

What's Up for November? Vice President Dan Binder says:

November's meeting combines two interesting programs. First the appreciation of suiseki is as old as bonsai itself. Many bonsai clubs have suiseki shows too. There is great interest in Japan for stone appreciation. Club members are encouraged to bring in their best stone or rock examples and share them with the rest of us. Sandy, Dan and anyone else will describe some of the elements of good suiseki (probably something to do with wabi, sabi or shibui) and how they can be displayed. They're great too because they can neither be under nor over watered.

Second part of the program will be a bonsai critique for anyone who brings a tree in. A panel of 'experts' (remember an x-pert is an unknown drip under pressure) will give a quality opinion of the trees and offer hints on the hidden potential that they may have. The owners can mark branches with string or twist ties for removal in the Spring and generally take notes to help remember how to develop the specimen into a better bonsai. There may even be photo-documentation! Our Club leaders will offer ideas on upgrades to design, health or pot selection for overall improvement ...and its free. Please, just one tree per member.

Both programs will be made better by the participation of the members, don't forget there's usually refreshments. See you November 18 at 2:00.

And Now the Moment You've All Been Waiting For!!! What's for Dinner?

Mark Passerello says, "I have spoken with Jason Chang, Manager at Hunan Lion and seen the space we would have the dinner in." Its a very nice set up. Tentative plans work out like this- We arrive at the Hunan Lion on Bethel Road on **December 4** at around 6:30 pm. For a Member cost of \$20.00 per person, you will get:

4 different appetizers (spring roll, dumpling, coconut shrimp and satay beef),
won ton soup,
5 main dishes (one each chicken, pork, beef, shrimp, scallop and vegetable.tofu)
fried rice & steamed rice,
dessert (ice cream)
non alcoholic beverage
*** Cocktails, beer and wine will be available on a cash basis

RSVP Cut off date will be November 30. so look at your calendars and mark that date.

Please bring a check for \$20.00 per person with you to the meeting, or mail a check made out to CBS to our PO box, Columbus Bonsai Society, POB 1981, Columbus, OH, 43216-1981. Last minute reservations by phone or email (**made by 11/30**) will have to pay **cash** to Mark P at the event. The club will pay the restaurant that night, they do not want individuals paying them for banquets.

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Bonsai Book Review

Bonsai - Miniature Potted Trees

by Norio Kabayashi
Japan Travel Bureau 1950

In future CBS Newsletters we hope to provide regular monthly book reviews. There are many books on bonsai, with many different styles of presenting information. Since 1990 there has been a resurgence in the publishing of books on bonsai. The Barnes and Noble Website has over 140 books listed under the subject of bonsai. Some authors seem very prolific. Many books are English translations; which leads to a word of caution. Look at the place where the author lives. It effects the relevance and credibility of the guidance that may be provided on the care of some specimens. I have been misled, resulting in the loss of a tree.

Having noted that there are a large number of relatively new bonsai books on today's market (most of my collection has been published after 1990) I have selected an "old" book for this review. I borrowed this treasure from the State of Ohio Library. They had only four books on the subject, all fairly old. *Bonsai-Miniature Potted Trees* caught my eye because it was printed for the Tourist Library in 1950 Occupied Japan. The author, Norio Kabayashi was the editor of "Bonsai" a monthly Japanese magazine that had been published for thirty years! In the preface, the author notes that this book is an attempt to answer questions that he had been asked by "Western lovers of art and nature, who are convinced that bonsai making is a unique art..." This is a small book, measuring only 5"X7" with 177 pages. However, it has 166 black and white photographs. These are photos of Japanese quality show trees; not twigs in training" as seen in some of the newer how-to books. Because you are not likely to be able to find this book your selves, I will provide a more detailed report than future reports may contain.

Two sentences in the "What is a Bonsai?" section of the book were so eloquent that I feel they should be shared with you here: "A bonsai bears the stamp of each plant so cultivated; it is intended to bring out the characteristic or characteristics so conspicuously as to touch the cord of aesthetic sediment." and "The art of making bonsai involves in itself the pleasure of cultivating trees; the sort of gratification which a mother finds in bringing up her child....Herein lies the distinctive feature of the art of nurturing trees in tray-pots."

The following tidbits were items that caught my interest on plant care:

It is difficult to maintain the health equally of all trees in a grove planting. The problem can be eliminated by planting a single stump in a way that several trunks can be developed from it.

Bonsai were traditionally trained with a "right" viewing side because they were normally displayed against a screen or set in an alcove. Kobayashi goes on to say they should be pruned so that they can be viewed from all sides.

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Deciduous trees prized for their autumn foliage are; maples, mountain ash, Japanese wax tree, ginkgo and ivy. (this book also mentions fruiting and flowing trees and the use of stones)

Balance is defined first by the trunk, second branches, third rootage.

The seven factors in successful bonsai cultivation are: soil; transplantation (repotting); watering; care in placing the pots in summer and winter; nipping buds or pruning; manuring (fertilizing); and extermination or harmful insects and the prevention of disease.

From here the book offers a few pages on each of these areas. I selected some of the text that I felt was important.

Soil - Angular sand is more effective in stimulating the branching of roots.

Transplantation - Generally best done just as the plant awakes from winter, or buds begin to swell. The exceptions noted were Quince and Jasmine - to be repotted when the plant begins to shed its leaves. He notes that the holes in a pot are called "Eyes". Root pruning should be done speedily in a damp room sheltered from the sun and wind. After repotting shelter the plant from the sun until root activity has started again.

Placement - Light fresh wind makes a bonsai stronger and resistant to disease, too strong does harm. Protect bonsai from strong afternoon sun from the west, after 2 PM, by using shading.

Watering - Water twice. First until water flows from the drain, then a second time until water flows from the drain again. He notes that if the soil is right and the tree is not pot bound this should be sufficient even on the hottest day.

Fertilizer - Too much can be as bad as none.

Pruning - Fruiting and flowering bonsai are pruned different from all the rest.

Pots - Are the picture frame for the art. Select the correct size and color so that the pot does not overwhelm the plant, but brings out its beauty and elegance.

Unfortunately the "Trees for Bonsai" section of this book only covers 18 species. Each description discusses the tree's trunk and foliage, where they grow naturally, soil, fertilizing, transplanting frequency, and winter protection.

Another new feature that we are going to start is **Tree of the Month**.

"Potentilla Fruticosa"

There are a number of types of Potentilla, ranging from a herbaceous ground cover to a small bush 2 'to 3' tall. Fruticosa is the bush type. The thing that makes it an interesting bonsai candidate is its shaggy bark, which makes it old looking even when young. It has small lobbed leaves that are slightly grey-green. In summer it has five pedaled flowers that resemble those of a buttercup. Color of the flowers ranges from white to cream to yellow. There are even "reddish" specimens available.

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The trick to finding a plant that is "Potensai" is finding one in a nursery pot that is single stalked. I have found 3, so it can be done, but I'm sure that I looked at hundreds to find these. They ranged in price from the 3 for \$10 to one that was \$16.95 (but I got it in the 66% reduce pile -- out back). You may even find one planted in your own flower beds. One of my reference books says that it is suitable for all styles but literati. Nursery stock trunk size tends to be on the twiggy side, and the craggy bark attracts moss, which detracts from the old looking character.

Positioning: Full Sun, but another book cautions "it must be protected from direct and prolonged exposure to sunlight in the summer (after 1:00 PM). They are outdoor hardy.

Watering: Daily during the growing season, the soil should not be allowed to dry out completely at any time. Water foliage at least weekly.

Feeding: Every two weeks from early early to late spring and every 20-30 days from summer to late autumn.

Repotting: Every 2 years in early spring before the buds open. Use a basic soil mixture (one reference says 60% soil, 10% peat, and 30% coarse sand). Check drain holes frequently, as young roots grow quickly and may block them.

Pruning: Continually prune back new growth to maintain a neat compact growth. Initial root pruning should be carried out when repotting. My other reference says to shorten new shoots in autumn after flowering. Unwanted branches should be removed at anytime. Wiring can be carried out spring to autumn; but be careful, *Potentilla* tends to be brittle and may split at the branch base. As with other deciduous plants, note the position of the buds, this will allow you to decide which direction the branch will grow. There may be some die back when hard pruning, and sometimes a large number of branches will sprout as a result, usually having one that will grow strongly upward!

Pests: The plant's new growth is susceptible to aphids, whitefly, thrips, mites, mealybug and other soft bodied insects looking for a source of sweet sap.

Info sources were: Simon and Schuster, RD Home Handbooks: Bonsai, and Gustafson's "Keep Your Bonsai Alive and Well". I also used a gardening reference called; "Illustrated Guide to Home Gardening". Oh, and keeping them alive *in pots* for the last 7 years.

Road trip, October 28, 2001 Ken's Bonsai World - Ken Schultz

October 28 turned out to be a wonderful day! Seven members made the trek to Ken's Bonsai World a mere 1 hour and 20 minutes away in North Canton. Ken's place is really shaping up. He tells me that it was once his grandparents. Since I had seen his place shortly after he moved there I was impressed with the improvements he is making.

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He has two poly-greenhouses. One for his tropicals and one to protect the more hardy stock. (Picture). Against the side of the tropical greenhouse, the plant material that would be remaining outside was bunched together for the winter. But that didn't stop us from picking through and I know I saw some of those gems in the back of a car heading for Columbus at the end of the day. Two very large *Shefellaras* dominate the tropical greenhouse. But what caught our eye were the new dark pink double blossomed *erodiums*. The unheated greenhouse had many elms and *Shimpaku*, as well as a number of other species.

When lunch arrived we were treated to burgers and hotdogs. Ken had built a fire in a fire ring between his house and the green houses and we sat and talked bonsai. Afterward Ken trimmed a few elm grove plantings and we narrowed our selections. You should ask Paul Crawford, John Hill, Ben William, Ken and Sandy Schoenfeld, Linda Fields and me what treasures we found, and when we might be going back.

Miscellaneous

Here is an update on indoor storage. Ken has a new rack made out of Shopping cart type material available at Lowes for \$80 for a four shelf unit. K-Mart has a shorter rack for \$50. The Lowes unit is 4' long - perfect for wiring the shop light to it.



Bonsai Here and Beyond the Outerbelt

Unless otherwise noted, The Columbus Bonsai Society meets the third Sunday of every month at 2:00 pm. at the Franklin Park Conservatory. Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 in the Franklin Park Conservatory library.

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CBS Holiday Dinner - Tuesday, December 4 at Hunan Lion, 6:30 Appetizers, 7:00 Dinner.

RSVP to Mark Passerello

December 16, 2001 - **No CBS meeting.**

January 20, 2002 - 2:00pm Regular CBS Meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory

February 21, 2002 - Lecture / Demonstration and Workshop by Art Skolnik - Cincinnati Club

March 22, 2002 - Lecture / Demonstration and Workshop by Gary Marchal - Cincinnati Club

April 18, 2002 - Lecture / Demonstration and Workshop by Colin Lewis - Cincinnati Club

May 16, 2002 - Lecture / Demonstration and Workshop by Roy Nagatoshi - Cincinnati Club

Members are encouraged to add events to this list. We probably should focus on events that are within 250 miles and the majors such as MABA, BCI, and ABS.

And finally -

My weird uncle Irving the plumber,

Took his fig tree to work all last summer -
But a sad episode,
Happened in the commode,
When the Ficus got flushed - what a Bummer!

Tom Pillichody

