

Columbus Bonsai Society Newsletter - October 2004

If you have not sent in your renewal, please do so now. If you joined Columbus Bonsai Society for the first time in at the show in June or since that time then you are signed up for 2005 already. If you are a continuing member then you know the drill. Get me a completed membership form and a check. Please do not turn in just a check or cash. It makes it very hard to track who has or has not renewed. I get grief about it every year. This year it will be easy. If I don't get a form, you didn't renew but you may have made a donation. Thank you. It's your choice. This month I am including a colored sheet in your newsletter if I don't have your renewal yet. Check you mailing label. If it says 04 after your name, you need to renew.

October is probably as exciting as repotting in the spring. Trees need to come indoors if they are not frost hardy, or at least placed in a protected location. Some trees can be wired and pruned at this time, such as junipers and pines. Also when handling trees to prepare them for winter, wire should be inspected and removed if it has been on the tree most of the Summer. Look for cut marks or indentations in the shape of the bark. Generally I don't like to leave wire on a tree going in to winter that was placed on the tree before October – It will cut in when the sap rises in the spring and the bark swells. This has happened to me before I was ready to take them out of winter storage.

Also this is a great time to shop for bargains. Discounted plants abound! Lowes, Meijers and many other places that don't have the inclination to store stock over the winter slash their prices to get rid of stock. I saw all potted stock at Meijers was 50% off. At Lowes I picked up a cotoneaster and a spirea suitable for bonsai training for 50 cents each!!

At our Club meeting on October 17, you will get the chance to show off what a great shopper you are. Bring in your find and we will be helping each other with an initial styling of this material.

Also, trees are turning color for the Fall; so if you have a tree that has good fall color, we are asking you to bring them in and let us enjoy their colors too.

President's Column

The Columbus Bosai Society has been a part of my life for 20 years (or more!) Now after all those years it's my term to step up and hold the reins for the next year. Our hobby continues to show stable interest among plant lovers. We have a consistent number of new members over time. On the flip side we have almost an equal number of members that drift away, while this maybe common for a hobby club, I am interested in finding out what we can do to recruit and retain members effectively. If anyone has program ideas or membership ideas please contact me directly at dannybinder@hotmail.com

What can you expect from the Society for next year? Honestly if I can hold the line program quality wise and organization wise compared to the effort given by our past President Ken Schultz, then I will feel particularly successful since Ken has done such good work for the group. Overall I think that each member should find many things that make their membership fee worth

while. We will continue to have regular Bonsai workshops led by our local talent and invited guests, we will regularly provide products such as tools, pots and trees for sale during most meetings, we will continue to provide a library of Bonsai books and videos and will continue to provide good quality articles in our newsletter (thanks Zack!) All and all the CBS Board of Directors will combine our efforts to bring forth good programs and fellowship on the third Sunday of the month. I look forward to seeing you there this month!

Coming Attractions

This month we will celebrate the season and have our own Fall Colors show as we done before. Bring in the temperate tree that you wish to show that you think best exhibits fall characteristics. Remember that not only do deciduous trees shed leaves but conifers show signs of fall and our needle leafed deciduous friends such as the larch “advertise” the season too. We will have a panel of judges and there will be ribbons awarded. No need to suffer anxiety over the judging it’s completely for fun. Bring in a tree and join the celebration.

Secondly we will all work on a tree during the second part of our meeting. Take advantage of super-sale going right now at Franks, Oakland, and Meijers or bring something from your collection that needs work. If you want to buy a tree at the meeting we will have some trees available for purchase to work on as well. the tool and pot table will be set up and we are going to offer members the opportunity to sell items at pre-designated sale meetings. This month is a sale meeting. However please limit items you wish to sell to one laundry basket full, if you need to make more than one trip to the car for sale items you brought in too many things to sell.

At the November meeting we ill be looking at ramification, the branch and twig structure of our deciduous trees. Of course, there are many trees that do not drop their leaves that also have ramification, but it is much easier to see when the leaves are off and the bare twig can be used for education. In Japan, there are some shows specifically for viewing this, no leaves get in the way and the enjoyment is just looking at beautiful branch structure. It may be a different way to enjoy your trees that we can share. We will also be talking about getting your trees winter ready and storage for your trees that need to go dormant for the season. Of course, if you have any tropicals, they should probably be making their way inside now if you have not already done that.

Mark Passerello has sent along this link to help you if you do not have a good indoor growing set up: <http://www.collins-consulting.org/orchids/orchid.shtml#shelf> - although it is about orchids, anyone wanting a set up for growing plants indoors can find some good advice and instructions.

Tree of the Month

Kingsville Boxwood – *Buxus microphylla* ‘Compacta’:

For those of you that did not participate in the August ’04 Kingsville Boxwood workshop, I decided that I’d better write up the notes for a tree of the month article before I lost track of the

material I used. I referenced several website articles and a few books from my personal library. As I noted these are a favorite of Linda and me, as we have five of them in our collection.

Kingsville Boxwood take their name from the nursery where it was discovered in Maryland in 1912. However it was not released to the public until 1937. At the suggestion of Dr. Wyman of Arnold Arboretum, Boston, Henry Hohman named this plant *Buxus microphylla* var. *compacta*, but it was William Appleby of Baltimore that selected the seedlings in 1912. I found this interesting since most bonsai websites called it Japanese Kingsville Boxwood and it originated here in the USA. Seems that sellers think that we need to think that all our bonsai originate in Japan. In all fairness, boxwood were introduced to the United States in 1652 and were a favorite from Maryland to North Carolina. There are about 115 cultivars available today. Linda and I also have a “Korean” and a “Wintergreen” boxwood in our collection.

All my Kingsville Boxwood spend the winter outside, though I believe Jack Wickle had a mame’ Kingsville in his indoor collection. To that note, I did kill a mame’ Kingsville in my collection in 1995. It may have been the small pot, but I suspect that it was most likely that at that time I kept my trees on the west side of the house and the winter sun and wind probably killed it.

One of the articles I referenced from Persiano, from Shanti Bihthi nursery in CT provided three rules when working on styling a Kingsville Boxwood, these were:

1. Minimize foliage removal as Kingsville grow only ¼” to 1” per year.
2. Use copper wire – it will allow you to “feel” the movement of the branches and avoid breaking them.
3. Kingsville form naturally interesting shapes – use them before you cut.

Care:

Light - Boxwood will grow in either full sun or shade; indoors they need at least 800 Lux. I grow mine in semi-shade.

Temperature – protect from cold winds and winter sun. In the summer they need a breeze to prevent inside leaves from mildewing. They are hardy to zone 5. Winter injury can be caused by summer drought, prolonged rainy periods, and forced late growth; new growth may be burned back. Avoid sunny winter exposures.

Water – Box does not like wet soil so allow it to dry somewhat between watering. – but not DRY! Another source reports that they like water, and may even need water twice a day in hot weather – though mine never have.

Feeding – Use a liquid or organic fertilizer every two weeks. Much to my surprise – they do not recommend an acid fertilizer, in fact the claim is they like slightly alkaline soil, so an occasional dose of lime is recommended. Feeding May to October.

Repotting – every two years. Avoid really shallow pots. The claim is that they can be repotted in summer or autumn – I wouldn’t – these recommendations are for the south and the west!

Propagation – from cuttings. The Commercial Boxwood Production article says that these cuttings are best taken in late summer to fall. (remember this is for nurserymen in North Carolina

and Oregon). The cuttings are placed in equal parts- sharp builder's sand peat and perlite in a shaded area. Because of the lateness of taking these cuttings watering even in winter is recommended as is some bottom heating. In another place it says to use 8 parts pine bark, 1 part builders sand and a little dolomitic limestone.

Pests – red spider mites, fungus and rust may be encountered. Watch for curled or pock marked leaves. Root rot is also noted as a problem, usually one branch at a time dies. This can be associated with nematodes. Use “Subdue” Leaf miners can also cause blisters on the leaves, spider mites cause scratch like marks. Over wintering eggs are laid in September and October. Violets, chickweed and mustard may serve as host plants – so weed them out.

In closing I have seen small accent sized Kingsville for as little as \$2 and a specimen plant for \$300, so if you know someone who wants to take one out of their landscape – give me a call!
~ Ken Schultz

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.

October 17 - Bring your own tree workshop Fall color foliage - share a tree with the club.

November 21 - Fall branch Ramification and demo - Winter protection for new members

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 – Possible 2 session workshop/demo with a guest artist. Details to be announced.

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>"

June 18-19 - 30th Annual Columbus Bonsai show. It's not too early to start thinking about what you want to show. Just think, you'll have nine months to get it ready for looking its best – pot, wiring, best accent plant, best display stand. At this point you have the time to do it up in traditional style.

President - Daniel Binder

Past President - Ken Schultz

1st Vice President - Mark Passerello

2nd Vice President - Ben William

year Board - Jose Cueto

2 year Board - Ross Lebold

3 year Board - Denny Sackett

Treasurer - Richard Gurevitz

Librarian - Merida Weinstein
Newsletter Editor - Zack Clayton
Refreshment Coord - Linda Fields