

Columbus Bonsai Society Newsletter - December 2004

Remember my ongoing battle with Vermin (AKA squirrels)? I ran across a picture the other day of my late maple grove. I had forgotten that I had taken a picture of it in the 2003 show. I had brought it in for use on the "in progress" table and the placement committee decided it was nice enough to put in the show display. I'm glad, as that meant it was displayed quite nicely for the only display picture I have of the now defunct grove.

There are many reasons to take pictures of your trees. Not only can squirrels kill off a bonsai practically overnight but sometimes human vermin can do the same. I have heard rumors from Des Moines, IA that someone walked off with the bonsai exhibit at their conservatory. It's gone. When Michelle was out there at the beginning of November, it was a topic of general office conversation that they had been stolen. I have some pictures of those trees that I took while I was visiting in the spring last year, but that is the only way I'll see them again unless they find whoever took them and the trees are still alive.

What I'm rambling up to is the question, When was the last time you took pictures of your collection? Do you document yearly progress of all trees with digital or reference photos, or just when you put them on display? I have a complete reference set from 2 years ago and some spot pictures from displays. I'll probably set up the background screen again this spring and get reference shots for 2005 as they are repotted and put up on benches.

Ross Lebold sent this:

Hope everyone got their trees taken care of. This cold weather came on pretty quick and as usual, I was out in the dark at the last minute putting everyone to bed. My heel-in trench was filled to capacity and I had to take the overflow to the garage. Looks like we might get a brief warm-up period.

Would you like to take a Survey?

In our quest to make the Club's meeting more enjoyable, we asked you to take a survey last month. The results have trickled in and here are the preliminary findings.

1) What do you like about the Club?

It's a place to meet and discuss bonsai with other people that appreciate my hobby.

2) What would you like to see more of?

Several members have mentioned they would like to see more workshops and hands on events at the meetings. There are ideas for several skill levels at different sessions with a peanut gallery available for all of them. We need more pine work...when and how to prune etc.

3) What would you like us to change?

More definite phases of the meeting would be nice. Quiet while the speaker is talking would be an improvement.

4) What do you not like about the Club?
Getting the newsletter late for the meeting.

5) Of the nationally known Bonsai Masters - Who would you like to see?

6) What new programs would you like to see at the meetings?

Bring your answers to these to the November meeting or the Holiday Dinner. We want to have programs and activities that you are interested in attending.

Presidents Column

Next year is looking like fun already. The January meeting will be the fourth Sunday on January 23rd. Gary Clarke, the Conservatory's Director of Horticulture will give CBS members a behind the scenes look at the plant collections. We will break into two groups and while one group tours we will discuss winter care tips for indoor plants then we will switch so that each group is small enough to get an effective tour with Garry.

February meeting will tap the talent of longtime CBS member and recent bonsai pottery artist, Tom Holcomb, who will teach us Tree Biology. Within the last 20 years biologists have begun to understand trees differently. For those that want a heads up search the internet for Alex Shigo, father of modern arboriculture. In March we will have a visiting bonsai artist join us, Jim Doyle of www.natureswaybonsai.com who will present two workshops, more on these later. So start thinking now about making plans for the third Sunday of the month (except January which will be the fourth Sunday of the month).

Coming Attractions

Next year is looking like fun already. The January meeting will be the fourth Sunday on January 23rd. Gary Clarke, the Conservatory's Director of Horticulture will give CBS members a behind the scenes look at the plant collections and sculpture show that is on display. We will break into two groups and while one group tours we will discuss winter care tips for indoor plants then we will switch so that each group is small enough to get an effective tour with Gary.

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In April we are contemplating a Korean Hornbeam forest planting demonstration with club material.

The CBS Board has purchased 20 mid sized Junipers and plans to schedule a separate Saturday event in the spring - Watch for the sign-up and date for this event.

Bonsai Here and Beyond the Outerbelt

Trip Report

9th Annual Bonsai Expo – Asheville North Carolina

Linda and I “discovered this event three years ago when we were visiting the Biltmore Estate. I saw that one of the local attractions was the North Carolina Arboretum, just a few miles from the hotel we had chosen. There we discovered a bonsai collection of over 100 trees, and that the Arboretum would be hosting a bonsai show in October. Arthur Joura is the curator of the bonsai collection and the show began after he accepted a donated collection. Now a million dollar facility is being built that will open in the Spring of 2005 to house their impressive collection.

This show is unique in that it is hosted by the Arboretum and twelve clubs from six states exhibit. This year nine vendors sold their trees, pots tools, and other items in the vendors’ room. Roughly 200-250 bonsai enthusiasts watched the demonstrations. This year Randy Clark, the Bonsai Learning Center, Richard Boggs, Autumn Moon Studios and special quest artist and author Qingquan “Brook” Zhao provided the talent for the demonstrations.

Qingquan “Brook” Zhao is the author of *Penjing: Worlds of Wonderment*. While he used an interpreter, I believe that very little was lost, as the interpreter and her husband have worked with Brooke for twenty years. She had met him when she lived in China and encouraged him to write his book and interpreted it for him. The Arboretum provided “Brooke” with a number of Seju Elms to select from for a large slab planting. The Arboretum had grown the three main trees used by “Brooke” as demo material for ten years. The completed planting was mossed, and then watered. It showed wonderful rhythm and harmony, demonstrating “Brooke’s” penjing talents.

Randy Clarke, owner of the Bonsai Learning Center, Charlotte, N.C. did two quick demonstrations, one with a Scots pine and the other with a Hinoki Cypress (It appeared later in his booth marked \$275). Randy is originally from Minneapolis, and while you have to listen to “Olaf” jokes, he is very talented. He is the author of *Outstanding American Bonsai*. He also had a special display at the show to illustrate a paper he hopes will soon be published in the *American Bonsai Journal*, called “Figures Used in Bonsai: A Question of Relativity”. He points out that the figure needs to be selected with as much care as we use in developing our trees and selecting the right pot. The figure therefore needs to be of the same high quality and it must enhance the overall composition. I am not a fan of using mud men or other items in bonsai pots, but Linda and I were captivated by his display.

Richard Boggs, Autumn Moon Studios, Winston-Salem NC did a demo using handcrafted, clay tree trunks to create phoenix grafts using small leaved English ivy. He is one of this show’s vendors and sold out of these “trunks”. While not an ideal demo because of the relatively small size of the finished product, these “Phoenix grafts” won’t rot, and they can be raised either as a

houseplant, or as an outdoor tree. This makes them ideal for apartment dwellers. WE bought some ivy, but he was out of trunks – even before his demo.

The final afternoon, October 10 was an auction of about 50 trees, pots and other donated bonsai items. The proceeds support this event. Items sold from a few dollars to just under \$1000. The Bonsai Expo of the Carolinas is scheduled for the second weekend in October. We have now gone to it twice and recommend putting it on your calendar, and plan to spend a couple extra days to see the sites of Asheville, the mountains are beautiful. If you do, make your reservations early as the hotels sell out about three weeks in advance as it is also coincides with the Apple Festival. ~ Ken Schultz

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.

January 23 - Note - 4th Sunday of the month! Club meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory with a tour of the current show.

February 20 - Club meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory. Botany of trees.

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 – Master Bonsai Artist - Jim Doyle - Nature's Way Bonsai Nursery - Critique and specimen workshop - 2 events - same day

April 17 - Club meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory. A Korean Hornbeam forest planting demo

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

May 15 - Club Meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory. A mini Mugo Pine workshop.

May 28-30, 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 have 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

1 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 - Vacant

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Columbus Bonsai Society

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