



March 2025
GLBS Newsletter

President's Message

Greetings Everyone!

Spring is quickly upon us, let's not get anxious and start repotting just yet. Just like some of us that are still thawing out and finally beginning to stretch our legs for the season, our trees are weeks behind what they have been in the recent past. Our prolonged winter weather and snow cover has hopefully given all of us and our trees time to recharge our batteries and hopefully reduce the number of pests for the upcoming growing season.

At this time last year, our "Kojo-no-mai" flowering cherries and Japanese maples were out in full bloom, but right now the buds are still all packed tight awaiting warmer weather. I mention the cherry blooming specifically as a phenological indicator - a natural occurrence that signifies seasonal or other natural changes. I use this specific plant as I love its early season blooms, but other plants such as forsythia, cornelian cherry dogwood, etc... will also usually work as an indicator to begin repotting deciduous species. Ideally, we want to wait until buds swell before we alter the root system - as the buds are swelling, this indicates the plants are pushing their energy reserves from the roots to the branch shoots. In turn, when we remove roots during repotting, we are being efficient with the energy the plant has created by allowing the reserves to be transferred to their assigned growing location for the season. Once the plants have begun to leaf out, they will use their new solar panels (leaves/needles/foilage) to develop roots in the new soil. Our goal is to develop enough feeder roots by summer so that the trees can effectively cool themselves off during our hot and dry periods of summer. For conifers we'll be waiting until April to begin repotting, and potentially even middle May before we begin repotting tropicals (start when nighttime temps are above 50 degrees).

While our trees have been snuggled up tight in their winter digs, the GLBS board has been frantically “planting seeds” everywhere. This January we replaced over 50% of the board with newer members- Troy T, Oscar G, Kristy T, and Joe B. So the job of tall Jim, not-as-tall Jim, and I have been to catch up these brave souls with all of our plans for the year. These include tabling events at multiple garden/home/plant shows, Master Gardener talks, preparing for our big show at the end of May at the Waterfront Botanical Gardens, curating our volunteer workforce for the WBG bonsai collection, gaining access to the WBG classroom for monthly meeting space(!), club forest/repotting/Bring-Your-Own-Tree (BYOT) workshops, nursery visits, and other curriculum for our monthly meetings! I personally have been developing a multi-year curriculum for the Bonsai Certification Program at WBG, that has a whopping 33 people confirmed and in attendance for 10 meetings a year (I will need help on every 2nd Tuesday of each month if you are available, please let me know!). All of these efforts are for one thing: to spread the word about bonsai and the positive impact that little trees have on our lives!

For our newest board members, Troy is a 2nd year member with the club, and has volunteered to keep up with our website updates, compile the newsletter, take notes at our board meetings and prepare the minutes from each meeting so that we can be more streamlined in our operations. Oscar is working to develop some social media components, taking video of our meetings to create content for a GLBS youtube channel, editing and posting the content. Although Oscar is a newer member, his skills will for sure benefit the club greatly. Joe came to my nursery for his first bonsai outing last May, but that didn't stop him from joining the club immediately and considering the board soon after. He is working to support the team by creating a Discord server/room/whatever for a direct chat and connection portal for all of our members, hopefully appealing to the next generation of enthusiasts who receive much of their information in this fashion. Kristy has volunteered to help assist with any social media/online presence we are looking for and also there as a conscientious observer to make sure the other board members stay in line. She doesn't say too much (as of yet) but when she does, we greatly appreciate her perspective as a new member to the club and board and look forward to her and our other new members' contributions! If you have an idea or want to learn about a specific topic, please reach out to one of us with your ideas- we need to hear them no matter how insignificant you feel they may be- we are here for YOU, our members, and want to help expedite your journey down your bonsai pathway. Alternatively, if you have any skills that you may offer the club, please feel free to let us know how you want to help- we are appreciative of what you have to offer!!

Peace, Love, and Bonsai...If it ain't fun it ain't bonsai! Russ

Upcoming Event

March Meeting: Spring repotting Workshop

- Date: March 18, 2025, 6-8pm.
- Location: Waterfront Botanic Garden- Leslie Classroom
- Program: Bring your own Tree repotting: As spring brings new growth, repotting becomes a vital part of bonsai care. This month's workshop will focus on proper repotting techniques to ensure our trees remain healthy and thriving
- What to Bring
 - Deciduous tree that needs repotting (Conifers are not quite ready to be repotted yet)
 - Multiple pot choices if you have them available (different pots can significantly affect the health and aesthetic of your bonsai)
 - Potting soil (GLBS will have limited supply for those that do not have soil)
 - Repotting tools (GLBS will have some tools available if needed)

Calendar of Future Events

April 2: Board Meeting-TBD 7pm.

April 5: GLBS will have a booth at the Paristown Garden Show. 10am-5pm

April 15: General Meeting. 6-8pm at the Waterfront Botanic Garden

Program: Korean Hornbeam Forest Planting Workshop and Roundtable Tree Evaluation of members trees in preparation for the Annual Bonsai Weekend Show

Purchase tickets on the website (workshop availability limited to 15 members)

April 19: GLBS will have a booth at Tree Fest. Petersburg, KY. 11am-3pm

May 7: Board Meeting-TBD 7pm.

May 20: General Meeting. 6-8pm at the Waterfront Botanic Garden

Program: Hands on experience in bonsai exhibition staging (tree/stand/accent harmony)

May 30-June 1: Annual Bonsai Weekend Show at the Waterfront Botanic Garden

June 4: Board Meeting-TBD 7pm

June 17: General Meeting. 6-8 pm at the Waterfront Botanic Garden

Program: Post show workshop.

July 15: General Meeting. 6-8 pm at the Waterfront Botanic Garden

Program: Foliage management and pesticides and slide show critique of the show

July 26: Road trip to Berea Bonsai Nursery meet up with Central Kentucky Members

Dues for 2025

GLBS Membership dues are \$35.00 per year. You can pay your dues online through the club website: <http://www.louisvillebonsai.org> or send a check made payable to the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society (GLBS) to 2102 Woodbourne Ave, Louisville KY 40205, or bring a check or cash to the next scheduled meeting. We look forward to meeting you at our next gathering! Your dues help to fund the operations, programs and activities of the GLBS. Please renew your membership as soon as possible, we will be sending out a notice by the end of March to start letting people know they will be removed from our email list if we don't receive renewals. Thank you for your support!

February Club Meeting

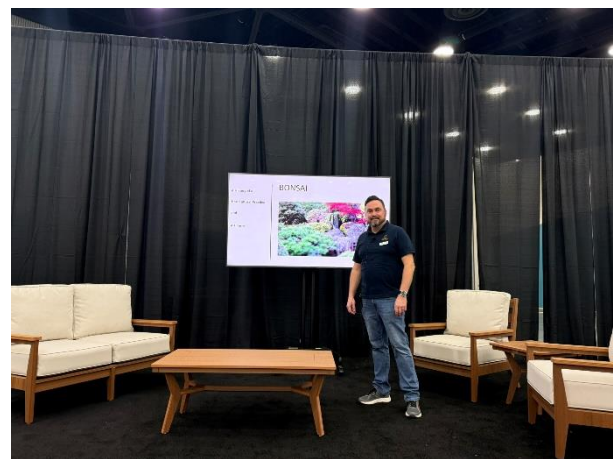
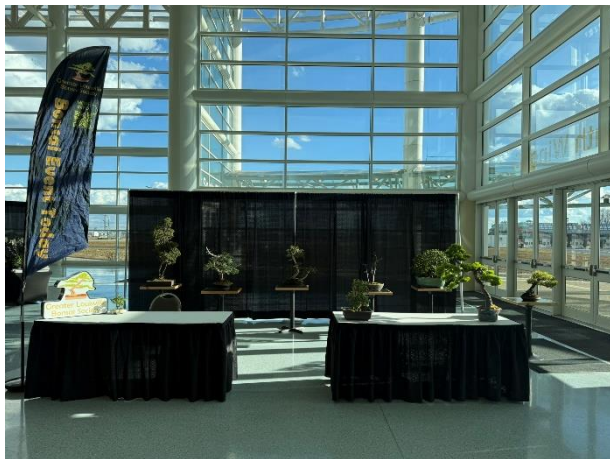
Lee Squires delivered an insightful presentation, discussing a wide range of tools and techniques that can be used to effectively maintain the sharpness of our bonsai tools, ensuring that our tools stay in optimal condition for precise and clean cuts. Throughout the talk, Lee highlighted the importance of regular maintenance to prolong the life of bonsai tools and enhance the overall care of the trees.



2025 GLBS Bonsai Display at the Louisville Home, garden and Remodeling Show

From Friday, February 28 to Sunday, March 2, 2025, the GLBS showcased a bonsai display and information booth at the Louisville Home, Garden, and Remodeling Show at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

A big thank you to all the members who contributed. Based on the success of last year's event, GLBS was granted a prime location at the entrance this time. We had many visitors stop by our booth and are hopeful that we'll gain new members to share our passion for bonsai with. Special thanks to Jim Dorion for delivering an excellent presentation on the history and fundamentals of bonsai during the event.



GLBS to Display at the 2025 Paristown Garden Show and at the 2025 Tree Fest

The Greater Louisville Bonsai Society will have a display booth at Paristown Garden Show on April 5th, from 10 AM to 5 PM and at Tree Fest on April 19, from 11 AM to 3 PM

Come join us for an exciting day filled with nature, plants, and community! Enjoy the beautiful surroundings, share your passion for bonsai, and connect with fellow plant and tree enthusiasts. Whether you're a seasoned bonsai expert or just starting out, it's a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the art of bonsai with others who share your love for plants and trees!



3rd Annual Bonsai Weekend

We are incredibly excited to be doing this show again this year. As was mentioned before please start looking at your trees and thinking about ones that may be good options to enter. We will be looking at any trees members may be considering at the April 15th meeting so bring them along for a show and tell.

3rd ANNUAL BONSAI WEEKEND

WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS
PRESENTS THE GREATER LOUISVILLE BONSAI SOCIETY

May 30 - June 1, 2025

Dozens of bonsai on display
Guest artist & judge Owen Reich
People's choice award
Workshops & Demonstrations
Bonsai vendors
Food & Drinks

WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS
Greater Louisville Bonsai Society

BONSAIWEEKEND.COM

3rd Annual Bonsai Weekend

May 30
11 AM - 5 PM
May 31
10 AM - 6 PM
June 1
11 AM - 4 PM

TICKETS
\$12 in advance
\$15 at the door
\$10 Waterfront Gardens & Bonsai Society Members
FREE for Ages 16 & under

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

Waterfront Botanical Gardens
1435 Frankfort Ave.
Louisville, KY 40206
BONSAIWEEKEND.COM

Save the Date! May 29-31, 2026

Discord has come to GLBS

Thank you to GLBS Board Member, Joe Broadhurst, for creating a Discord server for the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society. For those unfamiliar with Discord, it's an app that allows voice, video, and text communication, making it easy to connect with communities and friends. The GLBS Discord server offers members a space to chat, ask bonsai-related questions, share helpful or inspiring videos/images, and exchange ideas with one another. The more members that join and use the server, the more powerful and useful the app becomes so please download it and start learning and sharing with your fellow GLBS members.



AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY

—◆ EST. 1967 ◆—

The WBG Annual Bonsai Weekend Show had a full page add in the ABS January and March newsletter which is fantastic publicity! If you are not a member, we highly recommend joining this great organization.

<https://app.joinit.com/o/american-bonsai-society/>



From the archives- Jan 2016

This article was written by longtime member Goerge Buehler. Part 1 of the 2-part series was highlighted in the February newsletter.

WIRING: (part 2 of a 2-part series by George Buehler)

Last month we discussed the best time of year to wire a tree, the types of wire and the sizes, and how to choose the proper wire size for various branch sizes. This month we will discuss the techniques used to obtain the desired bending results.

ORDER OF WIRING

In order to make wiring easier, there is a general order for wiring trees. Since older trees have more branches, the wiring process can become rather complicated if a fixed order is not followed. Therefore, with older trees, simply start from wherever is easiest. For those branches that are more difficult to reach, you can simply leave them to last, which assumes that some of the other branches will be bent out of the way so that the more difficult branches can be reached. For young trees, you should start at the bottom of the trunk and gradually move upwards. After wiring the trunk, wire the first branch from the base to the tip. Then wire the first twig on the first branch, from the base to the tip. Proceed to the second twig on the same branch and so on. When you have wired all the twigs on the first branch, repeat the process with the second, third and fourth branch. Finally, start wiring the top, beginning at the base and proceeding to the tip. Looking at Figure 1 will show the basic flow of wiring.

WIRING TECHNIQUES

As with all bonsai procedures, there are “rules” to wiring. The rules are rather simple. We won’t list the rules in any simple form. If you read the following techniques, these rules will be covered in the description. Your first (or even second) wiring may not look like a professional did it. However, since the wire will generally only stay on for a short period of time, you will have many more opportunities to improve your techniques.

The best wiring is evenly spaced, has no crossing wires, and is unobtrusive. The most important thing to remember is that at the start, the wire should be secured to either the trunk or to a branch. Wiring should be slightly tight but not too tight, or there won’t be any room for diameter growth. If the wiring is too loose, the holding power will be weaker, and the branch may not be held in place. The ideal wiring angle is 45 degrees when viewed from all sides (see Fig 2).

If the spirals are too close, the wire acts as a spring and will not hold the tree in place. If spirals are too widely spaced, strength will be lost. The 45-degree angle makes use of all the strength available in the wire. To determine how long a wire should be to complete the job, measure the length of the branch to be bent and add one-third to estimate how long a wire should be. Don’t skimp on wire; it is worth much less than any tree that is worth wiring. Keep in mind that it is better to have a piece of wire that is too long rather than a piece of wire that is too short to do a complete bending job.

WIRING THE MAIN TRUNK

Anchor the wire by sticking it into the ground at the back of the tree. If possible stick it in the soil behind a strong root for extra strength. The trunk is then wired at 45-degree angle spirals (Fig 3).

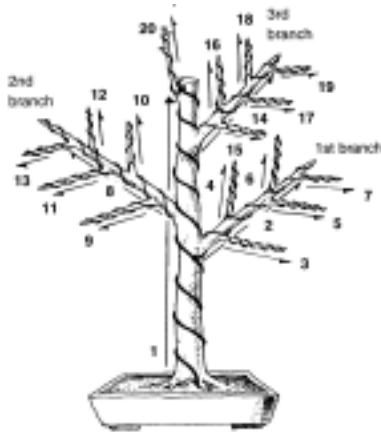


Figure 1

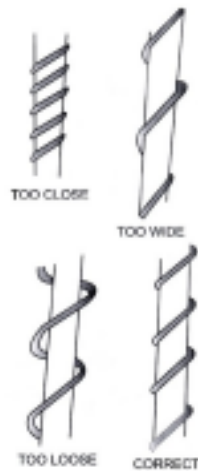


Figure 2

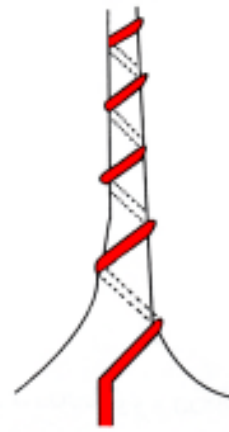


Figure 3

Forked – By wiring two branches of the fork with one wire, each branch holds the other. The important thing here is that wiring at the crotch of the fork should be secure and firm (Fig 4). The procedure is to begin at the fork, holding the wire at the back of the fork with one hand and then bringing the wires around and through the fork from the front, to form an upside down “V”. Wire a couple of turns on one branch and then after wiring the other completely, return to complete the first one. If you are going to wire only one of the branches, wrap a couple of turns on the one that is not to be wired, which should be enough to hold the other. If you are widening the fork, both sides of the fork should be wired. Caution should be used for this procedure, since the fork is a structurally relatively weak place.

Alternate or staggered branches – This is the most common wiring that you will do. When you are wiring, you should try to wire two branches at a time since this acts to secure the beginning of the wiring on each branch. Start by treating the lower branch and the main trunk as a fork (Fig 5). After doing a couple of turns up the main trunk, wire the lower branch. This is the same procedure that you would use if you want to wire only one branch. After wiring the bottom branch, continue up the trunk to the higher branch. Make sure that the first half turn, on each branch, is parallel to the main trunk.

Wiring a forked branch with one wire – The wire is anchored around the main trunk, and the branch is double wired until the fork is reached. The double wire is then divided to wire both branches. This results in a more continuous shape along the entire branch, as well as more security (Fig 6). The problem here is trying to determine what size wire to use. If both branches after the fork are the same size, then wire size selection is easy. If they are not, as is generally the case, you need to select the wire for the smallest branch. If the larger branch (after the fork) doesn't hold, you can wrap another length of wire on it (you will need to start the wire back on the trunk to secure it).

Wiring branches downward or upward – When bending a branch downward, the first half turn of wire should come over, then under the branch (Fig 7). When bending a branch upwards, the reverse is done, that is, the wire approaches the branch from below (Fig 8) .

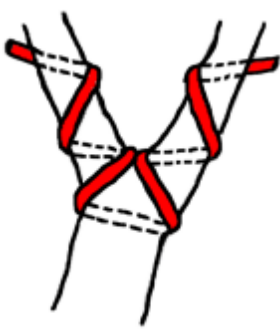


Figure 4

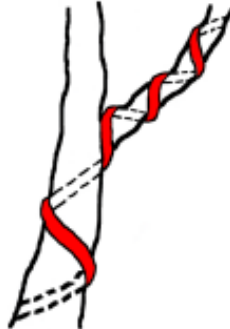


Figure 5

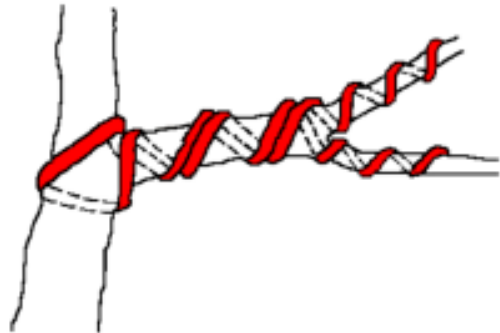


Figure 6

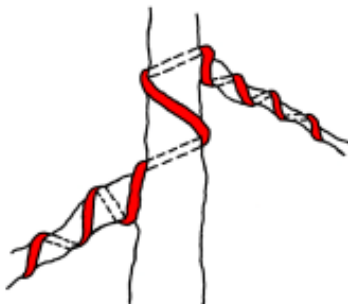


Figure 7

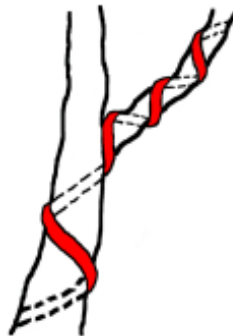


Figure 8

UNWIRING

When it is time to take wire off a tree, the wire should be carefully cut off in pieces, not unwound. I have seen several articles where some Japanese masters unwind the wire. Unless you are thoroughly skilled, this to me is foolhardy. The wire can't be re-used (unless it is re-annealed), it is extremely easy to damage the bark, and you run the risk of breaking off foliage or even the branch you spent so much time trying to bend. Using a blunt-nosed bonsai wire cutter is the recommended method. I typically start at the main trunk, cutting the wire from it, and then start on the branches. I cut the wire at each location where the wire is 'facing' me. I can then twist the cut wire off the branch with no damage to the branch. One important thing to mention is that even though a bonsai wire cutter is designed so that it will cut the wire and not the branch; take it from me, it can also cut off the branch if you are not careful on small branches.

A COUPLE OF TIPS

If you got this far and can take a couple of more thoughts, read on.

Clockwise or counter clockwise wiring – if you are working on a branch on the right side as you look at the tree, counter clockwise wiring will help bring the branch forward; clockwise wiring will help push the branch away. If you are working on a branch on the left side as you look at the tree, the reverse is true. To determine the clockwise or counter clockwise direction, look at the branch from the end back toward its base.

For right-handed people, you will probably find it easier to hold the tree with your left hand and do the wiring with your right hand. Therefore, if you turn the tree around so that you are always working on the right side, the orientation for your hand preference will be correct. For left-handed people, you will be turning the tree so that you are working on the left side. It should be noted that the "forward" and "backward" directions refer to the current position of the tree and not the front and back of the styled bonsai.

Many experts recommend doing both the wiring and bending at the same time. By that we mean applying the wire with one hand and starting the bend with the other. The risks are that you can break off the branch. I sort of compromise. I wrap a section of the branch (usually about one half the length), stop the wire wrapping, bend the branch (using both hands and only that portion of the branch that is wired), then continue the wiring to the end. I then put the final bend on the branch. If at all possible, you only want to bend the branch once to keep from causing severe damage to the limb. If I am trying to bend the trunk, I wrap the whole trunk with the wire, then do the bending.

When a young shoot develops on the trunk in a place where a branch is desired, wiring should not be done too early, as the shoot may snap off while still tender. However, most

buds will begin to grow vertically and the angle so formed at the base of the branch will be unattractive and difficult to correct later on. The solutions are to wire carefully in summer when the shoot is semi-hard or to pull it down with the use of string or a guide wire in late summer.

REFERENCES

Bonsai Nature in Miniature; K. and I. Murata
The Bonsai Handbook; D;. Prescott
Bonsai, Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy; D. Koreshoff
The Bonsai School; C. Coussins
Bonsai A Care Manual; C. Lewis
Perry's Chemical Engineering Handbook; 4th edition.

GLBS Website, Facebook and Instagram.

The Greater Louisville Bonsai Society has its own website, Facebook and Instagram pages which can be found at:

GLBS website address: <https://www.louisvillebonsai.org>

GLBS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheGLBS/>

GLBS Instagram: Kybonsai502

Purchase GLBS Swag: <https://kybonsaiswag.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

2025 GLBS Board

President Russ Stevens—russ.stevens@gmail.com

Vice President Jim Keith—shimpaku65@icloud.com

Secretary Troy Takagishi—ttakagish@gmail.com

Treasurer Jim Doiron—artdoiron@gmail.com

Member Joe Broadhurst—joemacbro@gmail.com

Member Kristy Tredway—kristy3663@hotmail.com

Member Oscar Mendez—ojmgaliz@live.com