

## Columbus Bonsai Society Newsletter - August 2002

Dale Cochoy will start the event with a discussion of *Ficus nerifolia* in terms of care, styling, and general background. The Board decided to start early this month because the workshop is scheduled to run 3 hours. All members are invited to stay as observers during the Workshop as this is our monthly meeting time. You should learn a lot about *Ficus* styling in general and *nerifolia* in particular. At 2:00 we will take a short intermission to take care of some business.

Its time to Vote. We have a complete slate of officers to run, but will still take nominations from the floor for the elections in August.

The slate is : President - Ken Schultz  
1st Vice President - Dan Binder  
2nd Vice President - John Hill  
Secretary - Mark Passarrello  
Treasurer - Dick Gurevitz  
1 year Board - Jesse Welton  
2 year Board - Linda Fields  
3 year Board - Ben William  
Librarian - Merida Weinstein  
Newsletter Editor - Zack Clayton

Voting will take place at 2:00 so be sure to be there. Immediately after voting the workshop will start. We still have a couple of the large trees and three small ones available.

### The Workshop

*Ficus Nerifolia*, a tropical, is especially good for those of you who don't have large outdoor spaces to overwinter the evergreen and deciduous trees. Our guest presenter is none other than Dale Cochoy, from Hartville, OH, who has attended our CBS shows as one of our regular vendors and demonstrator. Did I mention that the lecture part of the program will start at 1:00 instead of the usual time?

We are offering an opportunity for up to 15 individuals to experience a hands-on workshop with *nerifolia*. Workshop fees (includes tree) will be \$65 for larger trees and \$45 for smaller trees. We've had some pre-registrations already, as this was first announced at the May meeting. But don't despair, there are still some trees available. We will complete sign-ups and collect any outstanding money at the meeting prior to the workshop. Stay and observe this workshop, free of charge.

Those of you who have attended our shows in the past and observed Dale's demos have seen what great work he does. This should be a great opportunity to add to your bonsai collection. Be sure to bring your own wire and tools. These will not be provided, but the Club will be glad to sell you some wire if you need it.

Dale has selected these trees from Florida. All are nice specimens and hand picked. They will be great. Even the small ones have great trunks. Also, He's bringing some bigger ones for anyone who wants to upsize. He will have 3-4 of a bigger size at \$75.00 for the Tree. A couple of folks indicated they wanted to go BIG.

These will be in a plastic nursery pot, but, this is the time to do it and they can be potted at a later time after meeting - Even after styling.

Dale Cochoy, Wild Things Bonsai Studio, Hartville, Ohio. Dales website is <http://www.WildThingsBonsai.com> if you want to see more information. A schedule of the bonsai styling programs that he filmed is located at the producers website <http://www.our-common-ground.com/forum/guild> Just look under "Bonsai" on the monthly schedule.

And now a note about refreshments.

Thank you Linda Fields for bringing the donuts for last months meeting.

Very few people have signed up for refreshments so far this year so the cost of this is falling on the same group of cookie bakers. In addition Pat Radloff makes sure that the coffee pot is at the meetings and filled with brew for the rest of us. Please contact Pat or sign up for a month on the volunteer sheet near the refreshments. If we don't get any volunteers we will have to ask for donations at the table. Since this is something we all seem to enjoy at the meeting, I would hate to see it disappear.

Start thinking about what you want to bring to the picnic on Saturday, September 14 at the new VP's house. John Hill has invited us to see his place this year.

A word from the President

Your Trees in Hot Weather

Watch out for that hot sun! With all this hot sunny weather and some hot windy days, evaporation is so rapid that the edges of the leaves and some pine needles may be damaged. Your trees may need the benefit of a little more shade and protection from the wind. I have tried to place most of my trees in places where they do not receive direct afternoon sun between 2 and 5 PM. It seems to help, though a few got singed before they got moved. As a measure, understory trees and bonsai from shrubs cannot tolerate summer's full direct sun.

While growth in hot weather slows, fertilizer is still needed, but you should switch to a fertilizer lower in nitrogen. As fall approaches you want growth to slow so that your trees do not have tender new growth that won't make it through the winter.

As you look your trees over to maintain their shape by pinching or cutting back growth, like on your elms, maples or tropicals, look for pests. Dry weather also makes them thirsty and they will attach the tender new green growth. Aphids, spider mites, scale and mealy bug seem to magically

appear overnight. Spray them! Use kelthane, insecticidal soaps or even powers. I've used Orchard Spray successfully for the past several years. If it works on apple trees, why not bonsai?

Watering can be tricky. I've discovered most of my plants need watering at least once a day. A few, due to their location or pot size can make it for about a day and a half. On the other hand some with small pots or dark colored pots need watering twice a day. I prefer to water in the morning before I go to work. However some days this doesn't fit my schedule and I wait until I get home. In the day or evening you must run water trough your hose until it gets cool. Water lying in a hose in the sun can get so hot that it will scald your plant. Speaking of hot, if you have dark colored pots that are hit by the direct sun the soil and roots in the pot can reach cooking temperatures - watch out! While it does not seem possible to over water this summer, only willows and bald cypress seem to be able to survive standing water. So make sure your pots are draining

As you are caring for your trees, pick them up for several reasons\_Get used to what a dry plant weighs, it ill help you in winter if you can tell when the plant is dry. Also raise it up to viewing level if it normally sits on the ground, look at the branch structure, and tweak your wiring. Look to see if the wire has gotten too tight and is cutting in. If it has, remove it. Take your scissors with you when you go to look at your plants. Ramification can be improved by selectively cutting branches. You may want to keep new growth to 2-3 leaves. Think about the direction new growth will take when you nip a branch back. If you were too busy repotting this spring, and did not get to fine wiring, may you have the time now; though I do not like to leave wiring on over the winter. This is because the branches may rapidly swell in the spring.

Do not think about repotting in August, with the exception of some tropicals. I remember being told to wait until the daytime and nighttime temperatures were equal for some of them to do their best when repotted. If you do repot, move the plant to a shadier location and do not miss a watering! If you don't think a plant will make it because it needs repotting so badly, you might consider putting it in the ground temporarily. You might loosen compacted soil to improve watering with a long nail [or chopstick]. ~ Ken Schultz

Factoid: A black surface in direct sunlight can reach over 200 degrees Fahrenheit in an hour. The more soil and retained water in a bonsai pot, the slower this will rise. Shaded pots will be the coolest.

## A Book Report

Chinese Penjing: Miniature Trees and Landscapes

By Hu Yuhua

Several years ago I was in the Plantland over on Westerville Road when they were having a clearance on their gardening books. They had three or four bonsai books among the selection. I must confess that I bought this book that day because I can't resist a bargain, and as it is a coffee table size book, its original price probably would have kept me from buying it. This book is quite different than any "bonsai book" as it truly shows the Chinese styles of miniature trees and landscapes. Many pages are full color plates showing trees on exquisite stands. Each tree has a

title or name, for example, "Indolent Dragon" then the scientific name is listed followed by the height in centimeters and the age of the tree, finally the name of the owner. There are 155 such entries. The trees range in age from 5 years to "over" 500 years old "Artistic Spirit of the Qin and Han Dynasties". There are also Penjing landscapes, for example "Reflections of the setting Sun" listed as bauxite, 120 cm long. This is displayed on a white marble tray, which is sitting on a bamboo stand.

To say the least the photo section of this book is fascinating, but that's not the whole story. There is a section on Penjing Techniques. This section shows 12 tree styles. Some resemble the Japanese Bonsai styles but others are unique. The Penjing styles include; Connected Root Style, Reclining Trunk Style, and Withered Trunk Style. There are a series of drawings showing the rock on white marble settings. This is followed by "regional" styles; Nantong - two and ½ curves, Sichuan Traditional form and the Square Turn style.

I was surprised when the section on styles was followed by a section on obtaining materials. This section includes five pages on different grafting techniques. This then is followed by "Twisting and Exposing Roots", and "Carving as a Method to Enhance the Trunk." There is even a section on carving rocks to create landscape Penjing. And finally thinking of everything, there is a section on Penjing Display which discusses stands and indoor versus outdoor displays.

~ Ken Schultz

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### Tree of the Month

Due to time and schedule constraints, there is no tree of the month this month. My apologies, and anyone who would like to see their name in print is welcome to contribute.

### Affair of the Hort - Inniswood Metro Park

Each year for the past three years the Columbus Bonsai Society has had a booth at the "Affair of the Hort". This event is scheduled for the last weekend in September (28-29). If you haven't attended it is an interesting event for anyone who gardens. Inniswood invites many plant societies to participate. We have done demonstrations and staffed our booth. In order to fulfill our obligation, I am looking for volunteers for four hour shifts on each of the two days of the event. The public will be asking questions about caring fo bonsai and about our CLub. For the last two years we had a limited amount of plant material for sale.

If you are willing to help, please call me [Ken Schultz] at 818-9914. If I'm not home, leave your name and number so that I can call you back and arrange a schedule to ensure that we have at least two volunteers during each shift.

### 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.

August 18, 2002 - 1:00pm Regular CBS Meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory - Elections of Board - Tropical Workshop on Ficus nerifolia - Dale Cochoy

Saturday, September 14, 2002 - Annual Picnic

September 28 -29, 2002 - Affair of the Hort at Inniswood Metro Park

October 20, 2002 - 1:00 bring a tree for advice from our Board. 2:00pm Regular CBS Meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory - Fall Show/panel judging

November 17, 2002 - 1:00 bring a tree for advice from our Board. 2:00pm Regular CBS Meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory - Winterization/Wiring and Pruning that can be done Now

December 15, 2002 - Columbus Bonsai Society Holiday Dinner

January 19, 2003 - 1:00 bring a tree for advice from our Board. 2:00pm Regular CBS Meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory -

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. For Example: MABA will be in Cincinnati for 2003. This is an opportunity to help out a nearby club and attend a very educational event - And see some really nice trees.

President - Ken Schultz 1st Vice President - Sandy Schoenfeld

2nd Vice President - Dan Binder Secretary - Shelby Conrad

Treasurer - Dick Guervitz 1 year Board - Ben William

2 year Board - Mark Passerello 3 year Board - Linda Fields

Librarian - Merida Weinstein Newsletter Editor - Zack Clayton

Refreshment Coord - Patrica Radloff

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