

Columbus Bonsai Society Newsletter - June 2004

The Club show over Father's Day Weekend, June 19-20. What else can I say? Please bring your trees Friday afternoon if possible, it will help us get things ready and make Saturday more enjoyable for everyone involved. 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 11, to give them time to arrive and be processed.) At this point please use the printed form in the newsletter as a guide to email your selections to columbusbonsai@hotmail.com and or bring the printed form to Franklin Park Conservatory when you drop off your trees on Friday evening from 4:30 to 7:00. If you are bringing the trees on Saturday morning, PLEASE email the registration to us. Jesse will have to get it printed off before that morning. (Unless you want me to hand print them - which would not be pretty. ZAC)

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, but please do not oil it, it makes them very slippery and we don't want to mess with broken pots during set up. Do pluck off dead foliage, and trim any wild growth that may have sprouted in the fine weather we've been having. (neat and minimal wiring please) If you have a stand or accent plant you want shown with your tree, make sure you include that on the form and make sure we know that when you drop them off at registration. We will be intentional about keeping those items together if we know that is your wish. If you don't tell us, we have to guess, and your prize stand may end up under someone else's tree.

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.

Access: When you come to the show or to work, the Conservatory has asked us to wear our name tags and/or a club shirt. This will help get you past the lines waiting for the Chihully exhibit. It may be best to come down to the regular meeting room and take the elevator up.

Speaking of work, we are still looking for volunteers for set up and other staffing areas. Please contact Ken Schultz to find out where you can help out. It's a lot of fun and you get to meet new people who are interested in what you know. And if you are working bring something for the potluck break room.

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. I hear from the folks who went on the road trip that he has some really good stuff again this year and since I wasn't able to go I'm looking forward to seeing it.

Gary Wood will be bringing some larger pots to Columbus this year. If you don't see something you like, or have a particular pot in mind, bring a picture of your tree with the approximate size pot you want. Gary will take custom orders and ship the pot when it is done. He will want to see

a picture of the tree you are buying the pot for however so he can judge the style of pot that would be best for it. In addition to bonsai pots, Gary will have ikibana containers, trees, and accent plants.

Tom Holcomb, one of our own long standing members will be offering a limited number of handmade pots for sale at the show.

Dale Cochoy will be vending at the show again this year. He will look a lot like Ross Fillmore as he has had to clone himself in order to be at the MABA show at the same time, but he will have a lot of good stuff for us as always.

Coming Attractions

Don't forget the Bonsai Show at Dawes Arboretum, June 5-6. This is always a very nice show and the setting at Dawes Arboretum is beautiful. This is Art Patznick's last year as Curator for the Dawes Collection so if you have never been out to the arboretum to see the effect his guiding hand has on their material this will be a good chance. This weekend is also the opening of the new display area so you would be able to see the new design and settings in their brand new state. Of course, the collection is on display year round and you can always visit the arboretum whenever it is open and see the collection.

In July the club meeting is devoted to those wild and wacky tropicals. Jose Cuerto will be demonstrating various techniques on one of his trees, either hornbeam or pitch pine. We have decided not to have Jose judge the Alberta Spruce contestants. We know how much this will break his heart, but have decided that the current club president and a select cadre of officials will judge this event. Hope you have been working on your entry(s)

By the way, the styling contest for Alberta Spruce (*Picea glauca albertiana* 'conica') is open to all Club members. We have beginner (styled less than 5 trees so far) intermediate (styled 5 – 25 trees), and advanced (more than 25 trees styled by you). The "Winners" will get their names in the newsletter - with a photo of them and their tree and a free bag of soil - value \$3. (Other prizes to be determined)

Judging at the July meeting.

And for you really long range planners:

Bonsai and suiseki enthusiasts worldwide are invited to attend the 5th World Bonsai Convention in the beautiful and inspiring capital city of Washington, D.C., home of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, May 28-31, 2005. Along with co-sponsoring this exciting event, Bonsai Clubs International and American Bonsai Society will hold their annual meetings for 2005 in conjunction with the 5th World Bonsai Convention.

Honor Saburo Kato and John Naka for their vision of world peace through bonsai. Tour the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. Enjoy multiple exhibits including I.C. Su's antique bonsai pot collection. Celebrate the 400 year-old Yamaki pine - symbol of peace.

Visit it on the web at: <http://www.bonsai-wbff.org/wbc5/main.htm>

Tree of the month - Collecting Wild Bonsai

One of the real joys of our hobby is collecting wild or yard bonsai. The same general rules apply to both as far as getting permission from land owners or neighbors, the timing of plant removal and aftercare. Wild bonsai are generally native trees that are naturally seeded and growing successfully because the climate and other conditions are within the range for that type of tree. Yard material can be any horticultural variety that can be coaxed into growing.

Going native to collect specimens means that depending how far north or south from home you travel you may begin to challenge the conditions suitable for the plant you are collecting. Understanding the natural range of the specific plant will be helpful. I collect larch (*Larix laricina*) in Michigan above the 45th parallel of latitude. Soils are very sandy, winters are harsher, summers less so. While occasionally larch appear in landscape plantings in Columbus naturally seeded larch are absent. Understanding why will help improve chances for successful transplanting.

Digging out your prize is similar to any repotting except the bigger the root ball you can take the better chance you'll have at success. Oaks are mostly tap rooted and near impossible to successfully transplant. Timing is critical, early Spring is best, Fall second best and as far as Summer or Winter you're on you're own. Something that can be done in Summer, though, is root pruning in place. Take your spade and cut through the soil in the shape of the root ball you plan to later remove. This will trim down the extra root material but the shock to the plant will be far less. The tree will develop a fine root network inside the ball making successful extraction far more likely months later.

After you have your prize out of the ground do the initial branch pruning right away to reduce the water demand on the roots, starting the plant in a wood growing box for a year or more is ideal. Since transplant shock is generally all about the plant running of water reduce the water demand by shading the plant, putting the tree on the ground to help keep it cooler and don't miss a watering. Applying a root hormone with the watering initially is a good idea but don't worry about fertilizing for awhile.

Once you get started collecting, believe me you won't stop. Side benefits of collecting wild stock is that usually you will bring several native wild flowers or other neat plants as a part of the deal which can serve to remind you of the area you were collecting in. So don't be afraid, carry a good spade or shovel, study up on the trees you think you plan to collect and dig in!

Book Report : Beautiful Bonsai

By Bruno Delmer

This 157 page book was originally published in France in 2000 and then was translated into English in 2002 by Sterling Publishing. If I remember correctly I bought it down at the German Village Book Store. I was initially drawn to the book because I could not positively identify the tree on the cover. It had orangish fruit. The photographs are mostly credited to Jacques Boulay. The cover price is \$19.95, but I remember paying less.

The Chapters are not numbered but there are six. They are titled: The Pleasure of Bonsai; Broad-Leafed Trees; Evergreen Trees; Tropical Trees; Kusa-mono; and Keys to Success. There are also a useful Index and a Glossary.

Delmer's handling of the text in the first chapter gave me a slightly fresh perspective. Take the passage "Most trees fade into the forest. We notice among them only the very old or very majestic. Bonsai on the other hand cannot fail to arouse our deepest curiosity- if not our amazement-regardless of their shape or size." He goes on later in the chapter to explain the difference between Chinese bonsai and the Japanese, Chinese bonsai is larger and most will eventually be planted in the ground or kept in a pot in a courtyard, not inside or on a shelf. In the first chapter unlike most other books that illustrate the different styles of bonsai trees, there are photographs rather than drawings. One is an outstanding grouping of four different trees.

The next chapter deals with twenty different Broad-Leafed Trees. Each tree is pictured and the specimens are outstanding! The descriptions include tips on pots selection and plant care. Bold notations on sun requirements and the unique character of each tree species are included. For example wisteria are described as both "a fragrant cascade" and "a true savage". He notes that its foliage is immense and its growth is messy; but he also notes that its flowers must be protected from rain wind and harsh sunlight. My favorite in this group was a 25-30 year old Cotoneaster. He notes that it should be repotted every two years.

The chapter on Evergreen Trees includes both black and white pines, azaleas, yew, and a tree he calls "Mock Orange". Its Latin name is *Fortunella hinsii* and is the mystery tree on the cover. Apparently it is a semi-tropical, as he warns that it needs protection below 50 degrees. He also includes Ivy (*Hedera helix*) in this chapter. In all there are 14 trees, classed as evergreen including pomegranate.

I will skip over Tropicals, because this review is getting too long, and jump to Kusa-mono. This is a short chapter that deals with accent plants. Finally in his Chapter "Keys to Success, Delmer lists forty topics. Three cover soil, so he obviously finds that one of the key elements to success. Repotting is also covered and outdoor and indoor bonsai repotting are treated separately. He warns not to repot a soaked tree, advising that the tree should be nearly dry when repotted. He also covers maintenance pruning and notes that *Ficus* leaves become "lazy" indoors and are often too large. He then describes a defoliation technique to grow new foliage.

I hope that you get a chance to read this book – or at least look at its photographs. ~ Ken Schultz

Help Desk

Dear Columbus Bonsai Society,

Do bonsai trees make good gifts? Are they high maintenance and require expert care, or can anyone do it. I am asking because I'm thinking about giving one as a gift but neither I nor the person I'm giving to know much about them. Also where would be a good place to purchase a bonsai and what kind and size of tree would be a good one for a beginner.

Sincerely, Saul Schwartz

Saul,

Anyone who can keep house plants alive should be able to care for a bonsai. That said, not all bonsai are suitable for all people. If your friend has space available on the ground outside, a "traditional" juniper will be good. Most are pretty hardy and will look good with normal maintenance. If they are in an apartment or have no outside space for winter storage, something like a ficus - fig tree - will be a very good way to start. A benefit of these is they can stay inside longer and must be kept inside during the winter. They also tend to cost less than the trees that need to go dormant in the winter.

If you are not sure if your friend has the skills or means to keep a bonsai, I would recommend getting a book about them. The Sunset Bonsai book is a good beginners book that most of the club members have owned and many of us still have it on our shelves in several editions. Barnes and Noble or one of the other bookstores in town should have a selection of books.

Finally, the Columbus Bonsai Society meets the third Sunday of the month at 2:00 at Franklin Park Conservatory. The meeting is free to all and we figure if someone is interested they will join eventually, if not, they will at least have some contacts for questions.

Hope this helps.

Dawes - The Arthur Patznick Bonsai Courtyard

Well the process that started (for us) at the February work weekend last year has come full circle and the expanded bonsai courtyard at the Dawes visitors center is complete. There was a short dedication ceremony Saturday afternoon and the director at Dawes announced the courtyard would be known as the Arthur Patznick Bonsai Courtyard. This was in recognition of Art's work on the bonsai collection, his educational efforts both at Dawes and the local school system, and his energy in putting the courtyard into existence.

It is a seamless connection between the two existing pergolas and the expansion allows for cleaner display areas and landscaping in the courtyard. The existing paving stones and major plantings were preserved and some of the outside plantings have been effectively "borrowed" into the courtyard area as backdrop and shade. The cobble mulch and new plantings give a nice light oriental touch to the whole. If you didn't get out to see it during the show, it is worthwhile going to see on one of your other trips out to Dawes this summer.

Rodney Clemmons Boxwood Demo

Rodney Clemmons is doing a Lecture Demo for the Cincinnati Club this Friday Night starting at 7:30 PM. Rodney is from Atlanta and I have seen him in Asheville N.C.

Right now Linda and I are debating whether we will go and come back the same night - OR - if we will stay overnight and do a day in Cincinnati on Saturday. (Rodney is scheduled to do a workshop for the Cincinnati Club on Saturday 12 - 4 PM) Its about a 2 hour drive from the southern outterbelt.

However - some of you might be interested in getting together and ride down together for Friday or Saturday. I didn't want you all to miss the chance to see this - and I know we love boxwood!!
~ KAS

Water

Fertilize

Pinch and prune.

Spend time with your trees, its Summer and you know you enjoy 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. The meetings are open to members.

June 5 and 6 - The Annual Dawes Bonsai show at Dawes Arboretum on SR 13 between Newark and I-71

June 18 - 4:30 to 7:00 Set up and Tree registration at FPC for show

June 19 and 20 - The Columbus Bonsai Society Annual Show. Yes it's on Fathers day again.

June 18, 19, and 20 - MABA and BCI in St Louis, Mo

July 18 - Tropical weird and wonderful bonsai, Jose will Demo on one of his trees.

August 14-15 BYOT Workshop, guest artist to be announced.

September 19 - Club Picnic, TBA

October 17 - Saikei - (ground landscapes)

November 21 - Fall show and demo

December - Dinner TBA - and something else?

January 16 - Club meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory

February 20 - Club meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory

February 26 - Annual Saturday bonsai workshop at Dawes for their Show sale. - I checked with Keith Stevens and this is a continuing tradition.

March 20 - Annual CBS soil sale with tools and pots.

May 7-8, 2005 Michigan All-State Bonsai Show, Fredrick Meyers Gardens Grand Rapids

May 28-31, 2005 5th Annual World Bonsai Convention, Washington, D. C.

<http://www.bonsai-wbff.org/wbc5/main.htm>

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