

# Columbus Bonsai Society Newsletter - May 2003

The May meeting starts at 12:00 Noon.

## Snacks for the meetings

Leanne Parnell has graciously volunteered to coordinate the snacks and refreshments for the club meetings. She is not responsible for supplying all of the goodies, but will make sure the coffee pot and supplies are present at the meetings and workshops. If you haven't volunteered to bring in a snack item or cookies for awhile, this is a good time, and way, to say thank you Leanne! Think about it. Wouldn't it be nice if she had the rest of the year lined up through other people stepping up and offering to bring in cookies some month?

## Our Show

Reserve your weekend after Fathers Day for the Columbus Bonsai Society Annual Show. We will have member trees displayed in a non-juried show and have vendors, beginners workshops in the morning, and demonstrations in the afternoon on both Saturday and Sunday, June 21 and 22. Start thinking about what trees you would like to bring in to show. The purpose of our show is to allow members to display their favorite trees and to let our visitors for the weekend see a variety of bonsai styles. If your tree isn't "perfect" that's alright, the show is to educate people about the hobby and fine specimens are welcome and encouraged, but visitors should know that trees still in training can and do show nicely and are valued by the owner as art and hobby.

Mike Schied is the Cincinnati clubs' tropical expert. He has worked for the last several seasons with Jim Barrett and other California masters working with junipers and pines. Mike's demo for 2:00 Saturday afternoon will be a Juniper prostrata from southern Florida. Even though they are found in the south they survive up here quite well. The demo for Sunday will be our version of Iron Chef Does Bonsai starting at 2:00. Both demonstrations are free to the public.

Ken Huth will be providing the workshop Saturday and Sunday for up to 25 participants. This beginners level workshop is \$15 for supplies, a juniper, and a pot. Club members are encouraged to assist Ken with this number of beginning students.

Gary is both a Grower and a Potter. I know he is bringing lots of pots to Columbus and I hope he will have some large ones for those of us with "two man" trees.

Speaking of the show. We are still looking for volunteers for Sat/Sunday "sheriffs patrol" and general presence at the club table during the show. "Iron Bonsai" demonstrators on Sunday, and then takedown after the show on Sunday. This one is relatively easy, you have to help to get your trees back. ^\_^

## Coming Attractions

For our May 18 (normal 3rd Sunday) meeting, We will start the meeting at 12:00 with 15 to 20 minutes of background and Azalea facts and then move into the workshop featuring Tom McCormik. This will be a "bring your own tree" workshop. Spaces are limited to 12 and all

twelve spaces are claimed with 4 on the waiting list. The cost is \$25 to work on your tree. All members are invited to attend this session, which will start at NOON. Tom will bring a couple of his trees to illustrate his presentation. Participants will need to supply their own tree, tools and WIRE in several sizes. Tom is the current president of MABA, the Mid America Bonsai Association, (our club is a member) and he serves as a director on the American Bonsai Society Board. You should plan to attend, even if you aren't planning on participating in the workshop. I have learned many new things about my trees and tips in general from listening to the conversation and instruction that happens at these workshops.

#### MABA 2003 Convention - July 3-6

The convention offers an outstanding array of international and local artists along with a great variety of workshops and excellent raw materials. The tree exhibit should be tremendous with two levels of cash prizes. Check out the vendors area and join in the celebration. For information and photos visit our website, <http://www.maba2003.com>. Dave Radlinski, Chairman

#### Things to do in May Your Selection Please!

We are looking forward to seeing the trees that will be in our show this year. Some will be returns, some will be new, but regardless, they are yours and you should show them! If you haven't registered your trees, or tree yet, please do so by e-mailing us your registration so that we can get the cards made up telling the public what they are. (If you are mailing your registrations in we ask that they be sent by June 15, to give them time to arrive and be processed.)

As the pride and joy of your personal bonsai collection, we ask that you take a few minutes and get your tree(s) ready to show. Clean the pot, pluck off dead foliage, and trim any wild growth that may have sprouted with all the rain we've been having. (minimal wiring please) If you have a stand or accent plant you want shown with your tree, make sure we know that when you drop them off at registration.

We hope that you will be able to drop your trees off on Friday night between 4:30 and 7:00 PM. We will have to cut off registration by 8:30 Saturday morning to allow the placement team to get the room set up and open for the public by 10:00 AM.

A printed form is in the Print version of the newsletter and an online form is at:  
<http://columbusbonsai.v-space.org/treereg2003.pdf>  
or <http://columbusbonsai.v-space.org/registration.html>

#### A Trip Report

Sixteen Club members participated in the road trip to Ken's Bonsai World on May 4th. The weather cooperated and it was sunny and warm. Patty, Ken's wife had the BBQ going and we were treated not only to three greenhouses of trees to select from, but also hotdogs, hamburgers and sloppy joes. I didn't track everyone's selections, but I saw a number of trees grouped for loading and the subsequent trip back to Columbus. Some purchased a "Mountain" azalea for the

upcoming workshop; Jesse

found a wonderful small satsuki. Merida found a button wood, I think I saw Sara with a Wisteria. Paul Crawford had several items. I heard that John Hill made some excellent purchases also. Ben, Leanne, Zack, Ken and Sandy, and others were there too; ask them about the trip.

I've e-mailed Ken and thanked him and Patty for their wonderful hospitality. He was worried that we've seen his stock, what can he bring to the show. I said not to worry, with the number of trees he has, I could look in the same greenhouse three times and see something new each time. Also we were able to meet and talk with members from the Sandusky Club and a few Akron-Canton Club members too.

## Tree of the Month

### Boxwood

Botanical name: *Buxus* sp.

In spite of the name I can find no records of boxwood being used to make boxes, However, it was used as an extremely durable fine grained wood for printing and precision instruments.. The end grain would take and hold fine carvings for specialty printing needs without the need to cast or engrave special metal type. Boxes are densely branched shrubs native to Europe and Asia. Caution: box leaves are poisonous, and eating even a few can kill a small pet.

All the varieties of boxwood will make good bonsai. For those of us in hard winter areas, we need to select the hardier varieties or plan on having some winter protection plan for the southern varieties. For Mame or Shohin bonsai, *Buxus microphylla* x. *compacta* var. *kingsville* is a proven favorite. It can have beautiful nebari, and the tiny leaf size adds to the illusion of age and majestic proportions in a small tree. However, in recent years new versions of non-“kingsville” and its predecessors - *B. microphylla* and *B. compacta* - produce wonderful small trees. For larger bonsai, the Korean, Japanese, and older forms of English boxwood have proven to produce fine specimens. Many of the larger forms are available in your local garden center. The Korean box (*Buxus microphylla* var. *koreana*) is the hardiest species of all the boxwood and its' popular cultivar 'Winter Green' is especially tough and attractive. This has small, dense, light green foliage. Winter green box, retains its good green leaf color during the dormant season, unlike the ordinary species which turns light brown.

Another recently discovered cultivar, Chicagoland Green<sup>a</sup> boxwood (*Buxus* x 'Glencoe'), has proved to be an excellent performer as far north as Minneapolis. This cultivar sports medium green foliage year-round and is a rather quick grower (everything is relative). Twelve year old plants at the Chicago Botanic Garden, where the plant was discovered, measure 3' tall and 5' wide.

Boxwood can be wired when branches are young and seem to thrive as pot plants. This would help explain their common use as topiary subjects as well as bonsai. Boxwood tends to be generally slow growing and the hard wood resists wiring after it has hardened. Several years may be needed to move a branch.

Repot boxwood every two years. Spring is the best time, but it can be repotted in summer and fall if needed. But, avoid repotting during very hot weather or during a growth spurt. Use basic bonsai soil. Boxwood dislikes acid soil, and the use of limestone in the soil mix or adding an occasional dose of lime to the soil is recommended. Soil must be well drained. Their root system tends to have a stringy quality that tolerates root pruning well. It is not the matted fibrous roots of potted azaleas or junipers, but has similar characteristics if it becomes root bound. I have had good luck just cutting out wedges and the periphery of the stringy roots when repotting Wiring the tree into the pot is very important for re-establishment of roots in the pot. This allows them to be grown in a variety of individual styles as well as in miniature landscapes.

Pests and diseases: Nematodes, mites and leaf miners, scale insects, blackfly, greenfly, and red spider mites. Although box is very disease resistant, honey fungus and rust are sometimes encountered.

Boxwood are forgiving in their growing location as they have been adapted to many locations over the years. Originating as an under story plant they tolerate medium shade, filtered sun, or full sun for the varieties adapted for hedging. If you have a specimen that is getting leggy then try putting it in the ground in full sun for a year or two. It will back bud and fill in allowing you to chase the foliage pads back to where they should be for your design.

Watering: Boxwood likes water, particularly when in a pot. It is important to keep the shallow root system cool and moist. Small boxwood bonsai should be kept damp and watered twice daily in hot weather. However, do not allow the soil to become saturated or the pot to stand in water.

Woody cuttings can be taken any time during the growing season. My experience with boxwood cuttings is they are very slow to root and will continue to be green and apparently healthy several months after cuttings are struck, even if there has been no visible root growth. I have learned not to disturb boxwood cuttings until I can see new growth on the tips of the branchlets. I have read a couple of places that fall cutting can yield good results, but this has not been my experience. Those authors may live in the south and have very mild winters to contend with.

Boxwood likes a balanced fertilizer from the time it buds out to late fall. In Columbus this would be late April to October.

Over-wintering: Shelter the hardy boxwoods from winter sun. It doesn't have to be absolute, a partly sunny or shady location, possibly in the under story of a large tree or under a bench, or on the east or north side of a building or fence

#### References:

<http://www.bonsai-bci.com/species/boxwood.html> by Sabrina Caine and Thomas L. Zane

Boxwood in the North? by Jeff Epping, in

[http://www.olbrich.org/GardeningResources/Staff Articles/boxwood.htm](http://www.olbrich.org/GardeningResources/Staff%20Articles/boxwood.htm)

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. The meetings are open to members.

May 18 - Meeting starts at 12:00 noon. Tom McCormick Workshop on Azaleas. Silent observers welcome. Participants will need to supply their own tree, tools and WIRE in several sizes.

May 17 & 18 - All State Michigan Bonsai Show.

June 7-8 - Dawes Show, Dawes Arboretum.

June 21-22 - Show - BYOT to show off. Note: 4th Sunday

July 4-5-6 - July 4th weekend of 2003. The Mid-America Bonsai Alliance and the Bonsai Society of Greater Cincinnati invite you to attend MABA 2003. The symposium starts on Thursday evening July 3rd with a demonstration by guest artist Salvatore Liporace. You'll find a full day of demonstrations on Friday and workshops on Friday evening, all day Saturday and Sunday morning. Check this Webpage: <http://maba2003.com> for the details.

July 20- Art Patznik - BYOT

August 17 - New Club Trees - (Clump styling, lead by Jose???)

September 21- Picnic

October 19 - Fall Show

November 16 -4 stations - Pots/Trees/Tool sharpening/Winterization

December - Holiday dinner

President - Ken Schultz

1st Vice President - Dan Binder

Vice President - John Hill

Secretary - Mark Passerello

Treasurer - Dick Guervitz

1 year Board - Jesse Welton

2 year Board - Linda Fields

3 year Board - Ben William

Librarian - Merida Weinstein

Newsletter Editor - Zack Clayton

Refreshment Coord - Leanne Parnell

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