

NEWSLETTER



Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai

Meetings at the Arboretum suspended until
further notice

<https://worldvision.zoom.us/j/6843230936>

Zoom meeting

Thursday, June 17, 2021, opens at
7:00pm starts 7:30pm

Round Robin
Questions and Problems from Members
Late Spring/Early Summer Maintenance of
Deciduous Plants

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Demonstration: Thread Grafting on a Chinese Elm Tree, May 20, 2021 - Lindsay Shiba and Joe Galgoul



Prep work by Lindsay and Joe before the meeting began by reinforcing the plastic pot of the elm whips, grown by Bob Pressler. The pot edge was wrapped with foil duct tape. Joe got the Chinese elm at a San Diego Bonsai club raffle. It was growing well but then started dying, he does not know why. To resuscitate it, Joe wanted to thread graft some elm tree whips onto the lower portion of the trunk.

While Lindsay was studying the tree, Joe was prepping the elm whips. All the leaves were removed so that the whip's trunk could go through the hole that would be drilled (see left side of the photo on the right). Lindsay was studying the tree and marking the path that the volunteer whip stem could go.

First, you need to pre-mark where you want new branches to grow, as shown here. "X" marks the spot that Lindsay wants the whip to exit the trunk, note the direction or path of the hole is not level with the soil surface but that it is at an angle (see the direction of the metal chop stick that Lindsay is holding).

Here you can see all the markings that Lindsay made for the locations of the three new whips, the insertion points for the drill bit and the angle of the holes.





You can see here that Joe is drilling at an angle from the tip and using all his fingers to brace the drill so that the hole would be straight. He used a drill bit that was slightly larger than the thickest whip trunk, about one third of the way in. He then changed the bit so that it is narrower, matching the girth of the whip at the top tip. You want the hole diameter to be a little bigger than the elm whip.



You can see how Joe has placed his fingers to stabilize the drill so that the drilled hole will be straight and follow the line that Lindsay drew.



Lindsay testing how well the whip slides through the drilled hole.



The second hole is drilled. You can see the first whip as well.



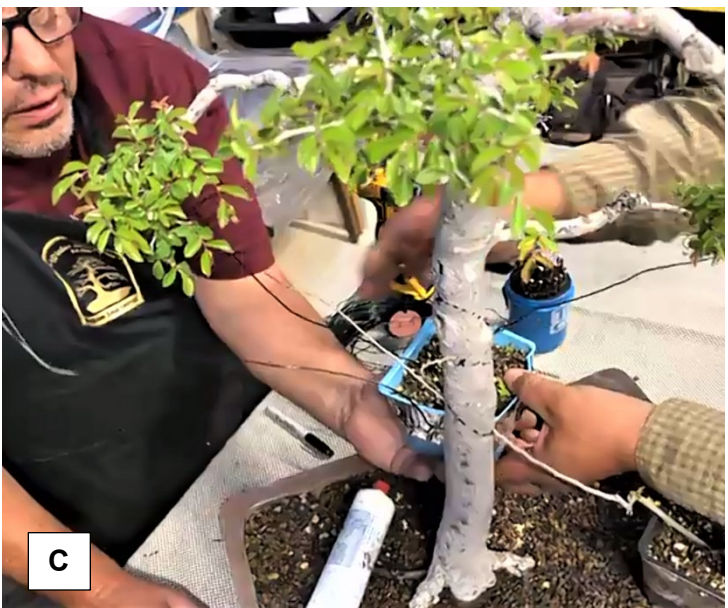
The moment when the drill bit broke the tree trunk surface on the second hole.



Re-enforcing the rim of the pot with the insulating foil tape. This is important because Joe will drill holes near the pot rim so that wire can be used to suspend the potted whip in the correct position while waiting for the callus to form. The things in the turquoise container are Joe's drill bits.



Here is a better picture of the first graft and the potted whip (sitting at the soil surface) and the second whip (in blue pot) that Joe is threading wire through hole at the pot rim so that the pot can be suspended at the right position.



Sequence of pictures showing Lindsay guiding the second whip through the drilled hole (A). On pictures B and C, you can see Whip #1 is near Lindsay's shirt cluff. The second whip and pot are visible in C and D. D show how wires were used to keep the pot and the attached whip in the right position. The second whip looks like it is suspended like a swing. On the next page, the foil adhesive tape is used to tape the whip pot to the trunk of recipient tree.



E

Getting ready to drill the hole for the third whip. Joe has the drill bit pointed toward the "X" or Lindsay's finger (Box E).



F

"F" shows the third whip being guided through the drilled hole. You can see the pot on the lower right being held by Joe.



G

"G" shows the second (blue pot) on the lower right side, and the third and last whip (white pot) being held by Lindsay. Joe is adjusting and using wire to hold the whip pots in the correct position.



The last step is to seal the holes, on both sides, exit and entry points, with a bonsai cut paste, here applied at the end of a metal chop stick.



Here is the brand of cut paste that Lindsay used. It stays soft and does not get hard. The best time to do thread grafting is during the growing season, i.e. spring time when the plant is actively growing or just before leaves pop. Allow the whip to grow for approximately one year or more depending on how fast the whips grows. Place in full sun to allow the whips to grow. You want the whip to grow as fast as possible. This method is best for elm, maples, and pomegranates.

This is not approach grafting. You will need a thicker whip.



Something that may come in handy when working with your trees. Lindsay's finger is pointed at a scar. If you want to reduce or eliminate the scar, you can wrap and seal the wound with tape (any kind, the adhesive tape, or some type of grafting tape) to hold moisture in. You want to eliminate air getting into the wound which will cause scarring, said Lindsay and Ed Clark. Cover the area you want to heal. If done correctly, the wound can heal without extra scarring or excess callus. You can use seaweed extract then use the foil tape over the wound to stimulate

growth. The major advantage of foil tape is to help form cambium into the hole. If there is space, there will be a bulge if no space then the surface will be flush with the trunk.



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1 option from \$149.99

. 1-Pint
\$34.04

1 Pint
\$13.26
(\$0.83 / Fl Oz)

Another question that was raised is what kind of fertilizer to use. You can buy seaweed extract from Amazon.

Announcements

Jim Barrett is at home and about the same.

2021 GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous

Hotel Mission de Oro, Santa Nella, California

Saturday, October 2 - Sunday, October 3, 2021

Get ready and plan for attending the 2021 GSBF Bonsai Rendezvous. The event theme is "Bonsai Rendezvous." A two-day event for renewal and celebration for the love of bonsai. No registration fee. Open to the public. Free bonsai demonstrations both days. Free professional bonsai critiques, Bring Your Own Bonsai and Do It Yourself Bonsai settings. Vendors from Northern and Southern California in one huge location. There will be silent auctions for quality bonsai and related items. There will be no banquet dinners. Additional information and schedule of activities forthcoming shortly. Stay tuned to GSBF website ["Convention" section of the GSBF website](#).

June 25-26, 2021, tentative. Santa Anita Bonsai Society. 58th Show in Ayres Hall, Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanical Garden. The Arboretum has not made a formal announcement when it will reopen.

October 10, 2021, 10am, Jesse Owens Park, 7100 White Oak Ave., Van Nuys. 7th Annual LA Community Bonsai Swap meet.

January 22 & 23, 2022, Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai 58th Winter Silhouettes Show, Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanical Garden

If you have missed any of the weekly videos that Tom has produced, here is the link to view all of them.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7fXUS6h9DwoBFlhagik-wA>

Next Baikoen Zoom meeting on June 17, will be a late spring/early summer maintenance of deciduous material, then a Round Robin free for all. Tentatively the July 15 meeting if the Arboretum allows us to meet will be a workshop where you can bring in your trees and Lindsay and others can help you with your trees. Stay tuned!

2021 Important Dates

June 17, 2021

July 15, 2021

August 19, 2021

September 16, 2021
October 21, 2021
November 18, 2021
December Happy Holidays

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