.



Sketch B

The same tree after scraping and peeling the bark from around the wounds and "popping" the loose patches of bark off the trunk. A good tool to use is the back of your tweezers. The edge of a spoon will also work. Use the pointed end of the tweezers to scratch down the center crease in the old wound. It is okay if some of the green cambium shows through. Use med/fine sandpaper to buff out the trunk.



Sketch C

The tree has been lime-sulfured after the above process (at least two or so weeks later). All the colors in the trunk are still visible but muted (greens, oranges, tans, etc.).

