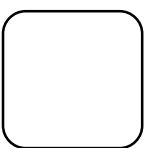




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<http://evergreembonsai.com>

Issue 2 February 2003



# Evergreen Bonsai Club



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**G**reetings to all!  
It's a new month and time for another meeting of the Evergreen Bonsai Club. Last month we had a large turn out. We would like to thank everyone who came, especially those who brought items for the raffle.



The raffle was a great success, raising enough money for the club to cover rent for a good part of the year. The items in the raffle included twenty or so trees, two turn tables and an oval pot with stand. Hopefully we can have these raffles on a regular basis. I enjoyed it and will be looking forward to the next one. The topic of last months meeting was evergreens and as promised our resident experts were on hand to help with styling. Last month Jerry Tomeo



made many items from his nursery available for purchase to club members. He will be bringing more items to future club meetings. Hopefully he will have something for us this month.

This months subject will be pruning and styling deciduous trees prior to spring repotting (We will be repotting in our trees at the March meeting). So bring your deciduous trees, tools and wire and get them ready for spring (its not to far away now I can almost see it from here). As usual our resident experts will be on hand to help with any questions you may have. Included with this months news letter is an article on the care and styling of Cork Bark Elms (*Ulmus parvifolia corticosa*). This wonderful article was provided by Charlie Anderson.



Last month we sold all ten autographed books by David Degroot. This month we will

have 5 more of these books. They will be ten dollars a piece. First come first serve so hurry this is a great book.



BETTER PUT THIS ON YOUR REPOT LIST, AL  
40 - Spring 1988

So far 8 of you have requested to receive the newsletter via email. Thank you! If any one else is interested in receiving the news letter via email please let me know by sending me an email at [Bonsai@attbi.com](mailto:Bonsai@attbi.com) or call me at 360-697-9035 after 7:00 pm is best or let me know at the next meeting. I am still working on getting the news letters on the web. I will hopefully have this done before the March meeting. I am also still looking for content for future news letters. So if you have anything you would like to contribute please contact me via email phone or at the meetings.

**This months meeting will be held at Olympic College in the shop area room 114 on Friday February 21<sup>st</sup> 7:00 pm.**



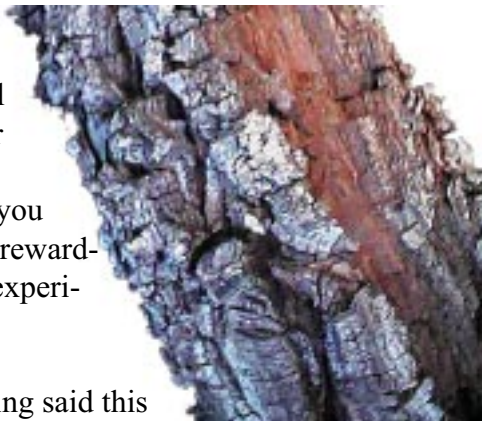
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## Chinese Cork Bark Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia corticosa*)

The Chinese Elm is to me one of the best deciduous trees to use for Bonsai. This is because it is usually somewhat easy to see the design and because the tree is both forgiving and quite hardy. As you will find, the tree responds well to trimming, is not hard to wire if you don't expect too much movement each year, and breaks out or breaks back with equal ease. It likes sun but will prosper in quite a bit of shade. Finally, each growing season can produce up to eight to twelve inches of growth and in three to four years a major branch can be developed. Put all this together with small foliage and you have a very rewarding Bonsai experience.



Having said this

let's discuss some of the specifics of design, trimming and care in more detail:

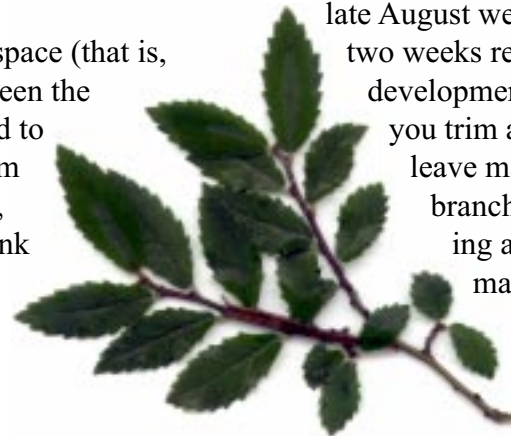
**Design** - The first rule of elm design is that it is not a pine tree and should not be designed as a pine. I prefer to design these trees as near as possible to the way they grow in nature or else like an old oak tree. This means that not all branches come down from the trunk but rather they tend to first grow up and then flatten out from there. It is necessary that the design have the basics of any art form and those are:

- Good perspective with taper from top to bottom and on each branch,
- Both positive and negative space (that is, both foliage and space between the branches- as John Naka used to say, "make sure there is room for the birds to fly through"),
- Interesting movement in trunk and branches,
- Enough branching to add depth to the basic design,
- Good balanced rootage

Finally, it should be noted that this is one deciduous

design in which dead wood is not a no-no but actually can add to the mystery of the design and which you will find in the natural growth of this material.

**Trimming** - The secret of trimming with elms is to do it well and do it often. Proper secondary and tertiary branches come from continual trimming. Small leaves are also achieved from proper trimming. We should note that trees living in basic sun will have smaller leaves than those trees that are placed in shady areas. During our growing season from April to late August we trim the elms at least every two weeks remembering to assist in the development of the branch structure as you trim and to make sure you don't leave many of the upward growing branches that are constantly appearing and are quite normal for this material.



**Care and Feeding** - In the Northwest we tend to pot in a soil mixture that is fifty percent



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crushed lava rock and fifty- percent medium bark (some fir and some western red cedar). Because this soil mixture does not have any pure soil and is very fast draining (that's required in Seattle) the fertilizer and other nutrients tend to leech out faster than in a more typical soil mixture. For these reasons, elm trees need to be fertilized every two weeks, insecticide and fungicide every month. Our typical fertilizing schedule calls for a shot of fish fertilizer or a high nitrogen fertilizer about the last week of February. Then a standard balanced fertilizer at half strength every two weeks until the end of August. Starting in September we use a zero-ten-ten fertilizer monthly until the end of January. Obviously we water at least daily during the growing season and do not ever let them totally dry out. Elms tend to lose leaves if they get to dry. We have also found that a spring dose of iron helps with the greening of the foliage.



sun in most climates and do require, because of the soil mixture, a little more fertilizing then might be your normal routine. We do not recommend the repotting of the trees in bonsai pots each year but rather every two to three years. Remember, as your foliage gets thicker do not shirk your trimming duty. Good luck and enjoy your elm tree.

All of the elm trees should do well in full