

# **Columbus Bonsai Society Newsletter - September 2005**

From all accounts the August workshop was a rousing success, we had full participation and there are only 4 Kiki ficus left which have been trimmed up and potted for Inniswood.

This is a call for new authors and articles, the supply of articles I have stored up for future use is about out and its time to get new things from You, the members in your area of expertise. This can be a report on a regional show, how you styled your favorite tree, care tips for a species you have that hasn't been featured in the tree of the month, styling tips in general, pot selection, new soil mixes, viewing stones, accent plants, or anything that relates to bonsai. Come on, I know there is untapped knowledge out there, share what you know.

Ken points out that as Fall approaches you need to check things, like the wiring put on in spring, weeding, looking for bugs and spraying to minimize them on your tropicals before you take them in the house for overwintering, and getting your inside and outside spots ready. Once this heat breaks we're gonna have frost. I hope folks are ready to bring in the tropicals and have a place for their outdoor stock. For indoors Wickleists - do you have your new fluorescents?

## **Coming Attractions**

Well, as those of you who attended the tropical workshop know, we didn't hold elections in August. The current plan is to have them at the picnic.

Dan Binder, President  
Ken Schultz, Past President  
Mark Passerello, 1st VP  
Ben William, 2nd VP  
Richard Gurevitz, Treasurer  
Chris "Pootsie" Conomy, Secretary  
Denny Sackett, 1 Year Board  
Ross Lebold, 2 Year Board  
Wendy Fissel, 3 Year Board  
Merrida Weinsein, Librarian  
Zack Clayton, Newsletter Editor  
Jose Cueto, General Member and Advisor

## **September Picnic**

The Club traditionally hosts a picnic for our meeting in September (3rd Sunday in September, 9/18/05, Noon to whenever). This year we will be at Whetstone Park/the Park of Roses. If you turn off at 3923 North High Street (Library) and follow the Park road as it winds toward the right just after you cross the creek you will see a shelter house. The shelter house is free and un-reservable so we will have scouts out early to 'hold down the fort'. Also the Club will bring drinks, a variety of regular and sugar free. The Club will also provide plates, napkins, and plastic-ware plus we will have a grill set up so if you have something that needs BBQ-ed it will be ready to go. Otherwise bring a covered dish potluck style - to share. The picnic will begin at

12:00 noon instead of 2 PM and we will linger as long as you like. Members can bring a few sale or trade items, maybe have a silent auction for the good stuff (I have a Chen book that I'm thinking of for this- Ed.), make sure you put a sticker on your pot to identify it as yours. The club does ask for a 10% donation to the club for any items sold. Quite often there will be "free to a good home" items like old BCI magazines. Traditionally we have the dog show and so if anyone has a living tree that is in a bonsai pot and want to enter the "dog" competition, don't be shy. This is for that hopeless living Tree that you are ready to give up on. Finally as a value added, we will also have a Demo on a club tree, a tigertail spruce, nothing to long - probably only initial styling, but we are an educational organization and we want as many members as possible to come out and join us. Make plans now to attend - rain or shine!

### **Inniswood Gardens Affair of the Hort**

For the fifth year the Columbus Bonsai Society will have a booth at the Affair of the Hort at Inniswood Gardens on September 24 and 25. (watch the gardening section and the Weekender in the Columbus Dispatch for a full schedule or check the internet) Our booth this year is booth 5, across the walkway from our normal spot (we get afternoon shade!). A number of our fellow club members have volunteered to take a shift so that they can talk about bonsai to interested gardeners. Stock will be offered for sale and membership forms will be available. Each of the sixteen participating garden clubs will make a presentation. The CBS presentation is scheduled for 12:45 on Saturday. In addition to the garden society booths there are 25 commercial vendors. Each year I find a few things that need to come home to my yard!

For those of you that have never been to Inniswood Gardens, you have missed one of the treasures of the Metro Park system. The Innis Sisters were avid gardeners, each with her own collection of plants. Who hasn't hear of the Hosta, "Inniswood"? There is a 1.2 mile long wooden path through the woods, also a rose garden that is frequently used for weddings. And there is also one of the country's premier rock gardens, complete with waterfall and babbling brook. See you there! (Friday 9/23 5:00-7:00pm (Setup), Saturday 9/24 10AM-7PM and Sunday 9/25 11AM-5PM)

Ken is looking for shifts on Sept 24, 10am-7pm, and Sunday Sept 25, 11am - 5pm. He has them set up as 3 hour shifts so nothing will go too long. Call Ken at 818-9914 or sign up at the picnic.

### **October**

In bonsai circles, Keith Scott needs no introduction. A well regarded bonsai artist and popular speaker and demonstrator, Keith will be sharing some insights and information about junipers and pines during our October meeting. Based near Pittsburgh, Pa and long associated with Phipps Conservatory there, he has developed both a national following and respect in the field of bonsai. He has several trees in the Bonsai and Penjing Garden at the National Arboretum. Keith has visited Columbus a number of times previously, and long time club members have shared stories of fascinating work shops and very engaging demos presented by this masterful bonsai artist. This meeting promises to be a high light of our year, and Keith has been gracious enough to leave it very informal and open ended - he's interested in talking bonsai and answering

questions after the workshop as long as everyone else feels interested! Plan on keeping your calendars free for this regular meeting. The meeting will be at the usual place and time.

He would like to do a bring your own tree type workshop with ideally 12 members, maximum of 15 and as many SILENT observers that will fit. He made the request that those bringing trees provide real bonsai material as this is a refinement workshop, not something "picked up at Kmart on the way". The club will supply wire and the cost of the Workshop is TBD, but probably minimal. Initial signup will be at the picnic, with email or phone reservations taken after September 19. Be there early.

### **Tree of the Month - Wiring Like Craig Coussins**

Zack Clayton, Ken Schoenfeld and I were all lucky enough to take a BYOT workshop from Craig Coussins at Dawes the first week of June this year. For me, it was my second opportunity. Linda and I took a workshop from him up at Wildwood Gardens four years ago. In both situations, Craig used a wiring method like one I'd never seen, nor have I seen anyone else teach. Craig has been practicing the art of Bonsai for a number of years, he is credited for founding the Bonsai Society of Scotland.

Here's the trick he'll say. I needed to find a way to save time while wiring when I did demonstrations, so I count the number of branches that I need to wire and then take a length of wire long enough to reach the tip (and he means to the very tip) of the longest branch to be wired. Then he folds lengths of wire into a multi wired bundle enough to wire the number of branches that you want to wire. I've discovered that there's more to this than counting, and length, but it takes practice just to look good - like a lot of sports do. Think about which branches need a certain gauge of wire. Also, think about anchoring the ends in the pot if you are not wiring in balanced branch pairs.

One of the beauties of this method is that because you are creating a bundle you won't cross wires (as often). However, as I mentioned, don't over do it. I tried 12 branches and it gets awkward. I planned for 6 and 6 wire bundles and actually needed 7 and 5.

One of Craig's instructions is wire all the branches to their tip. And he means all the branches. Then and only then does he start bending the branches. He says that bending them only once minimizes the damage to the cambium. Also, this technique allows a number of extreme bends to be made to bring branch tips into a plane creating a foliage pad where none existed before. It is only then that Craig begins to remove excess branches. As he reaches the end of a branch he takes the tip and points it upward. He says that if you leave them pointing outward then the tree thinks that you want that branch to elongate. Tipping it up, causes back budding according to Craig.

Of course we were working with stock that had been previously styled as bonsai, so I can only suspect that it is OK when using raw stock to remove some of the branches to allow yourself enough room to do all the wiring that you will be doing.

I will try to remember to bring one of my Coussins styled wired trees to the picnic. ~ Ken

## **Book of the Month**

Penjing: Worlds of Wonderment, by Qingquan Zhao

Occasionally I am able to offer you a review of a book by an author that I have seen practice the art of bonsai. Qingquan Zhao is one of four that I have observed. It was last year at the 9th Bonsai Show of the Carolinas at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville. It was there that Qingquan Zhao turned several Chinese elms into a beautiful planting similar to one of those pictured in this book.

This is first a coffee table book. It is oversized with beautiful color plates of master works of Chinese Penjing. There are a number of large diorama type plantings that have fine porcine figurines in them, similar to the display I saw by Randy Clark (we ran an article earlier this year with Randy's permission).

About mid book the second half of chapter 4 explains how to create one of these water and land penjing scenes. Each chapter is so divided. After being inspired by master works, the author devotes part of the chapter explaining the creative techniques. This is not a book that can be quickly flipped through. Nor should it be relegated to that solely of coffee table art. My only real criticism is that the materials used are not readily available in the United States or if it is it comes at a significant price. One example would be the thirty nine inch long oval marble tray planted with private, and pomegranate into two islands created with "Turtle Shell Rock". By the way, Qingquan Zhao asks that his American students call him Brooke. ~ 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.

September 18 - Picnic

Sept 18 - Dawes - Road trip to Ken Huth's

September 24-25, Inniswood Affair of the Hort at Inniswood Gardens in Westerville.

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

Oct 18 - Dawes - Over-Wintering

November 20 - Club meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory.

Nov 15 - Dawes - Pot selection/Orientation

December TBA - Holiday dinner

2006

January 15 - "So you got a Bonsai for Christmas" and other seasonal favorites.

June 17-18 - All Ohio Bonsai Show at Franklin Park Conservatory

**And a final word -**

President - Daniel Binder  
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  
Past President - Ken Schultz  
Treasurer - Richard Gurevitz  
Secretary - Chris "Pootsie" Conomy  
Librarian - Merida Weinstein  
Newsletter Editor - Zack Clayton  
Resident Advisor - Jose Cueto  
Refreshment Coordinator - Vacant

Columbus Bonsai Society

PO Box 1981  
Columbus, OH 43216-1981  
email to: ColumbusBonsai@hotmail.com