

From the President:

Picture Perfect Day for the Annual Picnic

Once again the weather cooperated with the Columbus Bonsai Society delivering a clear crisp day, ideal for our annual Picnic. About forty members and spouses were able to attend, enjoying camaraderie, sharing food and Bonsai. Club Trees were offered at silent auction, and those who attended were able to purchase some trees that I had purchased to sell at Inniswood's, "An Affair of the Hort". Several Club members also participated in the Members Sale. Since my backyard is rather large and there is ample parking at the offices behind my house, everything combined into quite a relaxed day. I came away with a renewed appreciation that our Club is also a social club and we should take more time to get to know one another. Thank you for coming to our home and sharing your appreciation of Bonsai with your Club friends.

An Affair of the Hort

As a charitable organization chartered to provide education and outreach to facilitate the art of Bonsai, the Club is frequently asked to participate in events. Selecting events that capture that spirit is sometimes difficult, but the Affair of the Hort is an outdoor event in a beautiful garden setting that draws over 10,000 visitors who love gardening and its wide variety of special interests. This was the 3rd year the Club has had a booth, and I feel we are finally figuring out what appeals to the crowd. We had about 14 small potted bonsai, 10 pre-bonsai, and pots to sell. People are beginning to look for us. One lady came up to the booth and said, "Oh, I was hoping you'd be here, I've been looking for bonsai pots and I remembered you had them." John Young entertained the crowd on Saturday by pruning his Olive and offering free cuttings. On Sunday Mark Paserrello brought three serrisa in various stages of refinement, which totally fascinated those who stopped at our booth. I want to thank not only John and Mark, but also Macia Herrold, and Linda Fields who helped to provide education and outreach to those who stopped by our booth. And this year the weather cooperated with sun and perfect temperatures! Members of the Board discussed adding a photo display that could be set on a table for this or other events to help show what the club does, for this and other future events. We also are exploring adding a Banner/flag of the Club logo to provide quick recognition.

Ready for a Road Trip?

The Board was asked if we were planning a road trip for this year. So we contacted our Show vendors and asked if a group could visit. Both Ken Huth and Dale Cochoy expressed immediate interest. Both are about 2 hours, or 117 miles north of the Polaris exit, located in Akron suburbs. The Board discussed trying to coordinate a trip before our October meeting, but felt that we should have a sign up at the meeting. This left **Sunday October 28** as our trip date. Dale advised he would be attending the National Arboretum event in Washington D.C. We are planning to take up Ken's invitation. Most of you are familiar with the type of materials Ken brings to the show. Ken's Bonsai World has two poly greenhouses and a variety of indoor and outdoor stock. If you are not planning to attend the regular Club meeting and will miss the signup, contact me either by phone, 818-9914, or e-mail kasceppsm@aol.com.

For those who are more adventuresome, you may wish to take in Craig Coussins at Wildwood Gardens on Saturday, October 27 (registration is \$60 for that event). I will have fliers to pass out to interested persons. I have checked out Craig Coussins on the web and his work was very impressive. Coussins founded the Scottish Bonsai Society in the 1970's and his web photos included some impressive grove plantings.

Have You Winterized Your Collection?

Zack Clayton and Mark Passerello have been helping Mark Ryan, Franklin Park, conduct a four class series on bonsai. On October 10, the final session will have been taught. I have been able to drop in and help out with a few of these classes. Infact last year, Ross Fillmore and I taught the winterization session. In reflection, I say one of the largest misspreceptions that non-bonsai hobbyist have, is that bonsai must be kept indoors. I have to admit that I killed my first bonsai because it was given as a Christmas gift and I tried to keep a eastern white cedar grove (3) alive in my living room. I keep them too warm and too wet. They were dead by April. So I took a class taught at the Conservatory by Max Puderbaugh and Tom Holcomb, called "So You Got a Bonsai for Christmas". The good news was that mine didn't come with glued on rocks.

I wondered why this mispreception is so common, so I went to the books. I looked at over 35 Bonsai books and most are silent on Winter care. A few like Simon and Schuster's Guide to Bonsai, Reader's Digest Home Handbook: Bonsai, the Bonsai Identifier, and the Bonsai Survival Manual provide specie information for location or temperature ranges that the plant does best in but this is only a part of the story. It is true, that first you need to know, is this tree a tropical, or is it temperate. However, there are many trees listed as indoor by some that are listed as outdoor by others, and vice versa. Kingsville boxwood, some japanese maples and some azaleas are particularly troublesome. Most species are classed someplace on climate zones.

Generally speaking, Columbus is located in Zone 5 on most horticultural maps. A mild winter, or a protected outdoor location may provide Zone 6 protection. We have had a few winters that reached lows that would make us a Zone 4 if they occurred more often. Now having said that, I've even confused myself; essentially this means plan for a normal winter but several days below 20 degrees may kill a poorly protected tree. Trees in smaller pots are more susceptible, trees left on concrete patios or selves above the ground are also over exposed. I learned from experience pots left on a concrete patio two years ago were the only trees that died for me. Also, outdoor storage can usually wait until we have freezing weather, usually after Thanksgiving.

So, where do I put my trees? Two books actually showed winter storage, they are Bonsai: Indoors and Out, by Jerald Stowell, and A Step by Step Guide to Growing and Displaying Bonsai by Colin Lewis. Find a protected location. This means a spot where the cold drying winter winds are blocked. You may do this with burlap, styrofoam, or a picnic table, or place them behind larger landscape bushes next to your house. Believe it or not, the north side and east sides are better than west or south. Southern exposures may thaw a tree out on a sunny day, especially as spring nears. This will mean certain death to some trees. the west tends to be too windy in Columbus. So I put some of my trees on the ground in the flower bed a few feet from my house's north side, staying several feet away from the west end. I also put plants on

the ground under the old wooden "tree fort - swing set" that has been long since modified into a large bonsai table. A wrap the sides with burlap, and add sheets of styrofoam to the west side to break the wind.

What about an unheated garage or porch? This depends, is it cool and dark enough to keep your trees in dormancy. Will you check and make sure they haven't dried out. Outside, snow cover can protect and provide watering. Some members have built protected areas or boxes. Most agree mulching over the pot helps, but watch out if your area has a lot of squirrels or mice, they might find your trees quite tasty! Also make sure that when you set your trees down, or even bury them in a flower bed (yep, this works), that the pot still drains. This may mean mulching under the pots as well. Some books suggest that smaller pots should be placed in a cold frame and be mulched in. I found I forget to open the lid on spring days and it can cook your plants.

OK, I don't want to scare anyone, so I'll change the subject to indoors. Friday October 5, they were predicting temperatures into the 30's Saturday night. Time to move the tropicals inside. Some books use 45 as the trigger temperature, more conservatives use 50, but those of us who live on the edge wait until low 40's or even 30's! In my case I already have too many house plants in front of the windows. But I do have several options open. I have a poorly heated (almost non-heated) Florida room on the north side of my house. I also have two plant racks with fluorescent lighting over each shelf in my basement. The Florida room takes on those "southern" temperates, such as Kingsville Boxwoods in small pots, crepe myrtle, japanese honeysuckle, less hardy azaleas and a few others I'm just not sure about.

The true tropicals like fukien tea go to the basement. Generally, the temperature in my basement is mid 60's to 70. I run a fan 24/7. Just like outdoor breezes, the fan helps prevent molds and consequently reduces any bug problems. The plants sit on trays with aquarium gravel in them. The gravel helps raise the humidity level in a dry central Ohio home. Finally, watch out for any bug outbreaks. Scale, mealy bug, white fly and gnats can become a really nasty problem if ignored even a day or two. And expect some trees to loose their leaves, such as bougainvillea. The outdoor leaves are thicker, and the plant will some grow new thinner indoor leaves better equipped to handle your artificial or reduced window lighting.

If you use windows, remember if your windows are cold and the leaves touch them, they can freeze. Also the effects of light drop geometrically as you move away from the window. A south window however, may need a sheer to prevent leaf scald. Good luck, and don't be afraid to ask another member. After all, we're all in this together!