

# Billboard

Newsletter of Bonsai Society of Upstate New York Inc



## April Meeting: CANCELED

### A Message From our Club President

*Greetings Friends!*

I hope everyone is staying healthy and maintaining some semblance of sanity in these somewhat insane times. We all need to count our blessings and in that count know that we are fortunate to have the blessing of Bonsai in our lives. Speaking of Bonsai, let me share a few updates.



Currently the NYS shut down was extended to **May 15th** so theoretically we are still on for our **May 20th meeting** and demo with Bill Valavanis. If and that's a **BIG IF** that goes forward I would expect we do our best to social distance and follow other guidelines as best we can. Everyone has to make decisions for themselves and I would expect we would have a relatively low turnout due primarily due to the age of many of our members. That said I will be there if we are a go. More info later.

Next up we have been working on a number of Bonsai projects we can all enjoy and participate in from home. **John Wiessinger** and **Brian Heltsley** have been working on a **Virtual Bonsai Exhibit** so we can prepare and share our Bonsai on line. Details on how to participate will be announced shortly and I expect EVERYONE to participate! John also had the brilliant idea to have a **Club Blog** where members could share Bonsai projects they are working on. Timing is everything and Jason and Irma are working on learning about our new Club website which will allow for a blog and many other things as well.

One of the other things is a History of the Bonsai Society of Upstate New York which is something we have been hoping for.

Recently I have spoken with the Chairman of Mentorship program, **Joe Moore**. Since just returning from Florida, I asked Joe about bringing the Mentorship program in line with our new distance learning situation and Joe has news to share for those in the Mentor program and also for those who would like to join in.

*As I said when this all began, "We will adjust, adapt, stay calm and carry on with Bonsai!" Thanks to all who are helping us stay true to our mission in these challenging times.*

**Mark Arpag**  
President

Bonsai Society of Upstate New York Inc

**Check the 2020 Programs for other changes**

Next Meeting:

**Tuesday, April 28th**  
**Meeting**  
**Canceled!!**

Brighton Town Lodge at Buckland Park  
1341 Westfall Road, Rochester, New York  
near corner of Westfall and Clinton

Billboard is brought to you by:

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## 2020 PROGRAMS

- **Apr 28: Meeting—Canceled!!**
- **May 3: Memorial Art Gallery Display—Canceled!!**
- **May 16-17: Our Show—Canceled!!**
- **NEW-May 20 (Wednesday):**  
Bill Valavanis, Sekka Hinoki  
Cypress & Workshop
- **June 23: BSUNY Picnic & Auction**
- **July 21: Garden Tour-Bergen**  
Water Gardens & Nursery
- **July 28: BYOT Workshop-Part 1**
- **Aug. 25: BYOT Workshop-Part 2**
- **Sept. 12-13: 7th US National**  
Bonsai Exhibition

# Repairing Snapped Bonsai Branches

by Harry Harrington

If the branch is completely separated into two pieces, it cannot be repaired and should be pruned away and the wound cleaned up. However, if one side of the cambium layer (branch) is still attached naturally, it can literally be glued back together. A spot of superglue (any brand) is put onto the surface of the wood..... and the branch is glued back together. It really is as simple as that!

The superglue glues the woody parts of the branch together very tightly and supports the branch while the wound (and cambium layer) heals. Eventually both sides of the snapped branch grow together; this can take as little as 3 or 4 weeks on vigorous branches during the growing season.

I find that the repair is so strong that the branch can be manipulated (wired into position) within 5 minutes of the repair being made. The repair site will have lost its elasticity though, so don't not try to create a bend at that point.

Any excess superglue will dry a white color on the surrounding bark. It is unsightly so try to avoid using too much superglue when making your repair but any excess will fall away naturally after a few months.

**Finally, always keep some superglue to hand. If you do a lot of wiring you will find it becomes a valuable tool!**

I find that as thicker branches are stronger and more robust they tend to splinter rather than snap and so this article focuses on branches up to around 1/2" thick. However, repairs can be made using this technique with thicker branches.

**Superglue is not poisonous to a tree** and will not harm the tree or the branch, nor will spilt superglue damage any leaves (it just looks awful).

**Superglue can be used on woody or tender shoots.**

There is no need to wrap or protect the glued area on branches of less than 1/2", above this diameter, a thin spread of Vaseline over the damaged bark/cambium is more than sufficient. There is no need to wire the branch or for the branch to be wired for the repair to be successful.

Though superglue is not necessarily the strongest glue on the market, it is the fact that it dries very rapidly and will tolerate moisture (in the wood) that makes it so effective for repairing branches.

**This technique can be used on all tree species; coniferous, deciduous or broadleaf tree during active growth or during dormancy.**

Reprinted from GNOBS News, July 2019



**Don't FORGET!**



## Sekka Hinoki Cypress Workshop with Bill Valavanis in MAY!

After our special **May 20th (Wednesday)** meeting, **William Valavanis** will lead a **Sekka Hinoki Cypress Workshop**. The workshop is **FREE** but the participants must pay for the very **fine Sekka Hinoki Cypress** tree. Tree cost for this workshop is **\$60** payable to the society. Trees to be selected in order of reservations and payment received. Register early and be certain to be at meeting **ON TIME** if you want to select your tree in order of payment receipt. Bring your own tools and wire, no repotting. Members not participating in the workshop are welcome to observe. There is a **limited number** of **openings and trees available** so register and pay early to avoid disappointment.

**Signup by contacting Diane Koretz at: [Treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org](mailto:Treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org)**

# Spring “Housecleaning”

Yes, spring is here (at least according to the calendar.) Some of us seem to have jumped right into summer and other parts of the country are still having sneaky snow!

Spring potting, changing water schedules, watching for newly arrived pests and trimming tropicals like crazy are just the beginning. When all the busy-ness starts, we sometimes neglect equally import projects.

Keep those benches clean. Get plants (bonsai and starters) off the ground. Plant pests of all kinds enter through the holes in the bottom of plant containers.

Earth worms can be an especially nasty problem. (As good as they are in the ground, they are not good in containers.) Ants' nests can be in your pots, before you notice.

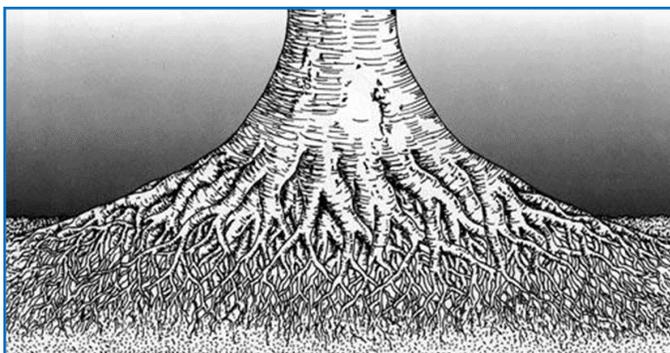
Clean work and display areas not only look good, they encourage healthy bonsai collections. Don't even think about “double decking.” Plants growing beneath other plants are prone to any fungus and otherwise harmful pathogens from the plants above.



## Improving a Nebari by Oishi Kazo



Nebari close up. Roots galore radiating everywhere!  
From Bonsai Focus



Nebari are often under-appreciated, especially in the west. In Japan bonsai artists will sometimes talk about nebari as though it is the most important feature when looking for bonsai material. If you think about it, this is not far-fetched, as excellent naturally occurring nebari are harder to come by than excellent naturally occurring trunks.

I doubt it is even worth mentioning, as everyone knows this—but because bonsai are grown in very confining containers, regular transplanting is absolutely necessary.

What is frequently forgotten is that transplanting is a time to elevate the quality of your bonsai. In this short article, I would like to share with you some thoughts and advice about nebari (surface roots) and tachiagari (lower trunk, from the nebari to the first branch).

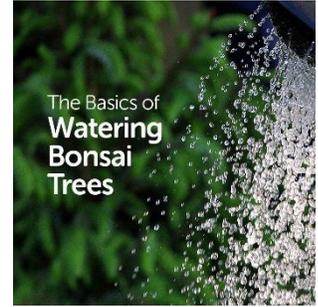
Quality bonsai start with the roots. How many bonsai on exhibit have you seen? Whether live or in photos, have you ever seen one with a bad nebari? Assuredly, the answer is no (the author is referring to exhibits in Japan).

**If you're new to bonsai and don't know what nebari is, now you know.**

Appeared in Bonsai Today magazine (courtesy of Bonsai Focus)

# Spring Watering Tips

By Michael Hagedorn



Once again let's wade into the deep waters of writing about the basics of bonsai. This time, watering. Of course, there are many methods of watering. Watering bonsai should be uniform, with the timing less related to our own needs. The rule of thumb we are taught is that we want to wait until the soil dries out a bit before watering again. And in rough strokes, this is accurate.

But let's refine that idea a bit. To start with, those trees we've recently repotted:

- A tree you've repotted that has a dense root mass—such as a well-established bonsai—will likely dry out very rapidly. Keep a careful eye on the interior, that solid root mass that you put back in the pot (which should be showing a little bit on the surface, so you can see it). You may end up watering those very often.
- When we repot a tree with a sparse root system, you'll notice that it tends to take a while to dry out. A tree with only a few roots may not establish very well if we're watering very frequently, with the same cycle as those above. You might want to wait a bit longer to water these trees—and how much longer is what skill with watering is all about.

Sometimes '*wait a bit longer*' means waiting a few hours longer. Sometimes it's waiting a few days longer. That's the part we can't talk about online, that part has to be learned in person.

Be very alert to a tree that suddenly needs very little water. If the soil stays wet it maybe one of several things:

1. You may have a tree that's simply stopped its spring growth cycle, and you'll find that you'll water about half as often. This is normal.

2. Another situation with wet soil is a tree that has a drainage problem—some containers need extra holes drilled for good drainage; others need to be tipped so that excess water drains out and to help the tree establish after repotting.
3. You may have a tree with a root problem if the soil stays wet. The way we get root rot is if it dries out completely having missed a few waterings, killing some roots, then it's watered frequently—this makes the dead roots rot.
4. Look up to see if it's raining.
5. Make sure your kid has his shorts on.

When we do water a healthy tree, pass over it with water at least twice. Deeper containers and more compacted root systems may need a third or fourth pass before it's soaked.

There are many goals to watering, and many things to keep a look out for—we water differently according to health, training goals, the species, the specimen, the season, the soil—and that's where words again begin to fail us, and learning on site is best.

Weak trees with very poor root systems need extra care. Greenhouse the tree if possible, make sure the soil is not soggy, and don't soak these trees when watering. Keep it lightly damp. Mist the foliage. And explain to your child that you're handling the watering.

Reprinted from: [crataegus bonsai blog](#) on April 8, 2013

## 4 Stages of Budding

1. **Dormant bud stage** – When the buds are tight on the branch, trees can be collected from the wild or lifted from the pot. Do not root prune or you will be cutting away stored energy.
2. **Swelling buds** – Coming out of dormancy, it's o.k. to repot or root prune.
3. **Extending buds** – Best time to repot and root prune, a short time frame.
4. **Open buds** – Usually at the top or on branch ends, it's too late to prune or repot.



Reprint from: [www.pittsburghbonsai.org/tree-calendar-seasonal-tips/](http://www.pittsburghbonsai.org/tree-calendar-seasonal-tips/)

## Officer Election Results

No nominations were received by the nominating committee during the nomination period. All officers have agreed to continue their service and as such will remain in their respective positions for the 2020-2021 year. Our meetings are top notch thanks to our officers and board members.

- ✓ **Mark Arpag, President**
- ✓ **Bill Valavanis, Vice-President**
- ✓ **Jason Henderberg, Secretary**
- ✓ **Diane Koretz, Treasurer**