

Columbus Bonsai Society Newsletter - February 2005

Have you seen the prices that the 5th Annual World of Bonsai in Washington, DC is charging for attendance registration and then to get into a workshop? \$125 and up for just the workshops. And some of those are for bringing your own tree! The prices aren't really outrageous in the grand scheme of a show of that caliber, I can think of several national and international shows that have been that much or more. What I am getting at is that you have access to high quality workshops and recognized artists here in Columbus through your club membership. The March Workshops with Jim Doyle would be much more if you were traveling to a convention. For one thing there is the convention registration fee, and the hotel will charge the convention for room space which has to be absorbed in the workshop fee, and a lot of other add on charges get factored into the workshop fee. Our club does not have those fees that we have to tack on to our workshops so what you are getting is a rate for the artist and materials. No room charges, no guaranteed profit margin for the next years convention planning, no pass through from the hotel. Just your club providing a high quality workshop for your bonsai experience.

I hope you will take advantage of the opportunities you have to learn and practice. We have several spots still available for participants. The next workshops are \$75 and \$25 for club members, the price for non club members will be \$90 and \$40 respectively for non members, Which includes a membership and the newsletter. Think about it.

Are you getting ready for warm weather? - - what tools, soil ingredients, and pots do you need? - we want to know - so that we can order the items for your member purchase benefits - Another benefit of "Membership has it privileges".

Pre-emergent spray on some trees - like fruit trees - some trimming and spraying are needed during a February warm spell such as we are having this weekend.

Coming Attractions

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.

March 20, 2005 – A Day with Artist Jim Doyle

A nationally know artist is being brought to you on our regular meeting day at Franklin Park Conservatory. The CBS Board of Directors has made it a goal to afford its membership the opportunity to work with well known quest artists two times a year. We encourage you to participate to learn new techniques and enjoy this wonderful experience. Remember, hands-on experience allows you to stretch yourself, perhaps moving up to that next level. Similar events offered at regional shows are two to four times the amounts listed below. Act NOW!

About the Artist: Who is Jim Doyle? Jim is a teacher and horticulturist. He earned his degree in horticulture form Delaware Valley College. Jim started Nature's Way Nursery which features dwarf conifers, Japanese maples and many other pre-bonsai. He has studied with many artists

and visited Japan and China to study bonsai and import materials. Jim Doyle has over 30 years of involvement with bonsai, including the American Bonsai Society Board of Directors.

Shimpaku Juniper Workshop: Beginning at 9:30 AM on March 20, 2005, a hands-on Shimpaku Workshop will afford you the opportunity to unleash your individual creativity! Unfortunately this opportunity will be limited to Twelve individuals. For a fee of \$75 you will receive a fine one-gallon pre-bonsai Shimpaku juniper selected personally by Jim for this workshop from Nature's Way Nursery. You will receive personal instruction by nationally known artist, Jim Doyle. Jim says that this workshop is ideal for the Intermediate artist, but it is also good for beginners. Shimpaku, also known as Chinese Juniper, are sometimes called the "Queen of Bonsai" the black pine, the "King." They are known for their soft foliage, which form dense clouds with pinching. Shimpaku has long been a favorite bonsai species and is relatively easy to care for. Participants will need to bring their own tools, wire, soil and a pot. If you wish to observe, the fee is \$5. The Workshop will include an in depth discussion about the care of Shimpaku juniper bonsai.

Tree Critique: This is an opportunity to work with a tree that you already own! Why would you want to have someone critique your tree? Have you ever suspected that your favorite tree could be better if an expert would just give you a little advice? Or you may choose that tree that has a special styling problem; Jim will provide you ideas on how to develop your tree into an excellent bonsai specimen. Jim Doyle will share ideas gained over thirty years of international experience on improving the styling and development of your very own tree. While time for cutting and wiring will not provided during the critique, you should bring something to mark branches and paper to take detailed notes. The Critique Participant fee is \$25. The Critique will start at our regular Club meeting time. Since this will be our regular meeting, no observer fee will be charged for the Critique.

Registration: You may pre-register by e-mailing kasceppsm@aol.com but your payment is needed to guarantee your spot. If there are more than 12 registrants for either the Workshop or the Critique, you will be placed on a standby list. If someone discovers they can't participate, stand-bys will be notified in order of registration. (I will notify you if you are one of the top 3 on the waiting list – come prepared to step in – just in case.)

April 2, 2005 - 8:30 - 3:30 - 5th Annual Green Thumbs - Delaware Gardeners' Fair - The Columbus Bonsai Society will have a booth. Mark Passerrella and I plan to do a demo in the morning and another in the afternoon. Where? - Olentangy Liberty High School, 3384 Home Road - (NEW LOCATION).

At the April 17th meeting we will be presenting a Korean Hornbeam forest planting demonstration with club material. Jose Cueto will be planting the forest in a pot donated by Bob Puseker and we will be raffling this to the membership after it is established and healthy.

Tree of the Month

Juniperus sargentii, Shimpaku, Sargent Juniper, Chinese Juniper.

This plant used to be considered a subspecies as *Juniperus chinensis* var. *sargentii* and may still be described as this in some old books. Shimpaku has softer foliage than most other junipers, having the compressed scale foliage of the mature specimen even as a young plant. Adult leaves are diamond shaped and arranged in four ranks overlapping flat on the twigs like fish scales. It is considerably softer than the Chinese juniper, creating a more feathery appearance with the rounded scales instead of the immature foliage on the Chinese juniper. The bark is brown and shreds off in thin strips. Male and female cones are carried on separate plants. The female cones are fleshy, violet brown and berrylike, about a 0.5 in (1.3 cm) in diameter. Care is similar to other juniper bonsai but some points are always in order for a care reminder.

Shimpaku is climate tolerant from zones 3 to 9. This covers most of North America so it is one of the juniper bonsai first imagined by the general public. They need to go dormant for some period during the winter and it is better to leave them outside most of the year except for brief periods of indoor display.

Shimpaku grow best in full sun to partial-shade. More than a half day of shade will cause the growth to be leggy and thin. The plant can have a rather full ramification in the branch structure so this thin leggy growth will stand out poorly next to a healthy specimen. If grown in partial shade, morning sun is preferred to afternoon sun.

Junipers will tolerate and benefit from drying out slightly between waterings. I usually handle this by using a slightly coarser mix or not having as much organic material in the mix as for the other plants in my collection. Sieving out fine soil particles is particularly important for plants that like to dry out a little. Junipers will tolerate high humidity and misting in hot weather may help maintain health. Remember, misting is never a substitute for watering.

Any balanced liquid fertilizer will work. Feed at half to 1/4 the normal strength once or twice monthly when new growth begins in Spring. Continue feeding on a monthly basis until the beginning of October. Alternatively, organic fertilizer balls can also be used. Junipers prefer an alkaline soil so small amounts of agricultural lime can be added to this as a supplement.

Repotting : Repotting is best done in early Spring after two years of being in the same pot for young plants less than 6 years old. Older plants can go 4 to 6 years between repotting. If the spring window for repotting is missed then early fall is the next best time. As with any bonsai, age is relevant to the time spent in that general size pot. When radically changing pot size or shape, repot as if it were a young plant for at least one repotting cycle. Remove the plant (and fibrous rootball) from the container. Trim the rootball with a sharp pair of old scissors, removing approximately 1/4-1/2 inch of matted rootball from sides and bottom. At this point you can rake out the rest of the rootball gently if you wish. Replant into new or same pot using a well drained soil mix. Place newly planted plant in a shaded area for approximately 3-4 weeks and water regularly. After one month start feeding with liquid food. Pruning is typically done in spring and summer. When new growth reaches about one inch in length pinch back by using thumb and fingers and plucking gently. Repeat as necessary until mid-September. This improve the foliage pads greatly. ~ ZAC

Book of the Month

Classic Bonsai of Japan

Usually there is an author, but this book is a collection of photographs presented by the Nippon Bonsai Association. It is the consummate coffee table book. There are 188 pages presenting 132 color and 48 black and white photographs of the best bonsai trees in Japan. The book was published in 1989 and presented trees that defined the best bonsai of Japan at that time. The trees are from 15 to reportedly 1,000 years old. The Nippon Bonsai Association claimed 20,000 members from 300 clubs. My faulty math tells me that means each club had about 67 members, about the same as ours. The introduction compares the brief life of animals in comparison to trees. The writer points out that the death of even the oldest tree begins the cycle of life over.

The photographs all appear to be professionally taken. The lighting is just so and there is no clutter in the background. The reader can focus fully on the tree pictured. Each tree is captioned with the common name, style, age and height. This is that can be used as a role model for the trees we are trying to develop into a showstopper. Once you get done ewing and awing the photo section is followed by 30 pages organized into history, appreciation and style of bonsai. The final 20 pages of the book are paragraphs about each of the color plates found on the earlier pages. They report on the history of the trees and discuss the features of its style. I personally would have liked these descriptions on the same page as its photograph because I did a lot of flipping back and forth.

Merida our Club Librarian, reported at our January Club meeting that the Library received a donation of a copy of this book. Due to its value, we will only allow it to be viewed during Club meetings and not be taken home. Marie Corey and her husband Paul donated another copy of the book. If there is interest, we may raffle or auction it at a later date as a Club fundraiser. ~ 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.

February 20 - Club meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory. Tom Holcomb on Botany of trees.
February 26 - 9:00 to finish. Annual Saturday bonsai workshop at Dawes Arboretum. Potluck lunch at Dawes

March 20 – Master Bonsai Artist - Jim Doyle - Nature's Way Bonsai Nursery - Critique and specimen workshop - 2 events - same day

April 2, 2005 - 8:30 - 3:30 - 5th Annual Green Thumbs - Delaware Gardeners' Fair

April 17 - Club meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory. A Korean Hornbeam forest planting demonstration by Jose Cueto.

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.

July 17 - Club meeting is a Field Trip to the Cincinnati Krohn Conservatory

August 21 - Club meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory. Tropical subjects w/cutting exchange

September 18 - Picnic

October 16 - Club meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory. Guest artist Keith Scott. Tentatively a Scotts Pine/Juniper Demo and tree critique.

November 20 - Club meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory.

December - Holiday dinner

President - Daniel Binder

Past President - Ken Schultz

1st Vice President - Mark Passerello

2nd Vice President - Ben William

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